Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

January 24-25, 2017
Board Meeting

Madras, Oregon

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
January 23-25

Monday, January 23, 2017

Tour – 2:00p.m.

The Board and OWEB staff will conduct a field tour of the Pelton Round Butte fish collection facility (Pelton Trap). The tour will be leaving from the Inn at Cross Keys Station. Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please be prepared to provide your own transportation and be prepared for inclement weather.

Informal Reception – 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The public is invited to join the OWEB Board and staff at a reception sponsored by local partners and stakeholders.

Location:
Inn at Cross Keys Station
66 NW Cedar St.
Madras, OR 97741

Tuesday, January 24, 2017

Inn at Cross Keys Station
66 NW Cedar St.
Madras, OR 97741

Directions: http://www.innatcrosskeysstation.com/location.htm

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

During the public comment period (Agenda Item D), anyone wishing to speak to the Board on specific agenda item is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. *The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*.

A. Board Member Comments
Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This is also an opportunity for public and tribal Board members to report on their recent activities and share information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item*.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes
The minutes of the October 25-26, 2016 meeting in Ashland will be presented for approval. *Action item*.

C. Board Subcommittees Updates
Representatives from the Focused Investments, Monitoring, Open Solicitation, and Operating Capacity subcommittees will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full Board. *Information item*.

D. Public Comment [approximately 9:05 a.m.]
This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board.

E. Conservation Partnership– Funding Request
Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils Executive Director Shawn Morford, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Executive Director Jerry Nicolescu, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts Executive Director Kelley Beamer, and Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network President Jason Faucera will update the Board on the activities of the Conservation Partnership and request the Board provide supplemental funding to the 2015-2017 partnership capacity grant and delegate authority to the Executive Director for distribution of these funds. *Action item*.

F. 2017-2019 Spending Plan Discussion
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will lead the Board through an initial discussion of the 2017-2019 Spending Plan. *Information item*.

G. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Monitoring Update
Deputy Director Renee Davis and ODFW Conservation and Recovery Program Manager Tom Stahl will update the Board on ODFW's monitoring activities, including those supported by the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund. *Information item*.

H. Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Program – Implementation Initiatives Update
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer, and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an introduction to the FIP Implementation initiatives. Representatives from each of the six initiatives will then update the Board on progress made in the 2015-2017 biennium. *Information item*.

I. Executive Director's Update
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the Board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item*.

J. Other Business

Wednesday, January 25, 2017

Board Retreat – 8:00 a.m.

Throughout 2017, the Board will be developing a new strategic plan. On January 25th, the Board will hold the first session to coordinate the strategic plan development process and outline the timeline for the agency to involve the public in the plan. In the coming months, the

Board will be seeking public comment at various multiple points and via various methods on the strategic plan. Dates, times, locations and approach will be announced following the Board's coordinating conversation at this meeting.

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

Generally, agenda items will be taken in the order shown. However, in certain circumstances, the Board may elect to take an item out of order. To accommodate the scheduling needs of interested parties and the public, the Board may also designate a specific time at which an item will be heard. Any such times are indicated on the agenda.

Please be aware that topics not listed on the agenda may be introduced during the Board Comment period, the Executive Director's Update, the Public Comment period, under Other Business, or at other times during the meeting.

Oregon's Public Meetings Law requires disclosure that Board members may meet for meals on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 17 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and six are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into two categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business

A general business quorum is **six voting members**. General business requires a majority of **all** voting members to pass a resolution (not just those present), so general business resolutions require affirmative votes of **at least six voting members**. Typical resolutions include adopting, amending, or appealing a rule, providing staff direction, etc. These resolutions cannot include a funding decision.

Action on Grant Awards

Per ORS 541.360(4), special requirements apply when OWEB considers action on grant awards. This includes a special **quorum of at least eight voting members** present to take action on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, **if three or more voting members** object to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

Public Testimony

The Board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

General public comment periods will be held on *Tuesday, January 24 at 9:05 a.m*. for any matter before the Board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the Board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). *The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*.

Tour

The Board may tour local watershed restoration project sites. The public is invited to attend, however transportation may be limited to Board members and OWEB staff. Any person wishing to join the tour should have their own transportation.

Executive Session

The Board may also convene in a confidential executive session where, by law, only press members and OWEB staff may attend. Others will be asked to leave the room during these discussions, which usually deal with current or potential litigation. Before convening such a session, the presiding Board member will make a public announcement and explain necessary procedures.

More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call Darika Barnes, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes (503-986-0181) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Laura Masterson, *Board of Agriculture*
Ed Armstrong, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bob Webber, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
John Roberts, W*ater Resources Commission*
Eric Quaempts, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Dan Thorndike, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Karl Wenner, *Public*

Non-voting Members

Rosemary Furfey, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Debbie Hollen, *U.S. Forest Service*
Kathy Stangl, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. National Resource Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Contact Information

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OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board– Darika Barnes
darika.barnes@oweb.state.or.us
503-986-0181

2017 Board Meeting Schedule

January 24-25 in Madras
April 25-26 in Salem
July 25-26 in Boardman/Hermiston
October 24-25 in Lebanon

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

January 30-31, location TBD
April 24-25, location TBD
July 24-25, location TBD
October 30-31, location TBD

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our web site: www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

OWEB Strategic Direction and Principles

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

Goals

Goals from OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan

In 2010, the OWEB Board approved a strategic plan with five goals. With the passage of Constitutional Measure 76 and permanent Lottery funding, the Board continues to operate under the strategy.

Goal 1: Adaptive Investment
Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through program and project investments that enhance watershed and ecosystem functions and processes and support community needs.

Goal 2: Local Infrastructure Development
Support an enduring, high capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 3: Public Awareness and Involvement
Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds.

Goal 4: Partnership Development
Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 5: Efficient and Accountable Administration
Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments.

Long-Term Investment Strategy

OWEB's Framework for Grant Investments

In 2013, the Board adopted a Long-Term Investment Strategy that guides its investments of Lottery, federal and salmon plate funding. All of OWEB's investments in ecological outcomes also help build communities and support the local economy. The Board also approved a direction for the investments outlined below. They will continue operating capacity and open solicitation grants and continue focused investments with a gradual increase over time.

Operating Capacity
Operating Capacity Investments support the operating costs of effective watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. Councils and districts are specifically identified in OWEB's statutes.

Open Solicitation
OWEB offers responsive grants across the state for competitive proposals based on local ecological priorities.

Focused Investments
OWEB helps landscape-scale collaborative partnerships achieve collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes.

Effectiveness Monitoring
OWEB evaluates and reports on the progress and outcomes of watershed work it supports.

OWEB

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

As the Board developed the Investment Strategy, they did so under established principles for how any changes in OWEB's programs would operate.

Build on accomplishments. The commitment and work of our local partners have resulted in a nationally and internationally recognized approach with unmatched environmental accomplishments. OWEB will build on this foundation.

Effective communication. OWEB is committed to active, two-way communication of ideas, priorities, and results with its staff, partners, potential partners, and the public as a means for developing and maintaining a strong investment strategy and successful cooperative conservation.

Transparency. OWEB values transparency and develops its Long-Term Investment Strategy through an open, transparent process that involves input and dialogue with stakeholders and staff.

Maximize service, minimize disruption. The Board considers how OWEB's grant portfolio impacts partner organizations and staff resources to maximize effectiveness without adversely affecting service delivery.

Responsive. The Long-Term Investment Strategy will adjust to changes in revenue and be responsive to changes in ecological priorities from the Governor, Legislature, the Board, and local partners.

Adapt based on monitoring and evaluation. OWEB's staff and Board monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of the Long-Term Investment Strategy. The Board shall adapt and modify the strategy as needed to meet its desired goals and outcomes and to improve overall investment success.

Phase-in Change. OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy will guide future efforts, is designed to accommodate changes and adjustments made by stakeholders and OWEB staff, and will be periodically revisited.

Operating Principles

Operating Principles to Enhance OWEB Team Work

We will do all we can, individually and as a group, to:

- **Use Good communication--at all levels and in all directions;**
- **Operate with a Team approach;**
- **Follow through on conversations in order to build and maintain needed trust;**
- **Empower staff wherever it is appropriate to do so; and**
- **Have fun while doing important work!**

OWEB 2015-17 Spending Plan for the January 2017 Board Meeting

OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Jan 2017 additions to spending plan	Jan 2017 Spending Plan		TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan as of Oct 2016 awards	Jan 2017 Proposed Board Awards	Remaining Spending Plan as of Jan 2017
Open Solicitation:							
Restoration**		25.207		18.796	6.411		6.411
Technical Assistance							
Restoration TA**		3.060		2.224	0.836		0.836
CREP TA		1.050		1.050	0.000		0.000
Monitoring grants**		2.120		0.971	1.149		1.149
Outreach**		0.600		0.310	0.290		0.290
Land and Water Acquisition**		7.500		2.343	5.157		5.157
Weed Grants		2.500		2.500	0.000		0.000
Small Grants		2.800		2.800	0.000		0.000
Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500		0.213	0.287		0.287
TOTAL	**0.000**	**45.337**		**31.207**	**14.130**	**0.000**	**14.130**
% of assumed Total Budget		**59.13%**					

**if more funding becomes available, will go to these areas

Focused Investments:							
Implementation FIPs		14.058		14.058	0.000		0.000
Capacity-Building FIPs		1.039		1.039	0.000		0.000
FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500		0.200	0.300		0.300
TOTAL		**15.597**		**15.297**	**0.300**	**0.000**	**0.300**
% of assumed Total Budget		**20.34%**					

Operating Capacity:							
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)		12.500		12.500	0.000		0.000
Statewide organization partnership support		0.334		0.300	0.034	0.034	0.000
Building Capacity Grants		0.400		0.400	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	**0.000**	**13.234**		**13.200**	**0.034**	**0.034**	**0.000**
% of assumed Total Budget		**17.26%**					

Other:							
CREP		0.500		0.500	0.000		0.000
Oregon Plan/Governor Priorities		1.000		1.000	0.000		0.000
Strategic Implementation Area's		1.000		1.000	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	**0.000**	**2.500**		**2.500**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
% of assumed Total Budget		**3.26%**					

TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	**0.000**	**76.668**		**62.204**	**14.464**	**0.034**	**14.430**

OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION							
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF		9.512		9.512	0.000		0.000
Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.660		0.500	0.160		0.160
Rangeland Fire Protection Assoc from ODF		1.200		1.200	0.000		0.000
PSMFC-IMW		0.591		0.591	0.000		0.000
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.300		0.300	0.000		0.000
ODOT	0.250	0.500		0.250	0.250		0.250
TOTAL	**0.250**	**12.763**		**12.353**	**0.410**	**0.000**	**0.410**

TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds	**0.250**	**89.431**		**74.557**	**14.874**	**0.034**	**14.840**

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
October 25, 2016
OWEB Board Meeting
Ashland Hills Hotel, Cosmos Ballroom
2522 Ashland Street
Ashland, Oregon

MINUTES

OWEB Members Present	**OWEB Staff Present**	**Others Present**
Alvarado, Ron	Barnes, Darika	Beamer, Kelley
Armstrong, Ed	Ciannella, Greg	Bish, Daniel
Brandt, Stephen	Davis, Renee	Dunlevy, Janelle
Furfey, Rosemary	Duzik, Katie	Garcia, Diane
Henning, Alan	Greer, Sue	Harper, Craig
Hollen, Debbie	Grenbemer, Mark	Haynes, Shavon
Labbe, Randy	Hartstein, Eric	Hillers, Pam
Marshall, Gary	Hatch, Audrey	Hillers, Ron
Masterson, Laura	Leiendecker, Karen	Klock, Clair
Neuhauser, Will	Loftsgaarden, Meta	Morford, Shawn
Quaempts, Eric	Redon, Liz	Rice, Marilyn
Stangl, Kathy	Shaff, Courtney	Ruiter, Terry
Thorndike, Dan	Williams, Eric	Scott, Nell
Webber, Bob		
Wenner, Karl		

The meeting was called to order at 8:00AM by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike.

A. Board Member Comments

Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from their represented state and federal natural resource agencies.

Eric Quaempts announced his appointment to the Water Resources Commission and its Drought Task Force. Quaempts said he will be leaving the OWEB Board in January, which is a few months before his term is scheduled to end. He is working with OWEB's Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden on developing a pool of replacements to be considered for the Tribal Representative to the Board.

Kathy Stangl was introduced as a new member of the OWEB Board representing the Bureau of Land Management. She spoke briefly about her background and experience.

Loftsgaarden introduced Audrey Hatch, OWEB's new Conservation Outcomes Coordinator.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the July 26-27, 2016 Board meeting in Otter Rock were presented to the board for approval. Minutes of the August 2, 2016 special meeting of the board held by conference call were also presented to the board for approval. Rosemary Furfey had one correction to the August minutes. She said her name was missing among the list of those present for the August conference call.

> *Co-Chair Thorndike moved the board approve both the minutes from the July 25-26, 2016 meeting in Otter Rock and the minutes from the August 2, 2016 special meeting held by conference call, with the correction noted. The motion was seconded by Ed Armstrong. The motion passed unanimously.*

C. Board Subcommittees Updates

Representatives from the Executive, Focused Investments, Monitoring, Open Solicitation, and Operating Capacity subcommittees provided updates to the full board on subcommittee topics.

Executive Committee: Co-Chair Randy Labbe said the Executive Committee met by teleconference on September 9. The committee members reviewed with OWEB staff their proposed biennial report to the Legislature, which will convene in February. They discussed the Strategic Planning process and the coordination of the first meeting to launch the process. The committee also talked about preparation for the upcoming legislative session with OWEB proposing to sponsor the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) and the addition of an 18th member to the board from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, along with other statute revisions.

Focused Investment Committee: Will Neuhauser said the Focused Investment subcommittee also met by phone on September 9. He said the FIPs awarded in January are all in progress with no staff concerns. He said they also discussed effectiveness monitoring for FIPs with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF), particularly their "results-chain" reporting mechanism. He said they are looking at the reporting-out mechanism for reporting FIP progress effectively.

Monitoring Committee: Alan Henning said the Monitoring Committee met twice since the last board meeting. One of those meetings was a joint meeting with the FIP Committee and Bonneville Environmental Foundation, where BEF talked about its monitoring approaches in both the FIP Capacity Program and FIP Implementation Program. He said the Monitoring Committee is becoming more active than it has been in the past. At their first recent meeting they discussed fundamentals in monitoring at OWEB, including where OWEB grant funds go, effectiveness monitoring programs established by the board to track its overall progress toward the board's intent within specific programs, and monitoring of projects carried out by other agencies. Henning said staff presented a chart to the committee demonstrating OWEB investments and the effectiveness monitoring that has been applied to each type of investment. He said the committee discussed the value of status and trends monitoring and the monitoring that is necessary to address scientific questions. They started a conversation about how to maximize the effective use of monitoring grants by getting input from staff and field professionals to build sideboards on expectations for future grants, especially because those funds are limited. Finally, they talked about whether there is a need to prioritize where OWEB

offers monitoring grants. Rosemary Furfey agreed to become chairperson for the Monitoring Committee going forward.

Open Solicitation Committee: Bob Webber said the Open Solicitation committee met by teleconference in August to map out the goals of the committee regarding outreach grants, small grants, the funding line process, and the review team process. Webber talked about the changes to the criteria for outreach grants brought about by Measure 76 (M76). He said there was consensus among the committee that addressing outreach grants was a priority to be addressed for the benefit of applicants.

Operating Capacity Committee: Debbie Hollen said the Operating Capacity Committee met in early October to look at the 2017-2019 grant cycle for Operating Capacity. She said staff explained the grant process and deadlines, and the eligibility review process for watershed councils that happens in early November. She said grantees will be notified of eligibility in January, and awards will be granted in July. Hollen also talked about the next Operating Capacity cycle and the funding cycle, which may include cost of living increases. She also mentioned the issue of liability and insurance requirements going into effect on January 1 for watershed councils, which require minimum coverage for all projects and expanded coverage for larger or complex projects. They discussed organizational restructuring grants and success around Benton County Partners, and the merger of the Rogue River Council, and how OWEB wants to continue to support those potential mergers and conversations about partnering through capacity grants.

D. Public Comments

Diane Garcia from the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy (SOLC) addressed the board to thank them for a grant received to purchase a 352-acre property on the Rogue River just north of Medford. The grant was the vision that started their process in fundraising for this property. SOLC raised an additional $1.7 million, which includes a stewardship endowment for the property so SOLC can manage it in perpetuity. This is one of the largest intact riparian properties on the valley floor with two miles of river frontage and a mosaic of habitats. SOLC is excited to complete their fundraising campaign by end of the year and proceed with acquisition in 2017. Garcia said this is SOLC's first acquisition and feels the process is changing the way they can protect land in Southern Oregon. Garcia presented a 2-minute video.

Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trust (COLT) provided an update from the stakeholder perspective on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. She thanked the board for its support and staff involvement in helping the process along. It has been about one year since the Governor's Office convened a group of stakeholders who work with landowners across Oregon to explore opportunities to provide incentives and tools to assist conservation and succession issues for working farms and ranches. The group includes COLT, Oregon Cattlemen's Association, Sustainable Northwest, The Nature Conservancy, Oregon Farm Bureau, and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, who collectively work with thousands of landowners around the state. She is excited about the program being included for consideration in the Governor's Budget as an OWEB policy option package because this is a vital tool that Oregon needs. Beamer said Portland State University and Oregon State University conducted a study that showed 64% of Oregon's farmland (10 million acres) will change hands

in the next 20 years, which makes this a critical conversation. Land trusts have been getting more calls on this issue from landowners who are having conversations about who is taking over their operations and what are their conservation options. At this time, land trusts struggle with matching USDA's Agricultural Land Easement Program, which is administered by National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), and this 2-year pilot program is a great opportunity to help leverage those federal funds that will benefit landowners. Beamer expressed her appreciation to OWEB for being part of moving this program forward.

Alan Henning asked if the work being done by SWCDs is being brought under this program or accounted for in this program, and about the relationship of OAHP with conservation programs that already exist. Beamer said there is a representative from OACD on the OAHP workgroup who helps inform what kind of tools are still needed. She believes the OAHP work is complementary to existing conservation programs...

Dan Thorndike mentioned his participation in a recent tour of a working lands easement on a large cattle ranch with a different model having over 30 owners. He said it is important to look at the broader experience of OWEB and other organizations to discover lessons learned in generational land transfers.

E. Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitoring Watershed (IMW) – Funding Request

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an update to the board on the monitoring activities of the IMW. Davis requested consideration by the board for funding for the final component of this program from the Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring for Open Solicitation line item in the 2015-2017 Spending Plan. She summarized the purpose of the IMW project as an evaluation of the effects of collective restoration efforts at a fairly large scale in the Upper Middle Fork John Day watershed over a 10-year period, tracking the effects on salmon and Steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. She pointed out the broad partners in the IMW provide robust science to assess the effects of restoration work. The bulk of funding has come as a pass-through from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) to Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), which grants to various entities. She notes that the board has contributed supplemental funding. The board approved in July the receipt of final funding from PSMFC. Davis requested nearly $19,000 to complete the project in 2017. She asked the board to delegate authority to the Executive Director for distribution of these funds. She said funding would specifically support work by Oregon State University on data collection, analysis, and synthesis reporting, with the final report due to NOAA and PSMFC in October of 2017.

Karl Wenner stressed the importance of this monitoring project and asked how the report will be used in a meaningful way. Davis said it will be brought back to the board and shared in light of three important components: how restoration is put into place and the adaptive management "lessons learned", the monitoring necessary for an effective study, and some of the communication coordination needs around this issue. She said that information from this 10-year study can help guide how we do monitoring in the future. She also noted that the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Program (PNAMP) is organizing a workshop including all of the IMWs around the region to come together to discuss monitoring design, lessons learned,

and plans for disseminating results. Rosemary Furfey said the community has wanted to understand the information coming from all IMW's across the west. She feels there has been a collective question about what has been learned, how it should be reported, and how other organizations make use of that information. Wenner requested an update of ongoing programmatic effectiveness monitoring projects at every board meeting. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden said the Monitoring Subcommittee will be receiving such updates, but staff will be glad to add additional updates for the board as needed. Wenner also suggested recalling the questions first asked with these projects to see if they have been answered.

Eric Quaempts suggested providing the information to other project proponents to be able to benefit from lessons learned when developing their proposals. Davis agreed and stated the Technical Services Program and Grant Program have an opportunity to work together to determine the salient pieces of the report that can inform other entities that are engaging in restoration.

Gary Marshall asked if this IMW was the only one in the state. Davis said it is the only one funded by PSMFC, but there are others in the state revolving around other issues with different structures (e.g., funding, timeframe, geographic scale).

Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board award up to $18,897 from the Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring for Open Solicitation line item in the spending plan in support of Oregon State University's work as part of the Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements, with an award date of October 25, 2016. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. The motion passed unanimously.

F. Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives presented background information on the April 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle, and the award recommendations from OWEB staff. He said there were 144 applications submitted. Each of these was reviewed and site visits conducted by the regional review teams in all six regions. He said review team members vote whether to "fund," "do not fund," or "fund with conditions" at the review team meetings, and then rank the recommended projects in priority order.

Williams highlighted the process of the review team meetings, which now includes a co-facilitation model with the Grant Program Manager guiding the meeting, allowing the Regional Program Representatives to focus on content, and the use of clickers to vote on projects. Williams said the clickers streamline the voting process and allow for completely anonymous voting. He has received positive feedback on the clicker process from the review team members. Williams said he will be sending the board the schedule of regional review team meetings for the upcoming cycle, and invited them to attend at least one so they can see firsthand what the process looks like.

Will Neuhauser asked for a running total of funds spent toward the $10 million Sage Grouse board commitment. Meta Loftsgaarden stated that staff would add a line item indicating what the FIPs have added to the total. Neuhauser also said he appreciates the consistency provided by the new review format, particularly in the summaries, and uniformity across regions.

Ron Alvarado asked for clarification of the term "urgent" in the decision-making quadrant graphic found in Attachment A. Williams explained several different criteria used to measure urgency, including landowner willingness and partner participation. Williams then briefly reviewed the packet of public comment letters and their subject projects, and introduced the Regional Program Representatives, who highlighted projects within their regions that illustrate the strategic nature of the projects (i.e., the project is the right action at the right time at the right location).

REGION 1: Katie Duzik, Regional Program Representative for the North Coast Basin, presented background information about the Skookum Dam and Fiddle & Billy Moore Creek Confluence projects, demonstrating their strategic nature and ecological uplift.

Alan Henning asked about a reduction and change in the amount of funding and work hours proposed for project 217-1001. He said it was a lot of work hours for a comparatively small amount of dollars. Duzik explained the reduction in project management hours was a recommendation from the review team.

Henning also asked to what extent the properties are contributing to the large wood replacement on project 217-1002. Duzik said there are some donations of materials and time, but the bulk of the cost is covered by other partners. Henning wanted clarification about adding large wood to private harvested land. Duzik explained that this is a complex topic on the North Coast with a historical context. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden explained this is an ongoing policy-level conversation around the coordination of a regulatory baseline with voluntary conservation efforts and investments. OWEB is working with what is available and the willingness of landowners to achieve conservation goals as quickly as possible. Will Neuhauser asked how recently the land was harvested. Duzik said it spans 5 ½ miles of stream, so past harvest activity is varied and patchwork, but she estimates harvesting at 20 years ago based on her site visit.

REGION 2: Mark Grenbemer, Regional Program Representative for Southern Oregon, presented project details about Salt Creek fish passage improvement, a technical assistance project identifying and assessing several barriers. He then presented Butcherknife Creek culvert replacement in the Applegate watershed to open two and a half miles of cold water refugia and Coho habitat. He discussed the rich history of the Rogue Basin with strategic planning and prioritization of fish passage barriers for removal, with over 50 barriers removed.

Karl Wenner asked if there has been monitoring to identify any changes since the barriers have been removed. Grenbemer said monitoring is difficult to obtain funding for, but monitoring is occurring, particularly on some of the largest dam removals (e.g., Gold Ray Dam). Wenner stated this is the type of project OWEB needs to push because the outcomes can and should be quantified. Loftsgaarden said that at the January board meeting, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife will present on monitoring related to Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funding.

Bob Webber asked if there are any downstream passage issues on these two projects. Grenbemer said there are Coho up to these barriers, but no Coho are found above the barriers.

Debbie Hollen and Eric Quaempts also commented on the importance of measuring the outcomes and tracking progress toward OWEB's long term goals.

Alan Henning asked about two Coos Bay Oxbow projects (217-2009 and 2010). Both were recommended for funding but one fell below the funding line. Henning asked if these were both components of the Coos Bay FIP. Grenbemer confirmed they were.

REGION 3: Liz Redon, Regional Program Representative for the Willamette Basin, presented an upland project called Nelson's Checkermallow Recovery Phase 3. She said the results of this project could establish habitat to de-list the Checkermallow flower from the Endangered Species List. She then presented Middle Crabtree and Upper Thomas Creek Riparian Restoration, which is a project that demonstrates the momentum of landowner interest in riparian restoration along this waterway. This project creates continuity of projects with a common vision, which has been a theme of this region's projects this cycle.

Gary Marshall asked for clarification about exactly what plans are to restore the site in project 217-3007. Redon explained this project is complicated because they have so many different funding streams coming into this site (Jackson Bottom). For OWEB's part, this is a wetland restoration of a degraded floodplain which has recently been overrun by noxious weeds.

Alan Henning asked about before and after monitoring for project 217-3002. Redon explained that monitoring is an explicit component of this project, but that funding for detailed monitoring is difficult to obtain. Henning suggested photo-points as an effective method. Redon said that maps and photo points have been incorporated as a requirement for first payment.

REGION 4: Greg Ciannella, OWEB's Regional Program Representative in Central Oregon presented the main components of the Sun Creek Irrigation Piping project (217-4003). He said this is a strategic action plan project in Klamath County designed to control invasive Brook Trout and provide benefits to Bull Trout and for water conservation. He then presented a strategic opportunity project called Marks Creek Riparian Meadow Restoration (217-4007) east of Prineville, and highlighted the exemplary partnership between the Crooked River Watershed Council and the Ochoco National Forest.

Dan Thorndike asked if the Sun Creek channel would ultimately reconnect with the Wood River. Ciannella said the channel restoration would hydrologically reconnect Sun Creek with the Upper Wood River. He said the new channel is 90% carved out, and expects reconnection to the Wood River to be completed in the spring. He also mentioned NRCS has provided the funds to purchase 250 acres of water rights.

Rosemary Furfey asked if they are seeing positive results in stream temperature, flow, and other indicators of improvement on the Marks Creek project. Greg said the riparian vegetation has greatly improved, and this has been captured with before and after photos. He also said there have been positive physical changes in the channel. This project will help connect the pieces of this project that have formerly been fragmented.

Alan Henning had a question about project 217-4002. He said the $1 million request from Tumalo Irrigation District seems high and wondered if they could have come in with a more scaled approach. Greg explained he did discuss the proposal with the applicant, and whether the project could be scaled accordingly. However, the applicant has a $2 million match, so they decided to stay with the higher requested dollar amount. Eric Williams explained that there are no limits on requests, and projects are measured by their merit in ecological gain for the

investment. Eric Quaempts pointed out the value of the substantial increase in acre-feet of water storage in Tumalo Creek and Crescent Lake. Ron Alvarado said it is critical to build this kind of resiliency, especially if Oregon keeps experiencing severe droughts, and acknowledged the merit of this project. Bob Webber requested clarification about where projects fit inside or outside of the FIP geographies. It was noted that the project fell outside of the scope of the Deschutes FIP, and Loftsgaarden noted that staff can provide this information.

Karl Wenner talked about the value of the Beaver project, 217-4022, in light of the historic elimination of beavers in the Klamath.

Alan Henning asked about project 217-4010, which was not recommended for funding. He asked why this project would not be covered by the FIP and wondered if there is a way to indicate when a project is covered by a FIP. Loftsgaarden said staff screen every project and make the determination ahead of the meeting. She said the board will never see a project presented for funding that is found in a FIP geography and seeks to address the FIP-identified outcomes.

REGION 5: Karen Leiendecker, Regional Program Representative for Eastern Oregon, first presented Alder Creek Wetland Restoration (217-5009) to increase floodplain connectivity, provide habitat features, and add channel complexity. She also presented Ruby Peak Pipeline (217-5003) in Enterprise, which is a partnership between the Wallowa SWCD with NRCS addressing one of three pipelines on Alder Slope.

Alan Henning asked if there are grazing rights on the Alder Creek property. Leiendecker said there is a grazing allotment, but the meadow is protected.

Ron Alvarado mentioned this area was recently awarded 2016 RCPP funding as well.

REGION 6: Sue Greer, Regional Program Representative for the Mid-Columbia Basin, presented Lonerock Ridge Juniper Project (217-6020) and provided context and background on the basin and on the strategic planning that went into this watershed. With additional grants being applied for, including a monitoring component, this will be a basin-scale project when it is complete. Greer also presented Tom Colvin Ranch and Twelvemile Creek Middle Fork John Day River Riparian Improvements 217-6024). She highlighted that there are 31 participating and motivated landowners with good momentum.

Karl Wenner asked for clarification about spring development. Greer said the livestock water developments are off-channel because they want to protect the spring site and be able to completely fence off the rivers.

Eric Quaempts inquired about a study for conducting pumping tests included in project 217-6028. He wanted to know how many tests would be conducted and for how long, and asked if there is a report that will be provided as a result of the project. Greer said there will be a deliverable on the results in two years. He also asked for clarification about protecting stream flows once they hit the state line, mentioning the inability to protect water flows in Oregon that are currently being tapped into by junior users in Washington. Greer said the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council has been doing restoration work on both sides of the state border and the conversation is ongoing.

There was no public comment on pending Open Solicitation grant applications.

Co-Chair Labbe moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as shown in Attachments E-J to the April 2016 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle staff report. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Approval of Board Recommendations for 2015-2017 Biennial Report

Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board on the agency's development of the 2015-2017 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. She provided background on the past and current requirements for report format. She said there are new State requirements for reports like this to have a web-friendly and mobile-friendly format. Per statute, a 2-page executive summary is required. She reviewed the list of proposed recommended items found in Attachment B to the staff report, including reference to the upcoming strategic planning process on which OWEB is embarking. Davis asked the board to adopt the recommendations to include in the report, which will be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office.

Alan Henning suggested capturing the development of key staff positions that have happened this biennium, and then suggested mentioning working lands efforts, whether forest or agriculture.

Rosemary Furfey drew on the importance of monitoring. She suggested adding an example to the Clean Water Partnership item to provide more detail and support.

Eric Quaempts suggested more graphics and less text on the two-pager, particularly with regard to distribution of funding to programs. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden said that OWEB is challenged by the limit of two pages for the Executive Summary, but said staff would incorporate more graphics into the detailed pdf on the website.

Co-Chair Labbe moved the board adopt as final the Draft Board Recommendations, for inclusion in the 2015-2017 Biennial Report for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds including the recommendations for modification of the CWP segment and the working farms and ranches segment, and capturing key staff positions, as outlined in this board meeting. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. There was no discussion. The motion passed unanimously.

I. OWEB Rulemaking

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein updated the board on the process and schedule for rulemaking that is planned to occur within Oregon Administrative Rules Division 5 (OWEB Grant Program) and Division 10 (Restoration Grants). Over the summer OWEB initiated a required five-year rule review on several of OWEB's administrative rules. Hartstein said there were no recommended changes to the administrative rules for the Watershed Enhancement Program and Assessment & Action Plan. He said there were also no suggested changes to the rules for the Education and Outreach and Small Grant programs since OWEB will be doing a more extensive review in the upcoming year. Hartstein cited several suggested changes to the

administrative rules for the OWEB Grant Program (Division 5 rules) and Restoration Grants (Division 10 rules). He directed the board's attention to Attachments A and B, which are the Rule Review Memos for each division and discussed examples of suggested changes. Hartstein asked the board to authorize rulemaking to amend the administrative rules for OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants.

Regarding equipment purchased with OWEB funding, Alan Henning asked for clarification about the current rules surrounding equipment ownership relative to the proposed changes. Hartstein stated the equipment currently must be retained by certain agencies and organizations. The suggested change would expand the permission to retain equipment to other approved non-profit or organizational grantees.

Rosemary Furfey asked for clarification about using lottery funds for education and outreach, and whether this issue rises to the level of a rule change. Hartstein clarified that these rules are broad, and can potentially involve funding sources outside of lottery. He also stated that these are the rules used by the regional review teams, stating there is currently no score or weight attached to each criterion, but that a weighting system may be applied in the future.

Alan Henning stated he is not comfortable with "generally accepted requirements" as a threshold criterion for restoration proposals. He feels this is opening it up to broad discretion for aquatic restoration work. He stated, however, that he is comfortable relying on "generally accepted requirements" for the upland portion only. Hartstein said there is an in-progress effort to look at what generally accepted restoration standards are out there, which may lead to a staff-directed policy that is more specific with detailed options. Dan Thorndike suggested including some language to make sure the standards are high enough and not the lowest common denominator. Will Neuhauser said he appreciated having a general rule with control over the more specific policy. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden said that the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) and staff will be discussing this issue.

Hartstein talked about the proposed schedule and process for rulemaking, and said he will come back to the Board in January with an update and will look for board adoption of the amended rules at the April meetings. Neuhauser asked who is on the RAC. Eric said it is a group of eight stakeholders from a tribe, watershed councils, and SWCDs across the state. Dan Thorndike said those initial recommendations would be run through the appropriate subcommittee before coming back to the board.

> *Co-Chair Thorndike moved the board authorize rulemaking to amend the OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants (Division 10) administrative rules. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously.*

Eric Hartstein provided information and logistics for the afternoon tour to the Ashland Forest.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:38PM by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
October 26, 2016
OWEB Board Meeting
Ashland Hills Hotel, Cosmos Ballroom
2522 Ashland Street
Ashland, Oregon

MINUTES

OWEB Members Present	**OWEB Staff Present**	**Others Present**
Alvarado, Ron	Barnes, Darika	Morford, Shawn
Armstrong, Ed	Ciannella, Greg	Jackson, Kate
Brandt, Stephen	Davis, Renee	Klock, Clair
Furfey, Rosemary	Duzik, Katie	Rice, Marilyn
Henning, Alan	Greer, Sue	
Hollen, Debbie	Hartstein, Eric	
Labbe, Randy	Hatch, Audrey	
Marshall, Gary	Leiendecker, Karen	
Masterson, Laura	Loftsgaarden, Meta	
Neuhauser, Will	Redon, Liz	
Quaempts, Eric	Shaff, Courtney	
Stangl, Kathy	Williams, Eric	
Thorndike, Dan		
Webber, Bob		
Wenner, Karl		

The meeting was called to order at 8:00AM by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike. He thanked the sponsors of the reception from the previous night and recapped the tour to the Ashland Forest.

G. Public Comment

Shawn Morford, executive director of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (the Network), spoke about the partnership between the Network and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD). She said they renewed a Memorandum of Agreement in a cake-cutting ceremony at their joint Annual Fall Networking Event in the prior week. She said they were preparing to submit their second year of the biennium funding proposal and discussed some of the new features in the proposal. Morford discussed their planned use of GoTo Meetings as a method of effective networking that reduces costly and time-consuming travel. Dan Thorndike mentioned that in rural areas the use of technology like webinars is an effective method of communication and helps provide for continuing education. Morford agreed that webinars are highly convenient and cost-effective ways to disseminate information when a face-to-face meeting is not convenient or possible. Karl Wenner said the fiscal benefits that

organizations like OACD and the Network can provide to local watershed councils and SWCDs should be considered, particularly insurance packages. Morford said that during the facilitated discussion at their conference in the previous week, insurance – particularly health insurance – was a prime concern. Morford said she would be at the January meeting with another update. She thanked the Board for their commitment to continue to fund the Network and OACD partnership to help facilitate the human side of these restoration projects, and she and pledged to continue providing reports to the Board.

Clair Klock from Corbett came to represent his conservation district in Multnomah and as a retired Oregon farmer. He discussed conservation education for adults and supported "Outdoor School for All" under Measure 99. Klock then recognized OWEB as one of the leaders in helping landowners achieve conservation goals through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program and said he hopes this will include small landowners to maintain farmland in the State of Oregon. He is presently in a working conservation easement; he has the land, but not the $50-75,000 it will take to get to a conservation easement. He mentioned the board's tour of Ashland Forest as an example of the best way to learn about the scientific value of these projects in order to be able to discuss them with legislative committees.

H. Authorize Interagency Agreement with Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) for Fish Passage Projects

OWEB Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and ODOT Statewide Fish Passage and Aquatic Biology Leader Bill Warncke presented the Board with an opportunity to work together on fish passage projects in a more formal capacity. Warncke provided an overview of ODOT's existing Fish Passage Program, the type of partners involved, and some of the challenges encountered in identifying these barriers and funding their removal. ODOT is interested in helping watershed councils by contributing funds to the design and construction of fish passage projects, but they have limitations on their authority to enter into agreements with watershed councils that would provide funds for this purpose. Williams requested the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement with ODOT in the amount of $250,000, and to delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with eligible grantees on a project by project basis under the terms of the Master Funding Contribution Agreement.

Alan Henning asked if the funds were for one year. Dan Thorndike asked if the $250,000 was for each project. Williams said the funds being requested would cover 8-10 projects over 5-10 years, but that amount may need to be adjusted with board approval. Henning also asked about targeting priority projects and whether OWEB would be involved in deciding which projects are the highest priorities. Warncke said watershed councils would approach ODOT with requests, which would be discussed with OWEB and compared with ODOT's high-priority fish passage projects. Williams noted that all applications would be subject to technical review, as required by OWEB rules. Williams then clarified that the $250,000 funding is actually ODOT funding that would come through OWEB to distribute as grants to watershed councils. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden mentioned encouragement of past and present Governors for agencies to share services and she praised ODOT for approaching OWEB with this project. Williams said ODOT draws from a $4.2 million program to do projects on their own and

this smaller amount of $250,000 per year is to help watershed councils who are not eligible to receive funding directly from ODOT. Warnke said he feels ODOT will maximize their investment with these low-cost projects, which will actually be large impact projects relative to habitat benefit. Eric Quaempts mentioned his appreciation and support of ODOT's work. He wanted to raise awareness and emphasize the importance of the continued involvement of the state historic preservation office to protect cultural resources and ancestral burial grounds when considering projects.

Co-Chair Labbe moved the Board authorize the Executive Director to enter into an Interagency Master Funding Contribution Agreement with the Oregon Department of Transportation to provide grant-making services for habitat restoration projects up to $250,000, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into appropriate agreements with grantees under the terms of the Agreement. The motion was seconded by Bob Webber. The motion passed unanimously.

K. OWEB Strategic Plan

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden updated the board on developments that have occurred in the process to update OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan. Loftsgaarden talked about the kick-off process and schedule of future dates, and the subset of staff that would be part of the steering process along the way. She also talked about an external stakeholder team that would also act as advisors to the Board.

Loftsgaarden announced the selection of a contractor for strategic plan facilitation called Dialogues in Action (DIA). She highlighted DIA's new and innovative approach to reaching out to and interviewing stakeholders. She also talked about how they maximize board engagement to help understand what is truly important to stakeholders. Rosemary Furfey asked about the deliverable reports and who would be responsible for writing the plan. Loftsgaarden said that DIA would contribute to developing the plan; however, the board will be very involved is setting the direction and the tone, and staff will be heavily engaged in identifying the implementation components. She also talked about the evaluation component DIA provides in this process and tracking progress toward the achievement of goals, which is missing from OWEB's current strategic plan.

Eric Quaempts asked about how the stakeholder group will be formed. Loftsgaarden said that will be something discussed in the future after the facilitator has been brought into the discussion. Stephen Brandt said a strategic plan is often broad like the one we currently have, with an accompanying implementation plan that is more detailed with specific and measurable goals. He asked if OWEB will develop two plans, or roll them into one. Loftsgaarden said it is likely that OWEB will have both kinds of documents, but those decisions will also be made in conjunction with the facilitator.

Loftsgaarden explained how the current strategic plan was developed prior to the passing of M76, which meant trying to create a plan with an unknown funding future for the agency. She then reviewed each goal in the Strategic Plan and the major strategies to support them, and then explained how OWEB has achieved or exceeded each goal. Where goals were not

achieved, Loftsgaarden explained how components of the plan became obsolete because the language of M76 excluded them from funding.

There was discussion around Goal 3 (provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds), prompting Loftsgaarden to clarify that OWEB's role is not to be the face of conservation, but to support and assist local organizations in being the face of conservation in Oregon. Randy Labbe suggested OWEB needs to find creative ways to present top-down results of OWEB's work to the citizens and Legislature because he feels there is not a strong understanding of how OWEB works. Bob Webber also feels that OWEB needs to do a better job of communicating to the public OWEB's role in conservation and restoration. Dan Thorndike said this highlights the slim difference between outreach and education. He suggested that people who are unaware of OWEB may be equally unaware of their local watershed council. He agrees there is value in communicating to the public the role of OWEB in local conservation efforts around the state. Loftsgaarden responded that promotion of the work OWEB accomplishes through local partnerships might be something best-accomplished through local groups, which is happening more through press releases and local stories about projects. Rosemary Furfey agreed that diffusing implementation down to local groups was the correct avenue, but advocated for a greater role in providing the whole story at the state level. She believes OWEB has the responsibility to tell the story, analyze it, and move it forward in the public perception. Loftsgaarden replied that this will be an excellent topic of conversation for the strategic planning process starting in January. Karl Wenner talked about how monitoring can provide for public awareness of the restoration work that has been accomplished. Ed Armstrong talked about how OWEB can benefit from members of the media which can help communicate with the public in an effective manner that speaks to work at the local level. Rosemary Furfey said we should look at the biennial report with fresh eyes as an important vehicle to see if it is telling the story we want to tell. Loftsgaarden talked about the materials and publications OWEB uses to communicate with legislators and the congressional delegation, and how these have not yet been shared with the board.

Alan Henning commented that OWEB tracks more than 1,100 open grants. He encouraged inviting other "invisible" OWEB staff who manage or support the grant programs to come to a board meeting to talk about what they do. Loftsgaarden stated that staff are designing and running a very efficient system, and would come to speak with the Board when appropriate.

Dan Thorndike directed the board members to consider whether there are any key changes they want to see in the new strategic plan, which may or may not be driven by the language of M76. He also questioned how to set it up to deal with a potential generational gap. Loftsgaarden said. For the new plan, the board can either work from the original plan or start with a clean slate. Eric Quaempts warned about the complacency that may come with the security of the passing of M76 and permanent funding. He encouraged board and staff to keep setting high standards and continue challenging themselves so future board and staff members will also follow a pattern of high performance. He also recognized the importance of gathering a stakeholder group for the strategic plan that is diverse and includes university-aged youth.

Will Neuhauser noted that the strategic plan will be complete in 2018 which coincides with the 20th anniversary of the passage of Measure 66. He suggested an approach for the new strategic plan based on another 10-20 years.

L. Executive Director's Update

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues.

1) Spending Plan: Executive Director Loftsgaarden called the board's attention to the timeline for the Spending Plan. She said the board will have a conversation in January about where the board wants to be in very broad terms regarding percentages allocated to each of the grant programs. In April, OWEB staff will bring each of the line items before the board and recommend what those amounts should be based on the budget forecast. Finally, in July the board will approve the new spending plan for the next biennium. Eric Quaempts suggested considering how the strategic plan and the spending plans are linked and how to communicate that to stakeholders. Loftsgaarden said it has been very helpful to have the spending plan built around the Long Term Investment Strategy so stakeholders can see how the board's actions reflect the strategies OWEB is trying to implement.

2) Legislative: Executive Director Loftsgaarden presented the OAHP legislative concept and walked the board through nine points in Attachment A. She provided a brief history of the formation of the work group and talked about their schedule of meetings, public listening sessions, and a future timeline through program implementation in July 2017 if the legislative concept is passed in the 2017 legislative session. She said the workgroup is refining the concepts and then bringing forward any amendments to the legislative draft if it has a hearing in the legislative session. Loftsgaarden explained the focus of the OAHP workgroup is to develop voluntary tools that keep working lands in farming and ranching that are supporting the economy, healthy rural communities, and healthy fish and wildlife and other natural resources. She said the projects that fit this program are different that those funded through M76, but that is by design. She said that agriculture is the second largest economic driver and the cornerstone for rural communities; however, these lands also support valuable fish and wildlife habitat. She covered the goals of the program, then the details of the program, highlighted in the attachment.

Loftsgaarden explained how the OAHP would work and the role of the OWEB Board to approve the receipt of funding for OAHP projects. OAHP first establishes a separate fund (non-M76) using lottery bonds. Then the OWEB Board establishes OAHP representatives as a commission, composed of a mix of conservation and agriculture representatives, with a tribal representative and an OWEB Board representative. These members will be appointed and guided by the OWEB Board to oversee the investments. Funding approval will always come from the OWEB Board, but individual project investments would be decided by the commission. Karl Wenner asked where staff will come from, and Loftsgaarden said that funding from the program would provide for new staff.

Loftsgaarden talked about the suite of tools being made available for landowners under OAHP. Alan Henning asked if succession planning is the trigger to get landowners involved. He also

asked about when project goals overlap with M76 viability and how to qualify a project for OWEB funds or OAHP funds. Loftsgaarden said succession planning is one element of the program that can help recruit landowners. She clarified that most of the projects in working lands easements do not meet the bar for M76 funds. However, if a project meets that bar, it would come through an OWEB grant program. She said there is a proposal for a dedicated staff person who would be working in both programs to counsel and direct landowners to the right program since there may be some overlap.

Will Neuhauser asked for clarification about the definition of a working lands easement from a land use perspective. Loftsgaarden said an easement is normally a document that takes away rights, and sometimes also provides affirmative obligations, and landowners are compensated accordingly. Landowners may have a management plan, but it is not a requirement of the program. The goal is to keep the lands in agricultural production, providing habitat values even at a minimum level, such as non-development restraints. Ron Alvarado talked about the investments that have been made to protect habitat in terms of improvements, and now the NRCS Agricultural Land Easements program is being implemented to sustain the conservation and on-farm improvements. Loftsgaarden agreed that this is what OAHP is designed to do. She said that the program would help sustain current conservation work that is being completed.

Karl Wenner asked who will hold the easement. Loftsgaarden said local land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, and others will hold them because it is very important to landowners to continue working with local organizations. OWEB will not hold easements, but will always have third party rights of enforcement. Wenner suggested that there would need to be some capacity building for non-profit land trusts, and Loftsgaarden acknowledged that this has clearly been identified as a need based on gap analysis funded by OWEB and NRCS.

Loftsgaarden emphasized how there is some sensitivity to giving up development rights for perpetuity. There is an option in the OAHP for termed working land conservation covenants (20-50 years). Dan Thorndike compared the potential success of this type of easement with the success of termed water leases, versus the full transfer of water rights which can make right holders more reluctant to participate.

Loftsgaarden talked about planned grant programs and the ability to leverage with NRCS for match funding. Ron Alvarado reflected on the more strategic approach of OWEB with FIPs, and NRCS's approach with RCPPs, as more landscape-scale level conservation. He said OAHP is another tool in the toolbox for the agricultural community and will help to capture what has been improved together on a more landscape-scale. He believes NRCS may have an opportunity to provide match for this program.

Rosemary Furfey asked if there had been conversation among staff that participation in this program would affect OWEB's mission and strategic plan with regard to being linked to programs that may not meet M76 goals. Loftsgaarden said that OWEB already supports projects through different programs that have different requirements than those found in M76 (e.g. Forest Collaboratives, Rangeland Wildfire Threat Reduction, and PCSRF). She said this program fits well with the triple bottom line of the strategic plan, but the funding source is different. She sees it as the equivalent of another grant program.

Alan Henning asked about the dichotomy of funding projects that do not meet M76 goals, and thereby do not meet OWEB goals. Loftsgaarden emphasized that the OAHP program is seeking a different funding source because its projects will not meet M76 funding goals. She clarified that these projects would still provide for fish and wildlife habitat, but they would be doing conservation in parallel with working lands.

Randy Labbe said he feels the OAHP program would complement the M76 goals, but the task of educating people about it is difficult. He said Oregon has one of the highest estate taxes in the country, which is a huge dilemma because it makes properties valuable for investors... Gary Marshall said he sees the potential for conflict with M76 goals, but we need to weigh the potential complement we can provide for the state that may be larger even than what we're thinking of now. Loftsgaarden said the states that have this in place already have a tremendous value added.

Eric Quaempts asked about assisting families with alternate uses, citing the example of areas with ground water issues and if this program would cover conversion to other enterprises, such as solar farms. Loftsgaarden said this program would probably not fit for that purpose, but it might help with succession planning.

Rosemary Furfey asked if the board will get a staff report and an analysis of how the program will work and its implications (e.g., staffing, budget, timing, etc.). Meta Loftsgaarden said the budget has already been presented to the board for this program, and that staff will be happy to provide these items again. However, but those figures are not available now because they are not yet in the Governor's Budget. If the concept is not in the Governor's Budget OWEB will no longer be authorized to promote the program. The workgroup could carry it forward with the legislature if it is not in the Governor's Budget.

OWEB Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented to the Board OWEB's other legislative concept that involves statute revisions. The legislative concept would provide cleanup and updates to certain sections of OWEB statutes. He said final approval of all agency concepts from the Governor's Office will occur in December in order for concepts to move forward in the 2017 legislative session.

Gary Marshall asked about when action would be taken on the decision to add a member from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Hartstein replied that, if the concept passes, July would be the earliest date for an appointment.

3) Budget: Executive Director Loftsgaarden provided a brief overview of the budget forecast and lottery revenues. The $1.4 Billion deficit requires all agencies to submit a budget cut at 5% and 10% of current service level. State revenues will not be able to keep up with the deficit, including the impact of PERS costs, even if the economy continues to grow. OWEB developed its budget with both best-case and worse-case scenarios in mind, relative to ballot measures pending in the upcoming election. Attachment A is the proposed best-case budget.

Dan Thorndike asked for clarification about the difference between general funds and lottery funds and whether both are affected by the cuts. Loftsgaarden explained that both kinds of operating funds are impacted when developing the requested budget cuts, but that grant funds are not affected.

Deputy Director Renee Davis walked the board through the specifics of the Agency Request Budget, directing the board to Attachment A. She said additional requests above and beyond current service level are described as Policy Packages and reminded the board they reviewed and approved these packages in April. Davis talked about the Program Continuity package, which includes several limited duration positions that OWEB would like to continue, along with contracting funds that facilitate such work as acquisitions due diligence. Alan Henning asked whether it was more feasible to hire a part-time employee to handle the duties listed under Contracted Services for acquisitions. Davis stated that a simple analysis shows this is more cost-effective because it's difficult to predict what the workload will be in acquisitions. She said this has been a more strategic way to target what OWEB needs based on applications that come in. Bob Webber asked if the Strategic Plan facilitator contract fees were included in Contracted Services. Loftsgaarden replied that it falls in OWEB's base budget.

Davis talked about the Program Enhancement request being additional contracting funds that would support such activities as Monitoring.

Loftsgaarden reviewed the request of $4.25 million for the OAHP and walked the board through the duties of 2.5 designated employees and the distribution of the remainder of funds to the different grant programs under that initiative. Randy Labbe asked if the workgroup has calculated how much federal funding we are forgoing by not having match. Loftsgaarden said we forgo all match funding at this time. With the program, we could bring in $2.25 million. The goal of the program is to grow to $8-10 million, and we would match that with federal funds. She said if OAHP is in the Governor's Budget, then OWEB will work with the legislature and the workgroup to push it as hard as we can. Conversely, if OAHP is not in the Governor's Budget, it will be the job of the workgroup to get a legislator to support the program and OWEB can no longer promote it.

4) Key Performance Measures (KPMs): Deputy Director Davis updated the board about the Annual Performance Progress Report (APPR) submitted to the Oregon Department of Administrative Services and the Legislative Fiscal Office, and discussed the status of the proposed revised KPMs. She provided a broad overview of the KPM process and purpose to gage progress toward mission and goals while measuring customer satisfaction. She reviewed the board's approval of proposed revised KPMs over time since January. Davis offered to send the APPR out to board members by e-mail and said that staff will keep the board apprised at future meetings about the conversations around the new slate of KPMs.

Eric Quaempts said he has advocated for a greater focus on floodplain process as it relates to riparian work, and he wondered if it was too late to make that change. Davis said it is too late to add it to this slate, but it could be on the radar for future KPM updates.

5) Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) Tour: Deputy Director Davis summarized the events of a recent tour, in partnership with the NOAA Portland office, to highlight some OWEB investments funded under PCSRF and OWEB's M76 funds. This tour was organized on behalf of NOAA Headquarters staff and staff from the President's Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to see first-hand the on-the-ground results of PCSRF investments. The tour also created a forum for visiting staff to talk directly with local partners about their successes, lessons learned, and future restoration needs to address limiting factors for salmon and steelhead.

Eric Quaempts expressed his appreciation for Meacham Creek being selected as a stop on the tour. He talked about his conversation with OMB staff about floodplain processes and buffering the effects of climate change. Loftsgaarden said this OMB staff person was the same person she and the co-chairs met with at the Washington D.C. meetings in May.

6) FIP Capacity Building: Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff addressed the board about FIP Capacity-Building grants, stating are all making progress toward program goals. She said OWEB staff recently completed brief check-ins with all grantees to discuss accomplishments, unforeseen challenges, and overall progress. Staff have also held three conference calls with all of the FIP Capacity-Building grantees. The purpose of the calls has been to connect the partnerships with each other, talk about challenges and "ah-ha moments," and provide opportunities for information sharing.

Shaff also talked about how these grant funds are being leveraged by grantees and thereby increasing the capacity of the partnerships and individual partners to complete work.

Karl Wenner asked whether each partner, as part of this, will develop a strategic action plan for coordination or a plan for actual restoration activities. Shaff said there were four activities they could apply for in this biennium: 1) enhance an existing strategic action plan, 2) develop a new strategic action plan, 3) develop partnership materials, or 4) do community outreach related to their strategic action plan. All existing FIP Capacity-Building grantees are either developing or enhancing a strategic action plan.

M. Other Business

Fiscal Manager Cindy Silbernagel discovered a technical issue that needed to be addressed by the board. The board-approved funding tables were missing Plant Establishment or Effectiveness Monitoring splits because staff need to prepare separate grant agreements for those amounts. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided an example of what one of these splits looks like from the funding tables and project summaries. She said the board needed to approve those splits as a technical fix, and it would not change the amount awarded.

> *Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the Board approve all Plant Establishment and Effectiveness Monitoring splits as indicated in the evaluations for approved restoration grants. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Labbe at 11:00AM.

January 24, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Subcommittee Update

Background

The subcommittee is currently focused on monitoring the early progress of the FIPs and planning for future biennium awards and solicitations.

Summary of Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on December 9 and discussed the following topics:

- An update on Capacity Building FIP projects;
- An update on FIP effectiveness monitoring;
- An update on the 2017 Capacity Building FIP solicitation;
- Plans for Implementation FIP presentations at the January Board meeting; and
- Implementation FIP project accounting.

OWEB staff updated the subcommittee on the status of the current FIP Capacity Building grants. All grantees are meeting regularly and making progress on strategic action plans, with progress reports due January 30, 2017. Staff hold quarterly conference calls with grantees to share successes and challenges, and to discuss specific topics like engaging local stakeholders and prioritizing projects within strategic action plans. Calls will continue throughout the biennium. Board members expressed interest in attending partnership meetings to learn more about their work. Recognizing the sensitivity of having outside parties present at partnership meetings, dates of upcoming meetings will be provided to the subcommittee members.

The 2017-2019 Capacity Building grant cycle will be announced on January 9, 2017, with board awards scheduled for October 2017. Board members asked about the range of funding requests received in the initial solicitation, which was from about $80,000 to $150,000.

Staff provided a status update on FIP effectiveness monitoring recently begun by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). BEF is completing an anonymous survey of both Capacity Building and Implementation FIPs. Information will be rolled into a collective report to OWEB. Board members discussed the integrity of the process, which allows partnerships to provide candid reporting on their progress and effectiveness. The resulting product will help the Board evaluate the program and make successful future investments based on lessons learned.

The subcommittee discussed plans for Implementation FIP presentations at the January board meeting. Partnerships will provide detailed progress reports and project accounting spreadsheets. At the board meeting, staff will provide an introduction to the FIPs, and then partnerships will present to and engage in dialogue with the board. Presentations will inform

the board about status and progress of partnership efforts, leading up to April board recommendations for second biennium funding. Board members discussed the importance of the board showing interest in the partnerships' work and expressed a strong desire to be thoroughly prepared for the dialogue. The Subcommittee scheduled a call on January 13th to prepare for the board discussions with the partnerships at the January board meeting.

To Be Presented at the January 2017 Board Meeting by:

Will Neuhauser, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oweb.state.or.us or 503-986-0047.

January 24, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee's recent focus has been to increase their understanding of past and current Open Solicitation monitoring investments and create a process to develop improved guidance for applicants submitting monitoring grant applications.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on November 3, 2016 and discussed the following topics:

- Debrief about monitoring discussions at the October Board meeting;
- Summary information about past and current Open Solicitation monitoring investments;
- Brainstorming about development of guidance for monitoring grant applications; and
- Ideas for future monitoring presentations for the full board.

Board members shared their perspectives following the October board meeting, and underscored the importance of OWEB working with grantees and others gathering monitoring data to better tell the story of the cumulative results of restoration investments. They also expressed interest in better understanding where OWEB fits within the larger monitoring structure in Oregon and across the region.

To increase the subcommittee's understanding of OWEB's monitoring investments, staff presented summary statistics about monitoring grant investments since 2006. Information included the number of monitoring grants and funding awarded, distribution of awards among different types of monitoring activities (e.g., status and trend, rapid bioassessment) and monitoring parameters (e.g., water quality, habitat), range of cost for different types of monitoring grants, and categories of monitoring grantees.

This information lead to a discussion about OWEB's approach to monitoring grantmaking, given the limited availability of funds for monitoring and the diverse collection of data and information needs. The subcommittee brainstormed about approaches for developing monitoring application guidance with the intent of improving the technical completeness and quality of monitoring grant applications being submitted. The group also discussed the importance of balancing investments in high-priority local monitoring with more targeted/prioritized monitoring actions intended to address interagency information needs (e.g., outcomes reporting).

The subcommittee met again on December 14, with the meeting focused on 1) a review of the draft workplan for developing monitoring application guidance, 2) a presentation about the

Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP), and 3) the upcoming presentation by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) staff about that agency's monitoring work at the January 2017 Board meeting. Subcommittee members provided staff with feedback about the monitoring guidance development process that will gather information from OWEB staff, technical experts from partner agencies, and monitoring grantees, then use this input to establish more clearly defined expectations and guidance for monitoring grants. Staff will incorporate the subcommittee's feedback into the final workplan, and then develop a detailed timeline for the guidance development process. The group also discussed that the guidance development process will assist the subcommittee in exploring if OWEB should consider developing priorities for some of its monitoring investments.

Staff then presented information about CEP, which is an interagency collaboration among OWEB; Oregon Departments of Environmental Quality, Agriculture, and Fish and Wildlife; and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. The partnership aims to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions in achieving natural resources outcomes through collaborative monitoring, evaluation, and reporting. Subcommittee members heard about three CEP case studies—Wilson River, Whychus Creek, and Fifteenmile Creek—and asked questions to learn more about the CEP effort and next steps for 2017. They discussed the potential for an approach such as that being used by CEP to assist OWEB in telling the story of the results of its investments. A CEP presentation to the full board is slated for spring of 2017.

To Be Presented at the October 2016 Board Meeting by:

Rosemary Furfey, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Renee Davis, Deputy Director
renee.davis@state.or.us or 503-986-0203

January 24, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Open Solicitation Subcommittee Update

Background

The Open Solicitation Subcommittee held its initial meeting in August 2016 and prioritized work on the following issues: 1) aligning the Outreach solicitation with the changes adopted in Measure 76; 2) evaluating the Small Grant Program; 3) evaluating the funding line process; and 4) evaluating the regional review team process.

Summary of Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on November 30. The subcommittee reviewed the results of a summary of Outreach projects funded since passage of Measure 76, beginning with the 2012 solicitation through 2016. The review showed that nearly half of the projects funded may not meet the Measure 76 threshold of being "necessary for carrying out" restoration or acquisition projects. Board members suggested that renaming the grant offering may be appropriate depending on the outcome of the work to be done by the Outreach Application Stakeholder Work Group. Board members also suggested that OWEB consider providing applicants whose projects may be ineligible with information about alternative funding sources.

Next, the subcommittee discussed an evaluation of the Small Grant Program. Kathy Leopold, Small Grant Coordinator, provided a history of the program, beginning with Board approval of program objectives in 2001 and Board adoption of rules in 2002 that included a $10,000 cap on individual grant awards and the current Small Grant review team structure consisting of at least one watershed council and at least one soil and water conservation district (SWCD). Historically, the Board has included $2.8 million in the spending plan and awarded $100,000 to each of 28 small grant teams, who submit bylaws and evaluation criteria each biennium. Eligible applicants include watershed councils, SWCDs, and tribes, who act on behalf of landowners to implement projects designed based on standard technical guidance.

Board members discussed evaluating whether to change the $10,000 cap, clarifying eligibility, and what information is needed for the Board to determine whether the program is meeting its intended purpose. Members wanted to learn more about whether the program has evolved since 2002, whether we are evaluating success or lessons learned, and whether RPRs think that small grants projects are complementary to open solicitation projects. Members decided to ask the Board at the January meeting what it would like to know about the program.

There was further discussion about what happens to unspent funds. Currently, there is not a method to redistribute unspent funds, so they are recaptured in the next biennium spending plan. Some small grant teams would like the opportunity to access unspent funds.

The Small Grant Program evaluation will continue after receiving further Board input in January.

The subcommittee introduced the next topic for their work, asking staff to provide the basis for the current funding line process at the next quarterly meeting, scheduled for February 22.

To Be Presented at the January 2017 Board Meeting by:

Bob Webber, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oweb.state.or.us or 503-986-0047.

January 24, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Operating Capacity Subcommittee Update

Background

The Operating Capacity Subcommittee focuses on issues related to watershed council and soil and water conservation district operating capacity grants, monitoring of capacity investments, support for the statewide partnership organizations, and organizational restructuring grants.

Summary of Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met via phone on January 11 and discussed 2017-2019 Council Capacity grants, the Conservation Partnership funding request (agenda item E) and the FIP Partnership Learning project (updated provided in Director's Update I-5).

Staff updated the subcommittee on the council capacity eligibility review process and future deadlines. The Council Capacity grant eligibility review deadline was November 14, 2016. All 59 possible watershed councils submitted the required eligibility materials by the deadline. One watershed council was determined ineligible. Using OWEB's established process, the council appealed to OWEB's Executive Director and was determined to be eligible once they provided updated information to address the identified eligibility concerns. As a next step, the Council Capacity grant application deadline is March 6, 2017. Following review and evaluation, recommendations to the board for 2017-2019 Council Capacity grants will be made at the July 2017 OWEB Board meeting.

The subcommittee also discussed the funding request from the Conservation Partnership (agenda item E). The subcommittee supports this funding as the partnership continues to lead by example though working collectively to deliver learning opportunities to all of their stakeholders.

Finally, the subcommittee received an update on the FIP Partnership Learning project. Detailed information about this project are provided in the Director's update (I-5).

Submitted by:

Debbie Hollen, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator
courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Conservation Partnership Funding
January 24, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update regarding the Conservation Partnership (Partnership) and requests the board approve $33,575 of additional funding for the continuation and expansion of the Partnership's activities.

II. Background

The Partnership includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN). These separate groups collaborate and coordinate to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their stakeholders.

In July 2015, the OWEB Board approved $300,000 to deliver joint programming that serves the collective and complementary missions of the councils, districts, and land trusts. The funding was split into two grants, each for one year of the biennium. Both grant agreements include requirements for quarterly reports on program deliverables, as well as challenges the Partnership has faced. The Partnership has met the deliverables for the first half of the biennium, and OWEB staff just executed the grant agreement for the second half of the biennium's funding.

The Partnership accomplished a number of tasks in their first year. A few items include COLT working towards finalizing the Working Lands Gap Analysis and successful completion of 2016 CONNECT conference and planning for the 2017 CONNECT conference in May, 2017. Both the NOWC and OACD held annual meetings in Portland, and the NOWC hosted two webinars: one on Logic Models and one on Risk Management and Insurance.

III. Funding Request

The four organizations of the Partnership are entering a new phase of collaboration as they look ahead into the new biennium. The boards of the organizations have met together and expressed the importance of their collective voice for voluntary conservation and their desire for more joint programming for councils, districts, and land trusts to create greater efficiencies and impact. In support of the expanded collaboration, the Partnership has targeted significant increases in services for 2017. These increases include using webinars to provide trainings, regional meetings, coordinated/shared resources such as legal services, and downloadable templates.

To support this growth in collaboration and expansion of services, the Partnership requests an additional $33,575 from OWEB for the second part of the biennium. The additional funding would be used for the following activities that were not budgeted for in the second half of the biennium:

- 2017 State of the Lands Report
- Sponsorship of the CONNECT 2017 conference.
- IT support and upgrades to support webinar and video conferencing software that enables webinars and face to face meetings, which has significantly enhanced outreach to constituents.
- Secure a Willamette University intern to coordinate stakeholder communication and coordinate shared resources and templates for councils, districts, and land trusts.
- Cover additional NOWC and OACD salary costs due to funding sources not being available in 2017, and changes in salary with the new NOWC Executive Director.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board add $33,575 of Building Capacity funds to existing award 216-8006-12263 for the expansion of the Conservation Partnership's expanded collaboration and deliverables in 2017.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – 2017-2019 Spending Plan
January 24, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides information on the timeline for approval of the 2017-2019 spending plan, and requests the board provide general direction in terms of major spending plan category percentages. Staff also request feedback to determine if there is interest in new spending plan line items, or questions about current line items, to be addressed at the April board meeting.

II. Background

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's budget at the beginning of each biennium, the board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB spending plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, and salmon license plate revenues, with the bulk from Measure 76 and the federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). PCSRF funds have been a significant component of OWEB's budget since 2000, accounting for approximately one-third of OWEB's total funds.

At its July 2015 meeting, the board adopted a 2015-2017 Spending Plan totaling $74.664 million. In July 2016, the board revised the spending plan to include additional recapture and PCSRF funding.

III. 2017-19 Spending Plan Timeline

The 2017-19 Spending Plan will be approved by the board in July 2017. In preparation for that approval, the following steps will occur:

- In January 2017, the board will provide an indication of the percentages it would like to include for the overall spending plan budget categories.
- Between the January and April meetings, staff and the subcommittees will convene to discuss funding options for specific grant types within each category.
- In April 2017, staff will present each of the line items within each category and propose an investment amount for each line based on the overall percentages indicated by the board in January. The board will provide feedback on the funding amounts for each grant type.
- In July 2017, staff will present 2017-19 recommendations for board approval.
- In July 2018, the board will consider additional funds for the spending plan from PCSRF and recapture, similar to the approval at the 2016 July board meeting.

IV. Spending Plan Percentages

It is estimated that funding available for the 2017-19 spending plan will be $80 million in the first year, with an additional $4.9 million available in year two based on successful receipt of PCSRF funding.

At the July 2016 board meeting, members indicated a preference for increasing focused investment spending as a part of the overall spending plan to 25% of the spending plan over time (see attachment A). In addition, at the August teleconference meeting, the board delayed funding for new Implementation Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) to the 2019-21 biennium. Additional Capacity FIPs will be funded in 2017-19.

The current requests from Implementation FIPs (if approved by the board), combined with an additional solicitation for Capacity FIPs, would be approximately 20% of the spending plan. With that in mind, staff propose the amounts below as a base for the board to consider in determining percentages for each spending plan category. Additional funds available in the second year would be placed in the Open Solicitation category.

Spending Plan Categories & Proposed Percentages	
Operating Capacity	17%
Open Solicitation *	60%
Focused Investments *	20%
Other	3%

**includes monitoring*

V. Spending Plan Categories

Attachment B contains the current spending plan for the board to review in considering whether new line items are warranted or to highlight questions for staff response at the April board meeting

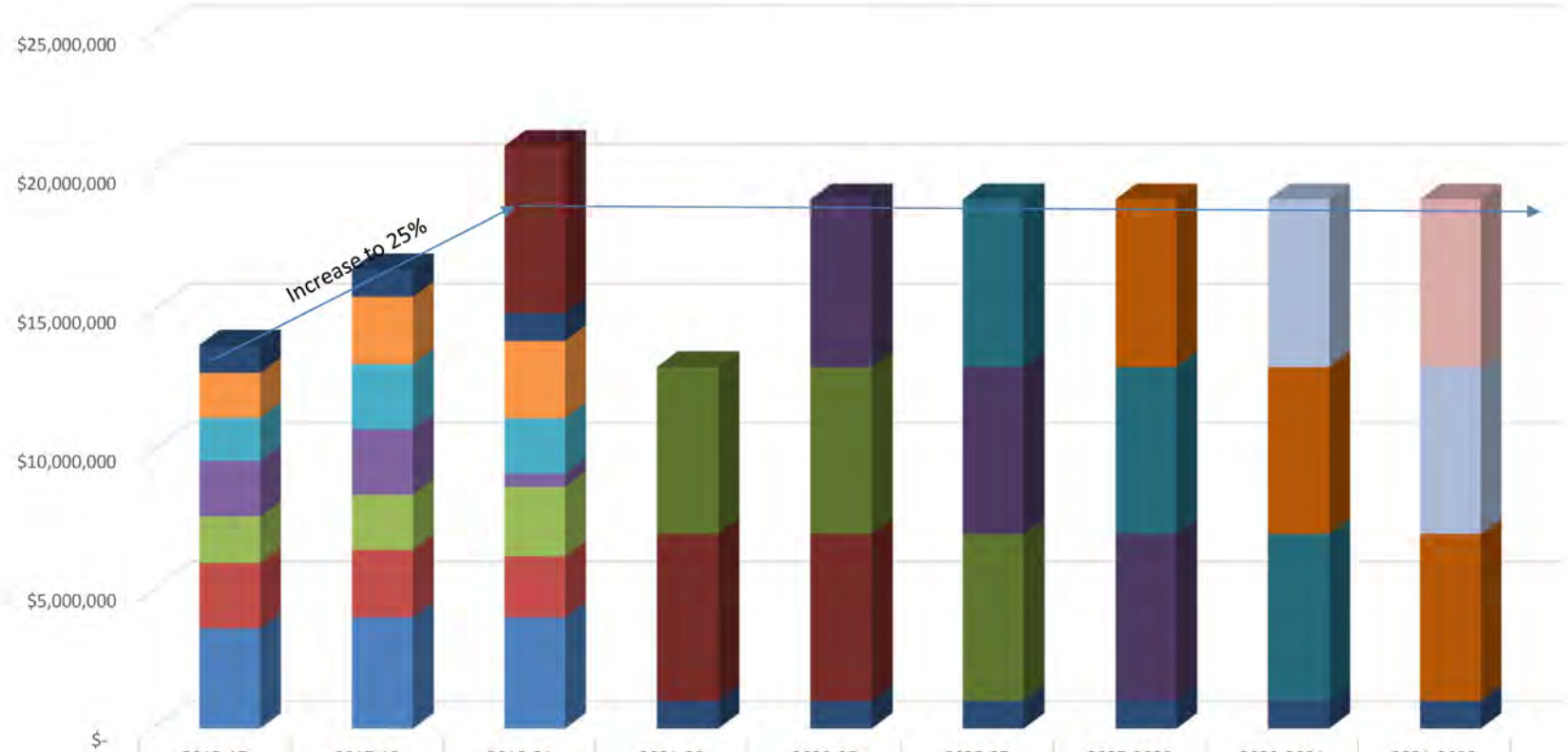
VI. Recommendation

Because actual budget figures will change based on future Lottery revenue forecasts, staff will not be requesting official approval of spending plan category percentages at the January meeting. Staff is requesting feedback on any recommendations for new spending plan line items or line items the board would like to receive additional information about at the April board meeting.

Attachments

A. Focused Investment Recommended Percentage
B. Current Spending Plan

25% Focused Investments



	2015-17	2017-19	2019-21	2021-23	2023-25	2025-27	2027-2029	2029-2031	2031-2033
FIP 2031 (25%)									$6,000,000
FIP 2029 (25%)								$6,000,000	$6,000,000
FIP 2027 (25%)							$6,000,000	$6,000,000	$6,000,000
FIP 2025 (25%)						$6,000,000	$6,000,000	$6,000,000	
FIP 2023 (25%)					$6,000,000	$6,000,000	$6,000,000		
FIP 2021 (25%)				$6,000,000	$6,000,000	$6,000,000			
FIP 2019 (25%)			$6,000,000	$6,000,000	$6,000,000				
FIP Capacity	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000	$1,000,000
Grande Ronde	$1,601,460	$2,416,500	$2,777,000						
Ashland Forests	$1,543,800	$2,340,000	$2,000,000						
Sage-Grouse	$2,019,030	$2,355,250	$473,732						
Harney Wetlands	$1,655,400	$1,970,000	$2,500,000						
Willamette	$2,351,100	$2,430,000	$2,180,000						
Deschutes	$3,600,000	$4,000,000	$4,000,000						

OWEB 2015-17 Spending Plan for the January 2017 Board Meeting

OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Jan 2017 additions to spending plan	Jan 2017 Spending Plan		TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan as of Oct 2016 awards	Jan 2017 Proposed Board Awards	Remaining Spending Plan as of Jan 2017
Open Solicitation:							
Restoration**		25.207		18.796	6.411		6.411
Technical Assistance							
Restoration TA**		3.060		2.224	0.836		0.836
CREP TA		1.050		1.050	0.000		0.000
Monitoring grants**		2.120		0.971	1.149		1.149
Outreach**		0.600		0.310	0.290		0.290
Land and Water Acquisition**		7.500		2.343	5.157		5.157
Weed Grants		2.500		2.500	0.000		0.000
Small Grants		2.800		2.800	0.000		0.000
Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500		0.213	0.287		0.287
TOTAL	**0.000**	**45.337**		**31.207**	**14.130**	**0.000**	**14.130**
% of assumed Total Budget		**59.13%**					

**if more funding becomes available, will go to these areas

Focused Investments:							
Implementation FIPs		14.058		14.058	0.000		0.000
Capacity-Building FIPs		1.039		1.039	0.000		0.000
FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500		0.200	0.300		0.300
TOTAL		**15.597**		**15.297**	**0.300**	**0.000**	**0.300**
% of assumed Total Budget		**20.34%**					

Operating Capacity:							
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)		12.500		12.500	0.000		0.000
Statewide organization partnership support		0.334		0.300	0.034	0.034	0.000
Building Capacity Grants		0.400		0.400	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	**0.000**	**13.234**		**13.200**	**0.034**	**0.034**	**0.000**
% of assumed Total Budget		**17.26%**					

Other:							
CREP		0.500		0.500	0.000		0.000
Oregon Plan/Governor Priorities		1.000		1.000	0.000		0.000
Strategic Implementation Area's		1.000		1.000	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	**0.000**	**2.500**		**2.500**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
% of assumed Total Budget		**3.26%**					

TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	**0.000**	**76.668**		**62.204**	**14.464**	**0.034**	**14.430**

OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION							
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF		9.512		9.512	0.000		0.000
Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.660		0.500	0.160		0.160
Rangeland Fire Protection Assoc from ODF		1.200		1.200	0.000		0.000
PSMFC-IMW		0.591		0.591	0.000		0.000
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.300		0.300	0.000		0.000
ODOT	0.250	0.500		0.250	0.250		0.250
TOTAL	**0.250**	**12.763**		**12.353**	**0.410**	**0.000**	**0.410**

TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds	**0.250**	**89.431**		**74.557**	**14.874**	**0.034**	**14.840**

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Monitoring Update from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), January 24, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides background in preparation for an update at the January Board meeting about ODFW's monitoring efforts.

II. Background

Since 2000, approximately one-third of OWEB's funding (both for grants and operations) has been provided through the competitive Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant process, which is offered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. On an annual basis, OWEB, as the designated grant recipient for the State of Oregon, applies for PCSRF funding. Annual requests for funding propose a combination of monies to support on-the-ground restoration, acquisition and technical design, along with monitoring related to salmon and steelhead populations. Between 2000 and 2015, PCSRF has contributed just over $200 million to Oregon for salmon and steelhead recovery efforts.

For the FFY 2016 PCSRF solicitation, Oregon was the highest ranked applicant. As a result, NOAA awarded the state $14.8 million in PCSRF funding this year. This amount is a slight increase over the FFY 2015 award amount. Of that amount, $1.37 million is being distributed to ODFW in support of monitoring related activities.

At recent meetings, the OWEB Board expressed interest in learning about the status of ODFW's monitoring work and the potential for results of this work to both inform future restoration and conservation investments by the Board, and to assist in quantifying outcomes from OWEB's past and current investments.

III. Presentation about ODFW Monitoring Activities

At the January Board meeting, Thomas Stahl, ODFW Conservation and Recovery Program Manager, will provide an overview of the wide array of native fish

research, monitoring, and evaluation (RME) activities conducted by the agency across the state. The methods and types of programmatic activities, species addressed, locations of work, funding, and uses for resulting information will be described, along with several examples of how monitoring has or will inform the effectiveness of restoration projects. Finally, ODFW is undertaking several initiatives to explore future RME methods and approaches that can better inform fish, wildlife, and habitat management decisions. These new possibilities will be outlined, as they have the potential to focus limited staff and funding resources across species and spatial scales. The importance of being able to prioritize and strategically focus resources is likely to increase given projected increases in human development and climate change that may radically alter the distributions of fish, wildlife, and their habitat.

IV. Recommendation

This item is for information only.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – FIP Implementation Update
January 24, 2016 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update on the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Implementation initiatives that were awarded for the 2015-2017 biennium. Staff will provide summary information, and FIP Implementation partners will provide a progress report to the board and answer questions from board members.

II. Background

At its January, 2016 meeting the board awarded over $12.7 million to six partnership initiatives as a part of the FIP Implementation program. In the spring of 2016, agreements between each partnership and OWEB were developed which govern the process for technical project reviews, grant awards, and reporting. A map of the FIP Implementation geographies is provided as Attachment A.

In April 2016, the board provided additional awards to the Upper Grande Ronde Initiative ($49,610) and the Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties ($124,938). This funding was for projects submitted prior to when FIPs were awarded. They were recommended for funding in the Open Solicitation grant program, but deemed eligible instead for FIP as the geographies, actions, and ecological outcomes aligned with their FIP initiatives.

In July 2016, the board awarded $1.113 million of recaptured funds to the FIP Implementation partnerships to fully fund each of the partnerships, based on reductions that each partnership received in their funding request to the board at its January 2016 meeting. This brings the total amount for each partnership to:

Partnership	OWEB Award Amount
The Deschutes Partnership	$4,000,000
Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group	$2,550,000
Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative	$1,780,000
Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties	$2,295,938
Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration	$1,660,000
Upper Grande Ronde Initiative	$1,771,610
Total	**$14,057,548**

III. Implementation

In order to begin work on their FIP initiatives, each partnership has submitted grant proposals to OWEB (i.e., capacity building, outreach, acquisition, technical assistance, monitoring, and restoration). Proposals are reviewed by technical review teams (TRT) that have been developed with partnership input. The role of the TRT is to verify that proposed projects contribute to the outputs and outcomes described in each partnership's Strategic Action Plan, and to collaborate with OWEB and the partners to ensure that each project has the best possible design and is successfully implemented. Attachment B provides an accounting of each FIP partnership's current projects, as well as a projection of projects that are intended to be submitted to OWEB before the end of the 2015-2017 biennium.

One year into the initiative, each FIP partnership has provided OWEB feedback on project implementation, adjustments to their Strategic Action Plan, successes and challenges addressed, and how the partnership is on track to measure ecological outcomes. These progress reports are provided in Attachment C.

At the April board meeting, staff will provide recommendations for continuing unobligated appropriations from the first biennium into the second biennium, and for second biennium awards for the six implementation FIPs.

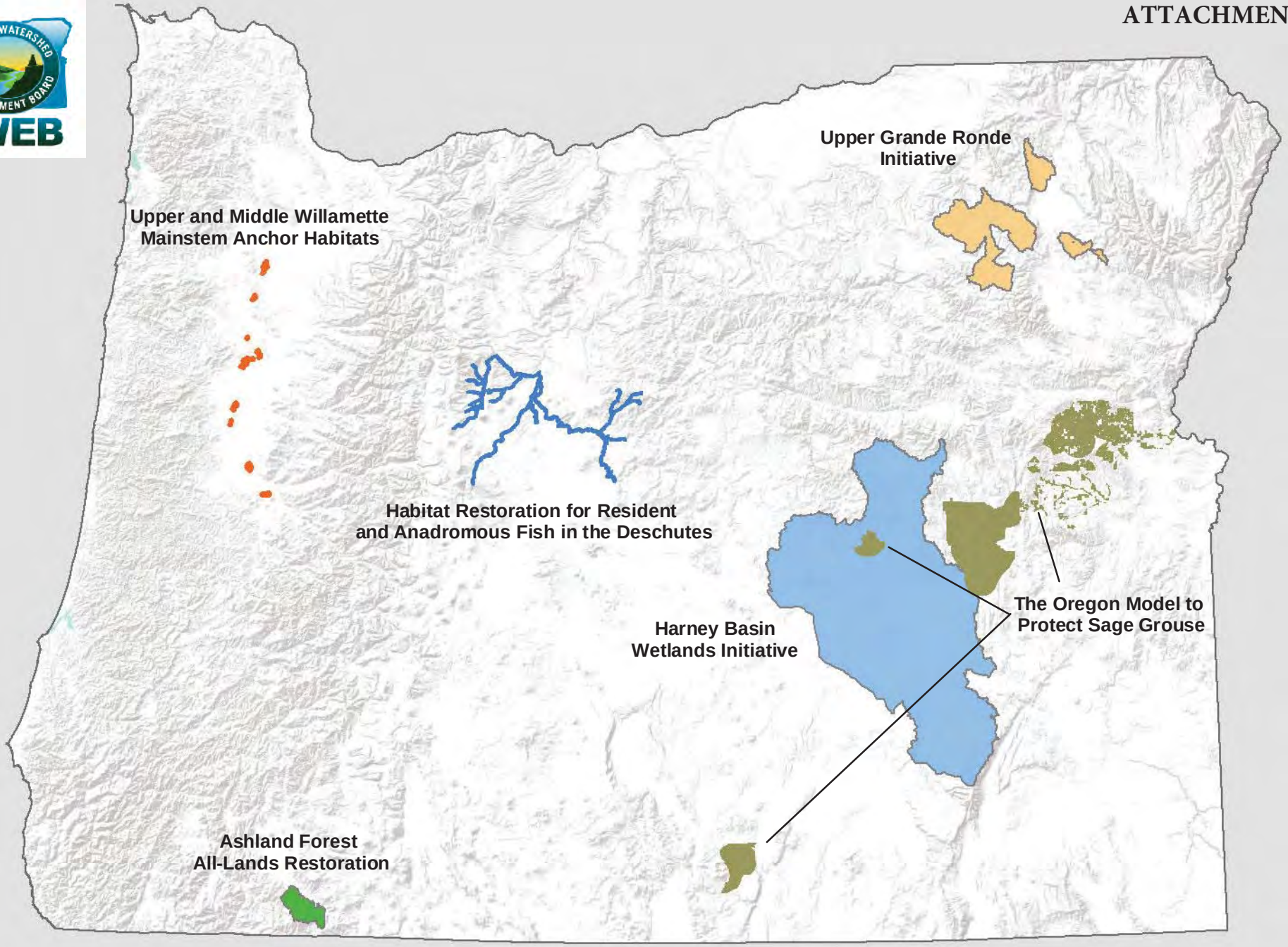
IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only. OWEB staff and FIP Implementation partners will be at the January board meeting to present an update and answer questions from the board about progress in their FIP Implementation initiatives.

Attachments

A. FIP Implementation Map
B. FIP Implementation Project Accounting
C. FIP Progress Report Summaries

ATTACHMENT A



OWEB Focused Investment Partnerships: Implementation Initiatives 2015-2017

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017

Biennial Report - January 2017

Name of Partnership : **The Deschutes Partnership**

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Date Grant Agreement Executed	Project Type	Project Sub-type	OWEB Grant Award	Leveraged Funds	Status	Notes
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	Deschutes Partnership Capacity	216-8200-12969	7/29/2016	Capacity Building	n/a	$95,000	$23,860	Active	
Crooked River Watershed Council	Opal Springs Dam Volitional Fish Passage Phase 2	216-8200-14049		Restoration	Instream habitat	$1,765,000	$6,754,911	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
Deschutes River Conservancy	Three Sisters Irrigation District Main Canal Phase 8	216-8200-14050	12/22/2016	Restoration	Instream habitat	$258,695	$1,196,084	Active	
Deschutes Land Trust	Whychus Creek Land Acquisition			Land Acquisition	n/a			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 3/15/2017 for Spring 2017 DFIP grant cycle
Deschutes River Conservancy	McKay Creek Water Exchange			Technical Assistance	Technical Planning			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 3/15/2017 for Spring 2017 DFIP grant cycle
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	Whychus Canyon Reach III Design			Technical Assistance	Technical Design			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 3/15/2017 for Spring 2017 DFIP grant cycle
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	Plainview Diversion Passage/Screening Design			Technical Assistance	Technical Design			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 3/15/2017 for Spring 2017 DFIP grant cycle
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council / Deschutes Land Trust	Whychus Creek Outreach			Outreach	n/a			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 3/15/2017 for Spring 2017 DFIP grant cycle
Crooked River Watershed Council	Crooked River Outreach			Outreach	n/a			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 3/15/2017 for Spring 2017 DFIP grant cycle
Upper Deschutes Watershed Council	Whychus Creek Floodplain Restoration Monitoring			Monitoring	Effectiveness Monitoring			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 3/15/2017 for Spring 2017 DFIP grant cycle
					TOTAL	**$2,118,695**	**$7,974,855**		
					TOTAL AWARD	$4,000,000			
					BALANCE	$1,881,305			

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)

Biennium 2015-2017

Biennial Report - January 2017

Name of Partnership : **Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group**

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Date Grant Agreement Executed	Project Type	Project Sub-type	OWEB Grant Award	Leveraged Funds	Status	Notes
The Nature Conservancy	Willamette Confluence Middle Fork Restoration	216-8201-14052		Restoration	Instream habitat	$675,001	$547,909	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
Calapooia Watershed Council	Bowers Rock Phase 1	216-8201-14053		Restoration	Instream habitat	$94,000	$44,102	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
Willamette Riverkeeper	Willamette Mission Floodplain Reforestation Phase 4	216-8201-14054		Restoration	Riparian habitat	$295,420	$436,040	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
McKenzie River Trust	Green Island Floodplain Phase 4	216-8201-14055		Restoration	Riparian habitat	$62,631	$431,883	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
Long Tom Watershed Council	Snag Boat Bend Floodplain Restoration Phase 3	216-8201-14056		Restoration	Riparian habitat	$200,000	$294,872	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
Long Tom Watershed Council	Sam Daws Landing Phase 3 Restoration Design	216-8201-14057		Technical Assistance	Technical Design	$60,000	$5,247	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
Bonneville Environmental Foundation	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group Partnership Coordination	216-8201-14073	1/19/2017	Capacity Building	n/a	$70,005	$17,690	Active	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
Willamette Riverkeeper	Willamette Mission Floodplain Reforestation Phase 4 - Channel Monitoring	216-8201-14087		Monitoring	Effectiveness Monitoring	$55,219	$25,654	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
					TOTAL	**$1,512,276**	**$1,803,397**		
					TOTAL AWARD	$2,550,000			
					BALANCE	$1,037,724			

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)

Biennium 2015-2017

Biennial Report - January 2017

Name of Partnership : **Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative**

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Date Grant Agreement Executed	Project Type	Project Sub-type	OWEB Grant Award	Leveraged Funds	Status	Notes
Harney SWCD	Aquatic Health Basin-Wide Baseline	216-8202-12979	10/12/2016	Monitoring	Status and Trend Monitoring	$59,619	$64,776	Active	
Harney Watershed Council	Silvies River Irrigation Diversion Structure Replacement 1-Tyler	216-8202-12980	8/1/2016	Technical Assistance	Technical Design	$61,276	$16,218	Active	
Harney Watershed Council	Carp Biomass Threshold	216-8202-12981	7/7/2016	Technical Assistance	Technical Planning	$100,996	$28,098	Active	
High Desert Partnership	Capacity Support for HBWI	216-8202-12982	8/24/2016	Capacity Building	Capacity	$153,890	$28,098	Active	
High Desert Partnership	HBWI Outreach	216-8202-14069	9/30/2016	Outreach	Landowner Recruitment	$54,541	$85,000	Active	
High Desert Partnership	Harney Basin EQIP Engineering Support	216-8202-14343	12/15/2016	Technical Assistance	Technical Design	$34,056	$15,593	Active	
MNWR	Carp Model for Malheur Lake			Technical Assistance	Technical Planning			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 2/15/17 for Winter HBWI Cycle
Wetlands Conservancy	Water Table Dynamics and Plant Community Expression			Monitoring	Status and Trend Monitoring			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 2/15/17 for Winter HBWI Cycle
Harney County WSC/Ducks Unlimited	Silvies River Irrigation Diversion Structure Replacement-Implementation			Restoration	Wetland habitat			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 2/15/17 for Winter HBWI Cycle
Ducks Unlimited	Structural/Management Practices to Improve On-Farm Water Delivery and Habitat Values			Technical Assistance	Technical Planning			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 2/15/17 for Winter HBWI Cycle
Ducks Unlimited	Diversion Replacement Design			Technical Assistance	Technical Design			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 2/15/17 for Winter HBWI Cycle
High Desert Partnership	Aquatic Health Coordinator			Capacity Building	Capacity			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 2/15/17 for Winter HBWI Cycle
NRCS	LiDAR for Silver Creek			Technical Assistance	Technical Planning			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted 2/15/17 for Winter HBWI Cycle
					TOTAL	**$464,378**	**$237,783**		
					TOTAL AWARD	$1,780,000			
					BALANCE	$1,315,622			

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)

Biennium 2015-2017

Biennial Report - January 2017

Name of Partnership : **Sage Grouse - Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee**

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Date Grant Agreement Executed	Project Type	Project Sub-type	OWEB Grant Award	Leveraged Funds	Status	Notes
Malheur SWCD	Juniper Mtn. Off-Stream Water	216-8203-12971	7/12/2016	Restoration	Riparian habitat	$124,938	$40,588	Active	Reviewed as part of Region 5 RRT
Lakeview SWCD	Honey Creek Sage-Steppe	216-8203-12972	8/23/2016	Restoration	Upland habitat	$232,806	$366,896	Active	
Malheur SWCD	In the Shadow of Ironside	216-8203-12973	10/28/2016	Restoration	Upland habitat	$445,144	$173,092	Active	
Harney SWCD	Model to Protect Sage-Grouse Landscape CM Implementation	216-8203-12974	12/21/2016	Restoration	Upland habitat	$846,918	$504,958	Active	
Lakeview SWCD	North Warner Medusahead Control	216-8203-12975	7/19/2016	Restoration	Upland habitat	$40,972	$148,500	Active	
Malheur SWCD	TA Conservation Objective	216-8203-12976	7/12/2016	Technical Assistance	Technical Planning	$55,623	$16,992	Active	
Malheur SWCD	Upper Cow Creek I	216-8203-14349		Restoration	Upland habitat	$147,283	$48,664	Pending	In technical review
Malheur SWCD	Brogan Hill Thrill	216-8203-14351		Restoration	Riparian habitat	$84,549	$34,286	Pending	In technical review
Malheur SWCD	Beulah View			Restoration	Upland habitat			To Be Submitted	To be submitted 2/14/2017 for Winter Sage-Grouse Grant Cycle
Harney SWCD	CCAA Technical Assistance			Technical Assistance	Technical Planning			To Be Submitted	To be submitted 2/14/2017 for Winter Sage-Grouse Grant Cycle
					TOTAL	**$1,978,233**	**$1,333,976**		
					TOTAL AWARD	$2,295,938			
					BALANCE	$317,705			

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)

Biennium 2015-2017

Biennial Report - January 2017

Name of Partnership : **Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Partnership**

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Date Grant Agreement Executed	Project Type	Project Sub-type	OWEB Grant Award	Leveraged Funds	Status	Notes
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Tech. Assistace	216-8204-12638	8/24/2016	Technical Assistance	Technical Planning, Capacity, Landowner Recruitment	$407,511	$139,475	Active	
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Ashland Forest All Lands Initiative	216-8204-14107	1/3/2017	Monitoring	Landscape Scale Effectiveness Monitoring	$98,858	$29,443	Active	
Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Ashland Forest All Lands Implementation			Restoration	Upland habitat			To Be Submitted	Proposal to be submitted January 15, 2017
					TOTAL	**$506,369**	**$168,918**		
					TOTAL AWARD	$1,660,000			
					BALANCE	$1,153,631			

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)

Biennium 2015-2017

Biennial Report - January 2017

Name of Partnership : **Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership - Restoration Outreach Coordinator**

Partnership Lead	Project Name	Project Number	Date Grant Agreement Executed	Project Type	Project Sub-type	OWEB Grant Award	Leveraged Funds	Status	Notes
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Hall Ranch Habitat Restoration	216-8205-13012		Technical Assistance	Technical Design	$49,610	$130,259	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Grande Ronde Basin Monitoring	216-8205-13015	9/27/2016	Monitoring	Status and Trend Monitoring	$81,872	$30,098	Active	
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership - Restoration Outreach Coordinator	216-8205-13022	8/25/2016	Outreach	n/a	$29,772	$39,560	Active	
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Meadow Creek Effectiveness Monitoring	216-8205-14092		Monitoring	Landscape Scale Effectiveness Monitoring	$15,000	$170,474	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Fence Reconstruction Project within the Grande Ronde Watershed Project	216-8205-14355		Restoration	Riparian habitat	$16,632	$9,120	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Upper Grande Ronde Culvert Replacements Project	216-8205-14356		Restoration	Instream habitat	$87,505	$385,337	Pending	Complete grant agreement expected early 2017
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Hall Ranch Habitat Restoration			Restoration	Instream habitat			To Be Submitted	This is a Biennium 2 project
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Catherine Creek River Mile 42			Restoration	Instream habitat			To Be Submitted	
Union Soil and Water Conservation District	Catherine Creek River Mile 38			Restoration	Instream habitat			To Be Submitted	
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Bird Track Springs Restoration			Restoration	Instream habitat			To Be Submitted	
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Whiskey Creek Courtney Ranch Restoration			Restoration	Instream habitat			To Be Submitted	This is a Biennium 2 project
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Grande Ronde River Bowman's Restoration			Technical Assistance	Technical Design			To Be Submitted	
Union Soil and Water Conservation District	Dry Creek Restoration			Technical Assistance	Technical Design			To Be Submitted	
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Catherine Creek State Parks Restoration			Technical Assistance	Technical Design			To Be Submitted	
Grande Ronde Model Watershed Foundation	Bear Creek Riparian Fence Project			Restoration	Riparian habitat			To Be Submitted	
					TOTAL	**$280,391**	**$764,848**		
					TOTAL AWARD	$1,771,610			
					BALANCE	$1,491,219			

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017

Biennial Report – January 2017

Name of Partnership: ___Deschutes Partnership_____

Please address the following questions (*in five pages or fewer*):

1) What projects has the partnership implemented through the FIP initiative? How did this match with your expectations at the beginning of the FIP time period? What factors impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals (positive or negative)?

   Since the launch of our FIP in early 2016, we submitted grant applications to OWEB for the following projects/activities:

   a) FIP Partnership Capacity ($95,000, grant agreement secured)
   b) Opal Springs Fish Passage Project ($1,765,000, grant agreement pending)
   c) Three Sisters Irrigation District Canal Piping – Phase VIII ($258,695, grant agreement pending)

   In total, these three projects account for approximately 50% of our total FIP funding for the biennium. In addition to these projects, we are working on developing an additional seven project grant applications that we expect to submit for FIP funding in early 2017. These additional projects represent a tremendous amount of progress to date and will include a combination of project types from across our entire FIP geography. Once these projects have been submitted, we will have allocated most of our FIP funding in this biennium.

   The primary factor that has determined how many projects have been accomplished to date is the start date of the FIP program. The FIP MOU that launched the program was signed in April 2016, which means that our biennium is shorter than the normal 24 months. At the writing of this report (December 2016), our FIP has been active for only nine months and our project implementation grant agreements are still pending. Because most of the large-scale projects included in our FIP work plan require year-long permitting and contracting processes, nine-month growing contracts for native plants

and seasonally-restricted in-water work windows, this timing effectively means that there has not been a feasible implementation window since the launch of the FIP.

2) How has the partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?

Since the launch of the FIP program in April 2016, we have focused our time and energy on organizing our FIP, establishing our methods and systems of FIP administration, and developing our portfolio of projects for submission as OWEB grant applications. Overall, these projects continue to be aligned with our Strategic Action Plan so we have not made any changes to this document at this point.

However, as we near the end of the biennium, we anticipate that there may be some minor changes in the timing of the projects in our Strategic Action Plan as project schedules are finalized and we submit our remaining portfolio of grant applications to OWEB. We may also consider amending the programs included in the Strategic Action Plan to provide opportunities to include more types of restoration work in the Crooked River. Because we are still working to develop our first series of projects, we have not yet invested the time to update details in our Strategic Action Plan. Our expectation is that we will update the plan toward the end of each biennium/beginning of the next biennium as part of the final reporting for the closing biennium and the funding request for the next biennium.

3) Beyond project implementation identified in in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future?

There have been several challenges and successes thus far in this biennium:

Land Conservation Grant Application Process

At the beginning of the biennium, OWEB established October of each year as the only date that land acquisition grant applications could be submitted because they were to be aligned with the regular land acquisition grant review process. However, as we began working through the details of several potential land acquisition projects, we realized that this restrictive timing would make it difficult to move projects forward given the unpredictable timing of land acquisition deals and the short duration of this biennium. When we approached OWEB staff with this dilemma, OWEB staff worked with us to develop some alternative timing for grant applications to quickly resolve the problem. We are very appreciative of OWEB's flexible, adaptive and solution-oriented

approach. We see this problem-solving example as one of the key strengths of the FIP program as a whole. The changes made are allowing us to move ahead more efficiently on some important land acquisition projects along Whychus Creek that will help us meet our FIP outcomes.

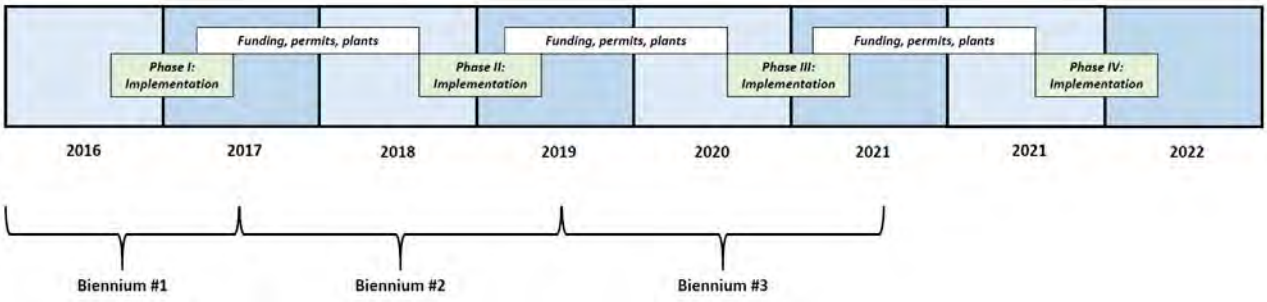
FIP Technical Review Team

Soon after the launch of the FIP program we worked with OWEB staff to help plan an all-day FIP kick-off meeting with the FIP Technical Review Team to discuss the Deschutes Partnership's vision, goals and desired outcomes for the FIP. This meeting included a series of presentations by the FIP partners and discussion of the Strategic Action Plan, followed by a robust discussion among all of the TRT and FIP members.

Reflecting back on this meeting, we believe that this meeting was instrumental in creating a positive, collaborative launch to the FIP program so that the FIP partners and TRT members could understand one another's perspectives and identify ways to work together to make the FIP program as successful as possible. We hope that this kind of strategic, big-picture conversation will provide important context as project-specific TRT reviews are conducted over time. In the future, we hope to schedule one of these strategic conversations with the TRT at least once per biennium.

Floodplain Restoration Projects

Large-scale stream and floodplain restoration projects at the Deschutes Land Trust's Whychus Canyon Preserve are a core component of the habitat restoration work planned in our Strategic Action Plan. From 2016 to 2022, these projects will total 5.9 miles of restoration and 284 floodplain acres (See Section 8.2 of Strategic Action Plan). These projects are planned for implementation over multiple phases, with each one-mile phase implemented every other year as shown below.



This schedule reflects a significant increase in our pace and scale of restoration on Whychus Creek. From 2005 through 2015, only 3.3 miles of Whychus Creek have been restored. By the end of 2022, this will increase by 5.9 miles to a total of more than nine miles. We have been excited about this approach because it will bring about very

significant improvement to the habitat in sections of the creek that were damaged by historic channelization.

However, as we have completed the first phase of implementation in 2016, some of our local partners asked that we conduct more restoration project monitoring as it evolves over time and thus slow down our implementation schedule. This desire for more monitoring is rooted in the fact that the large-scale floodplain restoration work being implemented on Whychus Creek reflects some of the newest thinking on floodplain restoration techniques. This means that the project includes large-scale disturbance designed to promote natural evolution over time with successive flood events, rapid riparian plant establishment, long-term gravel and sediment movement and deposition, avulsions and channel changes, and other natural processes that are fundamental for healthy, dynamic stream systems.

While some partners are enthusiastic about this restoration approach, other partners have expressed a desire to document interim changes to stream and floodplain habitat to more thoroughly understand this restoration approach. These partners have asked that we invest in thoroughly monitoring the site so that we can document change over time, help inform the next phase of restoration and contribute to the greater restoration community by recording and sharing our results.

While we already had routine project monitoring in place, this added emphasis on monitoring will provide an opportunity to deepen our understanding of the natural processes at play and ensure that adaptive management is fully embraced by exploring technical questions that are fundamental to our long-term ecological outcomes (e.g., how long does it take for gravel recruitment to create the necessary conditions for steelhead spawning?). Although this will take time and result in a shift in our implementation schedule, it allows us to capitalize on a key opportunity to engage in adaptive management on this and future projects in a way we have not previously had an opportunity to do over the past 15 years. The level of commitment and interest from agency partners has been impressive, with 18 individuals attending multiple field visits and project meetings over the past several months. Currently, the USFS, ODFW, USFWS, PGE, and Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation have all engaged in these discussions.

The result of this change is that we are going to shift our implementation schedule for the next project phase by one year (from 2018 to 2019) and focus on intensive monitoring and adaptive design leading up to project implementation in 2019. Grant applications for this monitoring and restoration design work will be submitted in this biennium. Although this change delays the project implementation by one year, we do not expect it to change our cumulative six-year FIP restoration outcomes.

The primary lesson we have learned in this process is that, while we may have the FIP funding needed to implement projects at an accelerated pace and scale, we need to continually adjust our implementation plans to accommodate the diverse interests of our extended networks of partners that are fundamental to our work. As FIP partners, we often have a laser-focused approach to delivering projects on our stated FIP timeline when other external partners may emphasize monitoring, adaptive learning and a slower pace of restoration that allows for additional objectives to be met. It is important for us to balance these interests and embrace these collaborative opportunities with our partners because they contribute to excellent adaptive learning opportunities over time and support long-term restoration success in the region.

4) Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? Explain.

Yes, our partnership is on track with the activities and outcomes as described in our FIP application documents and Strategic Action Plan. However, because we are only nine months into the FIP program and we have not yet implemented most of our on-the-ground actions, more time will be required before we generate the outputs that will accrue over time to bring the desired long-term ecological outcomes.

Provided we are successful in obtaining monitoring funding throughout the duration of the FIP, we are confident that we will be able to monitor and evaluate the outcomes as described in Section 10 of our Strategic Action Plan.

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017

Biennial Report – January 2017

Name of Partnership: Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group
Submitter: Dan Bell, Bonneville Environmental Foundation

Please address the following questions (*in five pages or fewer*):

1) What projects has the partnership implemented through the FIP initiative? How did this match with your expectations at the beginning of the FIP time period? What factors impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals (positive or negative)?

Restoration Projects:

As a consequence of the timing of the OWEB FIP decisions (January 2016) and the integration into the existing Willamette River Initiative funding framework, there have not been specific FIP funded projects implemented as of this time. Final award decisions for the 2016 project proposals were finished in October 2016, with OWEB moving quickly to get grant agreements in place since that time.

This was fully anticipated, and did not impact planning/ restoration timelines on any proposed projects. The project roster within the Willamette Mainstem FIP assumed that OWEB FIP funding would be in place for grantees to initiate projects in early 2017.

At this point, all of those projects are proceeding as planned, with site preparation and/or contracting activities beginning this upcoming spring.

The comprehensive project list for 2016 awards:

Project	Sponsor	OWEB FIP	BPA	MMT
Willamette Confluence restoration	The Nature Conservancy	$675,001	-	$303,327
Willamette Mission reforestation	Wilamette Riverkeeper	$295,420	$216,424	$154,205
Green Island reforestation	McKenzie River Trust	$62,631	$281,750	-
Snag Boat Bend	Long Tom Watershed	$200,000	$201,826	-

reforestation	Council			
Bowers Rock restoration	Calapooia Watershed Council	$94,000	-	$19,102
Sam Daws Landing restoration design	Long Tom Watershed Council	$60,000	-	-
Willamette Mission Channel Monitoring	USGS	$55,219	-	-
Cold Water Refuge Research	USGS	-	-	$198,366
TOTALS		$1,442,271	$700,000	$675,000

Because of the strong continuity between the project investments of the Willamette SIP and the planned projects under the FIP, it is worth noting that progress on many project sites did move forward this year with funding from the final year of the SIP. These include (but are not limited to): restoration construction and planting at Willamette Confluence (The Nature Conservancy and Friends of Buford Park); technical design at Luckiamute State Natural Area (Luckiamute Watershed Council); and Bowers Rock revegetation (Calapooia Watershed Council).

The same circumstances with timing will occur in 2017, meaning that final decisions for next year's projects will occur after the end of the current OWEB biennium and there will be a need to carry forward that amount into the 2017-19 biennium.

2) How has the partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?

For the most part, the Willamette Strategic Action Plan has not been modified since it was completed in October 2015. Responding to feedback from OWEB and other technical reviewers, the modifications at that time focused on strengthening SMART objectives.

In developing the Willamette Strategic Action Plan, the steering committee was deliberate to develop a document that could be supplemented and updated over time. In doing so, our intent was to integrate new efforts into the Plan, rather than develop new stand-alone documents.

While there has not been new material developed and integrated into that plan as of yet, at least one such effort is underway. Over the next year, the Willamette Aquatic Invasives Network (WAIN) is working collaboratively to develop an **Aquatic Invasives Plan** for the upper and mid Willamette. While WAIN will develop a version of their plan/ maps that can be a stand-alone document, we will also work to update the Strategic Action Plan to reflect the strategies, objectives and metrics identified in the Aquatic Invasives Plan.

Similarly, ongoing research efforts to improve our knowledge of the location of thermal refuges/ cold water inputs on the mainstem Willamette (led by OSU) and the river's geomorphology (led by USGS) will yield supplemental information that can improve the Strategic Action Plan.

Finally, a core team comprised of USGS, Bonneville Environmental Foundation and The Nature Conservancy are leading efforts to fully develop an Effectiveness Monitoring Framework. This was a known and noted gap at the time we developed the strategic plan.

3) Beyond project implementation identified in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future?

TOPIC: Revised Application and Project Review Process

Successes:

- The partnership, working in conjunction with the trio of funders involved in the Willamette River Initiative (OWEB, MMT and BPA), successfully modified the existing application process to accommodate the transition from the Willamette SIP to the FIP. This primarily included revised application materials, updating the solicitation schedules and integration of third-party technical review. Overall, the new process and materials for 2016 worked well for both the funders and project sponsors.

Challenges:

- Much of the challenge associated with this transition was based in the fundamental change of the OWEB restoration funds from an open solicitation, competitive grant process to a partner prioritized process. At the same time, it remained critical to both MMT and BPA that their project solicitation process remains open and grounded in independent technical review.
- One nuance of that challenge centers around the need to integrate technical review and the Willamette Technical Review Team into a process where their guidance is in part decisional (BPA & MMT awards) and part consultative (OWEB FIP). The Working Group will continue to work with the funders and technical reviewers to improve this process for the 2017 application cycle.
- Some technical reviewers would prefer deeper opportunities for meaningful engagement in project development and implementation. Given the varying levels of interest and available time for our technical reviewers, it can be difficult to give everyone the level of information and stakeholder interaction that they may prefer.

- Another aspect of this challenge is to limit the burden on implementers for developing application materials, hosting site visits and other related activities. In large part because of the needs of the three-funder partnership, participating in the solicitation process for the Willamette River Initiative can present a significant amount of work. This includes completion of a pre-proposal and a full OWEB application, hosting at least one site visit, responding to technical reviewer feedback/ questions and (in some cases) developing various iterations of budget spreadsheets. There is very little reduction in this burden because projects are included within the partner-driven FIP project list.
- Finally- particularly in the early months of the new FIPs- there was not clear communication from OWEB about the application process and requirements for funds intended to be used on activities that were not core restoration projects (i.e. monitoring, outreach, partner administration). In some cases, the delay and confusion made it difficult to retain identified match funds and slowed progress in getting activities underway.

Lessons Learned:

- OWEB could consider developing board-adopted streamlined versions of its full applications that could be used by FIP participants. The regular, open-solicitation application materials require considerable background information that is of lesser value within a Focused Investment Program approach and duplicative of material included in the Phase 1 and 2 Focused Investment Program applications.
- Re-consider the approach for the technical review team conversations, and invest up front in ensuring that reviewers understand the basis of geographic prioritization (Anchor Habitats) and project selection. Much of the conversation during review team meetings was focused on comparing the actual projects being considered with hypothetical “better” projects elsewhere on the river. This short changed the more useful conversations that could provide useful project feedback for sponsors.

TOPIC: Unexpected staffing changes that impacted the leadership of Working Group

Success: The Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group successfully weathered unexpected transition in the staffing of the Chair in the middle of the 2016 application process. This included the admission of a new partner into the Working Group, followed by the election of a new (old) chair.

Challenge:

- As a relatively newly formed partnership, there was not an obvious replacement within the membership that had the time, expertise and interest in directing the Anchor Habitat Working Group. Likewise, the organization represented by the departing chair (The Nature Conservancy) did not have the capacity to offer a suitable replacement, nor the support of the partnership for continuing in the leadership role.

Lessons Learned:

- OWEB's partnership support staff was integral to keep the process moving and serving as a consistent point of contact for stakeholders throughout the transition period. While we hope it is an infrequent need, OWEB can be well-positioned to help partnerships navigate through transition and provide a neutral perspective on processes and approach.
- Consider unplanned transitions within the partnership agreement. If feasible, outline contingency plans in the event of an unexpected vacancy at the leadership role. Also ensure that the process for selecting new leadership is clearly articulated, and is adaptable enough to accommodate both planned and unplanned transitions of leadership within the partnership.

4) Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? Explain.

Absolutely.

The Willamette Mainstem FIP proposals outlined specific and measurable ecological outcomes. These outcomes were grounded within the Willamette Strategic Action Plan and reflective of the project work planned during the duration of this FIP effort. The core team developing the Effectiveness Monitoring Framework is focused on developing metrics to assess progress that are both relevant and reportable.

Our outcomes and metrics are also consistent with the priorities of the broader Willamette River Initiative, and the larger effort to use the SLICES framework to measure long-term status and trends changes.

Biennial Report – January 2017

Name of Partnership: __Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative_____

Please address the following questions (*in five pages or fewer*):

1) What projects has the partnership implemented through the FIP initiative?

1. 216-8202-12979 Aquatic Health Basin-Wide Baseline- Harney County SWCD
2. 216-8202-12980 Silvies River Irrigation Structure Replacement – Harney County Watershed Council
3. 216-8202-12981 Carp Biomass Threshold Project – Harney County Watershed Council
4. 216-8202-12982 Capacity Support for HBWI – High Desert Partnership
5. 216-8202-14069 Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Outreach – High Desert Partnership
6. 216-8202-14343 KV Bar Ranch Restoration Planning – High Desert Partnership

How did this match with your expectations at the beginning of the FIP time period? What factors impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals (positive or negative)?

216-8202-12979 Aquatic Health Basin-Wide Baseline

In late June and early July, a total of 14 sites were sampled in the Silvies River and 29 sites were visited in Silver creek where 16 of those were dry. Water quality readings were taken at each site where a sample was collected. All samples were sent to the Rocky Mountain Research Center for analysis and results are pending. The Harney Soil & Water Conservation District issued a Professional Service contract to Tetra Tech for $30,639.00 to prioritize reaches, conduct fish assessments on 50 m stream reaches, collect water quality data, evaluate submerged aquatic vegetation and sample macroinvertebrates in the Silvies River and Silver Creek. A total of 8 reaches were sampled on Silver Creek and 9 reaches on the Silvies River. Data has been inputted into an excel data base, but no samples or data has been analyzed. No carp were collected from any of the sites. Factors impacting our ability to achieve project goals were lack of staffing as a lingering result of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge occupation.

216-8202-12980 Silvies River Irrigation Structure Replacement

The project was submitted as a restoration project that included design as well as implementation. At the request of the Technical Review Team the grant was split into a Technical Assistance for Design and Restoration for Implementation. The TA for design was funded at a level of $61,276.00. To date the project area has been surveyed for the purposes of developing a topographic map to aid engineering and siting design. Field work to support permitting (wetland delineation, identification of impact area) has been completed. Preliminary engineering has begun. Once a ~60% design is completed formal pursuit of regulatory permits and clearances will be initiated. A final engineering design, suitable for

restoration application, is on scheduled to be completed by mid-February. The restoration application for implementation will be submitted to the FIP at our February submission date.

Project sequencing and timeline, particularly as it relates to strategic identification of appropriate structures and the resulting landowner outreach, was carried as planned. This is encouraging as we expected relative optimization of subsequent diversion structure replacements resulting in efficiencies in conservation delivery. Our experienced good fortune to date does not warrant a relaxation posture. We will continue to maintain vigilance for identifying unforeseen obstacles and addressing them immediately.

One issue that we are currently addressing, which may affect our implementation timeline, is some inconsistent feedback on whether or not we need screening and passage. Locally, ODFW has determined we will not need to provide fish passage in the spirit maintaining a restriction on invasive carp migration. However, the formal process at the state level to receive an 'exception' or 'waiver' is still somewhat unclear. Furthermore, we have heard of instances where restoration practitioners did not receive such clearance for more than a year. If that is the case for our project, we will not meet our scheduled construction date of Fall 2017. However, we have initiated this process and may opt to pursue an exception/waiver for all five proposed structures programmatically packaged in one request.

Regarding screening, we were initially directed by ODFW regional staff that we would not need a screen. We have since been given the impression that we may need to include screening. This was not included in our original cost estimate. However, contingency for such issues was placed in a similar line item in the work plan and may ultimately be drawn upon to include the screening. We are presently seeking resolution to this mixed messaging.

216-8202-12981 Carp Threshold Project

Due to the delay in signing the FIP grant agreement, project partners chose to use the fall of 2016 as a pilot year to test enclosure materials; construction; water quality and carp response inside the enclosures and to commence the full project July of 2017. Working agreements between Abernathy Fish Technology Center, the Watershed Council and the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge are complete, but took more time to finalize than anticipated. Given the timing of the agreements, a large amount of supplies would need to be purchased in a short amount of time and the partners felt it was too late in the submerged aquatic vegetation growing period to implement the full project. A time extension for the grant was completed this fall.

216-8202-12982 Capacity Support for HBWI – High Desert Partnership

As part of capacity support for this initiative implementing FIP projects over the next 6 years, High Desert Partnership was successful in hiring a Project coordinator in September through a competitive process. Karena Stalcup has been in the position since that time and has set up all the financial tracking and project management for this complex partnership. Our communication coordinator, Melissa Speeg, who has been working with High Desert Partnership has added HBWI outreach responsibilities to her position and we successfully

submitted a FIP Outreach proposal in August 2016. HBWI has an updated webpage at www.highdesertpartnership.org to keep partners and the general public apprised of project implementation. We are fortunate to have these two key positions filled early in our effort and believe we are on track to meet our goals. A part of this funding, High Desert Partnership has also been successful in obtaining office and meeting space. A central location where partners can meet for working groups has already proven invaluable in just the last two months. This physical space seems to be important in achieving our goals. HBWI Partners have identified 7 proposals to be submitted for the February 15, 2017 cycle in Biennium 1. We have a rigorous schedule in the next 45 days.

216-8202-14069 Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Outreach
The activities described in the outreach proposal have all been developed as part of the HBWI communications strategy. Several key outreach efforts are underway with planning and a February 15, 2016 outreach event with Portland Audubon will be the first event. Diverse events and outreach formats are planned to reach the target audiences. We are on track with the timelines set out in this proposal.

216-8202-14343 KV Bar Ranch Restoration Planning
The signed grant agreement was finalized mid- December and work will be commencing. Everything is on track at this time.

2) *H**ow has the partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?*** The HBWI partners have worked closely in implementing action items identified in the strategic action plan and to date have not made any significant changes or modifications to the overall plan. It is currently being implemented with very few adaptations in this early stage of the wetlands project implementation work. Our priorities remain the same for projects being developed to fill in critical knowledge gaps and for implemented projects to achieve the desired results on a landscape scale.

3) Beyond project implementation identified in in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future? The HBWI partners have been working together for a number of years and have a solid foundation. This became even more apparent when one of our main project areas was impacted by closure and subsequent issues surrounding the militia occupation of the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. We could have never anticipated the full ramifications of this incident which are continuing. However, the HBWI partners have been steadfast in stepping up where needed and identifying the gaps that have been made as a result of many staffing changes that have occurred at the refuge and generally just the closure of the refuge overall. Our adaptive management was fully tested in this past year and we are pleased to report that the initiative partners are adept at adapting. Lessons learned haven't quite solidified at this juncture but we do know that it takes deeply committed and hard-

working individuals in partnership to achieve a project as large as the Focused Investment Partnership.

4) ***Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? Explain.*** One of our first proposals was the Aquatic Health Baseline Monitoring, submitted so that we will have the important baseline information that will enable us see if we are meeting our ecological outcomes. Additionally, we recently met with Bonneville Environmental Foundation on the overall FIP monitoring and are encouraged that we will be measuring the proper indicators to know if we will be meeting ecological outcomes.

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017

Biennial Report – January 2017

Name of Partnership: _____Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties_____

Please address the following questions (*in five pages or fewer*):

1) What projects has the partnership implemented through the FIP initiative? How did this match with your expectations at the beginning of the FIP time period? What factors impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals (positive or negative)?

All County Grants:

Harney County Grant:

Harney County has implemented juniper treatments, annual grass treatment plans, rangeland seeding project development, fence marking and escape ramp projects. Specific project details are as follows: For site specific plan HC-55 (SSP HC-55), juniper treatments have been mapped, flagged and a bid tour was completed. The awarded contractor began cutting on the 1353 acres of phase I juniper on 12/13/16. Annual grass treatments are planned for fall of 2017 on up to 1900 acres. Multiple meetings and tours have been completed on the site with SSP planner, local weed specialists and scientists to coordinate efforts and determine the most successful treatment plan. Rangeland seeding of 100 acres is planned for post annual grass treatment areas. Crane Union High School's "Mustang Manufacturing" has been contracted to produce supplies for 4 miles of fence marking and 8 wildlife escape ramps. The markers are ready and will be installed as soon as a date can be set.

SSP HC-10 includes juniper treatments and annual grass spraying. The 942 acre juniper contract has been put out to bid and a contractor has been chosen. Work will begin when weather is conducive. There are 160 acres of annual grass treatments planned to be completed in the fall of 2017.

SSP HC-16 has 517 acres of juniper cutting units and bid tours are currently underway. This contract will be awarded at our December 22nd board meeting. Juniper treatments for SSP HC-14 include 504 acres, which will be mapped and contracted in the spring of 2017. Weather conditions have delayed layout of these units. Annual grass treatments on HC-14 are planned for the fall of 2017.

Lake County Grant:

The **Honey Creek Sage-Steppe Project** includes a variety of conservation measures including ~5,300 acres of Phase I and Phase II juniper removal and 1,322.6 acres of exotic annual grass treatments (aerial spray only) that will help restore several thousand contiguous acres of sage grouse habitat in the Warner PAC. Approximately 7,392 feet of fence construction and 5 spring developments will improve livestock dispersement and utilization near riparian zones and critical sage grouse brood rearing habitats. Three wildlife escape ramps and ~19 miles of fence marking will help reduce the risk of wildlife drowning in water troughs and mortality by collision with fences. Decadent willow removal (~12 acres) will also occur in order to improve wet meadow health,

diversity and function. All exotic annual grass treatment acres have been aerially sprayed this fall by helicopter and effectiveness will be better able to determine this spring/summer. Juniper cutting contractors also began work this fall and will pick up work again in the spring. The remaining items within the grant will occur in the spring once ground and weather conditions have improved.

Malheur County Grants:

Grant 216-8203-12971 Juniper Mountain Off-stream Water includes 1 spring development to gravity feed water to six 1,000-gallon water troughs via 10,000 feet of 2-inch diameter pipe. These troughs will serve six pastures, each trough will have a wildlife escape ramp. The spring produces about 15 gallons per minute (gpm) measured during a sustained drought. The project will also include one 6,000-gallon storage tank to ensure 3-day supply of water for 120 pairs and wildlife drinking water. Fence for this project will include 20,258 feet of wildlife friendly fence to create a 140-acre riparian pasture along 1.6 miles of creek and to prevent uncontrolled grazing in the riparian area. To enhance riparian and wet meadow vegetation (inside of the fence), the area (140 acres) will be seeded by a range drill with a mixture of native and introduced grass species at a rate of 16 pounds per acre. There will be about 2,000 linear feet, (1,000 feet of creek x 2 to account for both banks) of willows, dogwood and aspen planted with cage protection.

Grant 216-8203-12973 In the Shadow of Ironside includes 2 separate landowners. The first contains juniper removal on 3,001 acres consisting of 1,701 acres of Phase I, 1,090 acres of Phase II, and 211 acres of Phase III. All acres will be cut with a chainsaw using the lop and scatter brush control method where applicable. The 211 acres of Phase III will be machine piled with cool season burning. There will be 500 acres of reseeding in the more dense areas of tree removal with a seed mix of Crested, Siberian, Intermediate wheatgrasses, Idaho Fescue, burnet & alfalfa.

In the other portion of this application, the landowner will treat 400 acres of Medusahead by burning where needed (to remove the thatch layer), herbicide treatment (to prevent sprouting of the soil banked medusahead seed) , then replanting the 400 acres with a competitive seed mix of crested wheatgrass and forage kochia. The goal is to use a highly competitive mix of species to outcompete Medusahead. These two species are proven to have competitive abilities. Crested wheat will be applied at 15 pounds per acre, either broadcast or drilled depending on the microsite conditions. Kochia seeding will be about a 0.25 pound per acre by broadcast or aerial application.

Grant 216-8203-12973 TA. Malheur SWCD hired a full time employee (GS-5) to write CCAA plans for landowners, and a seasonal employee was also hired to help with monitoring on CCAA plans that have already been enrolled.

Proposed:

Grant 216-8203-14349 Upper Cow Creek I. This project contains juniper removal on 688 acres consisting of 143 acres of Phase I, 468 acres of Phase II, and 77 acres of Phase III. All acres will be cut with a chainsaw using the lop and scatter brush control method where applicable. The 211 acres of Phase III slash will be placed in the creek for erosion mitigation and/or machine piled with cool season burning. After the piling and burning, a determination will be made as to the necessity of seeding areas if they are deemed marginal for grass recovery due to lack of understory. That will be addressed at a later time.

Grant 216-8203 Brogan Hill Thrill. This project consists of four parts. The first and second part of the project includes two buck and pole riparian enclosures that total a mile of fence. One is ¾ of a mile long

and encompasses a large riparian area. The second is ¼ of a mile long and will encompass a spring and existing spring box. Within the ¼ mile enclosure is the 3rd part of the project. Located in the center will be a solar panel and pump that will supply water out of the already existing spring box to an already existing trough that is roughly 250 feet away uphill just outside of the enclosure. These enclosures will help bring the riparian areas back to a more natural state and will ensure that cattle do not disturb the area. The fourth part of the project is 200 acres of reseeding in a disturbed area of the property. This reseeding area was in the Kitten complex fire in 2014 and is now mostly annual invasive grasses. By reseeding the area with a broadcast spreader, we are hoping to out compete the annual grasses while keeping the sagebrush that is still present.

The FIP initiative met our expectations and we were able to put the types of projects together that we anticipated to build/design. Factors that impacted our ability to achieve our identified goals begin primarily with negative factors like a short timeframe to plan/design projects and to actually complete project implementation, as well as positive factors such as having a flexibility with our budget and having shovel-ready projects due to the completion of CCAA Site Specific Plans.

Having a short timeframe made it difficult to work and coordinate with contractors implementing the projects who were also working under unpredictable weather conditions. Additionally, the short timeframe made it difficult to properly plan/design project prescriptions and the levels and types of treatments for various conservation measures. Actual project implementation, such as Medusahead spraying was also a challenge because of all factors listed above (short timeframe, weather, etc.).

Nonetheless, we were able to achieve some of our partnership's goals due to the flexibility with our FIP budget. In some cases, contractor bids came in lower than what was estimated in grant budgets so we were able to add more acres and/or conservation measures to projects in order to capture any leftover funds remaining in the actual project budgets. Also, by having completed CCAA Site Specific Plans, we had many projects that were ready for implementation due to the willingness of interested and participating landowners. These same landowners also had an extra incentive to move forward with implementation of conservation measures, as they are required to implement them under their Site Specific Plans.

2) How has the partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?

The partnership's Strategic Action Plan (SAP) has not evolved or been modified during the first biennium. At this time there are plans to submit an amendment to the RCPP, which may change our SAP in upcoming bienniums.

3) Beyond project implementation identified in in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future?

During the first biennium, the partnership experienced a variety of successes and challenges beyond project implementation. One of the successes we incurred was an increase in recognition and appreciation by private landowners for having the ability to obtain a financial and technical assistance program that could help assist them in implementing a variety of Conservation Measures that are a required component of their CCAA Site Specific Plans. Furthermore, the partnership experienced improved communication and unity amongst the members of the partnership. As a core group we have

become stronger in problem solving across county jurisdictional boundaries with project implementation and design. The partnership is also better able to collaborate together on conservation implementation types and budget management. We have established fluidity of funds across county lines and have managed to avoid rigidity in fund division and allocation between counties. Another welcoming success was the increased interest by existing partners outside of the immediate partnership. Having the knowledge of our Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties FIP, partners were more willing and able to work with us to combine partner funds and work on larger, landscape scale projects, increasing the success of our FIP.

Aside from successes, the partnership also had challenges along the way. Firstly, the coordination with OWEB was found to be a challenge when trying to get signed agreements and funds released to begin implementation. The partnership experienced delayed project implementation, even though OWEB told us to move forward. However, we did not feel comfortable moving forward with implementation without signed agreements. Additionally, we faced an increase in workload and the pressure to work efficiently and effectively with a very short timeframe. The partnership had less than a months' time to plan, design, research and write restoration grants for the first round of grant applications. Private landowners and SWCD Boards & staff felt pressure and angst to get projects/grants put together with very little time to put a lot of thought/planning into them. It is felt by the partnership that all projects should be fully researched with plenty of landowner meetings and site visits prior to submitting an application. Nevertheless, we were able to produce complete and carefully designed projects that were ready for implementation. Another challenge we faced occurred while applying for the FIP. OWEB requested on multiple occasions that FIP areas be modified due to them being either too big, too small, or that we weren't being focused/strategic enough for the program. Lastly, some members of the partnership experienced significant staff turnover during the first biennium. This challenge caused complications with project development, as we were working under very short timelines. The timing of losing staff members and acquiring new staff could not have been worse for those who were left to pick up where others left off.

As a partnership we believe it is too early to address any lessons learned since we were not able to get going with project development and implementation until well into the first biennium. Conversely, in the future it would be beneficial to have a clear timeframe that is agreed upon between the partnership and OWEB. For example, it would be valuable to know when we will have signed agreements, be able to begin implementation, to know when funds would be eligible to spend, as well as to obtain more flexible implementation timelines that we could prepare for in the future.

4) Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? Explain.

The partnership is on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes within a year's time because we chose Conservation Measures within our FIP that are measurable as part of our Strategic Action Plan. Moreover, we had landowner interest/participation within our FIP Focus Areas and we had shovel-ready projects due to the completion of CCAA Site Specific Plans. The partnership is fast approaching an opportunity to begin measuring some ecological outcomes since most of us were able to have projects commence this last fall. The FIP TA grants also allowed SWCD's to hire additional staff to help implement projects and develop grants within a short amount of time.

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017

Biennial Report – January 2017

Name of Partnership: Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration

Please address the following questions (*in five pages or fewer*):

1) **What projects has the partnership implemented through the FIP initiative? How did this match with your expectations at the beginning of the FIP time period? What factors impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals (positive or negative)?**

To date under the Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Initiative "AFARI" no on the ground restoration projects have been implemented under the OWEB Grant, however work has been ongoing on the Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project on USFS administered lands and implementation work has begun on private lands with matching funds through NRCS funding. The current focus of the partnership has been related to the development, planning and coordination process of the initiative which has been supported under a Technical Assistance Grant from OWEB. The Partners have strategically developed our first biennium timeline and work plan in three phases, related to three OWEB grant submissions.

Phase one: The initial phase includes project development and planning, landowner outreach and recruitment, and layout and design of projects. The first OWEB biennium 1 proposal submitted was a merged proposal for Technical assistance, outreach, and capacity. Due to the unique and multi-faceted nature of the Dry Forest AFAR initiative, the combined activities to be achieved under the grant will lay the foundation for treatment of approximately 1,000 acres in the first biennium and develop landowner recruitment and restoration planning elements for this and subsequent biennia. Activities to be performed during this phase will consist of a) GIS modelling and analysis to create a prioritization scheme; b) landowner outreach, engagement and contracting; c) site specific ecological restoration prescriptions that delineate property boundaries, wildlife/riparian exclusions, no treatment designations, and tree removal or retention designations. Lomakatsi and the City of Ashland are collaborating on the development of these projects.

Phase 2: Phase 2 of the timeline relates to the second OWEB grant proposal for project monitoring. The phase two application has been submitted and approved by OWEB. Following the Phase 1 technical assistance work, the monitoring proposal integrates a comprehensive

monitoring protocol that tracks changes in forest structure and wildfire risk as a result of the ecological treatments. The monitoring work will be a collaborative effort between Lomakatsi, responsible for gathering of the monitoring data, and The Nature Conservancy, who will lead the management, processing and reporting of the data and monitoring results.

Phase 3: Phase 3 of the timeline culminates in an OWEB implementation grant. The partners have worked vigorously under the Technical Assistance grant to prepare this proposal for submission by January 15, 2017. At the time of this report over 1,000 acres has been identified and property specific activity plans have been developed to facilitate a comprehensive review from our recently created Technical Advisory Team (TRT). This team, representing key resource professionals, has been reviewing all phases and applications of our OWEB grants and the work proposed under the initiative. The TRT has participated in a cursory strategic review of the proposed implementation properties to ensure the prescriptions meet OWEB FIP goals and objectives. The partners will submit this application by January 15, with OWEB and TRT review being complete by late February to facilitate on the ground implementation beginning in March 2017. We estimate that approximately half of the projected acres will be completed by the end of June 2017, the close of OWEB Biennium 1, with the rest of the acres being carried over into the next biennium and completed in the first 6 months of biennium 2.

All the work described above has met or exceeded the original OWEB FIP expectations, and due to the experienced partnership, we were able to make up for lost time in the first biennium due to a delay in award of the FIP funding. No other factors have delayed our ability to achieve our stated goals.

2) **How has the partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?** *At this stage of the initiative we are currently in line with the original intent of the strategic action plan and it has not evolved or been modified.*

3) **Beyond project implementation identified in in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future?** *Due to being in the early stages of the initiative, and that we are only working on project selection, development and planning, no significant successes or challenges other than as stated above on question 1 are worthy of mention at this time.*

4) **Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? Explain.** *The partnership is well on track to meet ecological outcomes. The current biennium acre target has been met for project selection, and with a projected start date for implementation of March 2017 we are currently on track, even with the initial year one funding delay from OWEB.*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017

Biennial Report – January 2017 (Due Dec. 23rd)

Name of Partnership: Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership

Please address the following questions (*in five pages or fewer*):

1) What projects has the partnership implemented through the FIP initiative? How did this match with your expectations at the beginning of the FIP time period? What factors impacted your ability to achieve your identified goals (positive or negative)?

   Projects implemented include:
   a. Monitoring Equipment, Action 2.1.4b
   b. Outreach Coordinator, Action 4.1.1c
   c. Fence Reconstruction within the Grande Ronde Watershed, Agreement in place and will be implemented in 2017.
   d. Purchase and Install PIT Tag arrays (included in Monitoring Equipment application), Action 1.1.1a. Agreement in place and will be implemented in 2017
   e. Effectiveness Monitoring of Meadow Creek Restoration, Action 1.2.1a. Agreement in place and will be implemented in 2017
   f. Upper Grande Ronde Culvert Replacements Project, Action 2.1.1c 2nd Biennium. Agreement in place and will be implemented in 2017

   At this time our progress aligns well with our expectations. There was some lag amongst the partnership getting FIP projects initiated. Most of this lag was due to some uncertainty about the project prioritization and selection process would be integrated with ongoing GRMW/BPA BiOp related processes. The largest obstacle was figuring out how to mesh the GRMW stepwise process with OWEB funding, including revision of the GRMW prospectus and proposal formats and ultimately deciding to use the OWEB proposal for all projects. Additionally, the summer field season is a difficult time to plan

projects since most partners are very busy implementing during the summer and fall. Now that the field season is complete, we feel confident that by the spring of 2017 we should be on track with our strategic action plan.

2) How has the partnership's Strategic Action Plan evolved and/or been modified during the biennium?

For the most part our Strategic Action Plan (SAP) is on track and being implemented as planned. We have made a couple modifications to our SAP during the first year. The first change was to Action 2.1.1e - Replace one culvert with a bridge on Whiskey Creek. The plan was to provide $300,000 of cost share on a culvert replacement with the Oregon Department of Transportation that was a partial barrier. Once we received word of a successful FIP application, we contacted ODOT again and were informed that ODOT no longer needed cost share money because they had received enough funding to implement the project themselves. The funding award to ODOT is specific to this culvert and cannot be used as cost share on alternate projects, so the partnership needed to reallocate this funding. After discussing possibilities with the core partners, Andrew Dutterer and ODOT the decision was made to apply this money to additional Technical Assistance needs to get more projects ready for implementation. It should be noted here that OWEB Board members questioned whether we had allocated adequate levels of Technical Assistance (specifically, design) funding. In a late response to that question, the answer is "no".

Another change is to Action 1.1.1a - purchase and install 6 PIT tag arrays ($90,000). The cost estimate that ODFW received was much higher than they anticipated to purchase the materials for a PIT Tag array. So instead of purchasing and installing six PIT Tag arrays the first biennium, we were able to purchase one ($51,573). ODFW has removed some PIT Tag arrays from another project and these arrays will be installed in the initiative area to ensure we have enough arrays to meet our monitoring goals. The plan is still to install six PIT Tag arrays but it is going to take another year to get them installed and operating.

Action 2.1.1c - Replace two culverts on West Fork Chicken Creek to provide year around passage for all aquatic species. After reviewing these two culverts with engineers and the core partners it was decided that only one of these culverts needed replaced. The funding will be applied to replacing the one culvert and cost share will be used to replace two other culverts that were not identified in the SAP. The selection of these alternate culverts is the result of an

assessment of 8 culverts in UGR BSR's conducted by core partners and technical experts from BPA and USFS.

Action 3.2.4b - Conduct future road improvements/relocation projects within the initiative area. The core partners would like to move the funding for this action ($65,000) to the second biennium. We have some high priority road relocation and obliteration work that is being scoped and planned currently for the upper Grande Ronde River (UGR 20). This work should be ready for 2019 implementation.

3) Beyond project implementation identified in question 1, describe the challenges and successes that the partnership has encountered during the biennium. What are the lessons learned through these experiences that will benefit the partnership in the future?

Even with monthly coordination meetings, it can be challenging to communicate and coordinate effectively with all the partners. A potential project can develop undergo significant revisions in just a few weeks as relationships with landowners evolve. Keeping all the partners up dated on multiple projects is proving to be a challenge, so we have found that additional meetings in addition to our monthly coordination meetings are often in order. Several of the projects in the SAP are large, complex projects and project planning and permitting is taking longer than expected. Often times Section 106 clearance takes the longest to complete. The Bird Track Springs project has been delayed due to the time and expense associated with such a large archeological survey.

When the partners in the upper Grande Ronde River subbasin first starting forming a restoration prioritization framework (Atlas) in 2013 there was little communication amongst the partners, especially between researchers and implementers. Through collaboratively building the Atlas and now implementing the strategy, the partnership is the strongest and most functional it has ever been. Working together to implement our FIP Strategic Action Plan has only served to further the strength of the partnership.

4) Is the partnership on a trajectory to measure ecological outcomes? Explain.

Our partnership is relying heavily upon the existing ODFW and CRITFC Columbia Habitat and Monitoring Program (CHaMP) to measure our ecological outcomes. This program has been in place for 5 years in our basin now and has collected a wealth of data to establish an excellent status of our current habitat. With this status in place they can now monitor the trend over the

next 5 years to measure our progress. CHaMP will measure both the quality and quantity of habitat within our initiative area. The installation and operation of more PIT Tag arrays will help to inform our knowledge of factors affecting survival of juvenile fish in tandem with other projects monitoring juvenile and adult Chinook and steelhead abundance and migration. Our final outcome of building trust and relationships with landowners will ultimately be measured by the number of successful projects implemented with private landowners and the ongoing relationship with those land managers. In partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation we are on track to measure our ecological outcomes and tell the story of our success in the upper Grande Ronde River subbasin.

January 24, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update I-1: Tribal Involvement within OWEB Programs

This report provides the board an update on tribal involvement in OWEB's programs.

Background

Each year, OWEB provides a Government-to-Government Report to the Governor and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) detailing the relationship between OWEB and Indian Tribes as required by Oregon Revised Statute182.166 and OWEB's State/Tribal Government-to-Government Relations Policy.

OWEB Engagement with Tribes

OWEB engages with tribes at a variety of levels which are detailed in the report and are summarized below:

- The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB Board. This position is currently filled by Eric Quaempts, representing the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, who will resign his term in January of 2017.
- Since 2006, OWEB has awarded approximately $4,300,000 in grants to tribal governments.
- Currently, six tribal agency representatives participate on five of the six Regional Review Teams, including representatives from the Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Klamath Tribes, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.
- Nine tribal agency representatives served on 19 of the 28 Small Grants Teams. In addition, OWEB has awarded three new small grants in 2016 for a total of 13 grants to tribal agencies through this program since 1999.
- OWEB provides notification to LCIS Tribal Key Contacts on all water and land acquisition grant applications.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, at ken.fetcho@oregon.gov or 503-986-0035.

Attachments

A. OWEB 2016 Annual Tribal Report provided to the Governor and the Legislative Commission on Indian Services

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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Major Areas of Work
The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a state agency with statutory authority to administer constitutionally dedicated funds for the purpose of protecting and enhancing Oregon's watersheds and native fish and wildlife habitats. The responsibilities of the agency include:

- Managing a grant program for watershed protection and enhancement;
- Assisting in the development and implementation of watershed-scale restoration efforts; and
- Coordinating and supporting local infrastructure throughout the state to achieve voluntary cooperative conservation outcomes.

OWEB works with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes on a government-to-government basis to address the watershed scale restoration efforts and through a grant program to fund watershed management, protection, and restoration projects.

OWEB is led by a 17-member policy oversight and decision-making board. Board members represent the public at large, federally recognized tribes, state natural resource agency boards and commissions, Oregon State University Extension Service, and five federal land management and natural resource agencies. The agency provides grants and services to citizen groups, organizations, and agencies working to restore healthy watersheds in Oregon. OWEB actions support the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, created in 1997. Funding comes from the Oregon Lottery as a result of citizen initiatives in 1998 and 2010, sales of salmon license plates since 1997, federal salmon recovery funds, and other sources.

Department Statement
In 2007, the OWEB Board unanimously adopted a Statement of Policy on State/Tribal Government-to-Government Relations. The policy, which is attached to this report, contains provisions for tribal relations protocols and tribal government participation in OWEB policy.

Summary of Programs and Process for Involving Tribes
OWEB involves tribes at all levels of the organization. The following sections describe the agency's involvement during 2016 with Oregon's nine federally recognized tribal governments and a neighboring Tribe that shares territory in Idaho and Oregon.

A. OWEB Board and Management

1. Board Membership. The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB Board. The position currently is occupied by Eric Quaempts, Natural Resources Director of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. In September 2011, Mr. Quaempts was elected as a Board Co-Chair. In January 2013, he was re-elected as Co-Chair for a two-year term and his term recently ended in April 2016. Mr. Quaempts' term on the Board expires in January of 2017 at which point the Governor will be looking to appoint a new representative of an Oregon tribe to participate as a voting member on the OWEB Board.

The tribal position on the Board has been extremely valuable in helping to identify opportunities for collaboration and making the OWEB Board and staff aware of its responsibilities to involve and consider tribal interests. Mr. Quaempts has been an effective voice for tribal interests, and has improved awareness by OWEB staff of the significance of tribal issues associated with the grants and programs managed by the agency.

OWEB's Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Board Member Quaempts have been actively searching for an OWEB Board tribal representative replacement candidate in 2016. Outreach for a replacement included presenting at the 2015 Tribal Summit, sending surveys, and contacting key tribal natural resource professionals to request recommendations for a suitable candidate. Several potential candidates have been interviewed by the Executive Director and Board Member Quaempts in an effort to identify an interested and qualified candidate.

B. Grant Program

1. Small Grant Program. In OWEB's small grant program (OAR Chapter 695, Division 35); tribes are identified as an eligible member of "Small Grant Teams" in each of the 28 Small Grant areas around the state. In this role, tribes are members of local teams that award grants of up to $10,000 for watershed restoration purposes. (Other members of the teams include watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.) In 2016, nine tribal agency representatives served on 19 of the 28 Small Grants Teams. In addition, OWEB has awarded three new small grants in 2016 for a total of 13 grants to tribal agencies through this program since 1999.

2. Regular Grant Program. OWEB solicits grant applications twice a year through the Regular Grant Program. During 2016, five grants were awarded to tribes as follows: Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, one grant of $85,000; Nez Perce Tribe, two grants totaling $69,908; and Burns Paiute Tribe, two grants totaling $120,526. In our most recent grant cycle, for which awards have not yet been made, applications were submitted by tribal agencies. Since 2006, OWEB has awarded approximately $4,300,000 in grants to tribal governments.

OWEB's Regional Program Representatives (RPRs) have regular contact with tribal staff that administer the grants which OWEB provides to tribes in Oregon. This interaction often begins with interested tribes prior to grant application submission and continues all the way through the completion of the grant. It is common for OWEB's RPRs to help tribes develop a project that has a high likelihood of being funded by suggesting key points to add to a grant application and by referring them to other experts in their region to obtain important information. Each RPR has a unique relationship with their tribal contacts that has been fostered over years of interaction and professional courtesy.

3. Regular Grant Program – Regional Review Teams. Applications received through OWEB's Regular Grant Program are reviewed by one of six Regional Review Teams, comprising state, federal, and tribal natural resource professionals. Currently, six tribal agency representatives participate on agency Regional Review Teams which includes representatives from the Burns Paiute Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, the Klamath Tribes, and the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Community of Oregon.

4. Land Acquisition Grant Program. OWEB's land acquisition grant program provides funding for projects that acquire an interest in land from a willing seller for the purpose of addressing the conservation needs of priority habitat and species. OWEB provides notification to tribes after an acquisition application is received. In 2016, OWEB provided information on five proposed acquisition projects to tribal natural resource agency directors. If a tribe expresses interest in a project, OWEB staff will complete a tribal consultation.

In 2015, the OWEB Board approved funding to the McKenzie River Trust to acquire a 125-acre forested property upstream of Tahkenitch Lake in Douglas County. McKenzie River Trust acquired the property in 2016 and immediately transferred it to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. The tribe will manage the property for the protection of its natural resources in perpetuity.

5. Water Acquisition Grant Program. OWEB's water acquisition grant program provides funding for programs or projects that acquire an interest or interests in water from a willing seller for the purpose of increasing instream flow. OWEB provides notification to tribes after a water acquisition grant application is received.

The 2016 OWEB Water Acquisition Grant offering, issued in November 2016, implements a coordinated funder-based framework in partnership with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF). The intent of this approach is to achieve a more streamlined process to solicit, screen, and make decisions about water acquisition applications.

In 2016, the Board continued support of the Klamath water leasing program to complete work under the Upper Klamath Basin Comprehensive Agreement to which the Klamath Tribes are a signatory.

6. Focused Investment Partnership Program. In 2016, the OWEB Board made the initial awards in the newly created Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program. The FIP Program offers Implementation and Capacity-Building funding. Implementation funding provides opportunities for tribes and others to work collaboratively in partnerships on ambitious, long-term and landscape-scale programmatic restoration initiatives aimed at creating measurable outcomes within priority areas that were identified by the OWEB Board. Two of the six Implementation FIPs that were funded by the OWEB Board include tribes in their core partnerships, including the Burns Paiute Tribe and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Capacity-Building FIP funding allows partnerships to produce or enhance a Strategic Action Plan, and in doing so to cultivate their partnership and develop an approach to programmatic restoration actions in their focused geography. Six of the eight Capacity-Building FIPs that the Board recently awarded include tribes as core partners. Those tribes include the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon; Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Tribes; Nez Perce Tribe; and the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. In addition, the Grande Ronde and the Deschutes River FIPs have tribal representatives on the technical review team from the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, respectively.

The Klamath Tribes are a core member of OWEB's Upper Klamath Special Investment Partnership, or SIP. The SIP was a predecessor to the FIP program. Collectively, the core partners of the Upper Klamath SIP have a strong foundation working on restoration issues in the Klamath basin that will allow for significant progress related to habitat restoration and conservation, water use management, integrated strategic planning, and monitoring. OWEB staff worked with the Klamath Tribes and other core members of the Upper Klamath SIP to develop a summary document highlighting the accomplishments achieved with OWEB's investment. The UKSIP Accomplishments Report was presented to the OWEB Board at their meeting in April 2016. This presentation included Megan Skinner of the Klamath Tribes as she shared with the Board lessons learned from a tribal perspective and next steps for continued restoration efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin.

6. **Other Grant Program Involvements.** The Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon is a key participant in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed and is receiving additional funding for the current federal fiscal year and state biennium for their work.

   OWEB staff participate on the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation's John Day restoration review team.

   OWEB staff also participate in the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). The WWMP is the result of the State's 2010 agreement with Bonneville Power Administration for mitigation for the loss of fish and wildlife habitat due to the construction of 13 dams and reservoirs on major tributaries to the Willamette River from 1946-1964. Members from Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community, and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participate in the WWMP as they all have historic hunting, fishing, and trading areas in the Basin.

C. **Grant Applicants.** OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes. Tribes have no unique standing in the grant program, but are equal to any other applicant [ORS 541.375(1)].

   In addition to eligibility on their own, tribes are often members of local watershed councils. Oregon statutes describing watershed councils, ORS 541.388, specifically identifies "federally recognized Indian Tribes" as potential members of local watershed councils.

Promotion of Communication between OWEB and Tribes

In 2015, OWEB initiated the first phase of a tribal outreach plan aimed at increasing the involvement of tribes in our grant programs and in our agency's policy development. Working closely with Board Co-Chair Eric Quaempts, OWEB developed a brief survey that was sent to natural resource tribal key contacts, our current and past tribal government grantees, and the tribal representatives which sit on our review teams. This outreach effort continued into 2016 and included the interviewing of tribal employees to select a new suitable tribal representative to OWEB's Board to be appointed by the Governor, staff presentations to the Board on tribal involvement in our programs, and staff training on tribal sovereignty. After the compilation of 2015's survey results, OWEB is working on additional training opportunities for tribal natural resources staff on key areas of OWEB policies and programs. For example, OWEB staff have followed up with Margaret Corvi, the Natural Resources Department Director of the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Tribes to discuss how they might pursue OWEB funding opportunities and invited them to a recent training on OWEB's new on-line grant applications.

OWEB staff have been active in communicating with tribes in 2016 in a number of ways. Staff attended and presented on the topic of OWEB funding opportunities at the West Coast Salmon Summit in Canyonville on September 26-29 hosted by the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians. OWEB also coordinated a field tour of restoration projects around the state for

administrators and staff from National Headquarters and the regional office of the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the federal Office of Management and Budget in September. As part of the tour, OWEB highlighted a large-scale restoration project that was implemented by the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation near Pendleton. This tour highlighted the exemplary efforts by the tribes in Oregon to restore watersheds to support threatened salmon and steelhead.

OWEB staff coordinated with tribal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds recipients in Oregon to advance potential projects to highlight in a report to Congress. Both of these coordination efforts ensured that Tribes receive due recognition for their efforts to restore salmon and steelhead in the Pacific Northwest.

In November, OWEB staff presented to the Legislative Commission on Indian Services Natural Resources Workgroup to share with them the recent developments related to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

In December, OWEB's Executive Director, Tribal Liaison, and Board member Quaempts will attend the Annual Tribal Summit in Lincoln City to engage Tribal representatives and listen to them to better understand the issues that are important to them. In conformance with OWEB's Tribal Policy, OWEB designates a staff person to operate as a Tribal Liaison for the agency. The Tribal Liaison is responsible for ensuring that OWEB's programs and policy development adheres to our Tribal Policy. This includes coordinating program and policy notices to tribal natural resource key contacts and providing training to staff as appropriate.

Ken Fetcho, OWEB's Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator, has replaced Juniper Davis as OWEB's Tribal Liaison. He has initiated planning for cultural resources protection training for OWEB's grantees to be held in May 2017 in Pendleton. He is actively working with OWEB staff to establish a process to jointly report how OWEB and Tribes spend funding on restoration actions using NOAA's Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds. As appropriate, OWEB's Tribal Liaison meets internally with management staff to provide updates on government-to-government activities, and communicates about tribal interests and issues at all-staff meetings and retreats. Mr. Fetcho will present at OWEB's all-staff retreat on November 29, 2016, to update agency personnel on the outreach activities discussed above.

This report provides the board an update on preparations for the 2017 legislative session and information about the status of OWEB's 2017-2019 budget.

Background

The Oregon Legislature begins on February 1, 2017. Following the November 2016 election, both the Senate and House are controlled by Democrats. Peter Courtney remains as Senate President and Tina Kotek as House Speaker. On January 9-11, the Legislature held Organizational Days to organize and prepare for the session. In addition, the Legislative Leadership has established committees and assigned members. Attachment A includes a list of relevant natural resources committees (including chairs and members).

The Oregon Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. In preparing for the next biennium, budgets are structured so that each agency's Current Service Level (CSL, or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with full policy narratives and justification of funds requested. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "Policy Packages" or POPs. In preparation for the 2017-2019 budgeting process, the Governor and the Department of Administrative Services (DAS)'s Chief Financial Office (CFO) provided instructions to guide agency development of Policy Packages.

Governor's Recommended Budget and Next Steps

The Governor's Office finalized the Governor's state budget recommendations, known as the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB), and released this document on December 1, 2016. This budget proposal includes agency POPs that reflect the Governor's priorities and initiatives. The GRB is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the session, agencies may advocate for their individual POPs only to the extent that these are included in the GRB.

Attachment B contains a brief summary of the OWEB's budget. OWEB's budget primarily relates to the Governor's 'Responsible Environmental Stewardship' focus area. The GRB retains nearly all of the components of the Program Continuity package requested by OWEB, including four positions (i.e., River Basin/Native Fish Partnerships Coordinator, Coast Coho/Clean Water Partnerships Coordinator, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, and Conservation Outcomes Specialist) and rental costs for the North Coast field office. The Governor's Budget also includes staffing and grant funds in support of forest collaborative grant-making on behalf of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), using Other Funds provided by ODF to OWEB. Policy packages requested by OWEB, but not included in the GRB are program enhancement funding for contracted services and funding related to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

At the writing of this report, staff are updating budget documents to reflect the Governor's Budget. These documents will be submitted to DAS CFO prior to session. In addition, by

December 31, 2016, the Legislative Fiscal Office has requested that agencies provide reduction options from CSL in 5% increments up to 15%.

In February of 2017, the Legislature convenes to consider the GRB and initiate the legislative budget development process. The first phase of the budgeting process—agency budget presentations during legislative hearings—occurs between early February and early April. As needed, additional discussion of budgetary issues may occur through early May. Work sessions with the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee may occur anytime after agency budget hearings are completed.

OWEB Legislative Concepts

Over the spring and summer of 2016, OWEB developed two legislative concepts for consideration by the Governor's Office. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) legislative concept was not approved by the Governor's Office, while the legislative concept to revise OWEB's statutes was approved to move forward.

The OAHP was not included in the GRB and, at this point in time, is not considered one of the Governor's priorities. The OAHP work group has elected to move the legislative concept forward through legislative sponsorship. If the legislation establishing the OAHP is passed and signed into law during the session, the program would be established at OWEB.

The legislative concept to revise OWEB's statutes has been assigned to the House and has been provided a number: House Bill (HB) 2327. If approved, HB 2327 will provide cleanup and updates to sections OWEB statutes including the Oregon Plan, Oregon Plan administration, Watershed Enhancement Program, and Reports. The statute revisions are intended to include additional language that will revitalize certain statutes and remove aspects of the statutes that are no longer relevant. Some statutes for which repeal or revisions are recommended no longer apply due to statutory changes made by the legislature in previous years, while others reflect changes to the way OWEB serves the public.

In addition to general statutory cleanup, the bill provides two substantive changes related to 1) adding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an ex-officio member to the OWEB Board, and 2) removing language that allows DAS to provide liability coverage for watershed councils, based on the fact that OWEB is putting in place stronger requirements for all grantees. Staff will update the Board at the January meeting about this and any other potential concepts that are of relevance to the agency.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203, or Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

A. Natural Resources Committees
B. Budget and Legislative Handout

Attachment A

2017 Oregon Legislature
OWEB-Related Committee Assignments

Senate Environment and Natural Resources Committee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Sen. Michael Dembrow, Chair (D)	23	Portland (Willamette)
Sen. Alan Olsen, Vice-Chair (R)	20	Canby (Willamette)
Sen. Herman Baertschiger Jr. (R)	2	Grants Pass (Rogue)
Sen. Floyd Prozanski (D)	4	South Lane and North Douglas Counties (Willamette/Umpqua)
Sen. Arnie Roblan (D)	5	Coos Bay (Oregon Coast)

House Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Rep. Brian Clem, Chair (D)	21	Salem (Willamette)
Rep. Sherrie Sprenger, Vice Chair (R)	17	Scio (Willamette)
Rep. Susan McLain, Vice Chair (D)	29	Hillsboro (Willamette)
Rep. Greg Barreto (R)	58	Cove (Umatilla)
Rep. Sal Esquivel (R)	6	Medford (Rogue)
Rep. Karin Power (D)	41	Milwaukie (Willamette)
Rep. David Brock Smith (R)	1	Gold Beach (South Coast)
Rep. Caddy McKeown (D)	9	Coos Bay (South Coast)
Rep. Brad Witt (D)	31	Clatskanie (Lower Columbia)

House Energy and Environment Committee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Rep. Ken Helm, Chair (D)	34	Washington County (Willamette)
Rep. Karin Power, Vice Chair (D)	41	Milwaukie (Willamette)
Rep. Mark Johnson, Vice Chair (R)	52	Hood River (Hood River)
Rep. Cliff Bentz (R)	60	Ontario (Owyhee-Malheur)
Rep. Deborah Boone (D)	32	Cannon Beach (North Coast)
Rep. David Brock Smith (R)	1	Gold Beach (South Coast)
Rep. Phil Barnhart (D)	11	Central Lane/Linn Counties (Willamette)
Rep. Paul Holvey (D)	8	Eugene (Willamette)
Rep. Werner Reschke (R)	56	Klamath Falls (Klamath)

Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee

Member	District	Area (Basin)
Sen. Lew Frederick, Co-Chair (D)	22	Portland (Willamette)
Rep. Brad Witt, Co-Chair (D)	31	Clatskanie (Lower Columbia)
Sen. Fred Girod (R)	9	Stayton (Willamette)
Sen. Kathleen Taylor (D)	21	Portland (Willamette)
Rep. Vic Gilliam (R)	18	Silverton (Willamette)
Rep. Ken Helm (D)	34	Washington County (Willamette)
Rep. Sal Esquivel (R)	6	Medford (Rogue)
Rep. Karin Power (D)	41	Milwaukie (Willamette)

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
2017-2019 Governor's Budget and Agency Legislation

	2015-2017 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2017-2019 Governor's Budget
General Fund	$0	$0
Lottery Funds	$62,482,687	$72,300,559
Other Funds	$3,553,093	$3,781,360
Federal Funds	$37,274,113	$41,668,724
Total Funds	$103,309,893	$117,750,643
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	34.25	32.99

HB 2327 OWEB Statute Revisions

In addition to general clean-up, HB 2327 includes the following revisions to OWEB statutes:

- Adding a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a non-voting member of the OWEB Board. USFWS plays an important role in funding and implementing watershed enhancement projects across the state, and the addition of a USFWS representative to the Board will provide important guidance to the agency on a broad array of issues.
- Repealing language in statute that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) may provide liability coverage for watershed councils at the expense of OWEB, and replacing with language requiring grantees to obtain liability insurance. The liability coverage provided by DAS is limited, and OWEB staff is working with stakeholders to ensure grantees obtain appropriate levels of liability insurance commensurate with activities.
- Repealing the requirement for other natural resource agencies to provide written reports related to the enhancement or restoration of riparian areas or associated uplands to OWEB to assist in developing and maintaining a centralized repository. The widespread use of the Internet has made this requirement unnecessary, as reports are posted on agency websites and other information clearinghouses found online.
- Repealing elements in OWEB statutes related to Oregon Plan status reporting on watershed and key habitat conditions in each drainage basin in the state. The State does not have data or resources to adequately address this biennial status reporting requirement in a geographically consistent manner.

2017–2019 Critical Budget Issues

Program Continuity – Provides capacity to effectively deliver grants, manage operations of 17-member board and stay abreast of emerging funding opportunities while reporting accomplishments of OWEB investments.

- NRS4 – River Basin/Native Fish Partnerships Coordinator (FF: PCSRF/BPA). Manages three current Focused Investment Partnerships: the Upper Deschutes, the Upper Grande Ronde, and the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat. $271,143

- NRS4 – Coast Coho/Clean Watershed Partnerships Coordinator (FF: PCSRF). Manages five current programs: Water Acquisitions grant program, Strategic Investment Area grant program, the Coastal Wetlands grant program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program's technical assistance work, and the Coastal Coho Business planning effort. $242,397
- NRS-4 - Conservation Outcomes Coordinator (FF: PCSRF). Limited duration; measures and reports on ecological, economic, and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. Coordinates with various agencies and stakeholders to implement the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and similar initiatives (including those with a connection to salmon habitat and recovery), and develop metrics and evaluation methods. $234,740
- NRS-3 - Conservation Outcomes Specialist (LF: Ops). Limited duration; measures and reports on ecological, economic, and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. $198,165
- Office Rent (LF: Ops). Biennial rent, Region 1, to share office space with Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries in Newport. $12,000

Federal Forest Health Policy Packages –

- Additional Grant Funds: This policy package proposes to allow OWEB to receive and allocate funds up to $750,000 (OF), should additional funds be appropriated by the Legislature, for grants to forest collaboratives under the State's Federal Forest Health Program in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).
- Federal Forest Health Grant Administration (shift from LF: Ops to Other). This policy package provides limited support and duration; continues grant management of Federal Forest Health program in coordination with ODF.

Carry Forward – This policy package proposes to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active. This will allow funds for these grants to be expended in the 2017-19 biennium. $16,400,000

Lottery Funds: Measure 76 Grant Funds – This policy package provides the budget vehicle for Measure 76 grant funds for the next biennium. These are the primary source of grant funds for OWEB and are used to support a wide variety of grants, including watershed council and soil and water conservation district capacity, restoration, acquisition, technical assistance, monitoring and outreach. $65,329,830

This report provides the board an update on rulemaking to update the OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants (Division 10) administrative rules.

Background

During the spring and summer of 2016, staff conducted a review of several OWEB administrative rule divisions. After completing the rule reviews, staff recommended changes to certain administrative rules.

Staff have proposed changes in the OWEB Grant Program rules (Division 5) in the purpose section, application requirements, grant agreement conditions, and distribution of funds. Proposed rule changes in Division 5 range from technical clean-up (e.g., not requiring applicant provide a fax number on grant proposals) to more substantive, policy changes (e.g., removing "a person" from OWEB grant eligibility).

In the Restoration Grants rules (Division 10), substantial changes are recommended to the evaluation criteria. Staff have also recommended changes to the evaluation criteria utilized by the regional review teams.

At its October 2016 meeting, the board authorized rulemaking to amend the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants administrative rules.

Rules Advisory Committee

On December 16th, OWEB convened a rules advisory committee (RAC) to discuss both the technical and substantive policy-oriented rule change proposals. The RAC is composed of stakeholders representing OWEB applicants and grantees from across the state. Attachment A provides the members of the RAC, whose purpose is to provide feedback on the proposed rule changes and offer recommendations for staff to consider when drafting final rules. For the proposed technical fixes to administrative rules, the RAC had broad agreement that the proposed changes were appropriate. There was also agreement on many of the proposed policy changes, with much of the discussion centered around language to be used in the Restoration Grants evaluation criteria, including new criteria proposed by the RAC. The RAC provided valuable insights that, at the time of this staff report, are being summarized to be brought before OWEB staff for further review.

Next Steps

After OWEB staff have an opportunity to review the comments and suggestions offered by the RAC, a refined draft will be provided to the RAC over the winter for discussion. Once final input has been gathered from the RAC, OWEB staff will file appropriate notices with the State, before

seeking board approval of the amended rules at its April 2016 meeting. If approved by the board, the amended rules would be effective within weeks after the board action.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

A. Rules Advisory Committee Members

OWEB Division 5 and 10 Rulemaking: Rules Advisory Committee Members

Name	Organization	Region
Seth Mead	Siuslaw SWCD	1
Brian Barr	Rogue River WC	2
Sarah Dyrdahl	Middle Fork Willamette WC	3
Deb Merchant	Marys River WC	3
Shilah Olson	Wasco SWCD	4
Marci Schreder	Lake County Umbrella WSC	4
Ken Diebel	Malheur WC	5
Amy Charette	Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	6

This report provides an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2015-2017 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Biennial Report). The 2015-2017 Biennial Report was submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office on January 15, 2015. The report, and additional supporting information, is also available online.

Background

Oregon Revised Statute 541.972 requires OWEB to submit a biennial report that assesses the statewide and regional implementation and effectiveness of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds to the Governor and appropriate committees of the Legislative Assembly. The report must address each drainage basin in the state and include information about watershed and habitat conditions, voluntary restoration activities, Board investments, and recommendations from the OWEB Board for enhancing effectiveness of the Oregon Plan, among other topics. At the October 2016 meeting, the Board approved its recommendations for inclusion in the Biennial Report.

Biennial Report Format

The 2015-2017 Biennial Report maintains major aspects of the framework used for past Oregon Plan Biennial Reports. As required by the Legislature, a two-page Executive Summary is available both electronically and in hard copy. The 2015-17 Biennial Report consists of four primary sections:

1) a two-page Executive Summary;
2) an overview of investments and accomplishments associated with the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, including highlights of coordinated actions around the state and programs of natural resources agencies implementing aspects of the Oregon Plan;
3) Data and information about each of the 15 Oregon Plan reporting basins; and
4) Recommendations from the OWEB Board

This biennium's report reflects a streamlining of content (e.g., providing links to ensure up-to-date information available from other agencies implementing the Oregon Plan). The streamlined approach provides a simpler product for the audience to understand how the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds is working, in addition to complying with the Oregon Department of Administrative Services' "State Agencies Website Guidelines for Usability and Accessibility."

The Executive Summary is available online and in hardcopy. A longer PDF, consisting of the four aforementioned sections, is available online via OWEB's website as of mid-January of 2017 at www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Pages/BiennialReport.aspx.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203.

Attachments

A. OWEB Biennial Report 2015-2017 Executive Summary (to be provided at the January 2017 Board meeting)

2015-2017 Biennial Report Executive Summary

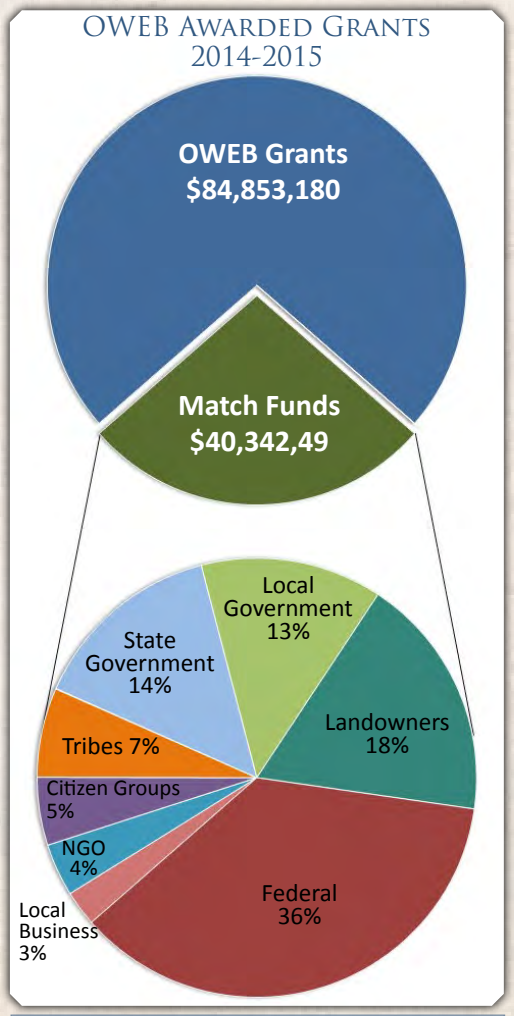
The *Oregon Plan* for Salmon and Watersheds

From rural landowners to urban residents, Oregonians value watersheds as a key to our quality of life in Oregon. This care and commitment helps drive on-the-ground projects that aim to improve water quality and restore habitat for native fish and wildlife. Since 1997, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, or 'Oregon Plan,' has guided these efforts. The Oregon Plan provides a statewide framework for restoration and conservation of the state's watersheds and fish and wildlife habitats, while at the same time supporting local economies and enriching Oregon's communities through local, voluntary restoration. Pursuant to Oregon Revised Statute 541.972, the Oregon Plan Biennial Report describes activities implemented under the plan for the 2015-2017 biennium. This Executive Summary of the Biennial Report highlights key investments and accomplishments over the past two years; coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partners and agencies; and recommendations from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) about future work. The full report can be found online (http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/Pages/BiennialReport.aspx) and includes information about each region of the state, as well as additional details about the activities and accomplishments summarized below.

2015-2017 Investments and Accomplishments

Total funding for watershed enhancement projects in Oregon was over $125 million during the 2015-2017 Biennium. This total includes funding provided by OWEB from the Oregon Lottery, the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF), salmon license plate revenues, and other sources. PCSRF, funded by NOAA Fisheries, remained an important contributor to Oregon's restoration efforts. Significant funding to match these dollars is provided by other funders, agencies and partner organizations, increasing the impact of OWEB funding throughout the state.

Partners under the Oregon Plan are as important and diverse as the actions they undertake to benefit salmon and watersheds. These partners include landowners, non-profit organizations, tribes, local businesses, individuals, and all levels of government, each contributing to collaborative investments designed to support priority actions across the state.



Grants awarded by OWEB, the amount of matching funds contributed by grant participants, and the percentage of match funds contributed by different categories of participants.

Watershed Metric	OWRI	BLM	USFS	Total
Riparian Miles (e.g., streamside plantings)	313.7	61	116.4	491.1
Instream Habitat Miles (e.g., wood placement)	160.2	-	-	160.2
Miles of Fish Habitat Made Accessible	165	23	148.3	336.3
Stream Crossings Improved for Fish Passage	138	26	52	216
Push-up Dams Retired to Improve Fish Passage	18	-	-	18
Fish Screens Installed on Water Diversions	62	-	-	62
Upland Acres (e.g., juniper thinning, seeding)	76,394	-	-	76,394
Wetland Acres (e.g., wetland habitat created)	2,758.7	-	-	2,758.7
Miles of Road Closures	17.9	4	169.6	191.5
Miles of Road Improvements (e.g., erosion control)	58.2	351	106	515.2
Miles of Riparian Invasive Treatments	628.2	-	-	628.2

Watershed restoration activities completed from 1/1/14 to 12/31/15 as reported to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI), maintained by OWEB; U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM); and U.S. Forest Service (USFS).

Coordinated Agency Actions

State natural resource agencies that support the Oregon Plan recognize the value of shared approaches. Collaboration across these agencies continued throughout the 2015-2017 biennium on several key interagency initiatives, including (but not limited to):

- The Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership (SageCon), which brings together landowners, agencies and interest groups to identify and address threats to sagebrush habitats and the species that rely on them, implementing the Oregon Greater Sage-Grouse Action Plan (2015);
- The Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, a collaborative effort among multiple state and federal agencies that aims to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions in achieving natural resource outcomes through collaborative monitoring, evaluation and reporting;
- Agricultural landowners engaging in innovative and results-oriented water quality improvements with assistance from Oregon Department of Agriculture's Strategic Implementation Areas initiative;
- Ongoing implementation of Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (led by the Oregon Water Resources Department) and the state's Federal Forest Health Program (led by the Oregon Department of Forestry);
- The first update to the Oregon Conservation Strategy in 2016; and
- Initial implementation of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Multi-Species Coastal Management Plan for salmon and other native fish.

Additional information about coordinated actions around the state focused on monitoring water quality and quantity, fish populations, and habitat, are described in the Biennial Report, along with details about other Oregon Plan agency programs.

From the OWEB Board

To date during the 2015-2017 biennium, OWEB has invested significant effort in turning past recommendations into reality, awarding over $13 million in operating capacity grants; over $45 million in Open Solicitation grants; nearly $14 million in Focused Investment Partnerships; launching a new online grant application system; and continuing to support monitoring and reporting on all aspects of the Oregon Plan.

The OWEB Board now is embarking on an update to its 2010 Strategic Plan, which provides an opportunity for the agency to strategically look at its programs and granting decisions, and consider how best to address new challenges and seize upon new opportunities over the long term.

OWEB Board Recommendations

- Continue to invest in local organizational capacity via OWEB's Operating Capacity grant-making and locally driven, high-priority projects—including working lands approaches on both forestry and agricultural lands around the state—through Open Solicitation grants, along with effectiveness monitoring of these investments.
- Make programmatic investments that contribute to the conservation and recovery of native fish and wildlife and their habitats through coordinated, large-scale programs. Examples include:
  - Invest in future Focused Investment Partnerships and associated monitoring and tracking of progress by these partnerships.
  - Continue OWEB's commitment to greater sage-grouse habitat restoration by investing $10 million between 2015 and 2025.
  - Assist with the implementation of the federal recovery plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon by supporting development of strategic action plans in support of coho restoration work.
- Support the Clean Water Partnership, a Governor's Office initiative, by developing partnerships with other state and federal agencies to improve the use of water-quality data to inform conservation and restoration investments and develop tools to improve water quality and streamside health on agricultural lands. For example:
  - Agency staff continue to participate in the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, which brings together federal and state agencies to evaluate the effects of conservation and restoration investments on water quality and watershed condition.
- Support Oregon's forest health by administering grants to forest health collaboratives in partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry.
- Work to retain key staff positions that support OWEB's partnership investments and quantification of conservation outcomes.
- Support Oregon's working farms and ranches in coordination with agriculture and conservation organizations to identify approaches to keep working lands in agriculture while supporting fish, wildlife and other natural resource values.

In April 2016, the Board awarded $302,823 to Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) for FIP Monitoring, including a progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs and the Partnership Learning Project. This report provides a status update.

Background

OWEB's investments in FIP Implementation and Capacity Building are approaches to support restoration at a strategic scale and build resilient, sustainable partnerships able to strategically plan and implement effective restoration projects. This approach provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments in Implementation partnerships, and to document lessons learned about partnership development from both Capacity Building and Implementation FIPs. Information will be used to adaptively manage partnership investments. OWEB staff meet regularly with the BEF team to develop and begin implementation of both the Progress Monitoring Framework and Partnership Learning projects.

Progress Monitoring Framework for Implementation FIPs

The structure and process for developing Progress Monitoring Frameworks with each of the Implementation FIPs has been finalized and implementation has begun. The framework consists of a results chain (a graphical representation of the partnership's theory for how strategies are expected to produce long-term ecological impacts) and a crosswalk matrix that documents and tracks both implementation measures and ecological outcomes.

The project team has developed draft results chains for each of the Implementation FIPs using each partnership's FIP application, Strategic Action Plans and other supporting documents. This, along with the crosswalks, have been presented and discussed with four FIPs, with the remaining FIPs to be scheduled soon.

Partnership Learning Project

The purpose of the Partnership Learning Project is to gain insight into what is needed for a partnership to thrive by reflecting on the success and challenges across all FIP partnerships. Jennifer Arnold of Reciprocity Consulting is reaching out to all currently funded FIPs to invite reflections and feedback through phone calls, online surveys, and in-person meetings.

All aspects of the Partnership Learning Project's engagement approach are currently being implemented. Jennifer Arnold has attended meetings of three capacity building partnerships and initiated or completed online surveys with two partnerships. She has also conducted one-on-one interviews, with an ultimate target of 1-4 interviews for each of the 14 partnerships.

This phase of the project will continue with all the Capacity Building partnerships into the early spring. At that point, Jennifer will shift her focus on Implementation FIPs.

The results from interviews and interactions with each of the partnerships are confidential in order to facilitate honest communication and reflection. The BEF team will provide a summary report to the Board in July of 2017.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information on the Progress Monitoring Framework Project, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203. If you have questions or need additional information on the Partnership Learning Project, contact Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator, at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Other Business – Outreach Rules Advisory Committee
January 24, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report requests the Board approve a Rules Advisory Committee to update OWEB's Outreach grant program rules.

II. Background

In 2010, the passage of Oregon Constitutional Ballot Measure 76 (M76) resulted in a change to both the constitution and OWEB's accompanying statutes regarding education. As a result of this new language, OWEB is no longer authorized to fund education grants with M76 grant funding.

As the OWEB Board developed the Long Term Investment Strategy (LTIS) in 2012-13, they identified this as an area that needed to be updated in OWEB's granting programs. Recognizing the heavy workload involved with other components of M76 and LTIS implementation, the Board recommended making changes to the outreach program in the 2015-17 biennium.

The Board's outreach subcommittee has been meeting since November to discuss this issue. As a part of their discussion, they have established a work group to provide assistance in designing a new application to meet M76 grant requirements.

III. Recommendation

OWEB has current rules (Division 15) that speak to the agency's 'Education and Outreach Grants'. As a result of the process outlined above, these rules will need to change. In the interest of expediency, staff request the board designate the outreach work group as a Rules Advisory Committee and authorize rulemaking to develop rules to mirror the new outreach application and associated process.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

April 24-25-26, 2017
Board Meeting

Salem, Oregon

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
April 24-26

Monday, April 24, 2017

Chemeketa Eola NW Viticulture Center
215 Doaks Ferry Road NW

Salem, OR 97304

Directions: http://www.chemeketaeventservices.com/eola.html

Business Meeting – 3:00 p.m.

During the public comment periods (Agenda Items E, F, G, H, L, M, O, P, and Q), anyone wishing to speak to the Board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

A. Board Member Comments

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This is also an opportunity for public and tribal Board members to report on their recent activities and share information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item*.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the January 24-25, 2017 meeting in Madras will be presented for approval. *Action item*.

C. Board Co-Chair Election

The current term of Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Co-Chair Dan Thorndike ends in April 2017. Co-Chair Randy Labbe will lead a discussion and vote by Board members to elect one Board Co-Chair position for a new two-year term. *Action item.*

D. Board Subcommittees Updates

Representatives from the Focused Investments, Monitoring, Open Solicitation, and Operating Capacity subcommittees will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full Board. *Information item*.

E. Public Comment [approximately 4:05 p.m.]

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board.

F. Outreach Grant Rulemaking Update

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 4:20 pm

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will update the Board on the outreach grant rulemaking and application revision process, including the progress made by the rules advisory committee. The Board will hear public comment on outreach grant rulemaking. *Information item*.

Tuesday, April 25, 2017

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

During the public comment periods (Agenda Items E, F, G, H, L, M, O, P, and Q), anyone wishing to speak to the Board is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*.**

G. Spending Plan Presentations and Discussion
NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 10:35 a.m. and 11:55 a.m.

Following an introduction by Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, the Board will hear staff presentations on items in the OWEB spending plan. Presentations will feature a brief history of each item, the demand and future need for the item, and recent highlights and accomplishments with the OWEB spending plan line item. The Board will hear public comment on the spending plan. *Information item.*

H. Public Comment [approximately 2:50 p.m.]

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board.

I. CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Update

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho will present to the Board the Final CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Report. *Information item.*

J. OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grant Rule Amendments

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide the Board an update on the rulemaking process for amending the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grant rules, including public comment received. (Note: public comment associated with this item may be heard during a general comment period. However, this item has already been the subject of a formal public hearing. Further public testimony may not be taken except upon changes made to the item since the original public comment period, or upon the direct request of the Board members in order to obtain additional information or to address changes made to proposed rules following a public hearing.) *Action item.*

K. Executive Director's Update

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the Board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item*.

Wednesday, April 26, 2017

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

During the public comment periods (Agenda Items E, F, G, H, L, M, O, P, and Q), anyone wishing to speak to the Board is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*.**

L. Public Comment [approximately 8:00 a.m.]

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the Board.

M. Water Acquisition Grant Awards

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 8:30 a.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will request Board action on water acquisition grant applications that were received during the December 2016 grant cycle. The Board will hear public comment on water acquisition applications. *Action item*.

N. Coastal Wetlands Grants- Permission to Apply for 2018 Federal Grants

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will request permission to apply to the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program for funding in 2018. *Action item*.

O. November 2016 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 11:20 a.m.

Introduction

Prior to the introductory presentation for the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle, Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will request the Board approve the 2017-2019 Open Solicitation grant schedule. Following approval of 2017-2019 schedule, Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle.

Public Comment

This time is reserved for public comment on pending restoration and technical assistance grant applications to be considered for funding by the Board. Only comments pertaining to these specific grant applications will be accepted during this portion of the meeting. The Board will not accept any written materials at this time. Any written comments pertaining to pending grant proposals must be received by agency staff by the **April 11, 2017 deadline**.

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications
The Board will consider grant applications submitted by the November 1, 2016 application deadline for restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and outreach grants. Proposals, evaluations, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the Board. Action item.

P. Land Acquisition Grant Awards

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 2:15 p.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Hulst will request Board action on land acquisition grant applications that were received during the October 2016 grant cycle. The Board will hear public comment on land acquisition applications. *Action item.*

Q. OWEB Strategic Plan Update

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 3:00 p.m.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Principal Consultant Steve Patty and Associate Consultant Jessamyn Luiz with Dialogues in Action will engage in a discussion with the Board on recent developments to the strategic planning process. The Board will hear public comment on the strategic plan. *Information item*.

R. Other Business

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

Generally, agenda items will be taken in the order shown. However, in certain circumstances, the Board may elect to take an item out of order. To accommodate the scheduling needs of interested parties and the public, the Board may also designate a specific time at which an item will be heard. Any such times are indicated on the agenda.

Please be aware that topics not listed on the agenda may be introduced during the Board Comment period, the Executive Director's Update, the Public Comment period, under Other Business, or at other times during the meeting.

Oregon's Public Meetings Law requires disclosure that Board members may meet for meals on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 17 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and six are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into two categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business

A general business quorum is **six voting members**. General business requires a majority of **all** voting members to pass a resolution (not just those present), so general business resolutions require affirmative votes of **at least six voting members**. Typical resolutions include adopting, amending, or appealing a rule, providing staff direction, etc. These resolutions cannot include a funding decision.

Action on Grant Awards

Per ORS 541.360(4), special requirements apply when OWEB considers action on grant awards. This includes a special **quorum of at least eight voting members** present to take action on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, **if three or more voting members** object to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

Public Testimony

The Board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

A public comment period for ***pending Open Solicitation grant applications*** will be held on *Wednesday, April 26 at 11:20 a.m*. The Board will not accept any written materials at that time. Any written comments pertaining to pending regular grant proposals must be received by the April 11, 2017 deadline. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes

General public comment periods will be held on *Monday, April 24 at 4:05 p.m., Tuesday, April 25 at 2:50 p.m.* and *Wednesday, April 26 at 8:00 a.m*. for any matter before the Board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the Board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the Board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). *The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*.

Tour

The Board may tour local watershed restoration project sites. The public is invited to attend, however transportation may be limited to Board members and OWEB staff. Any person wishing to join the tour should have their own transportation.

Executive Session

The Board may also convene in a confidential executive session where, by law, only press members and OWEB staff may attend. Others will be asked to leave the room during these discussions, which usually deal with current or potential litigation. Before convening such a session, the presiding Board member will make a public announcement and explain necessary procedures.

More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call Darika Barnes, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes (503-986-0181) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Laura Masterson, *Board of Agriculture*
Ed Armstrong, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bob Webber, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
John Roberts, W*ater Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Dan Thorndike, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Karl Wenner, *Public*

Non-voting Members

Rosemary Furfey, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Debbie Hollen, *U.S. Forest Service*
Kathy Stangl, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. National Resource Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Contact Information

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Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
503-986-0178
Fax: 503-986-0199
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

OWEB Executive Director – Meta Loftsgaarden
meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – Darika Barnes
darika.barnes@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2017 Board Meeting Schedule

January 24-25 in Madras
April 24-26 in Salem
July 25-26 in Boardman
October 24-25 in Lebanon

2018 Board Meeting Schedule

January 30-31, in Florence
April 24-25, location TBD
July 24-25, location TBD
October 30-31, location TBD

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our web site: www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

OWEB Strategic Direction and Principles

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

Goals

Goals from OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan

In 2010, the OWEB Board approved a strategic plan with five goals. With the passage of Constitutional Measure 76 and permanent Lottery funding, the Board continues to operate under the strategy.

Goal 1: Adaptive Investment
Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through program and project investments that enhance watershed and ecosystem functions and processes and support community needs.

Goal 2: Local Infrastructure Development
Support an enduring, high capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 3: Public Awareness and Involvement
Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds.

Goal 4: Partnership Development
Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 5: Efficient and Accountable Administration
Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments.

Long-Term Investment Strategy

OWEB's Framework for Grant Investments

In 2013, the Board adopted a Long-Term Investment Strategy that guides its investments of Lottery, federal and salmon plate funding. All of OWEB's investments in ecological outcomes also help build communities and support the local economy. The Board also approved a direction for the investments outlined below. They will continue operating capacity and open solicitation grants and continue focused investments with a gradual increase over time.

Operating Capacity
Operating Capacity Investments support the operating costs of effective watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. Councils and districts are specifically identified in OWEB's statutes.

Open Solicitation
OWEB offers responsive grants across the state for competitive proposals based on local ecological priorities.

Focused Investments
OWEB helps landscape-scale collaborative partnerships achieve collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes.

Effectiveness Monitoring
OWEB evaluates and reports on the progress and outcomes of watershed work it supports.

OWEB

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

As the Board developed the Investment Strategy, they did so under established principles for how any changes in OWEB's programs would operate.

Build on accomplishments. The commitment and work of our local partners have resulted in a nationally and internationally recognized approach with unmatched environmental accomplishments. OWEB will build on this foundation.

Effective communication. OWEB is committed to active, two-way communication of ideas, priorities, and results with its staff, partners, potential partners, and the public as a means for developing and maintaining a strong investment strategy and successful cooperative conservation.

Transparency. OWEB values transparency and develops its Long-Term Investment Strategy through an open, transparent process that involves input and dialogue with stakeholders and staff.

Maximize service, minimize disruption. The Board considers how OWEB's grant portfolio impacts partner organizations and staff resources to maximize effectiveness without adversely affecting service delivery.

Responsive. The Long-Term Investment Strategy will adjust to changes in revenue and be responsive to changes in ecological priorities from the Governor, Legislature, the Board, and local partners.

Adapt based on monitoring and evaluation. OWEB's staff and Board monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of the Long-Term Investment Strategy. The Board shall adapt and modify the strategy as needed to meet its desired goals and outcomes and to improve overall investment success.

Phase-in Change. OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy will guide future efforts, is designed to accommodate changes and adjustments made by stakeholders and OWEB staff, and will be periodically revisited.

Operating Principles

Operating Principles to Enhance OWEB Team Work

We will do all we can, individually and as a group, to:

- **Use Good communication--at all levels and in all directions;**
- **Operate with a Team approach;**
- **Follow through on conversations in order to build and maintain needed trust;**
- **Empower staff wherever it is appropriate to do so; and**
- **Have fun while doing important work!**

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
January 24, 2017
OWEB Board Meeting
The Inn at Cross Keys Station Conference Room
66 NW Cedar St.
Madras, Oregon

MINUTES

OWEB Members Present	**OWEB Staff Present**	**Others Present**	
Furfey, Rosemary	Barnes, Darika	Beamer, Kelley	Nicolescu, Jerry
Henning, Alan	Ciannella, Greg	Bell, Dan	Nye, Brad
Hollen, Debbie	Davis, Renee	Bellis, Natasha	Perle, Mathias
Labbe, Randy	Dutterer, Andrew	Borgias, Darren	Ryan, Zola
Neuhauser, Will	Fetcho, Ken	Coordes, Regan	Sanders, Gary
Quaempts, Eric	Gunville, Katy	Faucera, Jason	Sitz, Angela
Roberts, John	Hartstein, Eric	Fitzpatrick, Kate	Smith, Brenda
Stangl, Kathy	Hatch, Audrey	Foster, Lee	Sparks, Edwin
Thorndike, Dan	Leiendecker, Karen	Gannon, Chris	Stahl, Tom
Webber, Bob	Leopold, Kathy	Karges, Chad	Steele, Jesse
	Loftsgaarden, Meta	Klock, Clair	Suter-Goold, Marty
	Redon, Liz	McGinnis, Cheryl	Taylor, Bruce
	Shaff, Courtney	Morford, Shawn	
	Williams, Eric	Mundy, Sarah	

The meeting was called to order at 8:05AM by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike.

A. Board Member Comments

Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from the state and federal natural resource agencies they represent.

Dan Thorndike stated that this would be the final official meeting for Public and Tribal Board Member Eric Quaempts, and affirmed his important contributions to the board over many years. Quaempts presented a letter he prepared for the board and executive director listing his outgoing recommendations to the board. He highlighted a few of the key points in his letter related to the importance of floodplain restoration. He reflected on his first board meeting and expressed appreciation for the board's support for the Umatilla Tribes' First Foods Mission and River Vision.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the October 25-26, 2016 board meeting in Ashland were presented to the board for approval. There was no discussion and no changes were requested.

> *Co-Chair Labbe moved the board approve the minutes from the October 25-26, 2016 meeting in Ashland. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously.*

C. Board Subcommittees Updates

Representatives from the Focused Investments, Monitoring, Open Solicitation, and Operating Capacity subcommittees provided updates to the full board on subcommittee topics.

Focused Investment Committee: Will Neuhauser said the Focused Investment subcommittee met in December to discuss a variety of topics. The capacity building grantees are making progress, with regular meetings and progress made to develop strategic action plans. Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) is working on a survey of the FIP partnerships (capacity building and implementation) which will provide for candid reporting on progress and effectiveness in order to help the board evaluate the program. The committee is eager to see their results.

Monitoring Committee: Rosemary Furfey said the Monitoring Committee has been very active since the last meeting. She said monitoring was one of the key items discussed at the Ashland meeting. At a November meeting, the committee discussed how OWEB fits in the statewide monitoring structure, and a discussion of the agency's approach toward monitoring investments. They talked about revising the monitoring application guidance to get higher quality monitoring projects for funding. At a December meeting, the committee discussed the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and the presentation that ODFW will be providing at the January board meeting. She expressed appreciation to committee members and staff for their efforts.

Open Solicitation Committee: Bob Webber said the Open Solicitation committee met in November to discuss a variety of topics. They began by prioritizing the topics to look at: 1) Outreach grants, 2) the Small Grant Program, 3) evaluating the funding line process for Open Solicitation grants, and 4) the Regional Review Team process. Regarding Outreach grants, Measure 76 (M76) removed education programs and included a requirement that outreach projects be "necessary for carrying out" eligible restoration or acquisition projects. The board prioritized amending the outreach application to address the revised eligibility language during the 2015-17 biennium. The committee would like to better align Outreach grants with M76 requirements, while also informing stakeholders and applicants of the limits of M76 grants and alternative funding sources that might assist their programs. In the Small Grant Program, the committee is discussing a number of issues. One issue is the question of whether the existing $10,000 cap is a realistic limit. The other issue is how to deal with unspent funds. Right now when funds are unspent they become unavailable until the next cycle. The committee would like to explore a mechanism for making those funds available sooner. Small Grant Coordinator Kathy Leopold addressed the board to say she estimates $500,000 per biennium is left unspent for various reasons. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden said there is still a need for these

funds, but there is no mechanism to redistribute these within the biennium. She said the committee will analyze options to distribute unspent funds among the 28 small grant teams.

Operating Capacity Committee: Debbie Hollen said the Operating Capacity Committee met in early January to talk about the 2017-2019 Council Capacity Grants. The deadline for eligibility review was in November. They received 59 councils that submitted materials were considered eligible, and will be considered in March when formal grant applications are submitted. These Council Capacity awards will be made at the July board meeting. Hollen said they also discussed the statewide Conservation Partnership, which will be covered in more detail with the board later in the day. She said the committee also received an update form staff on the focused investment partnership learning process, which the board will learn more about later in the day.

D. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

E. Conservation Partnership– Funding Request

OWEB's Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff, the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (Network) Executive Director Shawn Morford, the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) Executive Director Jerry Nicolescu, the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) Executive Director Kelley Beamer, and the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN) President Jason Faucera updated the board on the activities of the Conservation Partnership. Together they requested the board provide supplemental funding to the 2015-2017 partnership capacity grant and delegate authority to the Executive Director for distribution of those funds.

Shaff provided background on the existing $300,000 award made by the board in July 2015, which was split into two $150,000 grants for each year of the biennium. Shaff praised the progress of the partnership in meeting the 2015-2017 grant deliverables. She then discussed the request for $33,000 in additional funds to expand the organizational partnerships, and explained that the funding would come from the Building Capacity grants line item in the spending plan. Shaff said OWEB asked the partnership at the beginning of the biennium to continue working collaboratively to deliver the services they are providing to their stakeholders, and to be a model statewide for partnerships. She said this takes more resources in the short term, as there are unforeseen expenses.

Beamer explained how the partners have been meeting regularly for the last year to craft a work plan and MOU to identify where their missions overlap and they can collaborate to enhance each other's work. They used Land Trust Alliance's Advancing Conservation Excellence Grant funds to hire consultants with expertise in "impact networks" to identify five areas of collaboration: 1) Communication and awareness, 2) professional education and networking, 3) government relations, 4) funding, and 5) collaborative planning and implementation. This is their map to work together and maximize those areas where it makes sense to connect.

Beamer said COLT is requesting funding to help produce their 2016 "State of the Lands" Report. She explained how the report highlights the collective impact of voluntary land conservation,

gathers quantifiable data from members and partners, and provides illustrative stories about how land conservation impacts local communities. COLT uses this tool with elected officials, community leaders, foundation partners, and the general public. She distributed copies of the report from 2015 and talked about the progress of the 2016 report, which she expects to be available in March.

Faucera provided an overview of OCEAN, which is run by volunteers from districts throughout the state to help OCEAN deliver capacity support, networking, technical training, and leadership development. The CONNECT annual workshop is OCEAN's main delivery for technical training. They have worked with other groups in the partnership to combine conference schedules to save resources while making it more affordable to stakeholders. Faucera said that OCEAN is requesting funding to provide scholarships to CONNECT and to bring in the speakers for the conference. Dan Thorndike asked for clarification about who "members" are. Faucera explained OCEAN originally started as an employee's association in 1992 and transformed to an educational organization in 2008. He confirmed membership is made up of district employees, but that they also have associate memberships to include other partnering organizations.

Morford talked about the strength of the partnership's collaboration. She also presented some of the feedback of their constituents, who desire services and a statewide voice to promote voluntary conservation as an effective tool for conservation outcomes. Their constituents would also like more remote opportunities for learning, so the partnership has been providing webinars. If the additional funding is approved, the partnership will hire an intern from Pacific University to handle webinars. This will free up the other members of the partnership to build partnerships and be more strategic statewide.

Nicolescu talked about the importance of the partnership and his appreciation for the cooperation of each member organization. He talked about the impact the additional funding will have, particularly in light of leadership and staffing changes. He said the partnership is also looking for additional resources. New partners widen their field of impact to continue to promote voluntary conservation.

Dan Thorndike provided a historic reference point of when statewide conservation groups were more "siloed." He talked about the importance of movement to the current partnership framework and how there can be unforeseen events that require additional resources to keep the partnership moving forward effectively. Eric Quaempts asked about sustainability and funding security for the future for the partnership. Morford said she always balances the need to provide services to constituents, who pay dues to keep things working, with the need to diversify by reaching out to new partners and new funders. Rosemary Furfey asked about the State of the Lands Report and whether it was primarily for Oregon Land Trust members or for all four organizations. Beamer said the data is from land trusts projects, but the stories feature local communities, collaboration, and impact on the ground. Furfey referenced the "What We Do" section of COLT's report and asked if there was a vehicle for the synthesizing and sharing of science that might complement the expansion of OWEB's monitoring. Morford agreed there is a real need to bring together salient literature that speaks to the impact of voluntary conservation as the best intervention. Nicolescu said the partnership is working with OSU to

help provide solid documentation on voluntary conservation. Alan Henning expressed appreciation that the partnership is taking the time and resources to seek clear direction and expand, and asked for future updates. John Roberts asked about the number of watershed councils being closer to 60 than 90. Shaff explained that OWEB funds a subset of the state's watershed councils, 59 total, that are eligible for funding. Roberts also asked if merging to one larger organization would benefit the effectiveness of the partnership. Nicolescu said when they formed the partnership they agreed to retain their individual organizational identities. He said there are definitely benefits and trade-offs to being separate small organizations. Roberts asked what each of the partnering organizations gets as a percent of operating funds from OWEB. Shaff explained that OWEB funds the conservation partnership budget, but not the full budget for each organization in the partnership. Roberts asked about other funding sources are utilized to maintain their organizations. Beamer talked about COLT's operating budget being supported by membership dues, other foundation partners, and some fee-for-service. She said they are also looking at other state association models that have a strong diversified funding base. Faucera said OCEAN's operating expenses are minimal, utilizing volunteers, and supporting only technical service and one event per year. Morford said that in the past her position at the Network was funded completely by OWEB funds, but they have been successful at fundraising. Nicolescu said OACD collects membership dues and tries to shift funds in and out of the partnership when that is feasible. He said it is fairly equitable between the Network and OACD. Meta Loftsgaarden also briefly talked about how federal and state agencies benefit from these four partnership agencies who relay information what their membership is saying about how agencies accomplish their work.

There was not a quorum present for voting on award action items. However, Co-Chair Dan Thorndike asked for a sense from the board if they would recommend adding $33,575 of Building Capacity funds to existing award 216-8006-12263 for the expansion of the Conservation Partnership's collaboration and deliverables in 2017 as described in the staff report and as corrected regarding the university providing an intern being Pacific University and not Willamette University. The sense of the board was that the motion would pass.

On Wednesday, January 25th, Gary Marshall joined the board to create a voting quorum. Co-Chair Randy Labbe moved the board recommend adding $33,575 of Building Capacity funds to existing award 216-8006-12263 for the expansion of the Conservation Partnership's collaboration and deliverables in 2017 as described in the staff report and as corrected regarding the university providing an intern being Pacific University and not Willamette University. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously.

F. 2017-2019 Spending Plan Discussion

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden led the board through an initial discussion of the 2017-2019 Spending Plan. She provided background on the spending plan, which is based on the Long Term Investment Strategy. She said staff is not asking for a vote, but is looking for a sense of the board on the percentages allocated to each category. This will help staff fill in specific line items which can be brought back to the board in April for another review, and then be voted on by the board in July.

Loftsgaarden reviewed the board's 2015-17 Spending Plan. She then presented the 2017-19 Spending Plan timeline to the board and walked through the proposed allocations to each grant program. She said the board will look at each line item in detail at the board meeting in April. She explained an expected increase in grant funds for 2017-19, due to a projected increase of 11% in lottery revenues, even though the state has had to make cuts to other important programs. She said staff would like to provide cost of living increases to watershed councils. She pointed out how the board has indicated a preference to increase focused investment spending over time, and that in the 2019-2021 biennium, FIP may account for over 25% of the spending plan. She said it is possible to hold some funding back in the 2017-19 biennium to help cover that bump in the following biennium.

Bob Webber asked how the increase from 20% to 25% in Focused Investment spending would impacts Open Solicitation projects. Loftsgaarden reviewed prior board discussions, and stated that this would be a simple shift of funds because they are basically the same grant types and many of the same grantees. Webber also asked about Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF) and what categories of grants they are allowed to fund. Loftsgaarden explained they are spread between Open Solicitation and Focused Investments (FIPs) and go explicitly to projects that meet strict PCSRF requirements for eligible activities (i.e., restoration and design-type technical assistance) that benefit ESA-listed anadromous fish species. Alan Henning asked if staff is seeing a drop in Open Solicitation grant applications in FIP regions. Loftsgaarden said we are too early in the process to have data analysis yet, but will likely have something to look at in the next year. She said some of the big-ticket projects that would have gone through open solicitation are now going through Focused Investments. Karl Wenner noted the fixed budgets for the existing FIPs, and asked how the increase in available grant funds would impact those fixed budgets. Loftsgaarden explained how the board will be able to flex, based on available revenues, but will set the fixed values for each new biennium. Dan Thorndike asked about the timing for when PCSRF funding is announced. Loftsgaarden said the announcement is made in June. She said OWEB is very cautious about bringing the dollar amount up for board allocation until the funds are available, but staff may be able to present estimates to the board in advance of the PCSRF announcement. Randy Labbe asked if staff see a critical mass of good FIP Capacity Building partnerships in early stages to meet our goals. Loftsgaarden confirmed this. She said OWEB has funded eight Capacity Building FIPs, each of which are doing a tremendous job, and three similar projects under the Coast Coho Business Plan. She said OWEB would likely fund at most three new Implementation FIPs in each biennium, beginning in 2019-2021. OWEB invests in these partnerships because it is good for all funders, and we will see high quality Open Solicitation projects come out of this and additional funding because there is good strategy in the state. Eric Quaempts said he appreciated the staff bringing this before the board early in the year to provide time for the board to think about it.

Loftsgaarden asked the board to state their questions about the spending plan at this meeting so staff may do research and be prepared to answer them at the April board meeting.

OPEN SOLICITATION

OUTREACH:
Rosemary Furfey asked if we are now looking at what we can fund for this category within the guidelines of Measure 76.

SMALL GRANTS:
Rosemary Furfey asked how small grants are evolving based on evolving need, and how they will affect budget. John Roberts asked if staff intend to come back to the board with a suggestion to increase the small grants cap above $10,000. Randy Labbe asked if there was there potential to look at OWEB rules and determine if flexibility could expand the use of small grants. Will Neuhauser requested to learn more about the objective of the small grants program, and if it could be made more clear.

ACQUISITIONS:
Will Neuhauser noted there is a perception that OWEB does not receive as many applications as we used to. He requested information about whether this perception is accurate, and whether a small number of applicants indicates the program is difficult to apply to.

FOCUSED INVESTMENTS
No additional questions were asked.

OPERATING CAPACITY
John Roberts asked for information on demand on OWEB's grant programs, and potential areas for increases. Rosemary Furfey asked whether there is enough funding in this category. Dan Thorndike asked about the history of building capacity grants as a separate line item and whether we still need it.

CONSERVATION RESERVE EHANCEMENT PROGRAM (CREP)
There were no questions.

OTHER
Loftsgaarden said the Governor's office will come and discuss where they would like to focus these funds at the April meeting. Karl Wenner asked if the board drives that number or the Governor drives that number. Loftsgaarden said the dollar amount is driven by the board, but the Governor establishes the priorities. She clarified that this presently includes four items: Sage-grouse, Coast Coho, Working Lands, and Clean Water Partnership.

Neuhauser asked for clarification about how the $1 million allotted to Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) is spent. Loftsgaarden explained that SIAs are a partnership between OWEB and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) which have established a process for meeting water quality requirements in the state, utilizing both voluntary and regulatory mechanisms in certain focused watersheds. Once areas are identified on farms and ranches that need improvement, the SIA program may provide funding for these projects through local councils and districts so restoration action can occur. This program was tested in the current biennium

and was developed through a legislative budget note. Rosemary Furfey noted that it would be good to know about SIA effectiveness. Alan Henning asked if the SIA grant program is OWEB funding or whether SIA funds that come through ODA. Loftsgaarden said that the SIA grant program use OWEB funds.

Loftsgaarden asked the board to voice ideas for any new line items for consideration in April. She said input will also be accepted up to the next board meeting.

Karl Wenner said every biennium there are always items that come up which are outside of the spending plan. He asked whether it was possible to have a discretionary category to hold onto funds until something comes up to spend it on. Loftsgaarden explained the spending plan belongs to the board. The board can develop a spending plan that is smaller than the budget, but she cautioned that the discretionary fund may receive a lot of pressure from stakeholders.

Rosemary Furfey stated how the strategic planning process OWEB is beginning could impact the decisions and ideas for the future. Loftsgaarden encouraged the board to use the current strategic plan and long term investment strategy to guide the current spending plan.

Bob Webber asked for clarification about the legislatively adopted budget versus the OWEB spending plan. Loftsgaarden confirmed that the legislature approves the OWEB budget and may provide some direction about how to spend some of the funds, but that the board sets the spending plan for the biennium.

G. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Monitoring Update

Deputy Director Renee Davis and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Conservation and Recovery Program Manager Tom Stahl updated the board on ODFW's monitoring activities, including those supported by PCSRF.

Davis provided an overview of OWEB monitoring activities including grants, OWEB-initiated effectiveness monitoring, and monitoring done by other natural resources agencies supported by PCSRF and/or Measure 76 (M76) operating funds, allocated by the legislature. She said the State of Oregon, via OWEB in a joint application with ODFW, has applied for PCSRF every year since 2000 to support restoration activities and complementary monitoring. ODFW takes the lead on the monitoring work accomplished with PCSRF funds. Davis acknowledged the board's keen and increasing interest in better understanding the results of OWEB investments through monitoring, and to adaptively manage future investments.

Stahl explained how ODFW engages in monitoring actions. He said there are a number of ODFW programs and projects conducting monitoring in the state, and discussed different aspects of monitoring in which these groups engage. He discussed the ODFW monitoring budget and the sources of funding for each category. He talked about monitoring outcomes and how ODFW uses the data to inform harvest decisions, to make adjustments to hatchery programs, to set habitat priorities, and to measure restoration effectiveness. He said ODFW is looking at more explicitly linking the information they get with ODFW management decisions about conservation approaches. To go along with an emerging "science-for-management" framework at the agency, ODFW is also looking at new and advanced sampling techniques on the landscape and analyzing samples in a more efficient way. Information needs are always

increasing while funding is not, so ODFW is seeking more efficient ways to collect data including environmental DNA, drones, sonar, and remote sensing. In addition, ODFW is seeking better analytical and statistical modeling tools. ODFW is undertaking a significant effort on centralizing information management called the Four-Dimensional Oregon (4DOR) approach. 4DOR accounts for which resource is being managed in specific locations, how information gathered by the agency is being used to inform management, and how to track adaptive management of management decisions through time.

Dan Thorndike asked for clarification about the difference between monitoring and effectiveness monitoring and how each ties to different OWEB funding categories. Renee Davis explained that the spending plan category for a monitoring line item under Open Solicitation refers to monitoring grants for project specific actions like rapid bio-assessments and species status/trend monitoring. Stahl said it's a matter of scale: effectiveness monitoring can help measure the impacts of a restoration project or help answer broader questions about basin-scale restoration efforts.

Will Neuhauser expressed appreciation for the explanatory distinctions. He said the outcomes of one specific project may be easier to obtain by simply asking if the project met its objectives. However, measuring the net effect or impact over time of several projects in one area with a common goal is more difficult. He would like to learn more about the net effectiveness of restoration projects around the state. Stahl provided an example of long-term monitoring in the Smith and Siletz River basins. He stated there is a significant investment of time and money to monitor every project, so it is important to prioritize projects for monitoring. Stahl said ODFW is looking at better ways to do this in a larger part of the landscape, while integrating water quality and quantity information, and what it means for fish. Davis said inter-agency communication and pooling of information is critical and results can feed back to how the board would use the information to adaptively manage future investments.

Rosemary Furfey asked how the information presented today is shared with watershed councils, districts, and other conservation organizations. Stahl said data is being shared through a number of different methods of dissemination to interested parties. He also feels there is a lot of on-the-ground sharing of information. Davis said OWEB receives several applications that demonstrate a close collaboration with ODFW.

Alan Henning asked if ODFW has developed a long-range model of impacts for riparian buffers in coastal areas. Stahl said ODFW has not developed such a model, but is aware of a model developed through EPA that may capture long-range models.

Randy Labbe asked if it would be possible to incorporate into models outside factors such as ocean conditions, spring runoff, or other outside factors that could explain your results in a more sophisticated way. Stahl said yes, ODFW is attempting to incorporate other models into what is being developed.

Eric Quaempts asked how monitoring can help identify which project activities are good investments. Stahl said protecting cold-water sources and habitats is good strategy for addressing climate change. He said ODFW is seeing the importance of effectiveness monitoring of projects at a basin scale. He said it is helpful to look at the whole watershed and then

consider what suites of actions are proposed to see a response at the fish level. Quaempts also asked about how ODFW's monitoring budget might increase to handle the increases in data management. Stahl said ODFW is not expecting a budget increase, but a funding task force may recommend an increase in the monitoring budget. Davis added that PCSRF has a 10% cap on the budget that can be allocated for monitoring purposes.

H. Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) Program – Implementation Initiatives Update

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams welcomed representatives from each of the six FIP Implementation partnerships to provide the board specific updates on the progress of their initiatives. Williams said these updates would be valuable to the board to help understand what has happened in the past year, where things are headed for each partnership, and to inform decisions on the next biennium's spending plan. He then provided background and timeline on the FIP program.

Will Neuhauser said he appreciated the attachments that were included for each FIP that show what projects are occurring for each initiative. Allen Henning asked whether the Technical Review Teams (TRTs) that evaluate FIP projects are the same as Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Williams said that some members may overlap between a TRT and a RRT, but the composition of the teams are different.

Partnerships Coordinator Andrew Dutterer presented the three partnerships related to native fish recovery: The Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group, the Deschutes Partnership, and the Upper Grande Ronde Initiative. He said each partnership addresses the board priority of aquatic habitat for native fish species. He then summarized each partnership's biennial award, expected leveraged funds, ecological outcome goals of each partnership's work, and other details about each partnership..

Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group:

Dan Bell from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and chairperson of the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group thanked the board for their support and for the opportunity to talk about what the partnership has been doing. Bell mentioned how the Willamette Special Investment Partnership (SIP) provided some momentum for the current FIP, and the past year was spent modifying the process and adapting their approach under the FIP to fit into and leverage their other major funding sources, Meyer Memorial Trust and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA). He spoke about the differences between the open solicitation competitive process of ranking individual projects and the partnership approach to selecting projects. This has led to working in hybrid form. The partnership now ranks and evaluates projects within the FIP geography. They have prepared a report that includes all of the projects that have come through this year and are in the process of getting grant agreements into place now. Bell said the application process has worked very well. There was a some frustration at the start of this program for how to set up and get things off the ground, and some funding opportunities were missed, but there was a lot of change happening and the program was just being developed. He said they will continue to find ways to better integrate the TRT members much earlier on in the development stage. They are very cognizant of the

work burden involved in the application process. The process includes a pre-proposal, site visits, feedback from the TRT, and a full OWEB application. A lot of information is duplicated in this process and the partnership wonders if there is a way to streamline the process to eliminate some information that is already collected in their FIP application. Bell also talked about inevitable staffing and leadership changes that will affect a partnership. He acknowledged Dutterer and OWEB staff who helped keep things moving forward.

Alan Henning asked for clarification about who can apply for their grants, wondering if it is only organizations that belong to the partnership. Bell said that only core partners may apply, but there are pathways of participation for organizations that are not core partners. Henning also asked what kind of impact the FIP time frame had on the partnership. Bell said the partners realistically approached the calendar of projects from the beginning so there were no real surprises or hindrances.

Dan Thorndike asked about the benefit of the partnership having ability to shift projects, rather than having to come back to the board for approval. Bell acknowledged that the process may be complex, but thus far the partnership has shown a strong commitment to the concept of putting together a roster of projects that are the highest priority for the group.

Rosemary Furfey asked for an example of measuring ecological outcomes and lessons learned that might be useful for another FIP. Bell said the partnership's strategic plan and application provided for a robust and ambitious monitoring framework. However, there has been a real gap in effectiveness monitoring. He said over the next two years they have a multi-agency team that will develop a framework for effectiveness monitoring focused on gravel transport, channel complexity, inundation, and many things which are challenging to measure, but which are the very substance of what the partnership is trying to achieve.

Upper Grande Ronde Initiative:

Grande Ronde Model Watershed Executive Director Jeff Oveson and Project Coordinator Jesse Steele presented on the Upper Grande Ronde Initiative. Oveson opened with a comment about recognition by his partners about a tangible and positive shift in culture at OWEB, and expressed his appreciation for staff. He also called special attention the work and cooperation of Dutterer. Oveson then talked about the history of watershed restoration in his region and the regular gathering of a set of watershed professionals since 1992. This group is the original Model Watershed (a term they have always used for their restoration group), which was initially a coordination and funding entity that selected project proposals for funding using BPA and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service funds and following a series of unrelated plans for guidance. This fostered fierce competition among partners for funds, requiring the Model Watershed to choose from among opportunities instead of selecting projects that were more strategically identified and designed. Over time, with the development of the local guidance documents and with more firm science established, their program became more collaborative and effective. The group eventually morphed into the core partners for the Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership, and became a perfect fit for a FIP. He believes the partnership will add a couple of important partners over the next year: The Freshwater Trust and Trout Unlimited. Overall he is very pleased with the FIP and the work coming out of it.

Oveson discussed the issue of costs associated with engineering. Eric Quaempts asked why the design costs are increasing, wondering if it has to do with the more remote parts of the basin, or other reasons. Oveson said it was more about the need to create a restoration economy in the basin. However, a part of the restoration economy is consultants, which often charge high fees. Oveson said they want their contractors to be profitable, but the rate of acceleration of fees is not sustainable.

Oveson discussed floodplain restoration and reactivation, and the building of beaver habitat to accomplish restoration. Karl Wenner said he found it interesting that the partnership is taking interest in building beaver habitat, and wondered if there is resistance from landowners. Oveson talked about using beavers to restore dry meadows to wet meadows, not installing beavers next to human infrastructure. Wenner asked if the work is being accomplished on federal lands and if they are cooperative. Oveson said quite a bit is on federal land and they are very receptive to having more beavers.

Steele summarized the list of projects slated for this biennium. He said the partnership got off to a slow start in the fall and the bulk of projects have just started their implementation process. They anticipate implementing 15 projects over this next year. Steele talked about projects that were complete which then inspired other landowners to seek assistance from the partnership. He said they anticipate spending over $6 million in their basin this year to meet their ecological outcomes laid out in their application.

Will Neuhauser asked if there is something about being a FIP that makes the application process difficult. Oveson said they look at the FIP as a bigger source of funding that goes into the restoration pot. He said they use same prioritization method, the same selection process, and the OWEB application, so it's not that much more complicated.

Alan Henning asked how the timing of deliverables in getting things going affected their operation. Oveson said they have had to accelerate everything. He talked about their drone program which includes one drone with a good camera on it, and the demand for that service from partners is incredible.

Randy Labbe asked whether there have been any opportunities for publicity with the local county newspapers or the significance of this FIP award to the local community. Oveson said the local papers are very responsive, accepting invitations to tour projects. They often include quotes from local landowners, which makes the stories much more interesting.

Deschutes Partnership:

Representing the Deschutes Partnership initiative were Chris Gannon from the Crooked River Watershed Council, Brad Nye from the Deschutes Land Trust, Natasha Bellis from the Deschutes River Conservancy, and Mathias Perle from the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council.

Nye provided a very brief background and history of their partnership. He suggested that the FIP program offers OWEB a great way to "tell the story" of voluntary restoration, and he encourages continued investment in strategic conservation and restoration. He commented on the ability to be flexible with their slate of projects. This is a game-changer when considering the timing of project progress, how funds are allocated as they ripen, and when funds can be

leveraged as match funding becomes available. Nye also said the transition from SIP to FIP for the partnership has been smooth. Nye expressed great appreciation for the assistance of Dutterer and Williams. He said the paperwork burden has increased, and he joins Dan Bell in wanting to streamline that process. However, the review team process has evolved to become very transparent and meaningful. There is a programmatic lens now that helps the review process to be more effective.

Karl Wenner asked whether land acquisition funding is earmarked for the FIP or separate. Nye said it is part of the FIP. Nye said their suite of projects is slightly back-loaded so there will be many applications in March, but they are on track to meet their ecological objectives and spending allocation for the biennium.

Nye shared highlighted the Opal Springs project, which the board has discussed for many years. He said the project is finally coming together with two seasons of construction, starting this year, with expected fish passage in 2018. He talked about how the partners are tied to each other's success. Something they say within their partnership is "None of us can be successful without all of us being successful." He thanked OWEB for investing in partnership capacity as it really frees up human energy for implementation. He encouraged the support of other FIPs in that same way in the future.

Karl Wenner said he appreciated the comment on how the process was onerous, but successful. He hopes OWEB will continue to refine the application process.

John Roberts asked for clarification about a comment in the staff report regarding the different enthusiasm levels of partners. Nye said there is a spectrum of approaches and philosophies in terms of how you go about restoring a stream. He feels these are issues of communication, but working through these challenges have been productive and will strengthen the partnership.

Dan Thorndike asked for clarification about streamlining the paperwork process. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden explained what is required by statute, but noted that staff are attempting to find efficiencies in the process.

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented the three FIPs implementing restoration in dry-type forest, sagebrush/sage-steppe, and closed lakes basin wetlands habitats: The Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Partnership, the Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, and the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative. He reviewed each partnership's biennial award, expected leveraged funds, ecological outcome goals of each partnership's work, core partners, FIP geographies, and additional details about each partnership.

Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Partnership:

Darren Borgias from the Nature Conservancy and Chris Chambers from the City of Ashland came before the board to represent the Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration Partnership (AFR). Chambers attributed the success of the AFR Partnership to being collaborative partners and bringing complementary assets to the restoration equation. They have a high-functioning, high-capacity partnership, and have enjoyed a lot of success.

AFR's work has expanded to a 58,000-acre landscape. OWEB funds are aligned with USFS dollars that have been dedicated to AFR under the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Project. This brings USFS and NRCS together to fund cross-boundary work that embodies the National Cohesive Wildland Management Strategy which is a key piece of policy that brings together local, state, and federal agencies into one cohesive strategy to manage fire, fuels, and habitat across the landscape. Chambers identified public support as a key to success. A lot of time and energy has been invested into public engagement. The partnership operates with a very open and transparent process and they provide a lot of opportunities for communication with their population. He mentioned how grateful the partnership is to be working with Hartstein, who has been very helpful.

Borgias thanked the board for supporting the Ashland Forest FIP. He provided background on how AFR has worked to change the landscape behavior of fire. Their biological goals unite protective conservation with active restoration, and change the landscape behavior of fire. Their monitoring program looks at areas that are protected, how many acres are being treated, and where those acres reside on the landscape to be effective in ameliorating fire risk. The program also looks to preserving the structured elements of the forest, tracking wildlife with the help of various partners, and changing the fuel model so that when the fire arrives it is beneficial fire that helps sustain the system. The best measure they have for landscape resilience is the proportion of open forests and closed forests.

The Ashland Forest FIP has 17 properties lined up with informal agreements for technical assistance, waiting for the official agreement to be finalized before they enter into more formal contracts. Borgia said AFR is beginning to plan for the next biennium, focusing on how to continue to grow their strategic design, expanding on AFR, with strategic fire management zones. Like the other FIPs, they have been slow to get started with the application processes, but they have not encountered any barriers and the work is being integrated very well with other funding sources and ongoing work. He said the Ashland Forest FIP is very pleased and grateful to have the board's added support.

Loftsgaarden asked about the 'one implementation grant' concept. She asked if that is working with the types of prescriptions AFR is doing in terms of efficiencies. Chambers said having the ability to bundle properties together under one grant will work well on the implementation side. He felt that additional efficiency would come with the ability bundle the various other elements of the initiative into one grant as well, but could see how that might not be statutorily feasible.

Alan Henning asked about the use of proceeds from tree thinning, and if those are funds returned into a stewardship program at the project level. In the same vein, he wondered if private landowners would keep the proceeds from tree thinning. Chambers said that on the federal lands, the proceeds are returned to the project. He said this issue will be more challenging on private land. He talked about how they plan to balance funding without creating a profit for private landowners on grant-funded projects. They will seek the assistance of their city forester, but these projects won't come into play until the second biennium. Dan Thorndike weighed in on the potential complications around financial and tax consequences for private landowners that could sneak up at the end of a project. Chambers agreed there are a lot of

small details to work out. AFR wants to help private landowners, even if only to provide technical expertise.

Alan Henning asked about the level of detail for each private landowner agreement. Borgias said the details will be further developed in the agreements. However, at this time it is clear for each property owner that there are important opportunities to perform specifically non-commercial treatments that will make a significant difference in terms of opening stands and changing the fuel model. This doesn't mean there couldn't be additional work added to each project, but the partnership needs to work out how to leverage the commercial value of the tree thinning on private lands to offset the beneficence of public grant funds.

Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse:

Justin Ferrell from Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District, Angela Sitz from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Lee Foster from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Marty Suter-Goold from Harney Soil and Water Conservation District presented to the board on the Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse initiative.

Angela Sitz provided details of the partnership's progress. She said when work is complete they will have 125 landowner plans enrolled in Harney, Lake, and Malheur counties with a sizeable waiting list of landowners who have interest in enrolling. Sitz calculates a potential for enrolling 3.5 million acres in all seven eastern Oregon counties with about 12% of those acres being in the highest priority sage- rouse habitat.

Suter-Goold complimented Region 5 Regional Program Representative Karen Leiendecker, Loftsgaarden, and Hartstein for their understanding, cooperation, and effort. She felt the partnership was initially at a disadvantage with implementation because they were at the start of a learning curve and had made some very specific habitat targets and measurable objectives. To stay on target they were grateful to include a number of projects into one restoration application. She said they have a very competitive contractor market, which has resulted in lower bids and the opportunity to conduct additional restoration. This has provided a great opportunity to reach out to strategic partners in Harney County coordinate on projects. Suter-Goold said this is an example of how the FIP allows partners to work strategically to ensure restoration objectives are being met, and that the partners meet at least quarterly. She noted the partnership application made some very aggressive commitments for 2017, but the partnership is performing at a very high level and fully expects to meet their objectives.

Suter-Goold said the partnership agreed to break up the funding by habitat type, then spoke briefly about project progress. She wanted to acknowledge Mustang Manufacturing and the fence marker program as a very positive by-product of what has come out of OWEB funding of this partnership. There will be a YouTube video on this project coming out this summer. She also said nothing has changed in their strategic action plan, barring any issue on the federal side with staffing and project approvals, so the partnership is on target to meet their objectives. She is confident the partnership will be able to demonstrate a great success to Oregon.

Rosemary Furfey said she appreciated the partnership's very candid description of the challenges, as well as their very action-oriented approach. She asked if there was anything else

to discuss with regard to lessons learned. Suter-Goold said the resolve is still there with private landowners, and relationships are continuing to grow because they have been able to communicate and work through challenges. Karl Wenner asked if all of the work being done is on private land. Marty said currently it is all on private land, but they are planning to work with federal partners on a project on public land.

Eric Quaempts talked about using some good case studies, particularly the outreach YouTube video, to dispel the myth that relationships with agencies and private landowners can only be negative. He appreciates hearing about their progress and commitment to working together.

Loftsgaarden asked if the concern noted in the attachment around the timing of the first round of applications was addressed for the future. The partners agreed that it has been addressed and they are comfortable with the timeline.

Will Neuhauser asked about a pending lawsuit with the BLM. Suter-Goold explained that Harney SWCD filed a suit in federal court challenging an aspect of the BLMs resource management plan. She provided a brief background on the lawsuit, and discussed the relationships and continuing communication between all entities involved.

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative:

Ed Sparks from the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative, Chad Karges from the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge (Refuge), and Brenda Smith with High Desert Partnership a presented the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative. Smith talked about the impact of the events of the 2016 occupation of the Refuge, and the resiliency of the partnership and community in Malheur County. She thanked Hartstein for being a true partner. She proceeded to speak about the background of the partnership and their outreach events and efforts. Their project encompasses 500,000 acres. She likened their basin to a huge bathtub with Malheur Lake being the drain, in a county of 10,000 square miles with about 7,000 people. The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative is only one initiative supported by the partnership. It also supports a Forest Collaborative and a Youth Initiative. Smith said they have worked the past year to develop capacity and work on outreach, and the partnership has added staff to make this successful.

Sparks talked about the two ecological outcomes that involve improving aquatic health. He discussed carp and their impact on habitat, then talked about studies being conducted to establish baseline data for this invasive species. Sparks also spoke about securing 6,500 acres of flood-irrigated spring migratory water bird habitat through conservation easements or practices that improve management ability. The partnership is targeting flood-irrigated wet meadows through infrastructure improvements and efficiencies with new structures.

Karges, manager at the Refuge and board member for the High Desert Partnership spoke to the board about how partnerships are based on relationships. He touched on the 2016 occupation, and the endurance of the relationships in the community to maintain unity. He said the partnership is continuing to find creative ways to move forward, in spite of challenges.

Dan Thorndike asked if there were efforts that needed to be restarted due to the hiatus on project work created by the occupation. Karges said staff turnover at the refuge due to the occupation was the biggest issue as it takes time to bring new staff up-to-speed. Thorndike said

he visited the partnership in the past and came away with a very positive outlook. He attributed the cohesion of the partnership post-occupation to the strong and positive relationship of the partners that has existed for many years.

Karl Wenner talked about the support for the community in the region. He expressed appreciation for the magnitude of their second and third ecological outcomes, and he encouraged the partnership to build out a framework for planning into the future to fully achieve those objectives.

Randy Labbe asked about lowering the carp threshold by controlling them, rather than eradicating them. Karges talked about different strategies they are developing to manage carp, including working on infrastructure for an effort to commercially control carp (via a local fertilizer plant). Karges said the lake will be higher this year so there will be a different approach to catching and controlling them.

Alan Henning asked if the eDNA work being done on carp is to better define their range so areas of control may be targeted. Karges said this project will result in allows for targeting specific areas for carp control. Henning asked if he will see a change with low water supply versus a higher supply. Karges said barriers change between low and high water, so he expects the carp will be able to repopulate areas they could not reach during the drought cycle.

Related to all of the FIPs, Williams said Deputy Director Renee Davis and her Technical Services staff are working on an application module that will allow FIP partnership coordinators to tailor specific grant applications for FIP projects.

I. Executive Director's Update

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and other OWEB staff updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues.

I-1. Tribal Involvement within OWEB Programs

Loftsgaarden thanked Eric Quaempts, the board's tribal representative, who has helped the board think through and improve OWEB's effort on involvement with and outreach to Oregon tribes. She then introduced Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho, who is OWEB's Tribal Liaison. Fetcho briefly discussed his background and interest in tribal government and then presented highlights from OWEB's Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) Report that demonstrates how Oregon tribes are active in pursuing OWEB grant funding, receiving funding awards including new FIP investments, and cooperating with OWEB programs as review team members. OWEB will be partnering with archaeologists at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to provide Cultural Resource Compliance Awareness at the CONNECT Conference in Pendleton to help grantees understand state and federal permit requirements for performing ground disturbance activities associated with restoration to better protect cultural resources.

Quaempts talked about how OWEB started doing outreach to tribes in 2015 to determine their success and limitations in accessing OWEB grant funds. A survey was conducted by e-mail with outreach to all natural resource directors for Oregon tribes to encourage participation in the

survey. He feels this is a good process and believes it should continue. Loftsgaarden stated that the new OWEB tribal representative will be Jason Robison from the Cow Creek Tribe. He comes with an endorsement of nearly every tribe in the state. He will join the board meeting informally in April and, pending legislative confirmation, he will officially join the board in July. Quaempts provided additional information on Robison's background as evidence for his particular qualification for the tribal representative to the board.

I-2. Legislative and Budget Update

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein updated the board on the legislative concept to revise OWEB's statutes. The concept was approved by the Governor's Office to move forward, and has been assigned as House Bill 2327. In addition to general statutory cleanup, the bill provides two substantive changes related to 1) adding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an ex-officio member to the board, and 2) removing language that allows DAS to provide liability coverage for watershed councils, based on the fact that OWEB is putting in place stronger requirements for all grantees.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP), which includes succession planning for farmers and ranchers, payments for conservation plans implemented on privately owned properties, granting programs to build the technical ability for land trust conservation districts and others to hold working land easements, and funding for working lands easements. She said OAHP was not approved in the Governor's Recommended Budget. COLT's Kelly Beamer, a member of the OAHP working group, then addressed the board and said the OAHP work group is still active and very committed to moving the program forward in the legislative session. The group is working with Representative Brian Clem, who is chairing the Agriculture and Natural Resources Committee in the House, to introduce OAHP as a committee bill in the session. OAHP currently has strong bipartisan support. She discussed the work group's goals, which includes minimal funding to establish a commission and rules advisory committee for the program. Beamer thanked Loftsgaarden for her incredible leadership and support of the work group.

Alan Henning asked where the OAHP intersects with the Oregon Agricultural Water Quality Program. Loftsgaarden said the two programs are distinctly separate, but OAHP could provide benefits through the implementation of conservation management plans. Rosemary Furfey asked whether it would impact OWEB staff if an OAHP commission was established. Loftsgaarden said the way the concept is now structured; OAHP would be mostly self-operating with minimal impact to OWEB.

Loftsgaarden noted the project $1.8 billion deficit in the state's budget for the 2018-2019 biennium, stemming from a range of things, including PERS reforms and ballot measures passed in the 2016 election without new sources of revenue to support them. She said the Governor has proposed corporate tax increases for a balance of cuts to the budget and increases in revenues, and that the initial Ways and Means Committee Co-Chairs budget proposed an all-cuts budget. Loftsgaarden said lottery revenues are trending better than general funds, and are generally protected.

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an overview of OWEB's biennial budget in its Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) phase, which will be presented to the Legislature at a hearing with the House Ways and Means Subcommittee on Natural Resources in March or April. Davis discussed which policy packages from the Agency Request Budget were retained in the GRB and which were dropped. She walked the board through all critical budget issues as laid out in Attachment B. As part of the budget submission process, the Legislative Fiscal Office (LFO) requested reduction scenarios of 5% and 10%. After the December GRB submittal, LFO asked for an additional reduction scenario of 15% from all agencies. Davis also said a discussion of the Key Performance Measures (KPMs) will also be a large part of OWEB's presentation to the subcommittee.

Loftsgaarden thanked the board for their hard work on OWEB's KPMs and reminded them that KPMs are ultimately the legislature's decision to approve. She clarified that the biennial budget and the spending plan numbers will not match because they are slightly off-cycle from each other. She also briefly covered the potential 15% budget cut. Although unlikely, if the 15% cut does come through, it will mean a consolidation of two regions. The Co-Chairs budget does not have additional cuts for OWEB, so it is not likely to impact OWEB.

I-3. Rulemaking Update

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided an update on rulemaking to the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants administrative rules. Hartstein said, based on an initial meeting with the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC), staff are refining the rules revisions and will discuss the changes with the RAC in the coming weeks. Staff will file notice with the State and seek public comment before coming back to the board for final approval of the rule amendments in April 2017.

I-4. Oregon Plan Biennial Report

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an overview and background on the Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Biennial Report). She said OWEB is statutorily required to submit this report in January of odd numbered years. The Biennial Report highlights partner agencies in the Oregon Plan, and highlights how they are accomplishing restoration across the state for the benefit of salmon and watersheds. Davis walked the board through the two-page Executive Summary of the full report, and then she explained the contents of the full report and where it is available online.

Karl Wenner recommended the results of the University of Oregon economic study on restoration impacts should be distributed more often as it highlights the jobs created through conservation and restoration actions. He said restoration might be the most effective jobs program per dollar, and that can't be underestimated in value. Loftsgaarden said that economic impact statement is currently in use on every two-page county fact sheet handed out to legislators and others. Dan Thorndike suggested an update to the data to make it more applicable. Randy Labbe also suggested providing the fact sheets to county commissioners, who often don't know what OWEB has funded in their counties. Davis said the board provided funding as a supplement to the Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed

(IMW) for revisiting the complementary socio-economic study, which might also provide a good example and place to start since Grant County is representative of much of rural Oregon. Alan Henning agreed the University of Oregon (UO) study was excellent and asked if the report could be updated. Loftsgaarden suggested OWEB review the results of the IMW socio-economic report, when completed, then determine if an update of the past study is needed. Davis notes that the UO results are consistent with other, subsequent studies, such as one completed in Washington State. Debbie Hollen said the U.S. Forest Service has engaged the university system, as well, to study what kind of restoration economy that agency is generating, so there are other reports out there from which additional results can be drawn.

I-5. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Monitoring

Davis provided an update on the progress of FIP Monitoring through the April 2016 board award to Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF). BEF is assisting OWEB in setting up a system by which the agency can track progress toward ecological outcomes on FIP Implementation initiatives, and the critical lessons learned that will help inform the board as it contemplates future FIP awards. Davis said BEF has developed a progress monitoring framework. This framework articulates a very clear path using a results chain to enable each individual Implementation FIP to identify inputs (restoration actions), outputs (acres, miles, etc.), and the indicators that track, through time, how the initiative is progressing toward ecological outcomes. This process also helps to identify gaps in existing monitoring that is needed to track progress. BEF has gone through each Implementation FIP's application and strategic action plan to develop a draft results chain. They are now meeting with each partnership to discuss their interpretation of the draft and discuss whether this is the proper path to tracking progress of the initiative toward meeting outcomes. The next steps will be to analyze existing monitoring and determine if additional monitoring will be needed. She said staff will provide an update to the board in April. BEF will be at the July board meeting to present what they have developed to date with each of the six Implementation FIPs. This work will inform the board not only about how progress toward ecological outcomes will be tracked, but also what monitoring gaps might need to be filled in.

Rosemary Furfey asked if there was a sample of the results chain that could be shared with the board. Davis said they would be happy to share a sample, but warned the board that results chains are very complicated and detailed, and not usually intended for broader distribution for that reason. Loftsgaarden agreed, and noted that while the science in a results chain is in-depth and engaging, the presentation is not for the layperson. She said BEF and the team will also help develop materials that are best presented to the general public.

J. Other Business

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the board authorize an update to OWEB's Outreach grant program rules to align with Measure 76, and to designate the outreach application stakeholder work group as a RAC. He noted that the board recommended this topic be addressed in the 2015-17 biennium, and he reviewed the recent discussions of the Open Solicitation subcommittee on this topic. He talked about the need for the RAC to assist with

updating administrative rules to synchronize with the new outreach application and associated process.

Bob Webber asked if the board might consider changing the name of the grant type from "Outreach" to a more descriptive term. Williams said he will relay this concern to the work group, and it will be the charge of the work group to make the title more descriptive. Rosemary asked if Williams feels he has the right mix of people on the group as it is. Williams said the group is qualified and representative of the broader community of stakeholders for this type of grant, including outreach grantees from each of OWEB's six regions plus representatives from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils and the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts.

> *Co-chair Labbe moved move the board designate the current outreach work group as a Rules Advisory Committee and authorize rulemaking to develop rules that align with the intent and structure of the revised outreach grant application and grant-making process. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. The motion passed unanimously.*

Karl Wenner spoke of his delight with the Focused Investment Partnership (FIPs) presentations. He reminded the board how monumental it was to craft the six FIPs and the effort and cooperation it has taken to bring that program to this point. He expressed how much he appreciates the hard work of the staff and the FIP committee, and feels this program is moving the OWEB board and staff much closer to what we value.

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike at 5:00PM.

April 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

Background

The Focused Investment Subcommittee met on March 8, 2017 to review the status of the six implementation FIPs, including progress on individual projects and anticipated carryover expenses into the next biennium, the solicitation schedule for 2019-2021 implementation FIPs, status of capacity building FIPs, and an update on the BEF monitoring project.

Implementation FIP Status

Members reviewed project accounting spreadsheets, which itemize the projects funded under each FIP and current project status. Staff reported that four implementation FIPs (Deschutes, Sage-grouse, Ashland Forest, and Grande Ronde) were likely to obligate all, or nearly all of their initial awards by the end of the biennium (June 30, 2016). The Willamette FIP has begun the application development and review process for 2017, which will likely result in obligation of the remaining first biennium funds ($1.03 million) by the end of the calendar year. The Harney Basin FIP obligated all but $0.34 million of its first biennium funds, which were largely budgeted for land acquisition projects. The partnership will continue to advance this work in the next biennium and will be requesting carryover of these funds.

2019-2021 Solicitation Schedule

Staff presented the draft solicitation timeline for the next round of implementation FIPs. A draft application and associated materials will be presented for stakeholder comment in June. The solicitation will be released in January 2018 with applications due in June 2018. The review process retains the required consultation with staff and the subcommittee interviews with prospective FIPs. The review process culminates with board decisions in January 2019 and funds awarded in July 2019.

Capacity Building FIP Status

The 2015-17 grantees continue to make good progress on their projects, writing strategic action plans and developing organizational documents. Staff have attended three meetings of the partnerships and are scheduled to attend the rest over the next few months. In addition, all capacity building FIPs attend quarterly calls to discuss progress and share lessons learned. The 2017-19 grant offering was announced in January and required consultations will occur this spring.

BEF Monitoring

The board will hear about the Partnership Learning Project, which is based on interviews and surveys with the partnerships, at the July 2017 meeting.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams at eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047.

April 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee's recent focus has been to finalize a process to develop improved guidance for applicants submitting monitoring grant applications and to track progress of ongoing monitoring efforts.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on February 10, 2017 and discussed the following topics:

- Brief check in about the January board meeting and strategic planning session;
- Review monitoring guidance development work plan and next steps;
- Hear an update about the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) study;
- Briefly review status of other monitoring efforts; and
- Review monitoring topics for future subcommittee and full board meetings.

The group discussed that the emphasis by Dialogues in Action regarding measurement components of the strategic plan is positive. They noted that it will be important for the subcommittee to continue conversations about how the board approaches monitoring as products for the strategic plan begin to emerge.

The group reviewed the work plan and timeline for the process to develop monitoring application guidance. Feedback was positive and staff will begin work on the tasks later in February.

Staff provided background about the CREP EM study and described details about the study design and monitoring parameters. Staff also shared information about the advisory group convened to help provide input for the study. Final analyses were being completed by Stillwater Sciences (the contractor) and the final report has been delivered to OWEB and shared with the subcommittee.

Staff briefly reviewed the status of other monitoring efforts, including FIP monitoring, the tidegate EM literature review, the Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed, and the joint livestock exclusion monitoring with the Washington Salmon Recovery Funding Board. The subcommittee then discussed monitoring agenda items that tentatively are scheduled to come before the full board in the coming months:

- April 2017 – CREP EM study results
- July 2017 – BEF/Progress Monitoring Framework for Implementation FIPs; Conservation Effectiveness Partnership update (moved from April to July following the subcommittee meeting, due to a full agenda in April)
- October 2017 – Tidegate EM literature review results
- January 2018 – Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)
- TBD – Joint Livestock Exclusion EM with the State of Washington

The subcommittee is scheduled to meet again on April 4, 2017 and will discuss the following topics:

- Status update about the process to develop monitoring application guidance;
- Bonneville Environmental Foundation's work on the progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs; and
- Monitoring line items in the board's 2017-2019 spending plan.

To Be Presented at the April 2017 Board Meeting by:

Rosemary Furfey, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Renee Davis, Deputy Director
renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203

April 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Open Solicitation Subcommittee Update

Background

The Open Solicitation Subcommittee met on March 1, 2017 and continued work on its top four priority topics: 1) small grant program evaluation; 2) outreach application revisions; 3) funding line process; and 4) review team composition and process.

Small Grant Program Evaluation

The subcommittee discussed how the program fits within the OWEB portfolio with respect to ecological benefit, whether to retain recapture funds within the program, and whether to increase the cap from the current cap of $10,000.

Subcommittee members felt that the program does address a need in OWEB's portfolio by providing an opening to get people engaged in restoration. Funded projects must continue to be evaluated in an ecological context. Since not all watersheds have comprehensive watershed plans to determine context, it is not always possible to provide a detailed evaluation of this. The subcommittee agreed that increasing the ecological aspirations of small grant teams over the long term would be beneficial.

Staff noted that recapture funds average $441,000 per biennium, which is less than the estimated $500,000 figure provided at the January board meeting. The subcommittee would ask staff to develop a proposed methodology to reallocate a maximum of $500,000 in unspent funds in the next biennium.

Regarding the project cap, staff presented data from the 2013-2015 biennium showing that 30% of projects request the maximum of $10,000, and another 28% request greater than $8,000. The subcommittee recognized that these figures include only OWEB funds and that the total project costs are larger when match is included, and asked staff to report back with data on total project costs and match sources. Based on increasing project costs in the regular grant program, the subcommittee agreed that the cap should be increased and will develop a specific recommendation for an increased cap at the next meeting in May.

Outreach Application Revisions

Staff have been working with a stakeholder work group representing watershed councils with outreach grant experience and land trusts to develop an updated application that better matches Measure 76 authority, which includes funding outreach projects to the extent that they are "necessary for carrying out" eligible restoration or acquisition projects. A draft application is expected in June, with further stakeholder engagement in the summer. The revised application will be included in this fall's open solicitation.

The Subcommittee requested that the name of the offering be changed to better reflect eligible projects and to clarify that education programs are not eligible.

The work group became a Rulemaking Advisory Committee to assist staff in revising the Outreach rules, as authorized at the January board meeting.

Funding Line Process

Staff provided a summary of the current application review process from application receipt through staff recommendations to the board. The subcommittee discussed the pros and cons of the current board process in making award decisions, particularly the sometimes uncomfortable process of responding to applicants who attend board meetings. In considering a different role for the board, the subcommittee discussed whether there should be a sum of funds the board holds back and has the option to apply to below-the-line projects. Staff will develop an alternative that will not be a spending plan line item, but more like pre-allocating unexpended funds that would otherwise be available in the next biennium.

Introduce New Topic -- Review Team Composition and Process

This topic was selected by the Subcommittee as the next topic to address. Staff summarized the current review team composition and review process. It was the consensus of the subcommittee that the current process is functioning well, and that this topic should be reviewed by the subcommittee at least annually.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams at eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047.

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Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Outreach Rulemaking Update
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Background

The board Open Solicitation Subcommittee identified revising the outreach application as one of its top priorities at its initial meeting in 2016. Measure 76 requires that outreach grants must be "necessary for carrying out" eligible restoration or acquisition projects. Staff convened an outreach application work group comprised of outreach grant recipients from each of the six OWEB regions and a land trust representative. Recognizing that outreach rules will need to be revised once a new application is developed, the board authorized at its January 2017 meeting that the outreach application work group become a Rulemaking Advisory Committee upon completion of its application work.

II. Status

The outreach application work group has met three times to discuss eligible outreach activities and begin developing a revised outreach application. The work group intends to complete a draft application by June 2017. Following additional stakeholder outreach in the summer, the new outreach application will be included in the solicitation for fall 2017 outreach grants. The Rulemaking Advisory Committee will begin developing potential rule revisions in June.

III. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. Outreach Rulemaking Advisory Committee Members

ATTACHMENT A

Outreach Rulemaking Advisory Committee Members

Kelley Beamer, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Portland

Bill Buhrig, OSU Malheur County Extension, Ontario

Donna Chickering, Rogue River Watershed Council, Central Point

Elise Delgado, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Mt Vernon

Katie Duzik, OWEB – North Coast, Newport

Chris Hathaway, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Portland

Jordan Kim, Hood River SWCD, Hood River

Karen Leiendecker, OWEB – Eastern Oregon, Enterprise

Kathy Leopold, OWEB Small Grants Coordinator, Salem

Shawn Morford, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Salem

Courtney Shaff, OWEB Capacity Coordinator, Salem

Jennifer Weber, McKenzie Watershed Council, Springfield

Eric Williams, OWEB Grant Program Manager, Salem

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G-Spending Plan
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report updates the board on OWEB's 2017-2019 Spending Plan. This item is for discussion only; no board action will be taken at this time. However, the board will be asked to provide direction to staff for moving forward with final options for the July 2017 meeting.

II. Background

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's budget at the beginning of each biennium, the board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB Spending Plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, and salmon license plates. The bulk of OWEB's funding comes from two major sources: Measure 76 Lottery and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF).

At its July 2015 meeting, the board adopted a 2015-2017 Spending Plan totaling $74.664 million. In July 2016, the board updated the spending plan to include additional PCSRF monies, as well as funding transfers to other agencies. Attachment A shows the 2015-2017 Spending Plan, total board awards to date, and funds remaining in each line item as of April 2017.

III. 2017-2019 Spending Plan Development

Based on the February 2017 revenue forecast, it is estimated that a total combined $85 million will be available for grant distribution through Measure 76 Lottery Funds and PCSRF funding over the course of the biennium. For Lottery funding, this amount is dependent on revenues received. For PCSRF funding, this amount will be dependent on OWEB's successful receipt of PCSRF funding through their competitive grant process. If Congressional funding is available, PCSRF provides an opportunity for eligible applicants—including OWEB on behalf of the State of Oregon—to submit grants each year. It should be noted that there are limitations

on eligible uses of the available PCSRF funds, such that these funds cannot be used for all aspects of OWEB's grant program.

In October 2016, the board was updated on the process and timeline for approving the 2017-2019 Spending Plan. In January 2017, the board discussed spending plan categories and provided feedback on the proposed percentages allotted to each category. Between January and April, staff discussed funding options for specific grant types within each category. Based on board feedback and staff discussions, a draft 2017-2019 spending is provided as Attachment B.

IV. Spending Plan Line Items

The spending plan contains a range of items. Some are frequently discussed (restoration, technical assistance, and monitoring grants; focused investments and council capacity), while others (weed grants, small grants, district capacity, CREP) are less frequently on the board's agenda. At the April 2017 board meeting, staff will present on each line item to give the board a better sense of what is funded in each area. These presentations are in advance of the July 2017 board meeting where decisions will be made on spending plan amounts for the 2017-19 biennium. Attachments C-1 through C-18 to the staff report provide summaries of the spending plan line items. Staff will present information to the board at the April meeting to provide additional details about the programs and answer any questions the board may have about those programs.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only. Staff will be seeking feedback on overall spending plan direction for development of a final proposal for board consideration in July 2017. No final decisions will occur at the April meeting.

Attachments

A. 2015-2017 Spending Plan
B. Draft 2017-2019 Spending Plan
C. C1-C18 Spending Plan Line Item Summaries

OWEB 2015-17 Spending Plan for the April 2017 Board Meeting

OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Apr 2017 additions to spending plan	Apr 2017 Spending Plan		TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan as of Jan 2017 awards	April 2017 Proposed Board Awards	Remaining Spending Plan as of April 2017
Open Solicitation:							
Restoration**	0.775	25.982		18.796	7.186	7.186	0.000
Technical Assistance							
Restoration TA**		3.060		2.224	0.836	0.667	0.169
CREP TA		1.050		1.050	0.000		0.000
Monitoring grants**		2.120		0.971	1.149	1.125	0.024
Outreach**	0.050	0.650		0.310	0.340	0.337	0.003
Land and Water Acquisition**	(0.825)	6.675		2.343	4.332	1.674	2.658
Weed Grants		2.500		2.500	0.000		0.000
Small Grants		2.800		2.800	0.000		0.000
Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500		0.213	0.287		0.287
TOTAL	**0.000**	**45.337**		**31.207**	**14.130**	**10.989**	**3.141**
% of assumed Total Budget		**59.13%**					
**if more funding becomes available, will go to these areas							
Focused Investments:							
Implementation FIPs		14.058		14.058	0.000		0.000
Capacity-Building FIPs		1.039		1.039	0.000		0.000
FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.500		0.200	0.300		0.300
TOTAL		**15.597**		**15.297**	**0.300**	**0.000**	**0.300**
% of assumed Total Budget		**20.34%**					
Operating Capacity:							
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)		12.500		12.500	0.000		0.000
Statewide organization partnership support		0.334		0.334	0.000		0.000
Building Capacity Grants		0.400		0.400	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	**0.000**	**13.234**		**13.234**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
% of assumed Total Budget		**17.26%**					
Other:							
CREP		0.500		0.500	0.000		0.000
Oregon Plan/Governor's Priorities		1.000		1.000	0.000		0.000
Strategic Implementation Areas		1.000		1.000	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	**0.000**	**2.500**		**2.500**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
% of assumed Total Budget		**3.26%**					
TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	**0.000**	**76.668**		**62.238**	**14.430**	**10.989**	**3.441**
OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION							
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF		9.512		9.512	0.000		0.000
Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF		0.660		0.500	0.160		0.160
Rangeland Fire Protection Assoc from ODF		1.200		1.200	0.000		0.000
PSMFC-IMW		0.591		0.591	0.000		0.000
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.300		0.300	0.000		0.000
ODOT		0.250		0.250	0.000		0.000
TOTAL	**0.000**	**12.513**		**12.353**	**0.160**	**0.000**	**0.160**
TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds	**0.000**	**89.181**		**74.591**	**14.590**	**10.989**	**3.601**

Proposed OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan

OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Oct 2016 Spending Plan		Carry Forward	Proposed 2017 Spending Plan	Proposed 2018 Spending Plan	Difference from 2016
Open Solicitation:						
Restoration	25.207			26.800	30.050	4.843
Technical Assistance						
Restoration TA	3.060			3.250	3.650	0.590
CREP TA*	1.050			0.925	0.925	-0.125
Monitoring grants	2.120			2.500	2.750	0.630
Outreach	0.600			0.500	0.600	0.000
Land and Water Acquisition						
Acquisition Projects	7.500			6.200	7.200	-0.300
Acquisition Technical Assistance				0.300	0.300	0.300
Weed Grants	2.500			3.000	3.000	0.500
Small Grants **	2.800		0.500	2.800	2.800	0.000
Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring	0.500		0.287	0.500	0.500	0.287
TOTAL	**45.337**			**46.775**	**51.775**	**6.725**
% of assumed Total Budget	**59.16%**			**58.43%**	**60.84%**	

**NRCS to provide up to $250,000 to support CREP-TA*

Focused Investments:						
Implementation FIPs **	14.058		***	15.512	15.512	1.454
Capacity-Building FIPs	1.039			1.150	1.150	0.111
FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.500		0.300	0.250	0.250	0.050
FI holding for 19-21 solicitation				0.000	0.000	0.000
TOTAL	**15.597**			**16.912**	**16.912**	**1.615**
% of assumed Total Budget	**20.35%**			**21.13%**	**19.87%**	

***Amounts for this item carryforward column were previously awarded by the board, and are not available to be 're-awarded'. They are included for informational purposes only.*
****Amount to be determined based on funds obligated prior to July 1*

Operating Capacity:						
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	12.500			13.500	13.500	1.000
Statewide org. partnership support	0.300			0.450	0.500	0.200
Building Capacity Grants	0.400			0.400	0.400	0.000
TOTAL	**13.200**			**14.350**	**14.400**	**1.200**
% of assumed Total Budget	**17.22%**			**17.93%**	**16.92%**	

Other:						
CREP	0.500			0.600	0.600	0.100
Oregon Plan/Governor Priorities	1.000			1.000	1.000	0.000
Strategic Implementation Areas	1.000			1.000	1.000	0.000
TOTAL	**2.500**			**2.600**	**2.600**	**0.100**
% of assumed Total Budget	**3.26%**			**3.25%**	**3.06%**	

TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	**76.634**			**80.050**	**85.100**	**9.640**

OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION						
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF	9.512			10.450	10.450	
Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF	0.660			0.750	0.750	
Rangeland Fire Protection Assoc from ODF	1.200			0.000	0.000	
PSMFC-IMW	0.591			0.291	0.291	
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.300			0.309	0.309	
ODOT	0.250			0.000	0.000	
TOTAL	**12.513**			**11.800**	**11.800**	**0.000**

TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds	**89.147**			**91.850**	**96.900**	**9.640**

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation - Restoration

Recommended Amount: $30.05 million

Summary: Restoration grants are OWEB's primary method of delivering support for watershed projects that restore watershed functions. Restoration grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program.

Program History: Restoration grants provide assistance to landowners to restore watershed health locally and have been part of OWEB's history since its beginning in 1987 as the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board. Initial investments were modest and focused on restoration demonstration projects. The number of projects and level of investment quickly increased as the Oregon Legislature and the public supported OWEB through Measures 66 and 76. At the same time, organizational capacity within watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other groups to plan and implement projects grew, and landowners became engaged in implementing voluntary projects.

Restoration accomplishments in Oregon, including those funded by OWEB, have been reported through the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI). From 1999 through 2016, 3,775 OWEB-funded restoration projects have reported their accomplishments to OWRI. OWEB's $178 million investment in these projects leveraged a total investment of $507 million. Riparian, road, upland, fish passage, and instream restoration activities make up the largest number of projects, respectively. These projects have resulted in:

- 3,094 linear stream miles and 45,118 acres treated through riparian activities
- 779,294 acres treated through upland activities
- 902 road/stream crossings improved for fish passage and 1,771 miles of fish habitat made accessible due to crossing improvements
- 1,044 miles of stream treated through instream activities.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, the board awarded only 59% of requested funds that were recommended for funding by regional review teams, or $26.0 million out of $44.1 million recommended.

Future Need*:* Due to continued high demand for restoration funds, a significant portion of projected increases in lottery revenue is allocated to the restoration grant line item.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* Staff introduced a co-facilitation model for regional review team meetings in the 2015-2017 biennium with the grant program manager facilitating discussion and the regional program representative focusing on the content of the discussion. Staff provided tools to help review teams focus on the evaluation criteria and introduced "clicker" voting to protect the anonymity of voting and improve efficiency during meetings.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$28.950	-$0.273
2013-2015	$27.720	$0.102
2015-2017	$25.207	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount: $3.25 million

Summary: Technical assistance grants are offered twice per year, spring and fall, through a competitive granting program. Technical assistance grants through the open solicitation process are capped at $50,000 per grant.

Program History: Since 1999, OWEB has been awarding technical assistance grants. These grants play a key role in developing future restoration grant proposals and increase the capacity of OWEB's local partners to engage in project development, planning, design, coordination and permitting. There are three types of technical assistance grants typically offered.

Technical Assistance Type #1 is for development of a technical design for a specific restoration project addressing a locally acknowledged limiting factor or watershed restoration priority.

Technical Assistance Type #2 is for development of an implementation/analysis plan or for development of a project to address a locally acknowledged limiting factor(s) or watershed restoration priority(ies).

Technical Assistance Type #3 is for enrollment of landowners in an area-wide, cooperative conservation project, or in a state or federal landowner assistance program (e.g., EQIP, WRP, or WHIP) that addresses a locally acknowledged limiting factor(s) or watershed restoration priority(ies).

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, the board awarded 76% of requested funds that were recommended for funding by regional review teams, or $2.9 million out of $3.8 million recommended. Recognizing high demand for these funds, the board added $1.31 million to this spending plan line item at the July 2016 meeting.

Future Need*:* Due to continued high demand for technical assistance funds, an increase is proposed for the technical assistance grant line item. Given that 23% of technical assistance awards made to date in 2015-2017 (and 42% of projects recommended in April 2017) request the maximum ($50,000) or just under the maximum, we are requesting an increase in the project cap from $50,000 to $75,000. See the Land and Water Acquisition Spending Plan staff report for more information on future technical assistance needs related to those grant offerings.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* Staff introduced a co-facilitation model for regional review team meetings in the 2015-2017 biennium with the grant program manager facilitating discussion and the regional program representative focusing on the content of the discussion. Staff provided tools to help review teams focus on the evaluation criteria and introduced "clicker" voting to protect the anonymity of voting and improve efficiency during meetings.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$2.250	$0.057
2013-2015	$2.600	-$0.024
2015-2017	$3.060	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation – Outreach

Recommended Amount: $0.600 million

Summary: Outreach grants are offered once per year in the fall through a competitive granting program for outreach activities necessary to protect or restore native fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or stream flows.

Program History: Since 1999, OWEB has been awarding outreach and education grants. Under Measure 66, these activities were funded through non-capital funds, which could be used for a variety of purposes that furthered the goals of improving water quality, recovering fish and wildlife, and enhancing watershed health.

Measure 76 changed the constitutional language regarding education and outreach grant offerings. Due to these changes, beginning with the October 2011 grant cycle, OWEB only offers outreach grants that are necessary for activities to protect or restore native fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, or stream flows. Grants that are for education only are not eligible under Measure 76.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, the board awarded $.6 million of the $1.5 million recommended for funding – an award amount of only 44% compared to review team-recommended funding.

Future Need*:* Due to the complexities inherent in restoration and acquisition projects, the need for outreach projects is expected to continue under the new format outlined below.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* While messaging about the new Measure 76 eligibility requirements occurred in 2011, the outreach application was not revised to reflect these changes. In 2016, OWEB convened an Outreach Application Stakeholder Work Group to develop a revised application that more directly solicits projects that are "necessary for carrying out" eligible restoration and acquisition projects, as required by Measure 76. The new application is expected to be available for the fall 2017 solicitation.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$1.100	-$0.031
2013-2015	$1.100	-$0.028
2015-2017	$0.600	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Open Solicitation Monitoring Grants

Recommended Amount: $2.75 million

Summary: Open Solicitation (OS) Monitoring Grants are awarded once per year in the fall grant cycle. Grants can be used to assist local partnerships with: assessing watershed conditions to determine the quality of the existing environment; identifying causes for changes in trajectory (either up or down) in habitat, fish and wildlife populations and water quality; and developing plans to guide future monitoring efforts.

Grantees also can request funding for effectiveness monitoring (EM) of restoration projects that are funded by OWEB to determine if an individual restoration project is effective at meeting its biological and ecological objectives. EM is not a requirement of any OWEB grant, and is above and beyond compliance monitoring/implementation reporting. Information from project-level EM can be helpful in assisting the restoration practitioner and OWEB in determining the biotic and abiotic changes on the treatment area from the restoration action(s) and informing future restoration design. Project-level EM grants that OWEB has funded are as diverse as the associated restoration grants.

Program History: As a part of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (OPSW), OWEB and other state natural resources agencies developed the OPSW Monitoring Strategy. This strategy described an overall framework for structuring coordinated monitoring and provided direction to help integrate Oregon Plan programs and monitoring with region-wide watershed enhancement and salmon recovery efforts. OWEB's monitoring grants assist the agency in meeting its responsibility to: 1) provide support for cooperative monitoring activities, 2) describe the results of restoration investments, and 3) report on progress of the OPSW.

Demand: In the 2015-2017 biennium, the board awarded 66% of requested funds that were recommended for funding by regional review teams, or $2.1 million out of $3.1 million recommended.

Future Need: It is anticipated that a consistent and significant need for monitoring funds will extend into the next biennium, given that approximately 25-30 monitoring applications are received each year on average. Alternate sources of funding for monitoring are limited, and in some cases other funding sources have seen reductions in available funds in recent years. For example, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)'s Clean Water Act Section 319 grants can only fund a limited number of monitoring projects statewide due to recent funding cuts.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: The EM Coordinator worked with Technical Services Program Staff and other OWEB staff to successfully refine the monitoring application as part of the online applications development process. A companion monitoring application guidance document was produced and, along with the other grant programs, more than 10 training sessions were hosted prior to the November 2016 grant cycle. The EM Coordinator convened the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team (OPMT) to discuss the technical merits and potential benefits of the monitoring grants that were submitted in the October 2015 and November 2016 open solicitation grant cycles. This information was provided in advance of regional review team (RRT) meetings to assist in decisions regarding funding for monitoring grants. The EM coordinator attends RRT meetings to respond to any questions or concerns related to monitoring applications.

In 2016, staff began working with the board Monitoring Subcommittee to establish a process to improve guidance for monitoring grant applicants (e.g., data management and long-term storage recommendations, engagement with agencies as project partners, well defined and implemented

QA/QC plans, etc.). Monitoring Subcommittee members will provide input and comment on draft products. In addition, OWEB monitoring staff will solicit input from Grant Management Program staff, OPMT members, RRT members and monitoring grantees to determine how to improve monitoring application guidance to maximize the quality and success of monitoring grant investments. It is anticipated that this process will be complete by July 2018.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$2.500	$0.064
2013-2015	$2.500	$-0.024
2015-2017	$2.120	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring

Recommended Amount: $.787 million*

Summary: Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) includes OWEB-led initiatives that evaluate specific types of restoration actions at a larger geographic and temporal scale, rather than at the project scale. These initiatives consist of evaluating the effectiveness of OWEB-funded watershed restoration and enhancement projects and programs. Examples of Programmatic EM are the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Effectiveness Monitoring study that was recently completed and the Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW). OWEB staff also participate in cross-agency teams to evaluate programs and projects that share common goals and objectives. An example of a cross-agency team is the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP), which is comprised of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and OWEB.

Program History: In September 2004, the Board authorized the initial concept of an effectiveness monitoring program. Since that time, staff have worked with the board Monitoring Subcommittee to explore options for creating a well-rounded effectiveness monitoring program. This approach included the identification of specific scales at which to conduct monitoring (e.g., the Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW) and certain prioritized project types for evaluation (e.g., juniper removal, livestock exclusion). In September 2016, OWEB filled a new position, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, which assists OWEB with quantifying outcomes associated with collective conservation actions implemented in Oregon. This position is actively working with cross-agency teams such as CEP, and with the newly established Clean Water Partnership. This position is extremely beneficial to the Programmatic EM approach as it allows the EM Coordinator to focus on evaluating the effectiveness of OWEB-funded watershed restoration and enhancement projects and programs, while the Conservation Outcomes Coordinator can engage with cross-agency teams on important data sharing/compilation, analysis, and reporting to help 'tell the story' of the results of restoration actions.

Demand: In the 2015-2017 biennium, $285,783 was allocated for Programmatic EM projects. This amount does not include the $250,000 that was awarded for the CREP EM study in the 2013-2015 biennium, but completed in the 2015-2017 biennium.

Future Need: It is anticipated that there will be a greater demand for Programmatic EM funds in the 2017-2019 biennium. The monitoring grant guidance development process that is underway, along with the strategic planning process with the board, are likely to refine and/or expand the focus of Programmatic EM over the next several years. For example, the board has indicated an interest in better and/or differently 'telling the story' of its restoration investments with quantitative data. In addition, future needs may exist for additional work on Programmatic EM topics that are underway this biennium. For example, the CREP EM Report has identified the need for ongoing monitoring to track the results of newly established projects over the next 10-15 years to understand the effects of adaptive management measures that are incorporated into project implementation.

In addition, the tidegate restoration and monitoring literature review and compilation that currently is underway could identify future Programmatic EM efforts that are needed. Finally, the potential exists for the board to continue to invest in future monitoring under the Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW and/or to consider other IMW investments. In order to provide flexibility as the board considers the new and emerging findings of such studies, along with priorities that may result from efforts such as

*Includes anticipated carry forward from 2015-2017 Spending Plan

strategic planning, staff recommend carrying forward remaining funding from the 2015-2017 Programmatic EM line item in the spending plan for use in 2017-2019.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: Along with its contractor and an external team involved with CREP, staff successfully completed the CREP EM study.

Staff initiated a new Programmatic EM effort to help guide future investment in tidegate removal and replacement projects. OWEB staff developed a concept to further investigate the collective lessons learned from tidegate restoration and monitoring projects, and now are working with Oregon State University faculty and staff to complete this work to inform investments in tidegate restoration projects. Finally, staff continued to coordinate the monitoring efforts of the Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW Working Group, and led development of a process for the group to analyze and compile their research into a comprehensive synthesis report for funders (i.e., OWEB, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and NOAA Fisheries). This synthesis report is anticipated to be completed in October 2017 and will provide recommendations for future monitoring efforts.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$1.000	$1.000
2013-2015	$1.000	$0.310
2015-2017	$0.500	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Land and Water Acquisitions

Recommended Amount: $7.5 million

Summary: OWEB funds projects involving the acquisition of interests in land and water from willing sellers for the purpose of maintaining or restoring watersheds and habitat for native fish or wildlife. OWEB-funded interests in land and water may be held by a variety of entities including, but not limited to, local, state and federal agencies, tribes, and not-for-profit conservation organizations and land trust trusts.

OWEB funds several types of land and water acquisitions: the purchase of property in fee simple, conservation easements, permanent water rights, and water leases.

Program History:

Land Acquisitions: The board began making land acquisition grants in 1998. Several grants were awarded during the first few years of the program. In 2000, interest in the program began growing and grew significantly over subsequent biennia. During the 2011-2013 biennium, OWEB did not accept new land acquisition applications in order to allow staff to address a backlog of pending applications and awards. Over the same period, OWEB completed updates to the land acquisitions program, including revising administrative rules and refining the application and review processes for the program. To date, the board has awarded nearly $44 million in land acquisition grants, leveraging $88 million in matching funds and protecting nearly 63,000 acres.

Water Acquisitions: The board awarded its first water acquisition grant in 2001. Until 2010, only five grants were awarded, with a relatively small award amount for each project (i.e., under $40,000). Beginning in 2010, interest in water acquisition grants began to grow as a result of increased organizational capacity in select areas of the state to carry out water acquisition projects and programs and increased concern about instream flow issues. Since 2010, the board has awarded nearly $3.15 million for water acquisition grants, resulting in the short-term transfer of over 90 cfs and the permanent transfer of about 32 cfs to instream use. During the 2011-2013 biennium, OWEB updated its administrative rules and program guidance for water acquisitions. To date, funding requests to OWEB have come from three primary locations in the state: the Deschutes, Klamath, and mid-Columbia Basins. These awards have supported a range of activities from permanent transfers and temporary leases of instream water rights to incentivizing voluntary curtailments by irrigators.

Demand:

Land Acquisitions: In the 2015-2017 biennium, eight applicants requested approximately $3.8 million in funding through the Land Acquisition open solicitation program. Land acquisitions that are part of Special and Focused Investment Partnerships are described elsewhere, and total $1,005,250.

Water Acquisitions: In the 2015-2017 biennium, four applicants requested $701,849 in funding through the 2016 Water Lease and Transfer grant program. Three applications are recommended for full funding. One application was withdrawn.

Future Need:

Land Acquisitions: The Land Acquisition open solicitation program seeks to continue annual solicitations for land acquisition applications in the 2017-2019 biennium. OWEB's land acquisition program prioritizes the purchase of land with intact, functioning systems, such as tidal wetlands, that benefit priority plant communities and fish and wildlife species. In order for converted or impaired tidal wetlands to be a

priority for land acquisition funding, a land acquisition grant applicant should have a firm plan for, and commitment to, restoring natural estuarine function to the property in a time-certain period. To address a growing need for technical work necessary for competitive land acquisition applications, a new land acquisition technical assistance (TA) offering is proposed for the 2017-2019 biennium. Requests would be capped at $150,000 and be piloted for tidally influenced projects in 2017. The proposed TA line item is $300,000 in each year of the biennium, which is subject to change based on interest.

Water Acquisitions: The Water Lease and Transfer grant program seeks to continue annual solicitations for applications in the 2017-2019 biennium. To address growing demand for feasibility studies in advance of water acquisition, the TA spending plan line item described above would also be available for water acquisition feasibility studies statewide.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium:

Land Acquisitions: During the 2015-2017 biennium, land acquisition staff completed seven acquisition transactions, which permanently protected 1,120 acres. Staff also hired and trained a group of contractors to monitor OWEB's portfolio of approximately 65 land acquisition investments. Monitoring work will begin in spring 2017. Land acquisition staff also worked with partnership staff to develop and refine land acquisition processes for FIP and Coastal Wetlands projects. In addition, staff started five new land acquisition transactions.

Water Acquisitions: During the 2015-2017 biennium, staff worked with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation (NFWF) to coordinate technical and organization capacity reviews of water acquisition grant applications. Application materials were updated to streamline and coordinate with NFWF's Columbia Basin Water Transaction Program. The application review process utilized NFWF's Technical Advisory Committee to evaluate the 2016 OWEB Water Lease and Transfer grants for project soundness, ecological outcomes, and organizational capacity.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$6.650	$2.978
2013-2015	$8.000	$1.060
2015-2017	$7.500	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State Weed Board Grant Program

Recommended Amount: $3.00 million

Summary: The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) noxious weed control grants are awarded annually through the Oregon State Weed Board (OSWB). Grant projects protect watershed health, native fish, and wildlife habitat from the negative impacts of State Listed noxious weeds. Under the OSWB grant program, the OSWB works to fund as many high-priority projects as possible with the available funds. Grants are restricted to projects that restore, enhance or protect fish and wildlife habitat, watershed functions, native salmonid populations, or water quality. Grants are for on-the-ground noxious weed control work. They must address State Listed noxious weeds and can include assessment, survey, outreach, and project design activities that are necessary to enable the weed control portion of the project.

The prevention and control of State Listed noxious weed species is a critical element of watershed protection and enhancement. To address this issue, ODA and OWEB partner to support implementation of high-priority noxious weed control statewide. Noxious weed control is a first step in restoring watershed health and key to protecting the investment in Oregon's restoration work.

Program History: The OSWB Grant Program was established in the 1999-2001 biennium, after the passage of Measure 66. Until 2010 and the passage of Measure 76, the fiscal responsibilities for OSWB Grants were administered through ODA. The passage of Measure 76 in 2010 started the partnership between OWEB and ODA for OSWB grants. The ballot measure changed the language within the constitution, designating OWEB as the single granting agency for State Lottery funds designated for watershed restoration. This change resulted in a move of OSWB grant funding under OWEB's budget, rather than being transferred directly to and administered by ODA.

The 2011-2013 biennium was a transition period for the OSWB grant partnership. A Lean-Kaizen process was completed to identify strengths, challenges and redundancies in the process, and refinements to the process were made based on the lessons learned. ODA and OWEB staff have worked together to ensure grantees meet the requirements and standards of both agencies under the new OSWB grants process, and have improved communication between the agencies and local partners such as watershed councils, county weed programs, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, and soil and water conservation districts.

Under the new system, OSWB grant program applications are reviewed and evaluated by ODA staff and the OSWB approves the grants for funding. ODA maintains technical oversight over the grants and works with grantees on project implementation (e.g., prepares the applications, agreements, approves reports, reviews invoices, monitors projects, and approves payments). OWEB approves budgets, approves the grants that are recommended for funding, enters into grant agreements, completes the final review of all reports and receipts, and issues payments.

Demand: In the 2015-2017 biennium, applicants to the OSWB grant program had a success rate of 91%; 99 projects secured full funding, one obtained partial funding, and 10 projects did not receive funding. Historic demand for grants has only had a success rate of 68% of the projects secured funding.

Future Need: The OSWB grant program is seeking an increase of $500,000 in the 2017-2019 biennium. As noted above, the program has remained at $2.5 million since its inception in the 1999-2001 biennium. This increase would provide the opportunity to expand existing and address new opportunities for weed grant investments that meet the requirements of M76.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: The OSWB grantees demonstrate good noxious weed control strategies and fiscal responsibility. In 2015 grantees had a 52% match on the OSWB/OWEB funding that was received for project work, treating over 7,531 net acres.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$2.500	$0
2013-2015	$2.500	$0
2015-2017	$2.500	$*

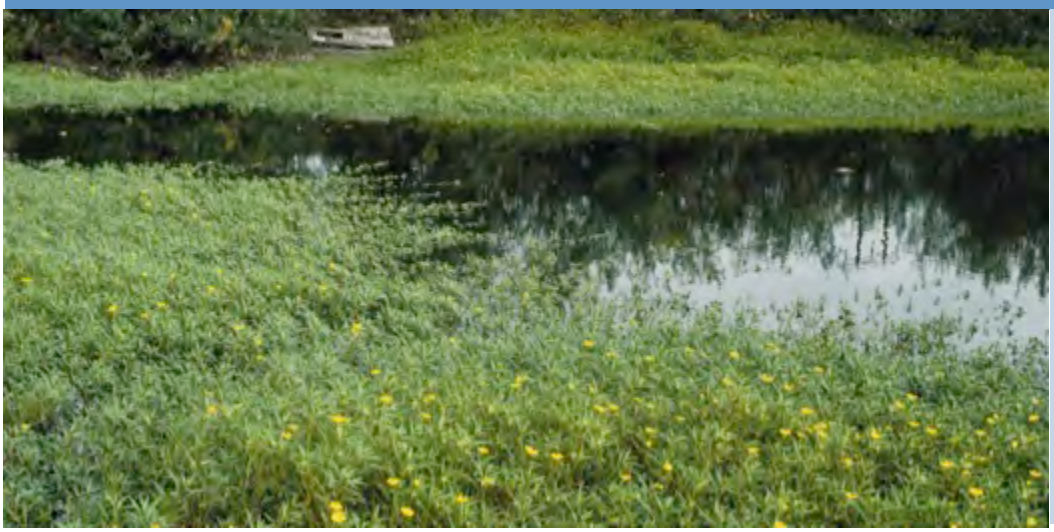
*Full biennium data not available

Attachments:

A. Five-Year Strategic Plan for Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program (ODA)

5-year Strategic Plan

Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program
Oregon Department of Agriculture



MISSION:

Protecting Oregon's natural resources and agricultural economy from the invasion and proliferation of invasive noxious weeds.

Water primrose, *Ludwigia petiolata,* encroaching on the Willamette River

Executive Summary

The Oregon Department of Agriculture Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program (ODA) has 40-years of successful leadership working with cooperators to implement invasive noxious weed prevention and control programs.

The investment in invasive weed control has tremendous value to Oregonians. For example, a recent study, *Economic Impact from Selected Noxious Weeds in Oregon* looked at 25 of 128 state listed noxious weeds and estimates that noxious weeds have an $83.5 million a year impact to Oregon's economy. If uncontrolled the impact potential of these weeds could go up to $1.8 billion. For every dollar invested in Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) projects, there is a $34 benefit to Oregon's economy.

To ensure ODA's future success there needs to be adequate flexible funding to support the program. Over the last decade, operating costs have increased while funding support has declined and the program has reached a critical point where funding is not adequate to maintain essential service levels.

This situation provides the opportunity to take a critical review of the program structure, the policies and priorities of the state, and the needs of federal and county partners, and then identify the most valuable services that ODA can provide. This 5-year plan gives direction for restructuring to address current and future needs.

Vision

Provide a stronger statewide presence that fully utilizes our staff's exceptional skills and experience, focus on state invasive weed priorities and emerging needs (e.g., water quality, EDRR, and sensitive species protection), and serves state, federal, county, local, and private land managers. This will require shifting away from dependence on inflexible funding sources to those that allow for priority-driven adaptive management that will best protect Oregon's natural resources from the impacts of invasive weeds.

Where We Are, Where We Should Be, & How We Get There

To better understand our program three basic questions were asked "where are we, where should we be, and how do we get there?" A baseline assessment and economic assessment were completed with input from ODA staff and cooperators. This identified what ODA is doing well (our core priorities and services), constrains of the current structure, and improvements to better serve statewide priorities.

Where we are: A baseline assessment of the program

Program assessments completed:

- **Internal ODA Review:** Staff meeting and outcomes, SWOT Analysis *(Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats)*
- **External Review:** Noxious Weed Strategic Plan, Listening Session Report that provided County Weed Association and stakeholder input for program needs.
- **County Survey and Assessment**
- **GAP Analysis:** Identified how current resources are being used and how they can be better directed to address current and future needs.
- **Economic Assessment Findings:** *2014 Economic Impact from Selected Noxious Weeds in Oregon.* A study that looked at 25 of 128 state listed noxious weeds and estimates an $83.5 million per year impact.

A crew prepares to cover recently detected A-listed flowering rush plants in the Columbia River to prevent spread.

Vigilance -Maintaining a solid state and county presence will help ensure invasive weeds are detected early and controlled in a coordinated fashion. It is essential that Oregon maintain a vigil as trade and travel, easy access to exotic species through internet sales, and other intentioned or unintended means provide pathways for more invasive plants to be introduced.

Current Status:

- There is a need for stronger integration of weed management an integral part of restoration and conservation efforts.
- Baseline assessments show partners and cooperators would like a focus on program's core priorities and services.
- Increasing program costs and declining budgets at the state and federal levels made it difficult to maintain current staffing levels.
- ODA is dependent on federal funding to maintain current staffing levels:
  - ⇒ *Federal contract obligations tie-up core staff time and restricts restructuring process.*
  - ⇒ *Future federal funding is not as reliable for maintaining core staff as it has been in the past.*
- There is a need for county and local capacity to help with state and federal priorities.
  - ⇒ *Need planning and local programs to maintain projects and jointly work with cooperators to sustain viable projects.*
  - ⇒ *Current trends at the local level complicate the issue. Historically strong county programs are struggling due to limited resources (i.e., Wasco, Jefferson, Umatilla).*

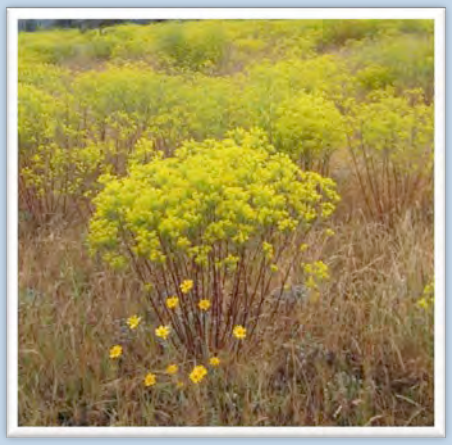
Where we are: A baseline assessment of the program

ODA Program Core Priorities and Services:

- **Statewide coordination/organization** (ORS authority, focus on priorities statewide, best use of limited resources, implementing effective control projects, serving on regional/national committees)
- **Focus on high return activities** (prevention, implementing EDRR and priority control projects)
- **Education and outreach activities** (prevention and awareness, OINW Symposium, Oregon State Fair, regional meetings, presentations, materials/brochures, webpage and social media, field tours and demos, research and publications)
- **Technical expertise** (treatment knowledge, increase effectiveness/efficiency of projects and programs, knowledge transfer, statewide experience)
- **Facilitating partnerships** (working with state and federal partners, equipment resource, contracted services, leverage resources, intermediary assistance)
- **Special knowledge and expertise** (statewide management planning, risk assessments, mapping capability, economic assessment, biological control)
- **Noxious weed control grants** (funding local projects, help/guide grantees craft cost effective and efficient projects)
- **Help develop local/county-based programs** (e.g. County programs, CWMAs, etc.)

Yellow floating heart was discovered on the Willamette River in 2015.

Protecting Oregon's Investment -Millions are invested in restoration projects for habitat and water quality improvements. Invasive species can undo all of this. Two A-listed noxious weeds, flowering rush and yellow floating heart, have the potential to clog irrigation canals, alter water quality, and threaten native fisheries. ODA and partners are implementing EDRR projects to detect and control these species.



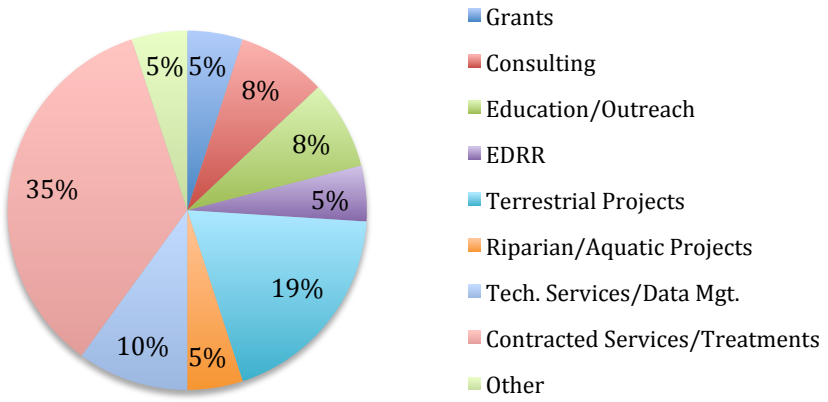
Illinois Valley *Alyssum murale* treatment site -The Illinois Valley contains the largest concentration of serpentine soils in Oregon and supports a diverse and unique flora. Fifteen plant taxa have conservation status in the area. The invasive alyssum is native to Eastern Europe and infests serpentine soils.

Dalmatian toadflax, an emerging success in biological control - Studies are documenting the positive results in the decline of Dalmatian toadflax by 50% of historic levels from the establishment of stem-boring weevil (*Mecinus janthinus*). Some sites have been documented to have reduction of 90%. The results are protecting a potential 3,172,400 acres of range and cropland resources in core sage grouse habitat.

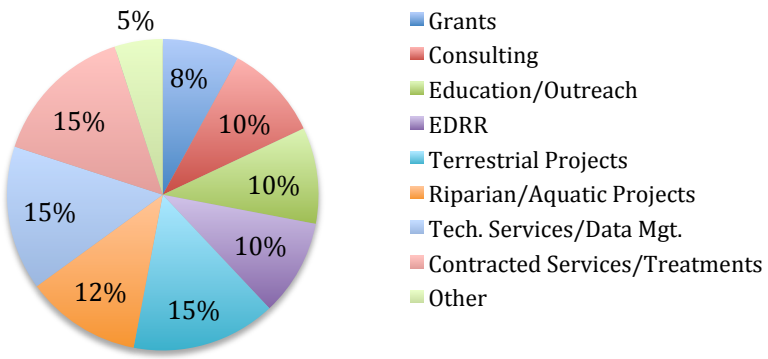
Where we should be: A shift in program priorities and funding

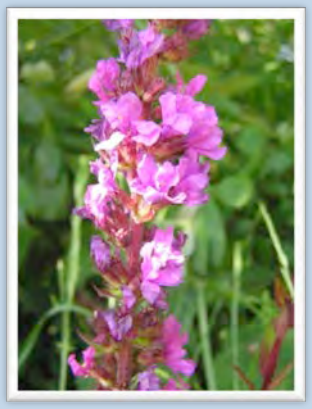
- **Redirect ODA staff toward core priorities**
- **Support core staff with state funding**
- **Reduce dependency on federal contracts**
- **Expand focus to ecosystem function**, water quality, threats to sensitive species, etc.
- **Align ODA's Noxious Weed Management Program with priority policies of the state** (i.e., Oregon's 10-Year Healthy Environment to manage natural resources to sustain economic, environment and human health).
- **Support local services** and funding of county weed support through ORS 569.520
- **Expand county and local roles**: move counties into some current ODA activities, federal contracting, B-listed weed management
- **Complete administrative rule for county funding process**

2014 Staff Time Breakout



5-Year Shift of Staffing Time to Core Services





Noxious Weeds Impact our Streams and Rivers - For example, purple loosestrife invades riparian habitats where it excludes native vegetation; in-turn reduces the numbers of indigenous insects that rely on the native vegetation. Expansive populations of purple loosestrife can impact native salmonids by altering food cycles. Fortunately, less then 1% of Oregon's rivers are impacted. ODA implemented a highly successful biological control program for loosestrife, which resulted in fewer river miles impacted.

Water Primrose, *Ludwigia peploides* - Aquatic invader, water primrose, invades and impacts water resources along the Russian River in Mendocino County, CA. This invader has begun to propagate and spread in the Willamette River system in Oregon.

How we get there

Years 1-2:

Develop funding package for 2017-19 and request funds

- Identify the amount of funding needed at ODA and county levels and how that funding will be used
- ODA core program funding package for core staff and infrastructure
- County funding

Year 3:

Establish county weed program base funding

- ODA rule making for administrative rule, OSWB to fund county programs ORS 569. 520
- Transition ODA to Core program functions (Coordination, EDRR, Biological Control, Aquatics)
- Assist counties to develop assistance grant RFP's for base programs
- Select and fund county programs that meet outlined criteria *(Ex. Must be a county weed district)*

Year 4-5:

Review and evaluate progress

- Evaluate ODA transition to core program functions and priorities
- Evaluate first year of County funding program grants

Performance measures

- ODA Legislative Benchmarks
- Establish targets and standards to measure ODA's core activities
- Grant monitoring and review
- Establish targets for County and local capacity

Evaluation

- Continue ODA Benchmark evaluation
- Measure ODA core standard
- Measure County capacity, local capacity achievement
- Seek internal and external feedback on what is working and not working
- Review progress and feedback and take corrective measures where needed to refine processes to increase efficiencies

ORS 569.180, Noxious weeds as public nuisance -In recognition of the imminent and continuous threat to natural resources, watershed health, livestock, wildlife, land and agricultural products of this state, and in recognition of the widespread infestations and potential infestations of noxious weeds throughout this state, noxious weeds are declared to be a public nuisance and shall be detected, controlled and, where feasible, eradicated on all lands in this state. It is declared to be the policy of this state that priority shall be given first to the prevention of new infestations of noxious weeds and then to the control and, where feasible, eradication of noxious weeds in infested areas.

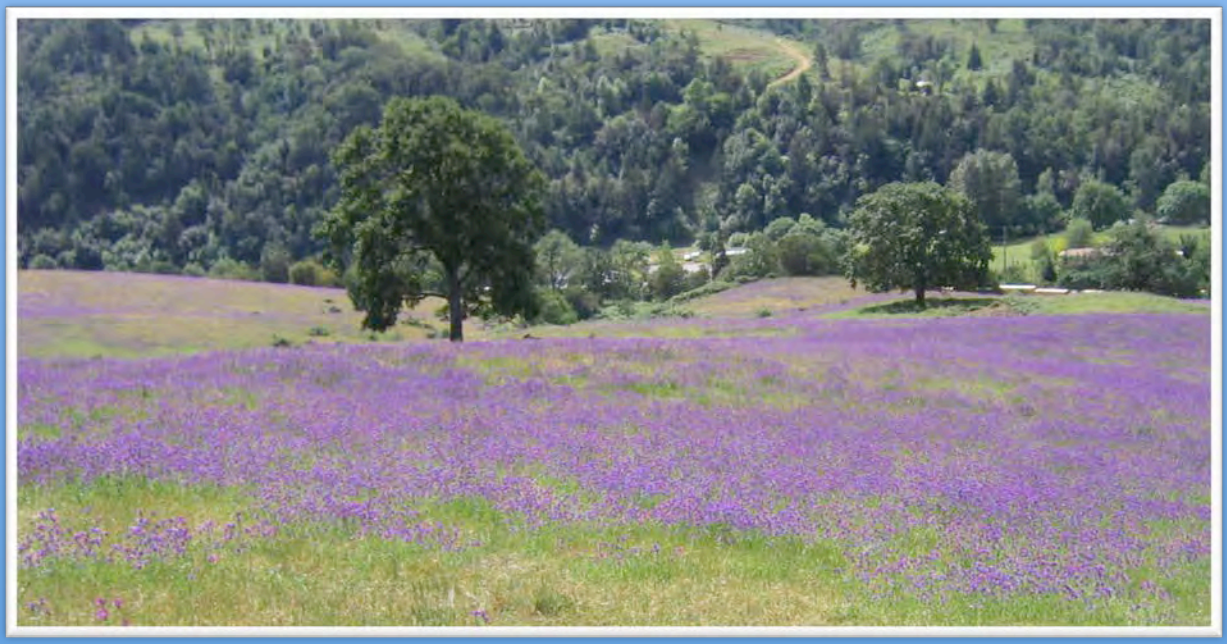
State noxious weed control laws ORS -Provides authority to the Oregon Department or Agriculture, Counties, Oregon State University, and the Oregon State Weed Board.

County Weed Control Programs -Formation of county weed control district authority is outlined in ORS 569.360. For success throughout Oregon an essential component is local capacity and infrastructure. County noxious weed control programs are responsible for working with local land managers in implementing many of the B-designated noxious weed control projects. County Weed Control Programs can be run through the county road departments or county soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs).

Conclusion:

The goals of the ODA Invasive Noxious Weed Control Program are to provide the leadership, communication, and capacity for technical support to stakeholders for invasive weeds management, and have the staff and equipment infrastructure in place regionally to both coordinate and implement invasive weed management projects. These projects are directly tied to natural resource management strategies at federal, state, county and local levels.

Controlling invasive noxious weeds is a critical component in achieving success in areas of water quality/quantity and fish and wildlife habitat preservation, especially salmon and the greater sage grouse. This also includes preserving recreational opportunities, ensuring a robust agricultural economy, and achieving overall functioning watersheds free of invasive weeds. To achieve the above goals, the program needs support of policy makers through stable flexible funding.



Douglas County -Paterson's curse, *Echium plantagineum*, invading oak woodland and pasture

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Governor's Priorities

Recommended Amount: $1.0 million

Summary: The Governor's Priorities spending plan line item supports work within the sideboards of Ballot Measure 76 that furthers priority programs and initiatives related to restoration in Oregon. Typically, these investments address landscape-scale or emerging issues related to restoration needs of importance as identified by the Governor's Office. Grant investments are targeted and catalyze broad-scale, multi-organizational work.

Program History: Under Ballot Measure 76, OWEB's funding has flexibility to address a range of needs that ultimately lead to on-the-ground restoration work. This, combined with Oregon's approach to addressing broad-scale initiatives through multi-organizational partnerships, has resulted in the use of OWEB funding as a catalyst to support emerging or particularly complex natural resource challenges and opportunities.

These investments have varied over time and include:

- Support for initial work of forest-health collaboratives, including statewide coordination, technical support for local collaboratives, and planning and implementation support for these groups.
- Partnerships with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to support on-the-ground investments in Salmon Stronghold projects. This work led to a multi-organizational partnership to develop a Coastal Coho Business Plan and component action plans in three local watersheds – a partnership with NFWF, the Wild Salmon Center, NOAA and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Both efforts were funded through this line item.
- Support for Oregon's Sage-Grouse Plan, including convening partners to develop strategies for successful restoration programs, as well as GIS and other data gathering and analysis. It is expected strategic technical assistance investments will continue as the plan is developed and implemented.
- Support for development of a federal, state, and local agency and organization partnership focused on clean water. The partnership includes a comprehensive framework in support of monitoring and implementation focused on the state's agricultural water quality program, currently focused on Strategic Implementation Areas.
- Support for the development of a working lands easement program concept focused on agricultural lands.

These types of investments are unique in that they address both technical assistance and restoration needs while focusing on areas of importance to the Governor's Office.

Demand: Investments have totaled $1 million in each of the last two biennia. Because this program operates as a proactive grant-making item, the demand does not exceed the funding available.

Future Need*:* Currently, funding for this program will focus on the two areas outlined below. However, the Governor's office may come before the board during the biennium with additional program priorities. At this time, it is not expected that additional requests will increase the spending plan amount requested.

Tide Gates - The purpose of the Oregon tide gate and infrastructure discussion is designed to support resilient coastal communities by reducing risks from coastal hazards, protecting landscapes that support local economies, and enhancing ecological function of estuarine resources for fish and wildlife. Work will focus around local outreach, completion of a tide gate inventory, development of an interactive decision support tool, and building out engineering and regulatory toolboxes resulting in more, high quality on-the-ground projects.

SageCon Partnership - The SageCon Partnership provides a key coordination and collaborative governance role for statewide planning and coordination related to the health of Oregon's sage-steppe ecosystem, rural community vitality, addressing threats to habitat and wildlife, and advancing economic development within a conservation framework. Funding will be used for technical support and capacity, development of tools related to plan implementation, GIS capacity, coordination of monitoring and reporting, increasing the pace and scale of habitat action implementation, and development of an in lieu fee credit program.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: In the last biennium, the board has invested in four initiatives through this spending plan line item:

- Clean Water Partnership - $550,000 to support the coordinated, multi-agency investment of time and resources to direct existing federal and state conservation funding to areas where it will result in the greatest water quality and watershed health improvements. $470,000 remaining.
- Oregon's Sage-Grouse Action Plan – $300,000 to support work with landowners, counties, state and federal agencies, and non-profit organizations to implement the State's Action Plan. $161,000 remaining.
- Coastal Coho Business Plan – $250,000 to support multi-organizational business-planning effort in three selected watersheds along the Oregon Coast; project is currently being implemented.
- Working Farms and Forestlands – $150,000 to support statewide working lands conservation easements resulting in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program concept. All funds expended.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$2.250	$.904
2013-2015	$1.000	$0
2015-2017	$1.000	*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Focused Investment Partnership – Implementation

Recommended Amount: $15.512 million*

Summary: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) – Implementation investments address a board-identified priority of significance to the state; achieve clear and measurable ecological outcomes; use integrated, results-orientated approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and are implemented by high-performing partnerships.

Program History: OWEB began its current partnership investments in 2006 with the Whole Watersheds Restoration Initiative, a multi-agency, cooperative funding grant program to restore salmon habitat in priority watersheds throughout the state. This investment was followed by several Special Investment Partnerships (SIPs). The Deschutes SIP was a partnership consisting of four implementing organizations working to provide habitat and passage for Chinook Salmon and Steelhead above the Pelton-Round Butte dam complex. The Willamette SIP was a funder-led initiative in targeted anchor habitat areas along the Willamette River mainstem and in the 13 sub-watersheds that comprise the Model Watershed Program. The Upper Klamath SIP was a multi-practitioner effort to reestablish, improve, and sustain the ecological and hydrologic connectivity of aquatic ecosystems in the Upper Klamath Basin.

In June 2013, the board approved its Long-Term Investment Strategy Framework with four major areas of investment: Operating Capacity, Open Solicitation, Focused Investments, and Effectiveness Monitoring. At that time, no formal definition, process, or solicitation approach for the program existed. In October 2013, OWEB initiated a nine-month process to develop the definition, criteria, and program design (including solicitation approach and process) for the FIP category in the Long-Term Investment Strategy. This was followed by initiation of an 18-month process to set board priorities and solicit for investments within the program.

Following an extensive public process, the board selected the following priority areas for focused investments at its April 2015 meeting:

1) Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat
2) Oregon Closed Lake Basin Wetland Habitat
3) Dry-type Forest Habitat
4) Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
5) Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
6) Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
7) Coastal Estuaries

In May 2015, staff began solicitation for FIP Implementation proposals. Applicants were required to submit a two-phase application, with phase I addressing the strength of the partnership and strategic action plan, and phase II detailing the initiative's work plan and budget over three biennia. Proposals were evaluated by expert review teams formed around the designated board priorities, and partnerships were interviewed by the board Focused Investment subcommittee in January, 2016 in a public meeting format. At its January 2016 and July 2016 meetings, the board awarded $14.058 million in FIP Implementation grants to the following initiatives for the 2015-2017 biennium:

1) Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration ($1,660,000)
2) Habitat Restoration for Anadromous Fish Reintroduction in the Deschutes ($4,000,000)

3) Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative ($1,780,000)
4) Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties ($2,259,938)
5) Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats ($2,550,000)
6) Upper Grande Ronde Initiative ($1,771,610)

Demand: OWEB received 12 FIP phase I applications for the 2015-2017 biennium. After an evaluation from experts and staff, the board Focused Investments subcommittee invited nine applications to submit a phase II application. An invitation to submit was not a requirement to submit a phase II application, but rather an indication of the subcommittee's assessment of the phase I application. Nine phase II applications were submitted, and as noted above, six FIP Implementation initiatives were awarded funding.

Future Need: At the time of application, the six FIP Implementation initiatives requested funding and provided budgets for three biennia. The sum of FIP Implementation budgets for the 2017-2019 biennium is $15.512 million, an approximate 10.3% increase from the 2015-2017 biennium. In addition, FIPs may request carryover of unobligated funds from the 2015-2017 biennium. Details on 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 budgets are found in Attachment A. Due to the initial awards occurring late in the biennium, and the desire for current capacity building FIPs to be eligible to apply for implementation FIPs in the next cycle, the board decided not to offer a solicitation for new implementation FIP awards in the 2017-2019 biennium.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: The 2015-2017 biennium is the first for the FIP Implementation program. Each of the initiatives have signed partnership agreements with OWEB, have developed projects that have been evaluated by technical review teams, and are beginning to implement these projects within their respective FIP geographies. A full update on accomplishments for each initiative was provided in agenda item H at the January 2017 board meeting.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$8.900	$0
2013-2015	$10.250	$0
2015-2017	$14.058	$*

*Full biennium data not available

Attachments:

A. FIP Implementation Initiatives 2015-2017 Budgets and 2017-2019 Estimated Budgets

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership
Ashland Forest All Lands Restoration

Current Unobligated Funds
N/A

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Outreach	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Technical Assistance	$407,511	$407,511	$0	**$0**
Restoration	$1,153,430	$1,153,430	$201	**$0**
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$98,858	$98,858	$0	**$0**
SUBTOTAL	$1,659,799	$1,659,799	$201	**$0**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$0**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$190,000	$20,000	**$0**	$0
Outreach	$120,000	$120,000	**$0**	$0
Technical Assistance[1]	$200,000	$30,000	**$460,000**	$150,000
Restoration	$1,790,000	$1,580,000	**$1,790,000**	$1,600,000
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$40,000	$0	**$90,000**	$0
Total	$2,340,000	$1,750,000	**$2,340,000**	**$1,750,000**

Table 2

[1] Similar to Biennium 1 combined request of Capacity, Outreach, and Technical Assistance. Reduced by $50,000 and added funds to Monitoring.

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership
The Deschutes Partnership

Current Unobligated Funds
Grant applications were submitted to OWEB on March 15, 2017. These funds are expected to be obligated by OWEB prior to June 30, 2017 so the final requested carryover amount is expected to be $0 by June 30, 2017.

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$95,000	$95,000	$0	**$0**
Outreach	$84,700	$0	$84,700	**$84,700**
Technical Assistance	$413,000	$0	$413,000	**$413,000**
Restoration	$2,782,300	$258,695	$2,523,605	**$2,523,605**
Land Acquisition	$450,000	$0	$450,000	**$450,000**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$175,000	$0	$175,000	**$175,000**
SUBTOTAL	$4,000,000	$353,695	$3,646,305	**$3,646,305**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$0**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$100,000	$50,000	**$125,000**	$35,000
Outreach	$100,000	$80,000	**$150,000**	$40,000
Technical Assistance	$0	$0	**$100,000**	$35,000
Restoration	$2,025,000	$4,275,000	**$1,925,000**	$2,000,000
Land Acquisition[1]	$725,000	$525,000	**$1,500,000**	$800,000
Water Acquisition[2]	$900,000	$1,486,000	**$0**	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$150,000	$150,000	**$200,000**	$50,000
Total	$4,000,000	$6,566,000	**$4,000,000**	**$2,960,000**

Table 2

[1] Amount increased in Biennium 2 because some projects moved from Biennium 1 to Biennium 2. FIP outcomes are still on track.

[2] Amount decreased in Biennium 2 because we have learned that streamflow restoration projects technically fit as "restoration," not "water acquisition" because of the nature of the projects. FIP outcomes are still on track.

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership
Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative

Current Unobligated Funds
Grant applications totaling $976,034 have been submitted and are pending. These funds are expected to be obligated by OWEB prior to June 30, 2017. The remaining balance of $339,588 is found in the Land Acquisition ($280,000) and Capacity Building ($59,588) grant categories. With Land Acquisitions, Initiative partners are conducting landowner outreach to enter into conservation easements and seeking land trusts to hold easements. With Capacity Building, partners were able to secure an Aquatic Health Coordinator position midway through the biennium and seek to carry over funding into the second biennium.

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$250,000	$153,890	$96,110	**$96,110**
Outreach	$50,000	$54,541	-$4,541	**$0**
Technical Assistance	$640,000	$196,328	$443,672	**$443,672**
Restoration	$450,000	$0	$450,000	**$450,000**
Land Acquisition	$280,000	$0	$280,000	**$280,000**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$110,000	$59,619	$50,381	**$50,381**
SUBTOTAL	$1,780,000	$464,378	$1,315,622	**$1,315,622**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$339,588**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$250,000	$150,000	**$390,000**	$150,000
Outreach	$50,000	$70,000	**$50,000**	$70,000
Technical Assistance	$430,000	$290,000	**$487,656**	$290,000
Restoration	$850,000	$800,000	**$665,944**	$800,000
Land Acquisition	$280,000	$830,000	**$275,000**	$1,650,000
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$110,000	$150,000	**$101,400**	$150,000
Total	$1,970,000	$2,290,000	**$1,970,000**	

Table 2

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership

Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse

Current Unobligated Funds

A Technical Assistance grant is pending, and a Restoration application is expected to be submitted in May, 2017. These funds are expected to be obligated by OWEB prior to June 30, 2017 so the final requested carryover amount is expected to be $0 by June 30, 2017.

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Outreach	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Technical Assistance	$55,623	$55,623	$59,377	**$92,038**
Restoration	$2,078,938	$1,947,233	$131,705	**$131,705**
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
SUBTOTAL	$2,134,561	$2,002,856	$191,082	**$223,743**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$0**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$20,000	$10,000	**$5,000**	$2,500
Outreach	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Technical Assistance	$200,000	$200,000	**$100,000**	$0
Restoration	$2,015,250	$250,000	**$2,170,250**	$640,000
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$120,000	$0	**$80,000**	$0
Total	$2,355,250	$460,000	**$2,355,250**	**$642,500**

Table 2

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership

Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group

Current Unobligated Funds

The 2017 application and technical review process for remaining Restoration and Monitoring funding will not conclude until October 2017, leading to the current unobligated fund balance to requested to carry over into the second biennium.

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$70,000	$70,005	-$5	**-$5**
Outreach	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Technical Assistance	$60,000	$60,000	$0	**$0**
Restoration	$2,235,000	$1,327,052	$907,948	**$907,948**
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$185,000	$55,219	$129,781	**$129,781**
SUBTOTAL	$2,550,000	$1,512,276	$1,037,724	**$1,037,724**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$1,037,724**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$60,000	$0	**$60,000**	$15,000
Outreach	$20,000	$50,000	**$20,000**	$35,000
Technical Assistance[1]	$80,000	$30,000	**$160,000**	$30,000
Restoration	$2,150,000	$1,810,000	**$2,070,000**	$1,700,000
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$120,000	$220,000	**$120,000**	$220,000
Total	$2,430,000	$2,110,000	**$2,430,000**	**$2,000,000**

Table 2

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP)
Biennium 2015-2017
Biennial Report - April 2017

Name of Partnership
Upper Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership

Current Unobligated Funds
Technical Assistance, Restoration, and Monitoring applications for the 2017 Spring cycle were submitted on March 6, 2017 to GRMW/OWEB and are currently in technical review. These funds are expected to be obligated by OWEB prior to June 30, 2017 so the final requested carryover amount is expected to be $0 by June 30, 2017.

Table 1: 2015-2017 Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Actual OWEB Investment	Obligated OWEB Funds*	Remaining Balance	Current Unobligated Funds
Capacity Building	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Outreach	$29,772	$29,772	$0	**$0**
Technical Assistance	$279,427	$49,610	$229,817	**$229,817**
Restoration	$1,066,553	$104,137	$962,416	**$962,416**
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Water Acquisition	$0	$0	$0	**$0**
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$395,858	$96,872	$298,986	**$298,986**
SUBTOTAL	$1,771,610	$280,391	$1,491,219	**$1,491,219**
Expected June 30 Carryover				**$0**

Table 1

**Obligated funds are funds that are currently in grant agreement.*

Table 2: 2017-2019 Estimated Budget

OWEB Grant Category	Initial Estimated OWEB Investment*	Initial Estimated Leverage Funding*	Requested OWEB Investment**	Revised Estimated Leverage Funding
Capacity Building	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Outreach	$60,000	$60,000	**$60,000**	$79,120
Technical Assistance	$170,000	$7,300,000	**$300,000**	$5,000,000
Restoration	$2,071,500	$7,067,000	**$1,902,000**	$7,600,000
Land Acquisition	$0	$0	**$0**	$0
Water Acquisition	$80,000	$400,000	**$40,000**	$200,000
Monitoring Data Analysis/Reporting of Results	$35,000	$2,968,000	**$114,500**	$2,968,000
Total	$2,416,500	$17,795,000	**$2,416,500**	**$15,847,120**

Table 2

**Estimate from the FIP Phase 2 Application*
***Not to exceed total budget request from the FIP Phase 2 Application*

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Focused Investment Partnership-Capacity-Building

Recommended Amount: $1.15 million

Summary: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Capacity-Building grants support existing partnerships in three areas: building their capacity to partner at a high-performing level, generating a new strategic action plan, and/or to enhancing an existing plan within an OWEB Focused Investment Priority. Activities can also include community engagement and outreach related specifically to these efforts. Funds cannot be used to conduct new research, monitoring, or assessments. Existing partnerships are ones that include the necessary and sufficient partners to ultimately implement the partnership's strategic action plan. Receipt of capacity funding does not guarantee future Focused Investment Implementation funding from OWEB.

Program History: In October of 2013, OWEB initiated a nine-month process to develop the definition, criteria, and program design (including solicitation approach and process) for the FIP category in the Long-Term Investment Strategy. As a result of this process two offerings were developed within the FIP program, Capacity-Building technical assistance grants being one of the two. OWEB announced this new grant offering in May 2015 and applications were receive in November 2015.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, 23 applications were received by the November 2015 deadline requesting almost $2.5 million. In January 2016, the board awarded $937,369 to eight Capacity Building FIPs located within priority areas around the state.

Future Need*:* For the 2017-2019 biennium, applicants are required to complete a consultation with OWEB's Capacity Programs Coordinator and other FIP staff between March 1 and April 30, 2017. To date, 10 consultations have been scheduled. Staff anticipates between 10-15 applications being submitted for this biennium with the expectation that many applications will request close to the maximum award of $150,000. With the recommended funding amount of $1.15 million, OWEB will likely be able to fund between 7-9 applications in the 2017-2019 biennium.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* The 2015-2017 biennium is the first for the Focused Investment Capacity Building technical assistance grant program. The eight grantees are making progress on developing new strategic action plans, enhancing current strategic action plans, and developing partnership agreements. Grants are scheduled to end in early 2018.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0	$0
2013-2015	$0	$0
2015-2017	$1.000	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring

Recommended Amount: $0.550 million*

Summary: Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring (EM) involves evaluating the dedication of funding to specific actions in a particular geographic area. The approach employed by Focused Investment Partnerships (FIPs) provides an opportunity to learn about the progress and outcomes possible under six-year investments. Information emerging from these investments will be used by the board and stakeholders to adaptively manage partnership investments in the future.

Program History: During the 2013-2015 biennium, staff developed a framework for the board to understand and evaluate the extent of progress made for Special Investment Partnerships (SIPs) in coordination with SIP partners. It was intended not only to guide reporting on the accomplishments achieved under the SIPs, but also to help guide how FIP progress is assessed and reported to the board in the future.

In January 2016, the board awarded its first Implementation FIP grants. These investments are intended to support restoration at a strategic scale and resilient, sustainable partnerships that strategically plan and implement effective restoration projects.

Demand: In April 2016, the board awarded $200,000 in Focused Investment EM funding to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to coordinate development of a progress monitoring framework (PMF), in collaboration with the Implementation FIP partners. This framework will be applied by all of the Implementation FIPs to establish a monitoring and reporting approach by which the FIPs can describe their achievements toward ecological outcomes over time. Since the FIP awards and the grant to BEF were not made until several months into the biennium, the funding need for the 2015-2017 biennium focuses entirely on the establishment of the initial PMF and the subsequent work by BEF with each of the Implementation FIPs to apply the PMF within the context of their unique FIP.

Future Need: It is anticipated that the need for Focused Investment EM funding in the 2017-2019 biennium will be greater than during the 2015-2017 biennium. This anticipated increase is due to the fact that application of the PMF with each FIP involves cross-walking each partnership's existing monitoring approach and collaboratively identifying additional monitoring and accomplishment-reporting opportunities in which OWEB may want to invest. Work this biennium may result in the identification of additional monitoring and/or reporting that is needed to ensure the Implementation FIPs can effectively and accurately describe their progress, in a quantitative fashion, toward intended ecological and programmatic impacts. This information aims to help the board understand lessons learned and inform board decisions to refine OWEB investments in the future.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: Staff completed a series of accomplishment reports for the SIPs in the 2015-2017 biennium. These reports were valuable in helping the board and the public understand outcomes associated with significant OWEB investments in the Upper Deschutes and Willamette Basins that began in 2008 and in the Upper Klamath Basin that began in 2012. This compilation of information provided a format that is proving useful as OWEB considers how best to track and report progress of its investments in FIPs.

As noted above, a grant was awarded to BEF to develop a PMF for the Implementation FIPs. The structure for the PMF has been finalized, and consists of a results chain (a graphical representation of

the partnership's theory for how strategies are expected to produce long-term ecological impacts). The process for applying the PMF with each of the FIPs is developed and being implemented. This work includes developing a crosswalk matrix that documents and tracks both implementation measures and ecological outcomes for each FIP. The BEF team developed draft results chains in partnership with each of the Implementation FIPs, starting by using each partnership's FIP application, strategic action plans, and other supporting documents. As a next step, work sessions to discuss the results chains and crosswalks are anticipated to be completed with all six FIPs by the time of the April board meeting.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0	$0
2013-2015	$0	$0
2015-2017	$.500	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Council Capacity

Recommended Amount: $6.75 million

Summary: Council Capacity grants are awarded biennially and help support the operations of effective watershed councils that engage people in their communities to participate in collaborative, voluntary restoration of watersheds.

Program History: OWEB has provided operating grants to watershed councils for more than 15 years. Watershed councils are locally based, voluntary, and under ORS 541.890(15), "designated by a local government group convened by a county governing body, to address the goal of sustaining natural resource and watershed protection, restoration and enhancement within a watershed."

OWEB does not create or oversee watershed councils. OWEB has discretion to provide capacity grants to councils that represent a balance of interests in their watersheds and demonstrate the potential to protect and enhance the quality of their watersheds. Councils also are expected to assure a high level of citizen involvement in the development and implementation of watershed action programs (ORS 541.910).

In 2010 OWEB staff began a review of the council capacity program. In March 2012, the board directed staff to develop details of the "outcome-based review and award process," including listening sessions in preparation for changing the program. Staff considered listening session and work group feedback, and worked with the board Operating Capacity subcommittee to develop proposed eligibility and merit criteria.

In June 2013, the board authorized staff to begin rulemaking with the policy direction to build capacity through increased council sharing, combining, collaborating, and reducing the number of individual support grants over 5–10 years. To reinforce this direction, the board supported capping eligibility for individual grants at no more than 64 (based on watershed areas for councils that previously received an individual Watershed Council Support Grant). Geographic areas can change, but the board wants to see stronger, collective local capacity, not "splitting" and "subdividing" into smaller areas resulting in more competition for limited resources and more duplication of administrative infrastructure. In July 2014, the board adopted administrative rules and Implementation Guidance for Council Capacity grants.

For capacity funding in the 2015-2017 biennium, 59 councils submitted applications and 58 councils were funded. Staff used the new merit criteria and evaluation process to determine funding levels, including full funding, reduced funding, and do not fund. All 58 councils that received funding submitted the required work plan update in June 2016.

For capacity funding in the 2017-2019 biennium, 60 councils submitted requests for Eligibility Determination by the November 2016, deadline. After the Eligibility Review, and when necessary an appeal process, all 60 were determined eligible to apply for a Council Capacity grant. All 60 councils applied by the March 2017, deadline. The board will award 2017-2019 Council Capacity grants at the July 2017, board meeting.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, 46 councils secured full funding for the biennium, 11 obtained partial funding, and one council did not receive funding.

Future Need*:* The Council Capacity grant program is seeking to include a 4% cost-of-living increase for councils in the 2017-2019 biennium.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* The 2015-2017 biennium is the first for the revised Council Capacity program. In general, grantees are demonstrating progress related to all merit criteria, effective management, effective governance, progress in planning, community engagement, and on the ground restoration. This was also the last biennium OWEB will provide an umbrella bonus for watershed councils that either provide support to, and coordination for, at least three watershed councils, has a coordinating council, shared staff, and a single Council Capacity Grant, or serves an area containing three or more 4th field hydrologic units.

Included in the 2015-2017 guidance document was a reference to the consideration of the development of a sixth merit criterion prior to the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant cycle. During the summer of 2014 OWEB worked with an Oregon Fellow to begin investigating opportunities for a sixth merit criterion that focused on strategic collaboration. The final recommendation from the Oregon Fellow and staff was to not implement a sixth merit criteria around strategic collaboration and keep the merit evaluation focused on the original five criteria.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$6.100	$0
2013-2015	$6.100	$0
2015-2017	$6.250	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Soil and Water Conservation District Capacity

Recommended Amount: $6.75 million

Summary: Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Capacity grants provide funding for 45 SWCDs to work with landowners to conserve natural resources and lend support to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) Agricultural Water Quality Management Program. The funding is divided into two funds for each SWCD:

1) *Scope of Work* funds support working with landowners and partners to protect and conserve natural resources; specifically, providing technical assistance and community engagement for the restoration and protection of native fish and wildlife, watersheds, and water quality through implementation of Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans.
2) *District Operations Fund* supports the capacity of the SWCDs to comply with Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) requirements, conduct business, and provide assistance to landowners and partners.

Program History: SWCDs have an over 75-year history in Oregon. Established in 1939, South Tillamook became the first official Soil Conservation District. In 1963 the Oregon Legislature added the "and Water" to the name of Soil Conservation Districts. The first Legislative Budget Note for SWCD funding was in 1997: *"The Subcommittee expects the grant funds to be available in the following amounts through the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board: $2,400,000 - Soil and Water Conservation Districts: Funding for positions in each of the eight existing areas and for watershed assessments and management plans; half of the funding would be distributed through an application process."*

SWCDs are political subdivisions of state government, but are not state agencies. SWCDs are considered municipal corporations. They are governed by specific enabling legislation under ORS 568. The members of SWCD Boards of Directors are elected officials, to serve on either a five or seven member board.

Since the inception of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, legislative direction and budget notes have resulted in the following list of fundamental principles from which the annual work plan, commonly known as the Scope of Work (SOW), is built:

1) ODA is responsible to develop, periodically modify, and implement Agricultural Water Quality Area Plans that are sufficient to meet water quality standards as described in statute.
2) SWCDs are the Local Management Agencies that assist ODA in implementing the Area Plans. SWCDs are to be involved in timely, effective implementation of Area Plans to the fullest extent practical.
3) Legislative budget notes (1997, 2007) provide direction to ODA on the use and purpose of funds allocated to SWCDs, as further refined in the Intergovernmental Agreement.
4) Legislative direction is to use these funds to implement the agricultural portion of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds as administered by ODA.
5) In June 2012, ODA began working with Oregon Association of Conservation Districts leadership, SWCD managers, and the Soil and Water Conservation Commission to develop a new annual work plan or (SOW) process. The new SOW process provides SWCDs more flexibility and responsibility. 75% of the SOW funds are used for district-wide tasks while requiring 25% of the funds to be used for a specific geographic area (Focus Area). Focus Areas allow SWCDs to assess and measure change in land conditions over time. The SOW Focus Area process is a consistent approach to geographically

assess riparian conditions, target on the ground projects to improve water quality, and demonstrate effectiveness of the conservation work SWCDs achieve on a statewide basis.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, 41 SWCDs received full Capacity grant funding. Four Baker County SWCDs split two full shares of capacity grant funds.

Future Need: The SWCD Capacity grant program is seeking to include a 4% cost-of-living increase in the 2017-2019 biennium.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: SWCDs continue to work directly with ODA, Watershed Councils, Natural Resources Conservation Service, and other partners in implementing Oregon's 38 Agricultural Water Quality Area Plans, and assist landowners in conducting conservation work on agricultural lands. SWCDs are also vital to assisting ODA in implementing the Strategic Implementation Area program, and capacity funding provides the means to allow SWCDs to engage in the program at the current levels.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$6.100	$0
2013-2015	$6.100	$0
2015-2017	$6.250	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Conservation Partnership

Recommended Amount: $0.500 million

Summary: The Conservation Partnership (Partnership) includes The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC), Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), and Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network (OCEAN). These separate groups collaborate and coordinate to deliver technical support, member services, program development, training, and outreach to their stakeholders. For the 2017-2019 biennium, the partnership plans to increase the delivery of services and offerings to their stakeholders while also expanding the role of COLT in the partnership.

Program History: Since 2007, the board has approved grants and supported the efforts of these organizations, recognizing that they provide a vital link between OWEB's programs and successful on-the-ground work. OWEB's funding has supported various deliverables in past biennia, including conferences, trainings, one-on-one work with local organizations, and youth activities.

In 2012, OWEB, NOWC and OACD began meeting to discuss ways to further collaboration among the organizations. This resulted in NOWC and OACD taking steps to formalize a partnership that included shared office space and staff resources, allowing them to reduce overhead and expand capacity. In recent years the organizations' work has expanded to include COLT and OCEAN. This expanded effort resulted in a Partnership request to the board for the 2015-2017 biennium that included funding for each of the four organizations. In July 2015, the board approved a grant for joint programming that serves the collective and complementary missions of the councils, districts, and land trusts and included new operating agreements, joint publications and events, and the initiation of regular meetings of all four executive directors of the organizations.

Demand*:* The demand for the services provided by the Partnership has continued to grow. As examples, the Partnership has also seen increased attendance at the CONNECT conference, which provides training for restoration practitioners, as well as good turnout at both the NOWC and OACD annual meetings last year.

Future Need*:* Staff propose to increase the Partnership funding amount for this biennium as the partnership works to increase its effectiveness as a partnership and to increase its delivery of services to its stakeholders. New deliverables include increased coordinated communication to stakeholders and increased coordination of the CONNECT conference, which had previously been accomplished with partner in-kind donations. Partnership-identified outcomes include:

- Rigorous needs assessment and evaluation data and processes to show and report on impacts of councils, districts, and land trusts, and of voluntary conservation on private lands in Oregon;
- New innovative partnerships and leveraging of resources across the Partnership, including development of new and additional funding resources for the Partnership;
- Efficient, effective organizational management for the Partnership;
- Enhanced integration of services for Partnership constituents such as joint training, consistent and coordinated communication, and convenings;

- Increased collaboration within and across land trusts, councils, and districts to improve efficiency and impact; and
- Increased availability of resources for all Partnership constituents, including creating and maintaining an electronic library of shared templates.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium: COLT received funds from the Land Trust Alliance and the Partnership hired a facilitator to work through a needs assessment. This process concluded with the development and signing of a new partnership agreement. The NOWC and OACD held several joint board meetings and also signed a new MOU and MOA. The three executive directors and representative from OCEAN have begun meeting monthly to increase coordination and communication. The Partnership purchased software to enable delivery of education and networking remotely. Using that software, they collaborated on delivery of two pilot webinars for councils and districts in 2016, with additional webinars planned for the remainder of the biennium. The Partnership is currently working on the 2017 CONNECT conference, which is scheduled for May 2-4, in Pendleton. The results from a needs assessment survey, which was delivered to the Partnership constituents, helped guide the development of programing for the NOWC and OACD annual meetings, the webinars, and informed the content of the CONNECT conference. The Working Lands Gap Analysis was also completed, which studied the capacity among eligible entities to hold working land easements, the demand from landowners, and the barriers to the purchase of conservation easements. Phase two of this analysis will occur next biennium.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0.200	$0
2013-2015	$0.415	$0
2015-2017	$0.358	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Organizational Collaboration (formerly Building Capacity)

Recommended Amount: $0.500 million

Summary: Organizational Collaboration grants support new or expanded strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local partners that achieve ecological outcomes and engage local communities. Activities may include 1) changing the operational structure of the organization(s) which may result in sharing of staff and services with other councils, districts or organizations, or 2) merger/consolidations of councils, districts, or councils and districts. The applicants must demonstrate that the organizational restructuring options being considered will strengthen organizational impact and build resiliency and sustainability of the organization(s). This category also provides short-term funding post-merger to successfully consolidated organizations to facilitate the successful transition of the newly combined organizations.

Program History: OWEB announced this new grant offering for the first time in July 2013. Since its inception four grants have been awarded.

- In 2013, $83,824 was awarded for the merger of four watershed councils in the Rogue basin. In 2015, $200,000 was awarded to the successfully merged Rogue River Watershed Council as a merger transition grant.
- In 2013, $40,461 was awarded to Cascade Pacific RC&D for the expansion of fiscal sponsorship and employer of record services for local partners.
- In 2016, $42,964 was awarded to Marys River Watershed Council, Greenbelt Land Trust, Benton County SWCD and Institute for Applied Ecology to explore co-locating and sharing of services.

Demand*:* In the 2015-2017 biennium, OWEB only awarded two grants out of this category, but had multiple inquiries from organizations that were not yet ready to proceed with applications. The purpose of the funding is to build capacity through resource sharing and organizational restructuring, and this takes time. OWEB staff believe one or two grants per biennium can be considered a success and a step toward increased capacity and resource sharing among local partners.

Future Need*:* Staff propose to keep the funding for this program level the same. This will be the last biennium of support through the merger transition grant to the Rogue River Watershed Council, which constitutes $200,000 of the $400,000 request. In addition local organizations around the state continue to have conversations around organizational restructuring and strategic collaboration. These conversations are in various stages and we anticipate a similar, if not slightly increased, demand in the 2017-2019 biennium.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* OWEB staff will be meeting with the Marys River Watershed Council and partners in early May to get an update on the co-locating and sharing of services grant, and anticipate providing the Board a full report at the October 2017 board meeting.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0.100	$0
2013-2015	$0.200	$0
2015-2017	$0.400	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program Cost-Share Payments and Technical Assistance

Recommended Amount-CREP TA: $0.925 million

Recommended Amount-CREP Cost Shares: $0.600 million

Summary: The Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is a cooperative venture between the State of Oregon and Farm Services Agency (FSA), with technical support from the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and local partners including soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and resource conservation and development councils. The purpose of this long-standing program is to restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Landowners enrolled in CREP receive annual rental payments and state and federal cost-share incentives to install approved conservation measures such as planting trees and shrubs, and installing fencing and livestock watering facilities. OWEB also provides competitive, statewide CREP Technical Assistance (TA) grants every two years. These grants support costs associated with local CREP implementation including staffing, travel, training, outreach, and planning.

Program History: In 1998, Oregon CREP was established to support implementation of approved conservation practices aimed at improving riparian function on private lands throughout Oregon. The State of Oregon contributes 25% of the eligible cost-share for establishing approved conservation practices, 75% of eligible cost-share (minus available federal cost-share) for certain water developments, and 100% of costs for heavy-duty tree protectors. FSA contributes federal cost-share, rental payments, incentive bonuses, and administrative oversight. NRCS and the Oregon Department of Forestry provide the majority of the necessary technical assistance, with Oregon Water Resources Department, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and others providing in-kind technical assistance. Since 1998, Oregon CREP has grown from a relatively small, experimental program into a robust statewide program that provides important, unique financial incentives and continues to be a leader in enrollments nationwide.

In 2001, the board provided the first CREP TA grants to soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) around the state. Between 2007 and 2011, CREP TA was funded out of the board award for SWCD capacity to supplement the biennial base funding for these organizations. In 2011, in consultation with CREP agency partners, funding eligibility expanded to include multi-county, multi-organization proposals. In that same year, OWEB and NRCS joined together to invest over $1 million in CREP TA grants independent from the funding for SWCD capacity and OWEB's regular technical assistance grant program. These two-year grants aimed to address critical technical assistance needs for Oregon CREP.

OWEB reports to FSA annually on the State's contribution to Oregon CREP. For the 2015-2017 biennium, the State as a whole contributed approximately $1.6 million to the overall program, which included $500,000 in cost-share payments, $825,000 for OWEB's CREP TA grants, in-kind contributions from state agencies, and match brought to the program through OWEB's CREP TA grants.

Demand: In the 2015-2017 biennium, CREP cost share funds have been spent down 86% to date. 12 organizations, primarily SWCDs, secured funding through CREP TA grants, which was the full amount of available funding for that portion of the program.

Future Need: The CREP cost share program is seeking to make available $600,000 in the 2017-2019 biennium. The CREP TA grant program is expecting 13 organizations to apply for funding in the 2017 – 2019 biennium. The amount to be requested is not yet known.

Highlights of Accomplishments or Program Developments in the Biennium*:* In 2015, the board approved a spending plan that set aside $750,000 for CREP TA. NRCS committed $225,000 in matching funds. In January 2016, the board approved to supplement CREP TA funds with an additional $75,000. Combined, these funds support 12 CREP programs through the 2015-2017 CREP TA grant cycle, which awarded over $1 million with projects ranging from $23,000 to $149,000. These programs provide critical technical assistance for Oregon CREP, covering 20 counties statewide.

In February and March 2017, OWEB hosted two CREP trainings (one in Springfield and one in Pendleton). The trainings were open to all local, state, and federal partners in the program and were heavily attended. The training provided administrative and technical training to effectively deliver Oregon CREP.

To address the program's ability to address cultural resource reviews and surveys needed for the development and implementation of CREP conservation plans, OWEB and NRCS are supporting the attendance of 10 CREP technicians at the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's archaeology training in April 2017.

In 2016, OWEB and FSA began the process of revising the CREP Agreement between the State of Oregon and FSA. The revision is intended to clarify incentives and payments for re-enrolled contracts and to clarify agency roles. It is expected that the agreement will be finalized in 2017.

In 2017, OWEB and NRCS began the process of developing a new agreement between the State of Oregon and NRCS that will award $250,000 of NRCS funds to OWEB for CREP TA. This agreement is expected to be final in April 2017.

Investments by Biennium – CREP Cost Shares		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0.500	$0.447
2013-2015	$0.500	$0.248
2015-2017	$0.500	$*
Investments by Biennium – CREP TA		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0.800	$0
2013-2015	$0.750	$0
2015-2017	$1.05	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) program

Recommended Amount $1.00 million

Summary: The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, is leading "Strategic Implementation" where select areas around the state will receive focused outreach and education to address priority water quality concerns. Water quality goals are achieved by voluntary cooperation among landowners and natural resource partners to address management concerns, and by ODA enforcing water quality regulations.

During the 2015-2017 biennium, 12 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) were identified. As part of the SIA process, using publically available information, agricultural operations are evaluated and categorized depending upon their potential to pollute. Following extensive outreach by ODA, producers in need of conservation or restoration activities are referred to Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) or Watershed Councils (WSCs). Restoration projects within SIA boundaries were eligible for funding in part by OWEB through a dedicated grant program.

For 2017-2019 ODA and OWEB are altering their SIA funding approach. Funding will be for SWCDs and WSCs to provide technical assistance to landowners for outreach and restoration project design activities within newly identified SIAs. This funding and associated reporting will be incorporated into existing operating capacity grant agreements. Any restoration projects developed from SIAs as a result of OWEB's technical assistance funding may be submitted either through OWEB's other grant programs or in partnership with other agencies for implementation.

Program History: In the 2013-2015 biennium, ODA developed the SIA process in order to prioritize agricultural lands with connectivity to waters of the state using data sets of reproducible criteria. Following the prioritization process, ODA worked with the Clackamas County and Wasco County SWCDs as pilot test areas. ODA then initiated a remote Compliance Evaluation to identify and categorize agricultural areas that may be contributing to pollution, with the results shared with landowners. Additional outreach and education, personal landowner contact, and referral to SWCDs and WSCs for assistance in conducting restoration activities followed.

In the 2015-2017 biennium, ODA identified SIAs in Deschutes, Polk, Columbia, Clatsop, Polk, Yamhill, East Multnomah, Clackamas, Jackson, Tillamook, Marion, Hood River, and Umatilla counties. To assist producers in these regions, OWEB allocated $1million to fund restoration projects within SIA boundaries.

Demand: During the 2015-2017 biennium, all of the operations evaluated as posing the greatest threat to water quality since SIA inception have worked or are currently working with local partners to come into Agricultural Water Quality Management Program compliance, without the need for regulatory enforcement. Five applications for funding were received in the two 2016 grant cycles. Four projects were awarded a total of $527,394 in grant funding. The final SIA grant cycle closes April 17, 2017. It is expected that grant requests will exceed remaining funds available.

In the 2017-2019 biennium, ODA will identify 12 additional SIAs. Following SIA identification, OWEB funds will be eligible to assist local partners in providing technical assistance to agricultural operators for water quality improvement. Restoration projects may be proposed through existing OWEB processes in the Small Grant and Open Solicitation grant programs.

ODA and OWEB believe that strategic delivery of outreach and technical assistance will lead to greater program effectiveness and allow ODA and its partners to make better use of limited resources. Consequently, ODA is requesting $1 million to assist partners as they develop projects with agricultural operators improve water quality.

Future Need: It is anticipated that SIAs will continue to be selected using a robust prioritization approach based on data from multiple sources including state and federal agencies. Funding will continue to be needed to assist in providing technical assistance.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$0	$0
2013-2015	$0	$0
2015-2017	$1.000	$*

*Full biennium data not available

April 2017 Spending Plan

Title: Small Grant Program

Recommended Amount: $3.3 million*

Summary: OWEB Small Grant Program funds are awarded biennially to cooperative partnerships of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. Twenty-eight teams form to prioritize and implement smaller-scale watershed restoration projects. Teams must select from an OWEB rule-defined list when identifying priority watershed concerns for their Small Grant Area. Priority concerns include fish passage; urban impact reduction; water quality and quantity/irrigation efficiency; road impact reduction; and instream, riparian, wetland, and upland process and function.

Small grants cannot exceed $10,000, and are often the first grant a landowner may implement, leading to future restoration investments through the open solicitation grant program.

Program History: In 1999, OWEB investigated ways to be more responsive to small restoration projects. During this time the Oregon Legislature encouraged the agency to initiate a county-based, local cost-share program through a budget note in OWEB's legislative adopted budget.

In January 2002, the board adopted administrative rules establishing a Small Grant Program (SGP) with the goal of supporting implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds by funding small, straightforward restoration projects designed to improve water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife habitat. These projects can often be implemented on a short turnaround. Such projects are to include, but are not limited to, those developed to address Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL's), Agriculture Water Quality Management Plans, urban nonpoint source pollution management plans, and the Board of Forestry's Forestry Program for Oregon.

The board set boundaries for 28 geographic areas throughout the state. Within each area a Small Grant Team may form, comprised of representatives from local watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and tribes. Individual teams are guided by self-defined operating procedures and a list of watershed priorities and eligible project types, revisited biennially by teams. Since its inception the board has allocated $2.8 million ($100,000 per team) per biennium to the program. Teams then accept applications from within their boundaries for watershed restoration projects. Team-recommended applications and draft grant agreements are then sent to OWEB for final approval.

Teams must select from an OWEB rule-defined list when identifying priority watershed concerns for their Small Grant Area. Priority concerns include fish passage; urban impact reduction; water quality and quantity/irrigation efficiency; road impact reduction; and instream, riparian, wetland, and upland process and function. Projects must be implemented using established techniques with guidance from one of eight approved technical guidance source documents.

In January 2004, the board revisited SGP rules, implementing changes that included requiring each Team have at least one actively participating watershed council representative and one soil and water conservation district representative to be eligible for funding. Rule changes also included limiting eligible applicants to tribes, councils and districts who may act on behalf of landowners, non-profits, schools, and government.

Demand: In the 2015-2017 biennium, all 28 Small Grant Teams successfully reorganized and were awarded $100,000 each. As of March 22, 2017, 214 Small Grant Project grants have been awarded, with

over $1,869,566 allocated. Early estimates indicate that approximately $2,360,000 will be committed by the end of the biennium.

Future Need: The biennium spending plan need is expected to remain stable at $2.8 million; however, due to increasing costs, grantee feedback, and the trend to fund larger projects through the regular grant program, there is a need to increase the project cap from the current $10,000. The board Open Solicitation Subcommittee is currently investigating project funding history and will be developing a recommendation for an increased cap. Also being investigated is the development of a mechanism to reallocate any unspent funds at the end of each biennium to teams that have successfully invested their awards.

Program Developments in the Biennium: There have been no program changes in the last biennium. Program benefits consistently highlighted by the teams include: flexible, straightforward program; local review; quick turn-around; develops partnerships among watershed councils, SWCDs, and tribes; develops landowner trust in government; builds strong relationships with landowners; develops partnerships with city, county, state and federal agencies, and non-profits; aids the local economy by using local venders and contractors; and leverages funding.

Through the Long-Term Investment Strategy framework, staff prioritized work on program changes and improvements. The board's Open Solicitation Subcommittee is currently reviewing the Small Grant Program.

Investments by Biennium		
Biennium	Spending Plan (after additional funds added)	Remaining Spending Plan at end of biennium
2011-2013	$2.800	$0.404
2013-2015	$2.800	$.581
2015-2017	$2.800	$*

*Full biennium data not available

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Study Report
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will present the results of the statewide effectiveness monitoring study of riparian restoration actions that have occurred under the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) and discuss results with the board.

II. Background about CREP Effectiveness Monitoring

CREP is intended to restore healthy riparian areas on agricultural lands. In Oregon, CREP is a partnership between the federal government and the state of Oregon. The Farm Services Agency (FSA) administers the program for the federal government, and the state of Oregon provides a 25% cost-share match through OWEB funding. Since its inception in 1998, the program has been highly successful at recruiting landowners to participate, with over 41,000 acres enrolled in the program.

In 2004, an amendment to the agreement between the state and FSA required Oregon to conduct effectiveness monitoring of CREP contracts. In April of 2014, the board awarded $250,000 in support of this monitoring. During the past three years, staff worked with FSA and an advisory group to design and oversee implementation of this study. A contract was awarded to consulting firm Stillwater Sciences in fall of 2015 to complete this study.

III. CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Final Report

Stillwater Sciences conducted field sampling in May and September of 2016, and then completed data analysis. The contractor's final report, including their recommendations, was submitted to OWEB in February 2017 (see Attachment A for the Executive Summary of the report). The report is available online at http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/MONITOR/docs/CREP/CREP-EM-Report-03.09.17.pdf.

At the April 2017 board meeting, staff will present an overview of the report, including monitoring objectives, study results, and recommendations offered by the contractor. In addition, staff will describe next steps for CREP partners to consider the study's results and recommendations, and determine how the information can be used to adaptively manage the program and help guide development and implementation of future CREP contracts.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Final Report – Executive Summary

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Stillwater Sciences (Stillwater) was contracted by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to develop and implement an effectiveness monitoring study of the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) contracts implemented in Oregon, focusing on two of the most common conservation practices used in the program: Riparian Buffer (CP 22) and Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Buffer (CP 29). The overall intent of this extensive, post-treatment, statewide study is to assess the effectiveness of the CREP program restoration actions on improving riparian conditions . It was not designed to evaluate individual counties or sites. Stillwater adapted regional sampling protocols to select sample site locations and collect relevant field data, and subcontracted with Sitka Technology Group to tailor an existing data-gathering and management program for this project, and with Cascade Environmental Group to provide input on survey approaches and to assist with field data collection. This report provides a summary and assessment of the findings.

The sampling framework was created by stratifying the state by ecoregion and conservation practice, resulting in three sampling strata. The full set of existing CREP contracts within each stratum was filtered based on several criteria to ensure that restoration had been implemented at selected sites, and the sites were of sufficient size. CREP technicians and local NRCS representatives coordinated landowner access and provided critical information on contracted sites. This information was reviewed by United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) Farm Services Agency (FSA) staff prior to providing it to OWEB, in accordance with the data-sharing agreement between FSA and OWEB. Sites were selected based on random draws from each stratum, and were ultimately visited if landowner permission for access was provided, and appropriate and accessible control sites were available. In order to determine the appropriate sampling number and to test and refine field methods, field sampling was implemented in two phases. Eighteen sites were sampled in June 2016 during Phase 1 and minor refinements were made to the field protocol. Twenty-two additional sites were sampled in September 2016 during Phase 2, for a total of 40 sites, including 25 treatment sites and 15 controls.

The CREP program treatments are intended to improve the quality of riparian site conditions to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. Some of the most important treatment effectiveness indicators relate to percent vegetation cover both along the channel and more than 10 m back from the edge of the riparian vegetation, on the floodplain and terrace area. These were found to be significantly higher in treated compared with control sites in the Riparian Buffer conservation practice (CP-22) and the Marginal Pastureland Wildlife Buffer conservation practice (CP-29) sites east of the Cascades, indicating that these goals are being achieved through the program. Differences in streamside native vegetation between untreated controls and treated CREP sites west of the Cascades were not significant, suggesting a need for different strategies or practices for increasing native streamside vegetation cover in this area. CREP sites treated with CP-22 both east and west of the Cascades were found to have significantly higher percent cover of native woody vegetation sampled more than 10 m from the edge of the riparian vegetation, on the floodplain and terrace area, compared with untreated controls. This overall finding indicates that in these areas, the CREP actions are achieving the goal of increasing native woody cover within the riparian corridor. Bank stability was found to be greater in two of the three strata: west side CP-22 and east side CP-29, indicating that bank erosion is being addressed through these practices in these regions but that planting and livestock exclosure practices are not addressing bank erosion effectively in the east-side CP-22 stratum. These results may point to other geomorphic processes driving bank erosion east of the Cascades that cannot be fully addressed by the CREP-eligible conservation practices alone. Finally, while livestock fencing was intact in

over half of the sites visited and evidence of livestock presence within the exclosures was reported for less than one-third of the sites, both absence of livestock indicators AND intact fencing was only found at under half of the CREP treatment sites that included exclosure fencing in their contracts.

Based on these data and field observations, we offer several recommendations for the CREP program that might improve effectiveness of the conservation practices in improving riparian conditions to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. However, it is important to note that this study monitored CREP projects that were implemented over seven years ago, so has not captured many of the effects of adaptive measures that have been applied in recent years. In fact, many of the recommendations that are made in this report have already been adopted by the CREP technicians to improve the success and effectiveness of riparian buffers. Thus, findings of this study reinforce the importance of such adaptive management strategies in implementing a successful CREP Program across Oregon.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants Rule Amendments
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report informs the board on the rulemaking process to update the OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants (Division 10) administrative rules, and requests board approval on the proposed rule amendments.

II. Background

During the spring and summer of 2016, staff conducted a review of several OWEB administrative rule divisions. After completing the rule reviews, staff recommended changes to certain administrative rules.

Staff have proposed changes to the OWEB Grant Program rules (Division 5) in the purpose section, application requirements, grant agreement conditions, and distribution of funds. Proposed rule changes in Division 5 range from technical clean-up (e.g., not requiring applicant provide a fax number on grant proposals) to more substantive policy changes (e.g., removing "a person" from OWEB grant eligibility).

In the Restoration Grants rules (Division 10), substantial changes are recommended to the evaluation criteria. Staff have also recommended changes to the evaluation criteria utilized by the regional review teams.

At its October 2016 meeting, the board authorized rulemaking to amend the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants administrative rules.

III. Rules Advisory Committee

In December 2016, OWEB convened a rules advisory committee (RAC) to discuss both the technical and substantive policy-oriented rule change proposals. The RAC was composed of stakeholders representing OWEB applicants and grantees from across the state. Attachment A provides the members of the RAC, whose purpose was to provide feedback on the proposed rule changes and offer recommendations for staff to consider when drafting final rules. For the proposed technical fixes to

administrative rules, the RAC had broad agreement that the proposed changes were appropriate. There was also agreement on many of the proposed policy changes, with much of the discussion centered on language to be used in the Restoration Grants evaluation criteria, including new criteria proposed by the RAC.

Comments provided by the RAC were brought before OWEB staff for review, with final refinements made to the amended rules by the RAC over a teleconference in February, 2017.

IV. Public Comment Period and Proposed Rule Amendments

OWEB released draft rule amendments for public comment on February 28, 2017. The public comment period was open from March 1 until March 30, 2017 and included a public hearing in Salem on March 30th. A summary of the written comments received during the public comment period are provided in Attachment B. Staff reviewed the public comments, and made revisions to the proposed amendments to the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants administrative rules are found in Attachment C. At its April meeting, the board may only receive public comment on the revisions to the proposed rule amendments that have occurred since the close of the public comment period.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the amendments to the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration grants administrative rules found in Attachment C.

Attachments

A. OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants Rules Advisory Committee
B. OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants Public Comments and Response
C-1. Proposed Amended Rules (redlined)
C-2. Proposed Amended Rules (clean)

OWEB Division 5 and 10 Rulemaking: Rules Advisory Committee Members

Name	Organization	Region
Seth Mead	Siuslaw SWCD	1
Katie Duzik	OWEB	1
Brian Barr	Rogue River WC	2
Sarah Dyrdahl	Middle Fork Willamette WC	3
Deb Merchant	Marys River WC	3
Shilah Olson	Wasco SWCD	4
Marci Schreder	Lake County Umbrella WSC	4
Ken Diebel	Malheur WC	5
Amy Charette	Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	6

Summary of Public Comments Received: Proposed Amendments to OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants Administrative Rules (Division 10)

Rules: General Comments			
Commenter(s)	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
Nell Scott Klamath Restoration Directors Trout Unlimited Klamath Falls, OR nscott@tu.org	Support for all of the changes, feels that they address concerns with OWEB grant process.	OWEB appreciates the support for the amendments to the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grants Administrative Rules	No
Thomas O'Neill The Habitat Institute Corvallis, OR Santa Cruz, CA habitat@thehabitatinstitute.org	Concern that OWEB does not require restoration grants to include an independent party to determine baseline conditions and monitor project accomplishments.	A thoroughly vetted scientific framework guides the work of OWEB and grantees through the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Through this framework, OWEB, grantees and other state partners can continually incorporate new information to inform baseline conditions and understand conservation outcomes throughout the state. OWEB offers several grant programs including both restoration grants and monitoring grants. OWEB reporting requirements for restoration grantees include project completion reports and post-implementation status reports. Independent verification of the results of each restoration project is not a feasible approach because this task would take resources away from on-the-ground restoration projects.	No
Thomas O'Neill The Habitat Institute Corvallis, OR Santa Cruz, CA habitat@thehabitatinstitute.org	Concern that OWEB does not have a consistent metric to measure ecological gain from restoration projects.	See comment above.	No

Summary of Public Comments Received: Proposed Amendments to OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants Administrative Rules (Division 10)

Rules: Division 5 General Comments				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	Support for suggested changes around fiscal administration (695-005-0030[5]), amending grant agreements (695-005-0050[1]), and equipment purchased with grant funds 695-005-0050[6]).	OWEB appreciates the support for amending the OWEB Grant Program Administrative Rules (Division 5)	No

Rules: 695-005-0060				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
(1)	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	The proposed elimination of reimbursement for permit costs incurred before grant agreement should be explained as it would be a disincentive for applicants to secure permits before applications are submitted.	The proposed amendment in 695-005-0060(1) removes the rule that the board will not reimburse grantees for expenses incurred prior to signing a grant agreement. If approved, this amendment would allow for all costs associated with a project to be reimbursed, even if the cost were incurred before a grant agreement was signed.	No
(8)	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	The proposed changes raise the question about who is authorized to make grant funding decisions. Recommend changing the language to reflect board authority on funding decisions.	The proposed rule amendments have been changed to address the authority question.	Yes

Rules: Division 10 General Comments				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	Many of the proposed changes reflect more clearly the current programs.	OWEB appreciates the support for amending the Restoration Grants Administrative Rules.	No

Summary of Public Comments Received: Proposed Amendments to OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants Administrative Rules (Division 10)

Rules: 695-010-0020				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
(5)	Thomas O'Neill The Habitat Institute Corvallis, OR Santa Cruz, CA habitat@thehabitatinstitute.org	Definition of watershed function appears incomplete, and should include ecological functions that include species and habitat.	The current definition of watershed function was reviewed by OWEB staff and the RAC and determined not to require amending. The current definition includes reference to "ecosystem", which includes ecological functions	No
(6)	Thomas O'Neill The Habitat Institute Corvallis, OR Santa Cruz, CA habitat@thehabitatinstitute.org	Definition of watershed health in not current and needs updating.	The current definition of watershed health was reviewed by OWEB staff and the RAC and determined not to require amending.	No

Rules: 695-010-0060				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
(2)	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	Concern that the proposed language for providing a public benefit in the evaluation criteria is not reflective of the origins of the restoration grant program and does not clarify the intent of public benefit in the evaluation criteria.	The proposed amendment was made to mirror language found in ORS 541.956. ORS 541.958 also provide guidance for including public benefit in the evaluation criteria. OWEB staff determined that this language was used to develop OAR 695-010-0060(2), and have thus proposed to revert to the original language found in the rule.	Yes
(2)(a)(b)	Thomas O'Neill The Habitat Institute Corvallis, OR Santa Cruz, CA habitat@thehabitatinstitute.org	Should add "and/or" at end of (a) and in (b) ecosystem function should be changed to read natural watershed or ecological functions in order to improve water quality, stream flow or connectivity.	See response to Ken Bierly above.	Yes

Summary of Public Comments Received: Proposed Amendments to OWEB Grant Program (Division 5) and Restoration Grants Administrative Rules (Division 10)

Rules: 695-010-0060				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
(3)	Ken Bierly 2308 Ptarmigan St. NW Salem, OR 97304	The proposed language clarifies the evaluation criteria and is an excellent simplification of the language.	OWEB appreciates the support for amending the Restoration Grants evaluation criteria	No

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

DIVISION 5

OWEB GRANT PROGRAM

695-005-0010

Purpose

These rules guide the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in accepting applications and considering grant proposals for funding under the provisions of ORS 541.890, et seq. The ~~regular~~ Board grant program includes grants described in 695-005-0020 et seq. for watershed restoration, monitoring, watershed assessment and action planning, watershed council support, watershed education and outreach, land and water acquisition, and small grants. In addition, the Board may from time to time, as funds are available, request proposals for technical assistance and research.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0020

Definitions

(1) "Board" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board created under ORS 541.900.

(2) "Director" means the Executive Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board or the Executive Director's designee.

(3) "Grant Agreement" is the legally binding contract between the Board and the grant recipient. It consists of the conditions specified in these rules, the notice of grant award, special conditions to the agreement, a certification to comply with applicable state and federal regulations, the project budget and the approved application for funding the project.

(4) "Regional Review Team" is a team, appointed by the Director, of designated personnel with regional knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise drawn from agencies represented on the Board and other entities to evaluate regional grant applications. The Director may change the composition of regional review teams.

(5) "Partners" are non-governmental or governmental persons or entities that have committed funding, expertise, materials, labor, or other assistance to a proposed project.

(6) "Match" is any contribution to a project that is non-Board funds. Match may include:

(a) Cash on hand or cash that is pledged to be on hand prior to commencement of the project;

(b) Secured funding commitments from other sources;

(c) Pending commitments of funding from other sources. In such instances, Board funding will not be released prior to secured commitment of the other funds. Pending commitments of the funding must be secured within 12 months from the date of the award; or

(d) The value of in-kind labor, equipment rental and materials essential to the project, based on local market rates.

(7) "OWEB" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board state agency.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-005-0030

Application Requirements

(1) Applications must be submitted on the most current form prescribed by the Board. Current applications are available on the OWEB website. An explanation must accompany the application if any of the information required on the application cannot be provided. In addition to the information required in the application, and the required attachments, an applicant may submit additional information that will aid the Board in evaluating the project.

(2) All applicants for Board grants shall supply the following information:

(a) Names, physical and email addresses, ~~fax~~ and telephone numbers of the applicant contact person(s) and the fiscal officer(s);

(b) Name and address of involved landowner(s);

(c) The name and location of the proposed project. The location shall be described in reference to the public land survey, latitude and longitude using decimal degrees, North American Datum 1983, county, watershed, and stream mile, if appropriate;

(d) Estimated line item budget for the project using the most current budget form prescribed by the Board. Current budget forms are available on the OWEB website;

(e) Identification of specific project elements for which Board funds will be used;

(f) A list of any non-Board funds, services or materials available or secured for the project and any conditions which may affect the completion of the project;

(g) If the project is part of a multi-year project, and a new funding request continues a previously Board-funded activity, a description of the previous project accomplishments and results as well as an accounting of past expenditures and revenues for the project;

(h) Identification of volunteers and partners and the contribution they will make to the project;

(i) A project schedule including times of project beginning and completion; and

(j) Any information requested that is necessary to evaluate the project based on the evaluation criteria for that project type.

(3) All applicants shall demonstrate at least 25% match is being sought, on a form prescribed by the Board, based on the total Board grant request, at the time of application.

(4) All applications that involve physical changes or monitoring on private land must include certification from the applicant that the applicant has informed all landowners involved of the existence of the application and has also advised all landowners that all monitoring information obtained on their property is public record. If contact with all landowner was not possible at the time of application, explain why.

~~(5) Fiscal administration costs, which may include accounting, auditing, contract management and fiscal reporting expenses for the project, for a grant awarded by the Board may not exceed 10% of the total Board funds expended for the project.~~

(6) Applications will be considered complete as submitted. Clarification of information may be sought from the applicant during the evaluation process but additional, new information will not be accepted after the application deadline.

(7) Applicants are encouraged to submit requests for up to $10,000 for watershed restoration projects to the Small Grant Team in their Small Grant Area, unless the project is not eligible for funding under the Small Grant Program or the Small Grant Program has no funds available at the time of application. Applicants may not submit the same proposal to both the Board and the Small Grant Team.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0040

Application Processing

~~(1) The Board shall announce deadlines for submitting applications, except for the Small Grant Program.~~

(2) Project applications will be reviewed based on application completeness and the evaluation criteria adopted by the Board for each grant type in these rules.

(3) A regular grant applicant may be any ~~person,~~ tribe, watershed council, soil and water conservation district, not-for-profit institution, school, community college, state institution of higher education, independent not-for-profit institution of higher education, or political subdivision of this state that is not a state agency. A state agency or federal agency may apply for funding under this section only as a co-applicant with one of the other eligible entities. Any of these applicants or co-applicants may also serve as a fiscal agent for grants.

(4) The Board may require additional information to aid in evaluating and considering a proposed watershed project.

(5) The Board may use a regional review team or other technical team to review grant applications and make funding recommendations to the staff or Board.

(6) The Board may rank projects in selecting projects for funding.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0050

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Board will enter into new agreements ~~or amendments to existing agreements for time extensions and award amounts~~ with prior Grantees only if all reporting obligations under earlier agreements have been met.

(2) If the grant agreement has not been fully executed by all the parties within one year of Board approval, funding shall be terminated. The money allocated to the grant shall be available for reallocation by the Board.

(3) The Director shall establish grant agreement conditions for each grant type. Grantees shall comply with all grant agreement conditions.

(4) The Grantee shall comply with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances applicable to the work to be done under the agreement.

(5) All project activities must demonstrate, to the extent possible, consistency with local community workforce and economic development plans and policies.

(6) Following project completion, equipment purchased with Board funds shall reside with the Ggrantee or another approved entity. ~~any of the following: watershed council, soil and water conservation district, tribe, local government, state agency, institution of higher learning, or a school district.~~ These entities will make the equipment available to others at no cost, other than nominal operation and maintenance costs.

(7) Upon notice to the Grantee in writing, the Director may terminate funding for projects not completed in the prescribed time and manner. The money allocated to the project but not used will be available for reallocation by the Board.

(8) The Grantee will account for funds distributed by the Board, using project expense forms provided.

(9) The Grantee will obtain the necessary permits and licenses from local, state or federal agencies or governing bodies and provide a copy to the Board.

(10) The Board may place additional conditions in the Grant Agreement as necessary to carry out the purpose of the watershed enhancement program. Such conditions may include:

(a) A commitment by the landowner for continued access for monitoring the project after completion;

(b) A commitment by the Grantee to maintain the project for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the Board;

(c) A commitment to supply future reports on the project as required;

(d) Such other conditions as the Board deems appropriate to the particular circumstances of the project.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0060

Distribution of Funds

~~(1) The Board will not reimburse the Grantee for any expenditures incurred prior to the signing of the grant agreement by all parties, except for fees charged by an affected city or county for processing the required Land Use Information Sheet.~~

(2) The Director may withhold payments to a Grantee in a situation where there are significant and persistent difficulties with satisfying Board requirements.

(3) Prior to disbursement of Board funds, the Grantee must provide proof that the 25% required match, based on the total Board award, has been secured.

(4) Prior to disbursement of Board funds for projects involving private lands, the Board must receive certification from the Grantee that they will obtain, prior to expending Board funds on a property, a cooperative agreement from the landowner that, at a minimum, includes:

(a) Permission to access the private land, at times agreeable to the landowner, to implement the project, inspect the project, track the status of the project, or perform repairs or maintenance;

(b) Permission for the Board or its representatives to access the private land for inspection and evaluation of the project; and

(c) Identification of the party responsible for repairs and maintenance of the project.

(5) Funds shall not be disbursed until the Board receives satisfactory evidence that necessary permits and licenses have been granted and documents required by the Board have been submitted.

(6) Funds will be released upon presentation of a completed fund release request form accompanied by documents as determined by the ~~executive director~~Director~~receipts or invoices~~, and proof of completion of specific work elements of the project as identified in the Grant Agreement.

(7) Advance funds may be released upon presentation of a detailed estimate of expenses for up to 120 days. Within 120 days of the date of the advance check, receipts or invoices for the advance must be submitted, a justification to extend the advance must be approved, or the unexpended advance funds must be returned to the Board. Additional funds will not be released until receipts for expenditures of previous fund releases are submitted, or an estimate of expenditures is approved by the Director.

(8) ~~The executive director~~Board ~~shall retain~~All grant agreements authorized by the Board shall have a clause that requires the retention of up to ten percent of project funds until the final report, as required in the grant agreement, has been approved. Final reports are due within 60

days of project completion. Any unexpended Board funds must be returned to the Board with the final report. Upon receipt of the final report, the Board shall have 90 days to approve the completed report or notify the Grantee of any concerns that must be addressed or missing information that must be submitted before the report is considered complete and reviewed for approval. Once the final report has been approved the final payment shall be promptly processed.

(9) All Grantees shall account for at least 25% in actual match, on a form prescribed by the Board, based on the total Board grant expenditures, upon project conclusion and final reporting.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0070

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of division 5, unless they are required by statute, for individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual grant for which the waiver was granted.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-005-0080

Periodic Rules Review and Program Evaluation

The Board shall review the grant program and rules at least once every five years and make changes as needed to carry out a high quality and effective program.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

DIVISION 10

RESTORATION GRANTS

695-010-0010

Purpose

The Board shall provide grants, as funds are available, for watershed projects that protect or restore watershed functions.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0020

Definitions

(1) "Affected City and County" means any city or county within which all or part of a watershed enhancement project funded by the Board would be located.

(2) "Maintenance" means those activities and actions necessary to sustain the useful life of a constructed watershed improvement. Maintenance does not include those activities necessary to establish the improvement.

~~(3) "Non-Structural Methods" are those that rely on strategies other than the creation and installation of permanent structures, except livestock fencing, to meet the project goals.~~

(4) "Watershed Restoration Project" means a project that involves an on-the-ground element such as: riparian planting, fish habitat construction, wetland restoration, livestock grazing plans, water conservation projects utilizing the state Conserved Water Program, etc.

(5) "Watershed Function" means the hydrologic and geomorphic processes that support a healthy watershed ecosystem.

(6) "Watershed Health" means the condition of a watershed as measured by the ability of the watershed to capture, store and release water, and transport sediment and nutrients in order to provide clean water, high quality fish and wildlife habitat, and adequate streamflows to support instream uses.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-010-0030

Watershed Restoration Priorities

For grant applications to be funded by the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund, the following preferences will apply:

(1) Projects that address altered watershed functions affecting water quality, water flow volume and duration, and the production capacity for fish over projects that address site-specific land use problems where the greatest benefit is to a private resource or land.

(2) Projects that include removal or remediation of human-caused alterations (roads, culverts, channelization, etc.) to improve water quality and/or fish habitat over projects that enhance naturally functioning systems.

(3) Projects that change land management practices to address the causes of chronic disturbances to the watershed over projects that address only symptoms of disturbance.

(4) Projects with direct evidence of collaboration between stakeholders and agencies over single-party projects.

(5) Projects focusing on upslope and upstream treatments over projects focusing on downslope and downstream treatments, unless the project addresses tidal-driven systems or addresses other specific issues (e.g. historic losses) that encompass whole watershed conditions.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11

695-010-0040

Ineligible Project Types

The Board will not consider:

(1) A watershed improvement project that consists solely of construction of a water storage structure for an out-of-stream use not related to watershed restoration or protection; or

(2) A fish screening project eligible for funding through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish screening program; or

(3) A watershed improvement project constructed solely to comply with a state or federal agency enforcement order, legal judgment or mitigation requirement; or

(4) Routine project maintenance costs; or

(5) A water conservation project, unless there is a measurable instream flow benefit, groundwater benefit or water quality improvement.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0050

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted on the most current form prescribed by the Board. An explanation must accompany the application if any of the following information required under this section cannot be provided:

(1) Land use information from affected counties and cities as referenced in OAR chapter 695, division 50;

(2) A statement that required permits or licenses from federal, state, or local government will be applied for;

(3) A commitment from a state, federal or local agency to inspect the completed project work to ensure it complies with the funding requirements;

(4) A plan to monitor and evaluate project results including identification of responsible parties;

(5) A plan for operation and maintenance of the project for the projected life including identification of the responsible parties; and

(6) Additional information that will aid the Board in evaluating the project under OAR 695-010-0060.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0060

Evaluation Criteria

(1) Project applications will be reviewed for compliance with the items in OAR 695-005-0030 and 695-010-0050.

(2) Watershed restoration projects funded from the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund must provide a public benefit by supporting improved:

(a) Water quality;

(b) Native fish or wildlife habitat; or

(c) Watershed or ecosystem function.

(3) Watershed restoration project proposals must meet the following criteria to be considered for funding by the Board:

(a) The project demonstrates sound principles of watershed management;

(b) The project uses methods adapted to the project locale;

(c) The project complies with state land use planning goals and is compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans as required under ORS 197.180; and

(d) The project ~~meets the requirements in the Oregon Aquatic Habitat Restoration and Enhancement Guide~~ follows ~~found in~~ professionally~~generally~~ accepted restoration ~~standards~~approaches resulting in ecological or watershed benefits.

(4) Watershed restoration projects meeting the criteria established by subsection (1) above will be further evaluated based on:

(a) Clarity; the proposal:

(A) Will be implemented using a clearly defined and appropriate method to address the problem;

(B) Has clearly stated objectives and is likely to meet these; and

(C) Is ready to be implemented.

(b) Technical soundness; the proposal:

(A) Addresses limiting factors or watershed health problems by treating the causes rather than the symptoms;

(B) Identifies and evaluates alternatives to address the identified problem; and

(C) Quantifies watershed benefits.

(c) Cost effectiveness; the proposal:

(A) Provides an overall budget that reflects expected, and quantified, watershed health benefits; and

(B) Reflects reasonable rates for direct costs and match.

(d) Watershed context; the proposal:

(A) Considers likely impacts to the site and adjacent properties during and after project implementation;

(B) Provides context for and addresses watershed function and ecosystem processes, including water quality and fish and wildlife life stages;

(C) Implements a specific action within an explicit geography prioritized in a watershed restoration plan;

(D)Fits within the context of past and planned future restoration efforts in the watershed; and

(E) Provides or promotes public awareness that may lead to opportunities for watershed restoration or enhancement.

(e) Capacity; the applicant:

(A) Engages appropriate partners;

(B) Demonstrates successful long-term stewardship and maintenance is likely; and

(C) Demonstrates a past grant record with timely project completeness, accounting, and reporting as well as whether past projects were completed as proposed, using information provided by Board staff.

~~(4) Watershed restoration projects meeting the criteria established by subsection (1) above will be further evaluated on the basis of the extent to which the project:~~

~~(a) Is based on a watershed assessment or other analytical tool that identifies specific watershed health problems;~~

~~(b) Is part of a watershed action plan or other strategic plan that prioritizes subwatersheds or project types within subwatersheds;~~

~~(c) Clearly defines and addresses a watershed health problem or known limiting factors;~~

~~(d) Has clearly stated objectives and is likely to meet these;~~

~~(e) Will be implemented using a clearly defined method to address the problem;~~

~~(f) Provides educational opportunities or promotes public awareness of watershed enhancement benefits;~~

~~(g) Fits within the context of past and planned future restoration efforts in the watershed;~~

~~(h) Improves watershed function;~~

~~(i) Treats the causes of the identified problems, rather than treating symptoms;~~

~~(j) Encourages the use of non structural methods to enhance riparian areas and associated uplands;~~

~~(k) Includes funds or in-kind services from non-Board sources;~~

~~(l) Is proposed in the context of fish and wildlife species life stages, upland conditions and year-round watershed functions;~~

~~(m) Takes into consideration the quality of the watershed above and below the project area;~~

~~(n) Takes into consideration known potential future events that may affect the success of the project;~~

~~(o) Takes into consideration potential impacts to other properties and streams in the area;~~

~~(p) Is ready to be implemented; and~~

~~(q) Identifies and evaluates alternatives to address the identified problem.~~

~~(5) Watershed restoration projects shall also be evaluated based on the following administrative and fiscal criteria:~~

~~(a) The amount of the administrative costs relative to the project's fiscal management complexity;~~

~~(b) The applicant's past grant record with regard to timely project completeness, accounting and reporting as well as whether past projects were completed as proposed, using information provided by Board staff;~~

~~(c) The extent to which the personnel costs reflect the tasks involved in implementing the project;~~

~~(d) Whether the direct costs and match values reflect local market rates; and~~

~~(e) Whether the overall budget reflects the expected watershed health benefit.~~

~~[Publications: Publications referenced are available from the agency.]~~

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-010-0070

Regional Review Process

(1) Prior to the regional review team meeting the regional review team:

(a) Shall receive each application, past evaluations for projects resubmitted in the current grant cycle, and an evaluation sheet to complete for each application;

(b) Is encouraged to visit proposed project sites to enhance the understanding of the proposal. Priority for visitations will be placed on acquisitions, complex projects, new types of projects and projects with a significant budget; and

(c) Shall read and score each application using the evaluation sheets provided. During this process, team members are encouraged to contact the applicants, Board staff, or other agency staff to clarify information in the application or to get expert review.

(2) At the regional review team meeting, the team shall:

(a) Review and evaluate each project individually based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria in 695-010-0060;

(b) Recommend the project as;

(A) Do fund;

(B) Do fund with conditions;

(C) Do not fund; or

(D) Defer to staff or the Board with an explanation, if there is a policy issue or budget issue that needs to be addressed by the Board prior to a funding decision; and

(c) Rank order all projects recommended for funding based on;

(A) How well the project meets the criteria established in 695-010-0030 and 695-010-0060;

(B) The certainty of success, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant and the likelihood the project will meet its ecological objectives;

(C) The benefit to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, as evidenced by its expected benefits to watershed functions, fish habitat or water quality; and

(D) The project costs relative to the anticipated watershed health benefits.

(3) The project description, summary evaluation and funding recommendation for all projects, and the rank order of projects recommended for funding shall be forwarded from the regional review team to Board staff for their consideration. This information will be sent to all applicants within a region for their region and for all regions to the Board.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0080

Staff Funding Recommendation Process

(1) Prior to the finalization of a staff recommendation to the Board, the staff may meet with a Board subcommittee to discuss projects with major policy or budget issues that need to be resolved prior to a final Board decision.

(2) Staff shall review the recommendations from each regional review team and make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period and type. The recommendation shall include any conditions placed on individual projects and may include proposed budget adjustments. The staff recommendation, as represented in the staff report to the Board, shall be sent to applicants and members of the Regional Review Teams at least two weeks before the Board meeting where funding decisions are to be made.

(3) Applicants may provide written or oral comment to the Board on the staff recommendation prior to the Board decision.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0090

Board Funding Decision

(1) The Board may fund a project in whole or in part.

(2) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during application submission periods prescribed by the Board.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0100

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Grantee must submit a report at completion of the project describing the work done and placing it in its larger watershed context.

(2) The Grantee will track the status of the project, and continue its maintenance, submitting periodic reports on a schedule set by the Board. All reports will be filed with the Board or at a location specified by the Board.

(3) The Grantee must agree to complete the project as approved by the Board and within the timeframe specified in the grant agreement unless proposed modifications are submitted and approved by the Director prior to the beginning of any work proposed in the modification.

(4) The Director will consider project modifications including expansion of funded projects with moneys remaining from the original project allocation if the purpose and intent of the amendment remains the same as the original project, the proposed activity is within the same watershed, and the modification would be compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans.

(5) The Director may authorize minor changes within the scope of the original project plan.

(6) The Grantee will allow Board members or designated representatives access to the project area at a mutually agreeable time to monitor and evaluate the project.

(7) The Grantee must submit as part of their final report a completed Oregon Watershed Restoration Reporting form, using the most current form available on the OWEB website.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-010-0110

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of division 10, unless they are required by statute, for individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual grant for which the waiver was granted.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

DIVISION 5

OWEB GRANT PROGRAM

695-005-0010

Purpose

These rules guide the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in accepting applications and considering grant proposals for funding under the provisions of ORS 541.890, et seq. The Board grant program includes grants described in 695-005-0020 et seq. for watershed restoration, monitoring, watershed assessment and action planning, watershed council support, watershed education and outreach, land and water acquisition, and small grants. In addition, the Board may from time to time, as funds are available, request proposals for technical assistance and research.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0020

Definitions

(1) "Board" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board created under ORS 541.900.

(2) "Director" means the Executive Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board or the Executive Director’s designee.

(3) "Grant Agreement" is the legally binding contract between the Board and the grant recipient. It consists of the conditions specified in these rules, the notice of grant award, special conditions to the agreement, a certification to comply with applicable state and federal regulations, the project budget and the approved application for funding the project.

(4) "Regional Review Team" is a team, appointed by the Director, of designated personnel with regional knowledge and interdisciplinary expertise drawn from agencies represented on the Board and other entities to evaluate regional grant applications. The Director may change the composition of regional review teams.

(5) "Partners" are non-governmental or governmental persons or entities that have committed funding, expertise, materials, labor, or other assistance to a proposed project.

(6) "Match" is any contribution to a project that is non-Board funds. Match may include:

(a) Cash on hand or cash that is pledged to be on hand prior to commencement of the project;

(b) Secured funding commitments from other sources;

(c) Pending commitments of funding from other sources. In such instances, Board funding will not be released prior to secured commitment of the other funds. Pending commitments of the funding must be secured within 12 months from the date of the award; or

(d) The value of in-kind labor, equipment rental and materials essential to the project, based on local market rates.

(7) "OWEB" means the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board state agency.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-005-0030

Application Requirements

(1) Applications must be submitted on the most current form prescribed by the Board. Current applications are available on the OWEB website. An explanation must accompany the application if any of the information required on the application cannot be provided. In addition to the information required in the application, and the required attachments, an applicant may submit additional information that will aid the Board in evaluating the project.

(2) All applicants for Board grants shall supply the following information:

(a) Names, physical and email addresses, and telephone numbers of the applicant contact person(s) and the fiscal officer(s);

(b) Name and address of involved landowner(s);

(c) The name and location of the proposed project. The location shall be described in reference to the public land survey, latitude and longitude using decimal degrees, North American Datum 1983, county, watershed, and stream mile, if appropriate;

(d) Estimated line item budget for the project using the most current budget form prescribed by the Board. Current budget forms are available on the OWEB website;

(e) Identification of specific project elements for which Board funds will be used;

(f) A list of any non-Board funds, services or materials available or secured for the project and any conditions which may affect the completion of the project;

(g) If the project is part of a multi-year project, and a new funding request continues a previously Board-funded activity, a description of the previous project accomplishments and results as well as an accounting of past expenditures and revenues for the project;

(h) Identification of volunteers and partners and the contribution they will make to the project;

(i) A project schedule including times of project beginning and completion; and

(j) Any information requested that is necessary to evaluate the project based on the evaluation criteria for that project type.

(3) All applicants shall demonstrate at least 25% match is being sought, on a form prescribed by the Board, based on the total Board grant request, at the time of application.

(4) All applications that involve physical changes or monitoring on private land must include certification from the applicant that the applicant has informed all landowners involved of the existence of the application and has also advised all landowners that all monitoring information obtained on their property is public record. If contact with all landowner was not possible at the time of application, explain why.

(6) Applications will be considered complete as submitted. Clarification of information may be sought from the applicant during the evaluation process but additional, new information will not be accepted after the application deadline.

(7) Applicants are encouraged to submit requests for up to $10,000 for watershed restoration projects to the Small Grant Team in their Small Grant Area, unless the project is not eligible for funding under the Small Grant Program or the Small Grant Program has no funds available at the time of application. Applicants may not submit the same proposal to both the Board and the Small Grant Team.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0040

Application Processing

(2) Project applications will be reviewed based on application completeness and the evaluation criteria adopted by the Board for each grant type in these rules.

(3) A regular grant applicant may be any tribe, watershed council, soil and water conservation district, not-for-profit institution, school, community college, state institution of higher education, independent not-for-profit institution of higher education, or political subdivision of this state that is not a state agency. A state agency or federal agency may apply for funding under this section only as a co-applicant with one of the other eligible entities. Any of these applicants or co-applicants may also serve as a fiscal agent for grants.

(4) The Board may require additional information to aid in evaluating and considering a proposed watershed project.

(5) The Board may use a regional review team or other technical team to review grant applications and make funding recommendations to the staff or Board.

(6) The Board may rank projects in selecting projects for funding.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0050

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Board will enter into new agreements with prior Grantees only if all reporting obligations under earlier agreements have been met.

(2) If the grant agreement has not been fully executed by all the parties within one year of Board approval, funding shall be terminated. The money allocated to the grant shall be available for reallocation by the Board.

(3) The Director shall establish grant agreement conditions for each grant type. Grantees shall comply with all grant agreement conditions.

(4) The Grantee shall comply with all federal, state and local laws and ordinances applicable to the work to be done under the agreement.

(5) All project activities must demonstrate, to the extent possible, consistency with local community workforce and economic development plans and policies.

(6) Following project completion, equipment purchased with Board funds shall reside with the Grantee or another approved entity. These entities will make the equipment available to others at no cost, other than nominal operation and maintenance costs.

(7) Upon notice to the Grantee in writing, the Director may terminate funding for projects not completed in the prescribed time and manner. The money allocated to the project but not used will be available for reallocation by the Board.

(8) The Grantee will account for funds distributed by the Board, using project expense forms provided.

(9) The Grantee will obtain the necessary permits and licenses from local, state or federal agencies or governing bodies and provide a copy to the Board.

(10) The Board may place additional conditions in the Grant Agreement as necessary to carry out the purpose of the watershed enhancement program. Such conditions may include:

(a) A commitment by the landowner for continued access for monitoring the project after completion;

(b) A commitment by the Grantee to maintain the project for a period of time as deemed appropriate by the Board;

(c) A commitment to supply future reports on the project as required;

(d) Such other conditions as the Board deems appropriate to the particular circumstances of the project.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0060

Distribution of Funds

(2) The Director may withhold payments to a Grantee in a situation where there are significant and persistent difficulties with satisfying Board requirements.

(3) Prior to disbursement of Board funds, the Grantee must provide proof that the 25% required match, based on the total Board award, has been secured.

(4) Prior to disbursement of Board funds for projects involving private lands, the Board must receive certification from the Grantee that they will obtain, prior to expending Board funds on a property, a cooperative agreement from the landowner that, at a minimum, includes:

(a) Permission to access the private land, at times agreeable to the landowner, to implement the project, inspect the project, track the status of the project, or perform repairs or maintenance;

(b) Permission for the Board or its representatives to access the private land for inspection and evaluation of the project; and

(c) Identification of the party responsible for repairs and maintenance of the project.

(5) Funds shall not be disbursed until the Board receives satisfactory evidence that necessary permits and licenses have been granted and documents required by the Board have been submitted.

(6) Funds will be released upon presentation of a completed fund release request form accompanied by documents as determined by the Director, and proof of completion of specific work elements of the project as identified in the Grant Agreement.

(7) Advance funds may be released upon presentation of a detailed estimate of expenses for up to 120 days. Within 120 days of the date of the advance check, receipts or invoices for the advance must be submitted, a justification to extend the advance must be approved, or the unexpended advance funds must be returned to the Board. Additional funds will not be released until receipts for expenditures of previous fund releases are submitted, or an estimate of expenditures is approved by the Director.

(8) All grant agreements authorized by the Board shall have a clause that requires the retention of up to ten percent of project funds until the final report, as required in the grant agreement, has been approved. Final reports are due within 60 days of project completion. Any unexpended Board funds must be returned to the Board with the final report. Upon receipt of the final report, the Board shall have 90 days to approve the completed report or notify the Grantee of any concerns that must be addressed or missing information that must be submitted before the report is considered complete and reviewed for approval. Once the final report has been approved the final payment shall be promptly processed.

(9) All Grantees shall account for at least 25% in actual match, on a form prescribed by the Board, based on the total Board grant expenditures, upon project conclusion and final reporting.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-005-0070

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of division 5, unless they are required by statute, for individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual grant for which the waiver was granted.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-005-0080

Periodic Rules Review and Program Evaluation

The Board shall review the grant program and rules at least once every five years and make changes as needed to carry out a high quality and effective program.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

DIVISION 10

RESTORATION GRANTS

695-010-0010

Purpose

The Board shall provide grants, as funds are available, for watershed projects that protect or restore watershed functions.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0020

Definitions

(1) "Affected City and County" means any city or county within which all or part of a watershed enhancement project funded by the Board would be located.

(2) "Maintenance" means those activities and actions necessary to sustain the useful life of a constructed watershed improvement. Maintenance does not include those activities necessary to establish the improvement.

(4) "Watershed Restoration Project" means a project that involves an on-the-ground element such as: riparian planting, fish habitat construction, wetland restoration, livestock grazing plans, water conservation projects utilizing the state Conserved Water Program, etc.

(5) "Watershed Function" means the hydrologic and geomorphic processes that support a healthy watershed ecosystem.

(6) "Watershed Health" means the condition of a watershed as measured by the ability of the watershed to capture, store and release water, and transport sediment and nutrients in order to provide clean water, high quality fish and wildlife habitat, and adequate streamflows to support instream uses.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-010-0030

Watershed Restoration Priorities

For grant applications to be funded by the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund, the following preferences will apply:

(1) Projects that address altered watershed functions affecting water quality, water flow volume and duration, and the production capacity for fish over projects that address site-specific land use problems where the greatest benefit is to a private resource or land.

(2) Projects that include removal or remediation of human-caused alterations (roads, culverts, channelization, etc.) to improve water quality and/or fish habitat over projects that enhance naturally functioning systems.

(3) Projects that change land management practices to address the causes of chronic disturbances to the watershed over projects that address only symptoms of disturbance.

(4) Projects with direct evidence of collaboration between stakeholders and agencies over single-party projects.

(5) Projects focusing on upslope and upstream treatments over projects focusing on downslope and downstream treatments, unless the project addresses tidal-driven systems or addresses other specific issues (e.g. historic losses) that encompass whole watershed conditions.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11

695-010-0040

Ineligible Project Types

The Board will not consider:

(1) A watershed improvement project that consists solely of construction of a water storage structure for an out-of-stream use not related to watershed restoration or protection; or

(2) A fish screening project eligible for funding through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's fish screening program; or

(3) A watershed improvement project constructed solely to comply with a state or federal agency enforcement order, legal judgment or mitigation requirement; or

(4) Routine project maintenance costs; or

(5) A water conservation project, unless there is a measurable instream flow benefit, groundwater benefit or water quality improvement.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0050

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted on the most current form prescribed by the Board. An explanation must accompany the application if any of the following information required under this section cannot be provided:

(1) Land use information from affected counties and cities as referenced in OAR chapter 695, division 50;

(2) A statement that required permits or licenses from federal, state, or local government will be applied for;

(3) A commitment from a state, federal or local agency to inspect the completed project work to ensure it complies with the funding requirements;

(4) A plan to monitor and evaluate project results including identification of responsible parties;

(5) A plan for operation and maintenance of the project for the projected life including identification of the responsible parties; and

(6) Additional information that will aid the Board in evaluating the project under OAR 695-010-0060.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0060

Evaluation Criteria

(1) Project applications will be reviewed for compliance with the items in OAR 695-005-0030 and 695-010-0050.

(2) Watershed restoration projects funded from the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund must provide a public benefit by supporting improved:

(a) Water quality;

(b) Native fish or wildlife habitat; or

(c) Watershed or ecosystem function.

(3) Watershed restoration project proposals must meet the following criteria to be considered for funding by the Board:

(a) The project demonstrates sound principles of watershed management;

(b) The project uses methods adapted to the project locale;

(c) The project complies with state land use planning goals and is compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans as required under ORS 197.180; and

(d) The project follows professionally accepted restoration approaches resulting in ecological or watershed benefits.

(4) Watershed restoration projects meeting the criteria established by subsection (1) above will be further evaluated based on:

(a) Clarity; the proposal:

(A) Will be implemented using a clearly defined and appropriate method to address the problem;

(B) Has clearly stated objectives and is likely to meet these; and

(C) Is ready to be implemented.

(b) Technical soundness; the proposal:

(A) Addresses limiting factors or watershed health problems by treating the causes rather than the symptoms;

(B) Identifies and evaluates alternatives to address the identified problem; and

(C) Quantifies watershed benefits.

(c) Cost effectiveness; the proposal:

(A) Provides an overall budget that reflects expected, and quantified, watershed health benefits; and

(B) Reflects reasonable rates for direct costs and match.

(d) Watershed context; the proposal:

(A) Considers likely impacts to the site and adjacent properties during and after project implementation;

(B) Provides context for and addresses watershed function and ecosystem processes, including water quality and fish and wildlife life stages;

(C) Implements a specific action within an explicit geography prioritized in a watershed restoration plan;

(D)Fits within the context of past and planned future restoration efforts in the watershed; and

(E) Provides or promotes public awareness that may lead to opportunities for watershed restoration or enhancement.

(e) Capacity; the applicant:

(A) Engages appropriate partners;

(B) Demonstrates successful long-term stewardship and maintenance is likely; and

(C) Demonstrates a past grant record with timely project completeness, accounting, and reporting as well as whether past projects were completed as proposed, using information provided by Board staff.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 1-2011, f. & cert. ef. 10-18-11; OWEB 1-2017, f. & cert. ef. xx-xx-17

695-010-0070

Regional Review Process

(1) Prior to the regional review team meeting the regional review team:

(a) Shall receive each application, past evaluations for projects resubmitted in the current grant cycle, and an evaluation sheet to complete for each application;

(b) Is encouraged to visit proposed project sites to enhance the understanding of the proposal. Priority for visitations will be placed on acquisitions, complex projects, new types of projects and projects with a significant budget; and

(c) Shall read and score each application using the evaluation sheets provided. During this process, team members are encouraged to contact the applicants, Board staff, or other agency staff to clarify information in the application or to get expert review.

(2) At the regional review team meeting, the team shall:

(a) Review and evaluate each project individually based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria in 695-010-0060;

(b) Recommend the project as;

(A) Do fund;

(B) Do fund with conditions;

(C) Do not fund; or

(D) Defer to staff or the Board with an explanation, if there is a policy issue or budget issue that needs to be addressed by the Board prior to a funding decision; and

(c) Rank order all projects recommended for funding based on;

(A) How well the project meets the criteria established in 695-010-0030 and 695-010-0060;

(B) The certainty of success, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant and the likelihood the project will meet its ecological objectives;

(C) The benefit to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, as evidenced by its expected benefits to watershed functions, fish habitat or water quality; and

(D) The project costs relative to the anticipated watershed health benefits.

(3) The project description, summary evaluation and funding recommendation for all projects, and the rank order of projects recommended for funding shall be forwarded from the regional review team to Board staff for their consideration. This information will be sent to all applicants within a region for their region and for all regions to the Board.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0080

Staff Funding Recommendation Process

(1) Prior to the finalization of a staff recommendation to the Board, the staff may meet with a Board subcommittee to discuss projects with major policy or budget issues that need to be resolved prior to a final Board decision.

(2) Staff shall review the recommendations from each regional review team and make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period and type. The recommendation shall include any conditions placed on individual projects and may include proposed budget adjustments. The staff recommendation, as represented in the staff report to the Board, shall be sent to applicants and members of the Regional Review Teams at least two weeks before the Board meeting where funding decisions are to be made.

(3) Applicants may provide written or oral comment to the Board on the staff recommendation prior to the Board decision.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0090

Board Funding Decision

(1) The Board may fund a project in whole or in part.

(2) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during application submission periods prescribed by the Board.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05

695-010-0100

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Grantee must submit a report at completion of the project describing the work done and placing it in its larger watershed context.

(2) The Grantee will track the status of the project, and continue its maintenance, submitting periodic reports on a schedule set by the Board. All reports will be filed with the Board or at a location specified by the Board.

(3) The Grantee must agree to complete the project as approved by the Board and within the timeframe specified in the grant agreement unless proposed modifications are submitted and approved by the Director prior to the beginning of any work proposed in the modification.

(4) The Director will consider project modifications including expansion of funded projects with moneys remaining from the original project allocation if the purpose and intent of the amendment remains the same as the original project, the proposed activity is within the same watershed, and the modification would be compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans.

(5) The Director may authorize minor changes within the scope of the original project plan.

(6) The Grantee will allow Board members or designated representatives access to the project area at a mutually agreeable time to monitor and evaluate the project.

(7) The Grantee must submit as part of their final report a completed Oregon Watershed Restoration Reporting form, using the most current form available on the OWEB website.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 4-2004, f. 11-2-04, cert. ef. 2-1-05; OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

695-010-0110

Waiver of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of division 10, unless they are required by statute, for individual grants, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's grant program. Any waiver granted shall be in writing and included in the permanent file of the individual grant for which the waiver was granted.

Stat. Auth.: ORS 541.906

Stats. Implemented: ORS 541.890 - 541.969

Hist.: OWEB 3-2008, f. 11-14-08, cert. ef. 1-1-09

This report provides the board an update on the 2017 legislative session and information about the status of OWEB's 2017-2019 budget.

Background

The Legislature began the 2017 legislative session on February 1 and is expected to adjourn by early July, 2017.

The Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. In preparing for the next biennium, budgets are structured so that each agency's Current Service Level (CSL, or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with full policy narratives and justification of funds requested. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "Policy Packages" or POPs.

Governor's Recommended Budget and Next Steps

The Governor's Office released the Governor's state budget recommendations, known as the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) on December 1, 2016. This budget proposal includes agency POPs that reflect the Governor's priorities and initiatives. The GRB is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the session, agencies may advocate for their individual POPs only to the extent that these are included in the GRB.

Attachment A contains a brief summary of the OWEB's budget. OWEB's budget primarily relates to the Governor's 'Responsible Environmental Stewardship' focus area. The GRB retains nearly all of the components of the Program Continuity package requested by OWEB, including four positions (i.e., River Basin/Native Fish Partnerships Coordinator, Coast Coho/Clean Water Partnerships Coordinator, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, and Conservation Outcomes Specialist) and rental costs for the North Coast field office. The Governor's Budget also includes staffing and grant funds in support of forest collaborative grant-making on behalf of the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), using Other Funds provided by ODF to OWEB. It does not include requested funds for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

Following release of the Governor's Budget, OWEB staff updated budget documents to reflect the Governor's Budget. These documents were submitted to DAS CFO prior to the start of the legislative session. On a parallel track and at the request of the Legislative Fiscal Office, staff submitted reduction options from CSL in 5% increments up to 15%.

In February, the Legislature convened and initiated the legislative budget development process. OWEB's agency budget will be before the Natural Resources Subcommittee of the Ways and Means Committee during public hearings on April 6th and 10th. The first day (4/6) includes a presentation by OWEB staff of the agency's budget per the GRB, followed by questions from the subcommittee members. The second day (4/10) provides opportunity for testimony from the public about OWEB's budget; if needed, it may also include additional questions from the committee to the agency. Work sessions on agency budgets then will occur following the budget hearings, but are not yet scheduled.

Related to OWEB's 2017-2019 budget, staff have submitted the final grant application to NOAA Fisheries for funding under the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF). OWEB, on behalf of the State of Oregon, is requesting $25 million, the maximum amount of funding possible. This request will provide a required 33% match, which comes from lottery funding, salmon license plates, and match from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Consistent with the last few years, funding received from NOAA will be used to satisfy both OWEB's and ODFW's budget needs if the Legislature approves the use of these funds in both of the agencies' budgets.

OWEB Policy Bills

House Bill (HB) 2327 is the agency bill to revise OWEB's statutes. The statute revisions are intended to include additional language that will revitalize certain statutes and remove aspects of the statutes that are no longer relevant. Some statutes for which repeal or revisions are recommended no longer apply due to statutory changes made by the Legislature in previous years, while others reflect changes to the way OWEB serves the public.

In addition to general statutory cleanup, the bill provides two substantive changes related to 1) adding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an ex-officio member to the OWEB Board, and 2) removing language that allows DAS to provide liability coverage for watershed councils, based on the fact that OWEB is putting in place stronger requirements for all grantees. At the time of writing this staff report, HB 2327 has passed both chambers of the Legislature and is now pending the Governor's signature. If the Governor chooses to sign HB 2327, it will become law on January 1, 2018.

OWEB staff are also tracking a number of other bills relevant to the agency. These include the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund (HB 3249) which would develop a program to support working farms and ranches, while at the same time supporting fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and other natural resource values. Staff will update the board at the April meeting about these bills and any other legislation that is of relevance to the agency.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203, or Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

A. Budget and Legislative Handout

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
2017-2019 Governor's Budget and Agency Legislation

	2015-2017 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2017-2019 Governor's Budget
General Fund	$0	$0
Lottery Funds	$62,482,687	$72,300,559
Other Funds	$3,553,093	$3,781,360
Federal Funds	$37,274,113	$41,668,724
Total Funds	$103,309,893	$117,750,643
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	34.25	32.99

HB 2327 OWEB Statute Revisions

In addition to general clean-up, HB 2327 includes the following revisions to OWEB statutes:

- Adding a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a non-voting member of the OWEB Board. USFWS plays an important role in funding and implementing watershed enhancement projects across the state, and the addition of a USFWS representative to the Board will provide important guidance to the agency on a broad array of issues.
- Repealing language in statute that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) may provide liability coverage for watershed councils at the expense of OWEB, and replacing with language requiring grantees to obtain liability insurance. The liability coverage provided by DAS is limited, and OWEB staff is working with stakeholders to ensure grantees obtain appropriate levels of liability insurance commensurate with activities.
- Repealing the requirement for other natural resource agencies to provide written reports related to the enhancement or restoration of riparian areas or associated uplands to OWEB to assist in developing and maintaining a centralized repository. The widespread use of the Internet has made this requirement unnecessary, as reports are posted on agency websites and other information clearinghouses found online.
- Repealing elements in OWEB statutes related to Oregon Plan status reporting on watershed and key habitat conditions in each drainage basin in the state. The State does not have data or resources to adequately address this biennial status reporting requirement in a geographically consistent manner.

2017–2019 Critical Budget Issues

Program Continuity

Provides capacity to effectively deliver grants, manage operations of 17-member board and stay abreast of emerging funding opportunities while reporting accomplishments of OWEB investments.

- NRS4 – River Basin/Native Fish Partnerships Coordinator (FF: PCSRF/BPA). Manages three current Focused Investment Partnerships: the Upper Deschutes, the Upper Grande Ronde, and the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat. $271,143

- NRS4 – Coast Coho/Clean Watershed Partnerships Coordinator (FF: PCSRF). Manages five current programs: Water Acquisitions grant program, Strategic Investment Area grant program, the Coastal Wetlands grant program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program's technical assistance work, and the Coastal Coho Business planning effort. $242,397
- NRS-4 - Conservation Outcomes Coordinator (FF: PCSRF). Limited duration; measures and reports on ecological, economic, and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. Coordinates with various agencies and stakeholders to implement the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and similar initiatives (including those with a connection to salmon habitat and recovery), and develop metrics and evaluation methods. $234,740
- NRS-3 - Conservation Outcomes Specialist (LF: Ops). Limited duration; measures and reports on ecological, economic, and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. $198,165
- Office Rent (LF: Ops). Biennial rent, Region 1, to share office space with Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries in Newport. $12,000

Federal Forest Health Policy Packages

- Additional Grant Funds: This policy package proposes to allow OWEB to receive and allocate funds up to $750,000 (OF), should additional funds be appropriated by the Legislature, for grants to forest collaboratives under the State's Federal Forest Health Program in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).
- Federal Forest Health Grant Administration (shift from LF: Ops to Other). This policy package provides limited support and duration; continues grant management of Federal Forest Health program in coordination with ODF.

Carry Forward

This policy package proposes to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active. This will allow funds for these grants to be expended in the 2017-19 biennium. $16,400,000

Lottery Funds: Measure 76 Grant Funds

This policy package provides the budget vehicle for Measure 76 grant funds for the next biennium. These are the primary source of grant funds for OWEB and are used to support a wide variety of grants, including watershed council and soil and water conservation district capacity, restoration, acquisition, technical assistance, monitoring and outreach. $65,329,830

In April 2016, the board awarded $302,823 to Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) for FIP Monitoring, including a progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs and the Partnership Learning Project. This report provides a status update.

Background

OWEB's investments in FIP Implementation and Capacity Building support restoration at a strategic scale and build resilient, sustainable partnerships able to plan and implement effective restoration projects. The FIP monitoring approach approved by the board in April 2016 is a unique opportunity to identify effective ways to measure progress toward outcomes under six-year investments in Implementation Partnerships. The funding also provides an opportunity to document lessons learned about partnership development from both Capacity Building and Implementation FIPs. Information will be used to adaptively manage partnership investments. OWEB staff meet regularly with the BEF team to develop and begin implementation of both the Progress Monitoring Framework and Partnership Learning Projects.

Progress Monitoring Framework for Implementation FIPs

BEF's work aims to develop a progress monitoring framework, in collaboration with the Implementation FIP partners. This framework is intended to be applied by all of the Implementation FIPs to establish a monitoring and reporting approach. This approach will be used by the FIPs to describe, over time, their achievements toward ecological outcomes. This effort will cross-walk each partnership's existing monitoring approach and may identify additional monitoring and/or accomplishment-reporting opportunities that are necessary and/or desired to more effectively track FIP progress. Ultimately, the PMF work may result in modest requests for resources to support additional monitoring and/or reporting that is needed to ensure the Implementation FIPs can accurately describe their progress, in a quantitative fashion, toward intended ecological and programmatic impacts.

In terms of status of BEF's work, the structure for the framework has been finalized, and consists of a results chain (a graphical representation of the partnership's theory for how strategies are expected to produce long-term ecological impacts). The process for applying the framework with each of the FIPs has been developed and is currently being implemented. This work includes developing a cross-walk matrix that documents and tracks implementation measures and ecological outcomes for each FIP. The BEF team developed draft results chains for each of the Implementation FIPs using each partnership's FIP application, strategic action plan, and other supporting documents. Work sessions to discuss the results chains and cross-walks are anticipated to be completed with all six Implementation FIPs by the time of the April board meeting.

Partnership Learning Project

The purpose of the Partnership Learning Project is to gain insight into what is needed for a partnership to thrive by reflecting on the success and challenges across all FIP partnerships. Jennifer Arnold of Reciprocity Consulting is reaching out to all currently funded FIPs to invite reflections and feedback through phone calls, online surveys, and in-person meetings.

All aspects of the Partnership Learning Project's engagement approach are currently being implemented. Jennifer Arnold has attended meetings of five Capacity Building Partnerships and initiated or completed online surveys with four partnerships. She has also conducted one-on-one interviews, with an ultimate target of 1-4 interviews for each of the 14 partnerships. This phase of the project will continue with all the Capacity Building Partnerships into the early spring. At that point, Jennifer will shift her focus on Implementation FIPs.

The results from interviews and interactions with each of the partnerships are confidential in order to facilitate honest communication and reflection. The BEF team will provide a summary report to the board in July of 2017.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information on the Progress Monitoring Framework Project, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203. If you have questions or need additional information on the Partnership Learning Project, contact Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator, at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M: OWEB Water Lease and Transfer Grant Program – Overview and 2016 Grant Cycle Awards
April 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the December 2016 Water Acquisition Grant Cycle process and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards.

II. Water Acquisitions – December 2016 Cycle Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

Four grant applications were received in the December 2016 Water Acquisition Grant Cycle, requesting a total of $701,849. The applications are summarized in Table 1. Application 216-9908 was withdrawn before completion of review because the applicant anticipated project funding through another grant program. Applications 216-9905, 216-9906, and 216-9907 are recommended for funding.

B. Review Process

The water acquisition applications followed the coordinated funder framework for soliciting, reviewing, and making funding recommendations that was established through OWEB's Water Acquisition Grant Revised Administrative Rules in June 2013. Refinements to the water acquisition program were approved by the board in October 2015, which allowed for OWEB staff to revise application materials and contract with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to coordinate technical and organizational capacity reviews of water acquisition grant applications.

Applications were evaluated and scored for project soundness, ecological outcomes, and organizational capacity using NFWF evaluation criteria developed in coordination with the Northwest Power and Conservation Council's (NPCC) Independent Scientific Review Panel (ISRP). The ISRP criteria identifies the key considerations in evaluating prospective flow restoration transactions, including the timing and location of the project, the current and desired hydrologic condition of the stream system, the attributes of the subject water rights and their suitability to

addressing limiting factors for fish and water quality, the economic rationale for the proposed transaction cost, as well as the ability for the transaction to be monitored over time to ensure that proposed benefits are realized. Proposals were evaluated by NFWF staff, reviewed by water rights experts in the legal and economic fields, and ranked by a third-party Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) comprised of fisheries and habitat experts from NOAA Fisheries and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in addition to water transaction specialists from NPCC and Bonneville Power Administration. The TAC ultimately assesses each transaction and provides a score based on the ISRP criteria. The criteria favor long-term or permanent transactions that satisfy an established instream flow target, but allow for novel water management approaches that may involve smaller scale, short-term transactions.

Staff prepared an evaluation of each project that summarizes the NFWF review outcomes and scoring. After evaluations were completed, they were provided to the applicants.

C. Overview of Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend three applications for funding. Application 216-9908 was withdrawn from funding consideration. The total amount of recommended OWEB funding is $651,518.

III. Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend the board award funding for water acquisition grants as specified in Table 1.

Application #	Region	Project Name	Total OWEB Request	Total Amount Recommended	Score (out of 77 pts)
216-9905	4	Fifteenmile Creek Action to Stabilize Temperatures (FAST)	57,368	57,368	41
216-9906	2	Salt Creek Instream Transfer	172,669	172,669	60*
216-9907	4	Threemile and Crane Creek Instream Transfer	421,481	421,481	53*
216-9908	4	Hood River Water Bank Feasibility (withdrawn)	50,331	0	NA
Total Water Acquisition Applications Submitted			**$701,849**		
Total OWEB Funding Recommended				**$651,518**	

* Out of 74 possible points due to adjustment for being outside of the Columbia Basin Water Transfer Program area.

Attachments

A. Water Acquisition Project Evaluations

2016 OWEB Grant Cycle

Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Fifteenmile Creek Action to Stabilize Temperatures (FAST)
Applicant: The Freshwater Trust and Wasco County SWCD
Application No: 216-9905 **Region:** Central Oregon
Basin: Fifteenmile **County:** Wasco
OWEB Request: $57,368 **Total Cost:** $142,019

Application Description

This is a joint proposal by the Wasco County Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) and The Freshwater Trust (TFT) to seek continued funding to compensate irrigators in the Fifteenmile Creek basin that voluntarily agree to curtail water use during stream temperature alerts to reduce impacts to ESA listed Mid-Columbia River steelhead. FAST is an experimental approach to water management that has been supported by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) since 2014.

At the heart of the Plan is a temperature prediction model, developed by Derrek Faber of ODFW, which forecasts stream temperatures for seven days at four different sites along Fifteenmile Creek. When the model predicts stream temperatures lethal to threatened steelhead (greater than 72F for the upper watershed and greater than 73F for the lower watershed) at two or more sites for two or more days, the Watershed Council issues an alert to irrigators via an auto-call phone system that plays a recorded message. The onset of the alert prompts a regulation period where irrigators agree to proactively curtail the rate of their diversions to help avoid or lessen the intensity of high air temperature/low flow events. Irrigators report their diversion reductions to the Watershed Council.

TFT and the SWCD are proposing to offer Fifteenmile Creek irrigators two compensation options to participate in FAST for the 2017 and 2018 irrigation seasons. Option 1 requires full shut-off during alert days for which irrigators receive up-front compensation based on acreage enrolled. Option 2 allows irrigators to choose whether or not to reduce their diversion during alert days and they are paid for the volume of water forgone.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

The proposed FAST transaction is an innovative and complex water management program that involves the use of a predictive stream temperature model, a multitude of water right holders participating in the program and related, but separate TFT Fifteenmile Leasing Program in different ways depending on which payment option they choose, all in real-time within a dynamic hydrologic system. Simply put, FAST is one of the more complicated water transactions that is on-going in the region. Despite its complexity, reviewers felt that TFT and the SWCD have a solid track record of implementing this project and have done a good job of adapting the program over time and making refinements that improve outcomes. Reviewers also acknowledged that a FAST-like program is potentially applicable in many streams throughout the Columbia Basin where stream flows and associated water temperatures create severe conditions for ESA listed species, such as steelhead, and that FAST is a valuable opportunity to pilot an approach that may be applied more widely in the future.

With this in mind, reviewers focused their comments on several areas where they felt improvements could be made to the program. First, reviewers raised a question about the model's ability to accurately predict stream temperatures. TFT provided a supplemental response to reviewers' questions that identified the conditions under which the model underpredicted temperatures in 2016. The partners acknowledge the need to improve the model and have undertaken a calibration exercise each year in order to refine the tool. TFT and the SWCD have again budgeted resources for ODFW to make refinements to the model prior to the 2017 irrigation season which should provide improved temperature predictions.

Second, reviewers questioned whether recent changes in hydrologic conditions (drought) have been adequately reflected in the water right reliability model that the partners use to determine the payment schedule for varying water right priority dates. In short, the past several years have been much drier than the previously available hydrologic data (2004-2009) and as such, water right reliability may be declining. If unaccounted for, this shift may result in over paying participants in the program and over estimating the hydrologic response of water right curtailments. According to the applicants, to address this issue, the partners are analyzing more recent data (2012-2016) which they will incorporate into the existing data and make any necessary adjustments to the payment schedule prior to the 2018 enrollment period. On-going evaluation of hydrologic conditions and how they impact water availability must be maintained in order to accurately compensate participants.

Finally, in recognition of the pilot nature of this transaction, reviewers wanted to see more robust monitoring that would better capture changes in instream flows during temperature events. As noted by reviewers, this information is critical to understanding the effectiveness of the model and this particular transactional approach. The partners have agreed to develop a more detailed, reach-based monitoring program that will seek to document diversion rates prior-to-and-during temperature events and report that data on a reach by reach basis.

These on-going refinements, in conjunction with the existing program infrastructure (agreement templates, valuation documents, close coordination and support from the OWRD Watermaster, and multiple water temperature and flow monitoring sites) and its past track record, gave reviewers confidence that the FAST program was sound and had a reasonable likelihood of achieving the proposed outcomes.

Ecological Outcomes

According to the materials provided, the Fifteenmile watershed provides habitat for a nearly intact wild genetic stock of Middle Columbia summer steelhead, listed as threatened under the ESA. Summer steelhead are a primary management concern for State, Federal, and Tribal natural resource agencies. Other aquatic focal species include coho and Chinook salmon, Pacific and western brook lamprey, resident redband and cutthroat trout. The watershed has undergone extensive alteration and damage from its natural state since settlement, and is a high-priority area under both state and federal management agency restoration criteria.

In 2009 low flows and extended high air temperatures combined to kill a significant number of juvenile fish in Fifteenmile Creek, including steelhead listed as threatened under the ESA. As a result, an enforcement official from NOAA investigated claims that the watershed violated the ESA, an offense that carries both civil and criminal penalties. Although NOAA's investigation did not result in an enforcement action, the official strongly recommended that Fifteenmile irrigators develop a strategy to address future low flow/high air temperature events. Since then, the Watershed Council has prioritized raising awareness of irrigator liability under the ESA, including working with NOAA representatives to determine how best to reduce this liability and working with The Freshwater Trust to create the FAST

program. Since the FAST program was enacted in 2013, there have been no observed instances of steelhead mortality in Fifteenmile Creek.

Based on a review of the FAST program's past performance the proposed refinements discussed above, reviewers felt that the transaction is likely to continue to be an effective tool for avoiding lethally high stream temperatures in Fifteenmile Creek.

Organizational Capacity

The FAST program is jointly proposed by TFT and the Wasco SWCD. TFT, and its predecessor the Oregon Water Trust, have participated in the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's (NFWF) Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) since the program's inception in 2002. As a participant in the CBWTP, TFT has undergone a qualification process to demonstrate the organization's capacity to successfully identify, implement, and monitor water transactions. To date, TFT has implemented over 140 water transactions in partnership with the CBWTP. Based on their general experience implementing water transactions under the CBWTP and their specific experience implementing the FAST program over the past three years, reviewers felt that TFT had sufficient capacity and expertise to implement this transaction.

As a relatively new participant in implementing water transactions, the SWCD was asked to provide a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) as a component of the application materials. The SWCD has played an important role in the development of the FAST program and has been the primary implementation entity for several years. As part of its role, the SWCD has established a Flow Restoration Coordinator position whose responsibilities include working with partners to enroll landowners in the program, coordinate the activities of implementation partners (TFT, OWRD, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, ODFW) and monitor program implementation. Furthermore, the SWCD also coordinates water leasing activities in the watershed and has helped implement approximately 20 leases to date. Based on the SOQ provided by the SWCD, reviewers felt that their qualifications were sufficient to continue to play a similar role in implementation of the FAST program.

Summary

Total score: 41 out of 77 possible points. A copy of the NFWF evaluation criteria and the associated scores are attached. The proposed transaction is complex and requires significant management and oversight in order implement successfully. The applicants have a track record of successful implementation of this transaction going back at least three years. Reviewers felt that continued support was warranted and that if the partners can continue to make refinements to certain aspects of the program, including the predictive model, the understanding of water right reliability, and effectiveness monitoring, this transaction can be beneficial to Fifteenmile Creek and offers a promising template for other watersheds in the region.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award $57,368 to The Freshwater Trust for the Fifteenmile Creek Action to Stabilize Temperatures (FAST) Program.

2016 OWEB Grant Cycle

Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Salt Creek Instream Transfer
Applicant: Trout Unlimited
Application No: 216-9906 **Region**: Central Oregon
Basin: Rogue **County**: Klamath
OWEB Request: $172,669 **Total Cost**: $238,889

Application Description

This project proposes to purchase the most senior water right on Salt Creek, a tributary to Little Butte Creek in the Rogue River Basin. As proposed, the transaction will restore 1.2 cubic feet per second (cfs) of flow to lower 3.81 miles of Salt Creek and the lower 14.3 miles of Little Butte Creek. Salt Creek currently supports ESA listed coho salmon (Southern Oregon/Northern California Coho), steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and native cutthroat trout. Limiting factors for coho and steelhead in this watershed are agricultural diversions that limit instream flows and cause degradation of water quality in Little Butte Creek and tributaries, including Salt Creek. Salt Creek is a cold, spring-fed system. In addition to the instream transfer, the landowner has agreed to complete a water source swap which will eliminate all of the ranch water use from Salt Creek, moving their remaining irrigation diversions to Wasson Canyon Creek (which has natural barriers to fish passage). The source swap of water rights does not directly relate to the water acquisition proposed here for funding, as the 70 acres will be converted to dryland grazing, and the Wasson Canyon water is not physically able to be delivered to this location. Finally, the instream transfer of these various water rights will facilitate removal of three fish passage barriers on Salt Creek. Rogue River Watershed Council has secured funding to design fish passage alternatives for all 10 barriers on Salt Creek. These barriers do not create full blockages for fish passage, but removal and/or redesign will improve migration and rearing conditions on the creek.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was sound and had a high likelihood of achieving the proposed outcomes. Based on information provided by Trout Unlimited (TU), it appears that sufficient due diligence measures have been conducted to establish the transferability of the subject water rights to an instream use, establish accurate ownership information of the subject water rights, and document the value of the water rights to be acquired through application of commonly accepted valuation approaches.

Reviewers noted that the firm contracted to perform the water valuation, WestWater Research, had difficulty establishing a value range for water rights in the region as a result of lack of data on water transactions in vicinity. This is a common issue within watersheds were few transactions have occurred or are documented. However, using a data set from statewide water transactions as well as an analysis of land price differential in nearby Josephine County, a supported value range for the proposed transaction is $150,640 to $264,320. TU is proposing to compensate the water right holder at the lower end of this range with a total proposed acquisition cost of $150,000. Reviewers felt that this was an appropriate approach and reflected a reasonable value based on available data.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TU's plans for monitoring and enforcing this water transaction were adequate to provide the necessary oversight to ensure flows are protected instream. TU proposes to take a relatively low intensity approach to monitoring in the first year by taking monthly discharge measurements near the mouth of Salt Creek and below the point of diversion. Real time gages on Little Butte Creek can be utilized to monitor flows in the proposed secondary reach. If regulation and enforcement issues are encountered in the first year of monitoring, TU suggests a willingness to install additional monitoring infrastructure (continuous discharge recorders or real-time gage). Additional biological response monitoring in the form of coho red counts and snorkel surveys, repeated at least once every three years, will provide opportunities to understand the relationship between habitat restoration activities, including flow increases, to biological response within the watershed. A signed Letter of Intent was provided by TU for review, but a final Landowner Agreement was not provided.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers gave this transaction a very positive review for its proposed benefits to fish, water quality, habitat availability, and connectivity. Furthermore, TU and its partners have undertaken a prioritization effort to help determine where flow restoration activities would be most beneficial in the Rogue River basin. Based on the information provided by TU, Salt Creek appears to be one of the highest restoration priorities identified in their analysis. The proposal and associated materials did a good job of establishing the value of additional flow in Salt Creek and potentially in Little Butte Creek. The relevant habitat is important to a host of important native species including ESA listed coho salmon, as well as steelhead, Pacific lamprey, and native cutthroat trout. Salt Creek is critical habitat for coho salmon and both the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine Fisheries Service provided strong letters of support that draw a clear correlation between inadequate instream flows and impairments to habitat for aquatic species. In particular, the transaction has the potential to improve water quality conditions that will ultimately improve summer rearing conditions for juvenile coho salmon. The proposed transaction also complements a watershed-scale initiative to remove passage barriers by eliminating three barriers associated with the subject water rights.

Organizational Capacity

TU provided a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) that demonstrated the necessary organizational capacity to complete this water transaction. TU and key staff have a long history of successfully navigating the State's instream transfer process. TU cites a number of relevant examples in their SOQ and the proposal identifies two other water transactions in this watershed and another nearby that have been successfully completed. Furthermore, TU has demonstrated the ability to provide monitoring and stewardship of past water acquisitions and work with OWRD to resolve issues as they arise.

Summary

Total score: 60 out of 74 possible points. A copy of the NFWF evaluation criteria and the associated scores are attached. The project appears to be well designed and benefits key species of interest in the Rogue River basin, including ESA listed coho salmon. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable based on a valuation completed by a reputable firm specializing in water valuations and having expertise specific to water markets in Oregon. TU and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and should be in a positon to implement this acquisition as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award $172,669 to Trout Unlimited for the Salt Creek Instream Transfer Program.

2016 OWEB Grant Cycle

Water Lease and Transfer Application

Project Name: Threemile and Crane Creek Instream Transfer
Applicant: Trout Unlimited Oregon
Application No: 216-9907 **Region**: Central Oregon
Basin: Klamath **County**: Klamath
OWEB Request: $421,481 **Total Cost**: $821,481

Application Description

Trout Unlimited Oregon (TU) is requesting funds for the permanent transfer of 5.73 cubic feet per second (cfs) (1,524 acre-feet) to instream flow on Threemile and Crane Creeks in the Upper Klamath Basin for the direct benefit of two federally listed species. The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) will maintain the water interest after the purchase and instream transfer. Threemile and Crane Creeks originate from large springs on the eastern slope of the Cascades and historically flowed into Fourmile Creek and eventually Upper Klamath Lake. The headwaters of Threemile Creek are home to a population of threatened bull trout which is recovering in abundance and distribution, and the lower reaches of both creeks are home to threatened Oregon spotted frog populations. TU, along with numerous partners and landowners, are planning a large restoration project to return both creeks to their historic channels. This water acquisition is critical to the success of the larger restoration project, which will greatly improve habitat for the threatened species.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the water transaction was sound and had a high likelihood of achieving the proposed outcomes. Based on information provided by TU, it appears that sufficient due diligence measures have been conducted to establish the transferability of the subject water rights to an instream use and document the value of the water rights to be acquired through application of commonly accepted valuation approaches. TU has coordinated with the OWRD to determine the anticipated reliability of the water rights based on regulation patterns since the agency issued the Amended and Corrected Findings of Fact and Order of Determination (ACFFOD) in the Klamath Adjudication. Specifically, since the issuance of the ACCFOD in 2013, regulation calls by the Bureau of Reclamation have significantly altered water management and water right reliability patterns in the Upper Klamath Basin. This is important information to consider as it affects the period of time that increases in instream flows can be expected as well as the cost of acquiring the water rights for instream transfer. Reviewers felt that TU has adequately anticipated these changes and incorporated them into their transaction design.

One issue that reviewers raised was the presence of a surface mining operation within the floodplain of Threemile Creek and the potential for hydrologic connectivity between the creek and the pond associated with the mine to negatively affect downstream water availability. Follow up conversations with TU staff helped clarify that there was no water right or water use associated with the pond and that as part of the restoration design process, TU's consultant, Inter-Fluve, is investigating the potential impacts of the pond on the hydrology of the system. Based on this, reviewers were confident that if an impact to the water rights associated with the proposed transaction is identified, TU will be in a position

to work with OWRD to address the problem. Reviewers also felt that the cost, while on the high end of the value range established by WestWater Research, was reasonable based on local market conditions summarized in the valuation report.

Adequate monitoring, stewardship, and enforcement of water transactions are necessary to ensure that acquired water rights continue to provide the anticipated benefits to flows, habitat, and fish. Reviewers felt that TU's plans for monitoring and enforcing this water transaction were well designed and should provide the necessary oversight to ensure flows are protected instream. Additional biological response monitoring in the form of egg mass surveys for Oregon spotted frog as well as electrofishing surveys for bull trout should provide opportunities to understand the relationship between habitat restoration activities, including flow increases, to biological response within the watershed.

A signed Letter of Intent was provided by TU for review, but a final Landowner Agreement was not provided.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers gave this transaction high marks for its potential to restore high-quality habitat for a number of key species while also leveraging substantial conservation outcomes through other (non-flow) restoration activities.

Threemile and Crane Creeks have both been removed from their historic channels and placed in channelized ditches. The dewatering of the historic channels has resulted in loss of habitat for a variety of key species, altered the hydrology of the watershed, created fish passage barriers, and resulted in water quality issues associated with increased irrigation return flows. The proposed water acquisition is part of a larger project to restore Threemile and Crane Creeks to their historic channels, increase instream flows in those streams while restoring a more natural (stable, spring-fed) hydrologic regime. The project should provide passage flows for bull trout and other species to access additional habitat.

The proposal is accompanied by strong letters of support from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife as well as U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). The transaction targets restoration of habitat that is important to on-going recovery efforts of ESA listed bull trout as well as Oregon spotted frog. According to Laurie Sadie, Klamath Falls Office Field Supervisor, the additional flows in Crane Creek and Threemile Creek, as well as improved connectivity to Fourmile Creek will allow the resident bull trout population to migrate beyond the local watershed and increase productivity. Similar benefits relating to expanded range and additional breeding and rearing habitats are expected for Oregon spotted frog.

Organization Capacity

TU provided a Statement of Qualifications (SOQ) that demonstrated the necessary organizational capacity to complete this water transaction. TU and key staff have a long history of successfully navigating the State's instream transfer process. TU cites a number of relevant examples in their SOQ and the proposal identifies two other water transactions in this watershed and another nearby that have been successfully completed. Furthermore, TU has demonstrated the ability to provide monitoring and stewardship of past water acquisitions and work with OWRD to resolve issues as they arise.

Summary

Total score: 53 out of 74 possible points. A copy of the NFWF evaluation criteria and the associated scores are attached. The project appears to be well designed, leverages a host of other habitat restoration outcomes, and benefits key species of interest in the Upper Klamath Basin. The cost of the transaction appears reasonable based on a valuation completed by a reputable firm specializing in water valuations and having expertise specific to water markets in the Upper Klamath Basin and throughout

Oregon. TU and its staff have demonstrated the ability to negotiate, implement, and monitor complex water acquisition projects based on their previous experience and should be in a positon to implement this acquisition as proposed.

Review Team Recommendation

Fund.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award $421,481 to Trout Unlimited for the Threemile and Crane Creek Instream Transfer Program.

Oregon
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grants Program Manager
Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N: Coastal Wetlands Grants
April 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff request the board approve receipt of one grant award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) 2016 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) and delegate authority to the Director to award funds for the project. Staff also request board approval to submit two applications on behalf of the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) and local partners of the Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration project for the current NCWCGP solicitation.

II. Background

The NCWCGP requires that applications for projects from local implementers be submitted by a state agency, and OWEB is both eligible and established as a trusted partner with the program. OWEB has established a process for local implementers to follow for submission to NWCGP and the associated state match through OWEB. The process includes a letter of interest submission in December, a pre-proposal in February, site tours in March, board decision in April, and submission of the full application in June. During the same time frame OWEB, like other state agencies, must also receive legislative approval to submit the application.

Subsequent to these process steps, the local implementer submits the project through the open solicitation or land acquisition grant program for the state funding match. Ultimately, receipt of the federal grant is contingent on receipt of state match. OWEB's program administration process and timeline for vetting proposed NCWCGP projects is found in Attachment A.

III. NCWCGP Funding Awarded in January 2016

In January 2016, the USFWS announced that the Ecola Creek Wetlands Protection and Restoration Project submitted by OWEB in 2015 was awarded $161,681 for the acquisition and restoration of 28 acres in the Ecola Creek watershed. The project's local implementer is the City of Cannon Beach.

IV. Proposed NCWCGP Application for 2018

On October 1 2016, OWEB released a notice of deadlines for the 2018 application cycle. Of the three Letters of Interest subsequently submitted in mid-December, two developed into proposed projects: the TEP's Tillamook River Wetlands Project and the Columbia Land Trust's (CLT) Columbia River – South Tongue Point Conservation Project.

In February 2017, the TEP and CLT submitted pre-proposals to OWEB which formally started the agency's review process described in Section II above. The pre-proposals were reviewed by OWEB staff, and then by a Coastal Wetlands Expert Review Team that was convened by OWEB. On March 14, 2017, a site tour of the proposed project sites was attended by staff and the review team.

Based on the review, staff and the review team recommend moving forward with submission of a NCWCGP application for the Tillamook River Wetlands project. Staff and the review team do not recommend submission of the South Tongue Point Conservation project at this time given the lack of information on habitat conditions, and the uncertainty over long-term stewardship of the property. In addition, staff recommend submission of a NCWCGP application for Phase 2 of the Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration project. A brief overview of each project is provided below, and full evaluations are included as Attachment B:

Tillamook River Wetlands Project – This project is located at river mile three in an unincorporated portion of Tillamook County. The TEP proposes to acquire approximately 73 acres of historic spruce tidal swamp wetlands. Once acquired, TEP plans to undertake a thorough scientific investigation of the site's environmental conditions and to develop a restoration design to improve fish passage and hydrologic connection in the Tillamook River. *NCWCGP request: $312,000; Total project cost: $608,868.*

Columbia River – South Tongue Point Conservation Project – This project is located at South Tongue Point in the Columbia River Estuary in Astoria. The CLT proposes to acquire and conserve approximately 90 acres of coastal wetlands, riparian areas, and conifer forests. Once acquired, CLT plans for Clatsop Community College to be the owner and steward of the property and for the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce to manage future restoration. *NCWCGP request: $1,000,000; Total project cost: $1,330,000.*

Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration Project – Phase 2 – This project is located at in the lower Coquille River valley near Bandon. Local partners, including the Beaver Slough Drainage District (BSDD) and The Nature Conservancy (TNC) propose the restoration and reconnection of approximately 10 miles of remnant channels on the Winter Lake and Beaver Slough project sites to enhance habitat for migratory birds, anadromous fish, and other native fish and wildlife. *NCWCGP request: $1,000,000; Total project cost: $1,330,000.*

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the Board:

1) Approve receipt of funding in the amount of $161,681 from USFWS under the 2016 NCWCGP and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate grants and agreements in support Ecola Creek Wetlands Protection and Restoration Project.
2) Approve the submission of an application for the Tillamook River Wetland Project to the USFW's 2018 NCWCGP.
3) Approve the submission of an application for the Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration Project – Phase 2 to the USFW's 2018 NCWCGP.

Attachments

A. OWEB USFWS NCWCGP Program Administration Timeline
B. NCWCGP Project Evaluations

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

USFWS NATIONAL COASTAL WETLANDS CONSERVATION GRANT PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION TIMELINE

NOTE: Deadlines of importance to local implementers are noted in **red** below.

DEADLINE Dec. 16, 2016: Local implementer submits Letter of Interest to OWEB

Jan. 2017*: USFWS announces FY2018 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) grant offering and sets the application deadline

DEADLINE Feb. 10, 2017*: Local implementer submits Pre-Proposal to OWEB

Feb.-Apr. 2017: OWEB convenes a Coastal Wetlands Review Team to engage in programmatic vetting of the proposed NCWCGP application submission; OWEB conducts site tours with Coastal Wetlands Review Team and USFWS staff

Apr. 2017*: OWEB Board votes on decision to submit NCWCGP application at Board Meeting

DEADLINE May 2017*: Local implementer submits Draft NCWCGP application to OWEB

May 2017*: OWEB submits Draft NCWCGP application to USFWS for review

May 2017*: USFWS provides comments on Draft NCWCGP application to OWEB

May-Jun. 2017: OWEB seeks legislative approval to submit NCWCGP application

DEADLINE Jun. 2017*: Local Implementer submits Final NCWCGP application to OWEB

Jun. 2017*: OWEB submits Final NCWCGP application to the USFWS

DEADLINE Oct. 2017*: Local implementer submits acquisition, technical assistance, and/or restoration grant application to OWEB for state match funding

Dec. 2017-Feb. 2018: OWEB Acquisition and/or Regional Review Teams review OWEB grant applications through regular OWEB processes and make funding recommendations

Dec. 2017-Feb. 2018: USFWS NCWCGP awards are announced

Mar. 2018: OWEB Management determines funding lines for all OWEB grant applications with consideration of Review Teams' funding recommendations and available funding

Apr. 2018*: OWEB Board makes final funding decision on OWEB grant application and final decision to move forward with NCWCGP award

* Indicates approximate dates that will be updated upon release of the FY2018 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) grant offering.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

USFWS NCWCG PROGRAM

LETTER OF INTEREST PROCESS

The intent of this letter of interest process is to notify OWEB of your interest in pursuing a National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant, to initiate a dialogue between you and the agency, to determine baseline project eligibility, and to develop a strategy for the potential submission of state and federal applications.

Letters of Interest should be emailed directly to jillian.mccarthy@oweb.state.or.us. Please include the following information:

- Entity proposing the project;
- Point of contact for the proposed project;
- Other direct project partners, if applicable;
- Location of the proposed project, including a basic project map;
- A list of basic project elements, such as acquisition, conservation easement, restoration, enhancement, management, technical assistance, etc.;
- An estimated budget;
- Concise narrative description of the project;
- A brief discussion of the project's known timeline, ripeness, and/or project planning aspects that are still in development; and
- Other information you deem appropriate.

If you have any questions, please contact Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator at jillian.mccarthy@oweb.state.or.us or at (503) 986-0033.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

USFWS NCWCG PROGRAM
PRE-PROPOSAL PROCESS

The intent of the Pre-Proposal process is to enable OWEB's programmatic vetting of the proposed NCWCGP application to the USFWS in preparation for technical review, staff recommendations, and approvals by the OWEB Board and the Oregon State Legislature to submit NCWCGP applications to the USFWS. While understanding that proposed projects will be at varying stages of development and design by the Pre-Proposal deadline, the Pre-Proposal should nonetheless provide as much detail as possible and should be a polished document appropriate for review by the above listed entities.

In an effort to streamline the process and workload for local implementers, the form of the Pre-Proposal is predominately excerpted from the NCWCGP FY 2017 Notice of Availability of Grants and Request for Applications attached to this document as Attachment A. OWEB anticipates that local implementers can re-use their responses in this Pre-Proposal while later developing their draft and final NCWCGP applications for the FY2018 program. (Please note that the FY2018 NCWCGP Request for Applications will not be released until early 2017.)

Pre-Proposals should include the following information:

- ❒ Entity proposing the project;
- ❒ Point of contact for the proposed project;
- ❒ An Executive Summary; and
- ❒ The below identified items from Attachment A (as highlighted).
  - On page 7, **Required Federal Forms**, section 2 **Budget Justification** only
  - On pages 10-11, **Project Statement**, sections 1 through 6 only
  - On page 12, **Drawings/Maps/Photographs**, all of sections 1 and 2
  - On page 15, part A (**Ranking Criteria**), sections 1, 3, 9, and 10 only

Your Pre-Proposal can be submitted by email directly to jillian.mccarthy@oweb.state.or.us.

If you have any questions, please contact Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator at the above email address, or at (503) 986-0033.

Tillamook River Wetlands Project

Tillamook, Oregon

Local Partner: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership

OWEB Review Process:

On December 12, 2016 the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (hereinafter referred to as "*TEP*") submitted a Letter of Interest to OWEB for acquisition of approximately 73 acres of tidal wetland habitat in the Tillamook Bay Estuary. After OWEB staff determined basic project eligibility, TEP was invited to submit a pre-proposal. In response, TEP then formally submitted to OWEB a pre-proposal for the "Tillamook River Wetlands" project on February 16, 2017. Following a completeness review by OWEB staff, the pre-proposal was forwarded to the members of the Coastal Wetlands Expert Review Team (CWERT) for review and evaluation. On March 14th, the CWERT conducted a site visit to the property. Four members of the CWERT, OWEB's Acquisitions Specialist, OWEB's Partnerships Coordinator, a representative from the NOAA's Restoration Centers and a retired USFWS Project Leader for the Oregon Coast national Wildlife Refuge Complex were able to attend the site tour and participate in the discussion of the project. CWERT members reviewed the Pre-Proposal based on OWEB's review guidance, "*The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program: Program and Technical Review Process."* CWERT members specifically evaluated the project based on questions found in *Review Step 1: Basic Screening Questions* and *Review Step 2: Additional Evaluation Questions*.

CWERT Comments:

The CWERT believes that the acquisition of the property, once restored, has the potential to support important coastal wetland habitats and benefit species, specifically coho. They noted that the Tillamook Bay has suffered large losses of ecologically valuable tidal wetlands and that it is imperative that restoration of these habitat types occur. Although the restoration of this property is not part of the grant proposal, the CWERT felt that it is apparent that the applicant has put a lot of thought into plans to move forward following acquisition.

Although the project is still at a conceptual stage, the restoration alternatives proposed appear fairly straight forward and, with the requested funds for restoration planning, the project will likely be successful. TEP and the North Coast Land Conservancy (NCLC) have awareness of local issues related to agricultural conversions and are being proactive in communicating with prominent individuals in the community as the project would be one of the first to go through the pilot process set our under Senate Bill 1517. The level of threat that the property will sell if

the acquisition through TEP is not pursued is unclear. While the site is zoned for agricultural use, it has not been used as a dairy in at least ten years. One of the four tide gates on the property failed in early 2017 and is now allowing incoming tides to overtop the access road to the property. The CWERT felt that this, combined with the fact that the site was too wet to harvest hay in the fall of 2016, makes the threat of sale unlikely.

Ecological Outcomes: The CWERT felt that the pre-proposal and site visit demonstrated the potential for improved water quality, which was reiterated by Department of Environmental Quality staff on the site tour. It was also noted that the project has the potential to enhance and restore spruce tidal swamp, one of the rarest habitat types. The CWERT expressed some concern over the potential for a portion of the property to be retained for a gun club and the potential impacts and ecological drawbacks that this activity could have on the site. The CWERT noted that the proposal lacks detail on what types of best management practices and adaptive management would be put in place if the gun club were to be implemented. They felt the proposal would benefit from understanding the range of options for limiting impacts to fish and wildlife from the gun club.

The CWERT noted that, while significant restoration work is needed, it was evident that the site, in its current condition, is providing habitat and species benefits that could be enhanced through restoration. Although the TEP is not requesting restoration implementation funds at this time, the CWERT felt that the proposal would benefit from additional restoration description on the current condition, hydrology, and proposed restoration activities. The CWERT also noted that completing restoration in a second phase results in having no substantive assurances of restoration.

Project Soundness: TEP explained at the site tour that early conversations with some of the neighboring landowners indicate that they are supportive of restoration as long as there is no major change on their land. However, the neighbor negotiations are still early in the process and support has not been put in writing. Without fully understanding the current hydrology and potential future hydrology under various restoration scenarios, the CWERT noted that it will be difficult to obtain support from neighbors. The CWERT suggested working with all neighboring landowners to determine whether they would accept flow or floodwater on their properties as this will be a primary factor in restoration design alternatives, and would likely require flowage or other easements.

While the CWERT felt that the estimated costs of the acquisition and technical assistance seemed reasonable, whether landowners will allow flow onto their properties will strongly guide project design and influence future restoration costs. The CWERT noted that having the support of the Tillamook County Public Works Department was a benefit to the project, but

discussed the need for the project design to maximize restoration outcomes and not be guided by road infrastructure.

While the timeline for the 1517 process is unclear, the CWERT felt that it may result in the project being more thoroughly vetted by the community, which would help to reduce road blocks during permitting and implementation. The CWERT noted that the project would benefit from more detail on the approach to community engagement.

The CWERT felt that the proposed timeline for the project was aggressive, especially if a restoration plan is going to need to be reviewed under the 1517 process. They questioned the feasibility of completing the acquisition in three months and the sufficiency of six months for the scientific inquiry, noting that this didn't allow for investigation and assessment through a complete annual weather cycle.

The CWERT noted that the pre-proposal does not give a sense of what the NCLC is planning for long-term stewardship of the site and that the proposed property is outside of their typical service area. While CWERT members were familiar with NCLC and believe they could be a capable landowner and manager, the NCLC did not provide details on capacity and experience when asked at the site tour. The CWERT felt that the proposal would benefit from a further description of NCLC's capacity and experience in stewarding natural sites and further description of their plan to ensure the benefits to species remain intact over time.

CWERT Recommendation: The CWERT is supportive of submitting the NCWCG application to USFWS at this time, with the conditions that the application include evidence of NCLC's capacity and experience with similar projects, and that documentation be provided in coordination with neighboring landowners outlining whether they would allow flow on their property, in order to ensure that resulting restoration design alternatives are reflective of neighboring land impacts and landowner preferences.

Prepared by: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

Columbia River – South Tongue Point Conservation Project

Astoria, Oregon

Local Partner: Columbia Land Trust

OWEB Review Process:

On December 16, 2016 the Columbia Land Trust (hereinafter referred to as "*CLT*") submitted a Letter of Interest to OWEB for acquisition of approximately 90 acres of tidal wetlands, riparian areas, and conifer forests on the Columbia River Estuary in Astoria. After OWEB staff determined basic project eligibility, CLT was invited to submit a pre-proposal. In response, CLT then formally submitted to OWEB a pre-proposal for the "Columbia River – South Tongue Point Conservation Project" on February 9, 2017. Following a completeness review by OWEB staff, the pre-proposal was forwarded to the members of the Coastal Wetlands Expert Review Team (CWERT) for review and evaluation. On March 14th, the CWERT conducted a site visit to the property. Four members of the CWERT, OWEB's Acquisitions Specialist, OWEB's Partnerships Coordinator, a representative from the NOAA's Restoration Centers and a retired USFWS Project Leader for the Oregon Coast national Wildlife Refuge Complex were able to attend the site tour and participate in the discussion of the project. Staff from CLT, the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST), and the Clatsop Community College attended the site tour. CWERT members reviewed the pre-proposal based on OWEB's review guidance, "*The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program: Program and Technical Review Process."* CWERT members specifically evaluated the project based on questions found in *Review Step 1: Basic Screening Questions* and *Review Step 2: Additional Evaluation Questions*.

CWERT Comments:

The pre-proposal explains that the property is zoned industrial and owned by the Oregon Department of State Lands, who have expressed the desire to sell the property. The CWERT agreed that the purchase of the property by the college would be more beneficial to fish and wildlife than other proposed land uses; however, there was concern over the perception of a state agency purchasing land owned by another state agency. They recognized that the connection to Clatsop Community College has the potential to provide a strong outreach and education opportunity for the local community. The CWERT felt that the project is focused on protection of the existing resource rather than future restoration.

Ecological Outcomes: The CWERT felt that the project site is large enough that it could complement the adjacent Lois Island and Mott Island that are included within the Lewis and Clark National Wildlife Refuge, but that the current condition was not sufficiently defined to be able to determine existing ecological benefits. The pre-proposal and site tour described that the

proposed acquisition site was created from dredge spoils. While the CWERT observed natural recruitment of vegetation and some encroachment by invasive species, it was difficult to understand what, if any, natural systems and processes are functioning and how the site is currently providing fish and wildlife benefits.

Although the CLT is not asking for restoration implementation funds, because OWEB's Measure 76 requires a focus on native fish and wildlife habitat and water quality, the CWERT felt that the proposal would have benefited from additional description of proposed restoration activities in order to determine the potential ecological benefits that this property could provide. On the site tour, CREST showed the review team the South Tongue Point Wetland Restoration project completed adjacent to the proposed acquisition site as an example of the type of restoration that could occur on the property. They also provided a preliminary conceptual design for restoration on the acquisition site and described that, through CREST, there would likely be Bonneville Power Administration funds available to contribute to restoration. The CWERT felt that it did not provide sufficient detail to understand what a future restored condition might look like, how it might provide consistent and frequent critical habitat and function, or the extent of benefits to species.

Project Soundness: The pre-proposal described that Clatsop Community College would be the owner and responsible for long-term management and stewardship of the property. At the site visit, Clatsop Community College described using students and curriculum to implement maintenance at the site, but these programs are not yet in place. While the CWERT thought this was good conceptually and appreciated their close proximity to the site, the project would benefit from a more developed plan for long-term stewardship of the site or the designation of a third party to be responsible for stewardship. This would be especially important for the newly restored areas as they become established. Without student involvement, it was unclear if the College would have the capacity to manage the property. It was also unclear whether the College has experience with stewardship of natural sites.

The question of threat of development for the DSL-owned property was a point of discussion for the CWERT. CLT stated during the site visit that they expect the site will be developed in the next couple of years, but it is unclear if DSL would sell the property for development absent a conservation sale.

The final point of discussion was the high purchase price of the property, likely due to the industrial use zoning. The CWERT felt that this could result in a high cost to low benefit scenario, particularly because restoration alternatives and associated costs are largely unknown.

CWERT Recommendation: The CWERT is not supportive of submitting the NCWCG application to USFWS at this time.

Prepared by: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator

RESTORATION

Project Name: Coquille Valley Restoration and Conservation

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

OWEB Funds Requested: $720,000

Application Description:

The Coquille Valley is an expansive alluvial floodplain that extends from the Coquille River estuary near Bandon upstream to the limit of tidal influence at River Mile 42. The Coquille Valley historically supported an estimated 17,425 acres of tidally influenced freshwater and salt-marsh wetlands. Currently more than 95 percent of the valley's wetlands have been diked and drained. Many factors have led to the decline of coho salmon in the Coquille watershed over the past century, including: overfishing, loss of spawning habitat, hatchery influences, predation, removal of large wood, water quality, loss of habitat connectivity, increased sedimentation, increased water temperatures and more. Waterfowl greatly benefit from habitat provided by current agricultural practices in the Coquille Valley during winter flooding. Historically, these floodplain wetlands also provided valuable off-channel habitat for salmon and steelhead. Diking, tide gates, and drainage ditches have eliminated fish access to these critical habitats, creating the principal bottleneck to recovery of the Coquille River's endangered and at-risk anadromous fish populations. Scientists have identified loss of overwinter habitat—i.e., loss of low gradient habitat, including tidal wetlands—as the only limiting factor preventing the Coquille coho population from reaching the desired status (Coquille Subbasin Plan, Coquille Indian Tribe, 2007, prepared for NOAA Fisheries, p. 2, 66, 68, 101).

The overall project includes purchase of three properties, plus a conservation easement on a fourth property, totaling 742 acres (including 561 acres of wetland type that is declining nationally). Project funds are sought from OWEB for the design and on-the-ground restoration work portion of a larger conservation effort. The Coquille Valley Restoration and Conservation project targets restoration of 510 acres of floodplain habitat on the Coquille River in an area referred to as the Winter Lake and Beaver Slough, just west of the town of Coquille (RM 18.5). Restoration activities will take place at two of the properties (Winter Lake and Roseburg Resources sites).

Restoration work will include reconnecting stream channels, planting native wetland vegetation, controlling invasive species, removing interior dikes and drainage ditches, placing large wood in streams, removing invasive species, and removing remnant materials from old tide-gate structures. In addition, the overall project will complete preliminary studies and finalize permits and engineering. Importantly, funding would also support critical technical assistance, studies, design and engineering aspects such as hydrology, geo-technical work, channel configuration design, large wood placement design, permitting and other design and engineering work. These activities are necessary to appropriately design the implementation phase. Work also includes important plant establishment necessary to get plantings to the free-to-grow state. Funding requested from OWEB would support pre-implementation technical assistance activities, project implementation and post-project plant establishment work.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation:

The RRT found the overall proposal well prepared. It is obvious that the applicant has been diligent about coordinating and addressing concerns from regulatory/permitting/natural resource agencies as well as from the public. The project addresses many habitat needs and limiting factors for fish and wildlife within the Coquille River watershed. The potential of the implementation of this project to support coho production through the establishment of off-channel high-water habitat, the key limiting factor here, is great. Habitat restoration would benefit a diverse range of species. The seasonal inundation of Unit 2 provides benefits to aquatic resources including wintering habitat for coho salmon, habitat for terrestrial species of concern to the Fish and Wildlife Service, and wintering habitat for waterfowl and other avian species of importance. The already accomplished groundwater monitoring work is a very positive attribute of the overall project in that it demonstrates commitment by project partners to be well informed about pre-project conditions and thus able to understand project effects.

The long-term potential to improve water quality in creeks draining through the project area is also great. Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) assessments in Coos County indicate that pollutant loads are magnified by the accelerated pollutant delivery that results from straightened channels. Implementation actions that entail strategic wetland restoration and enhancement, managing vegetation along straightened streams, reconnections with floodplain, and re-establishment of sinuosity will help improve water quality conditions. The project has the potential to provide a good learning opportunity and demonstration on how to address water quality issues in these types of areas. Planting and re-vegetation of the site will provide for restoration of the site to a more natural spruce-shrub-coastal wetland condition; these sites are presently rare in this watershed.

The RRT felt the project benefitted the agricultural community in the area because grazed pasturelands are subsiding and projects like this are needed to illustrate ways to keep lowland agriculture going in the county. New tide-gates will provide for greater reliability and flexibility in water management for the Drainage District and landowners while providing enhanced fish passage. This could demonstrate a clear win-win for agriculture and habitat.

The RRT recognized that there are multiple unknowns about the project that will not be answered prior to the OWEB funding decision (i.e., uncertainty of how much tidal flow will be returned to Unit 2, channel and large-wood designs, prevention strategy for wood movement, planting plan, details of the tide-gate replacements and a project schedule).

The project depends on the new tide-gate element for restoration and land management success and funding is not in place for the tide-gates. The RRT did not have a firm grasp on the likelihood of finding funding for the tide-gates nor what the timetable for actually securing those funds would be. The application did not contain specifics about management of the tide-gate systems in the long run and ensuring that that management is consistent with project goals, which raised some concerns. More information on the intervals would be helpful and the RRT felt that the intervals between stream cleaning should be lengthened.

In this application, because federal funds are also involved in the project, the applicant bundled design and restoration into one application. As a result, the current proposal lacked designs for channel re-configuration and large-wood placement and a large-wood management plan that delineates how much wood will be placed, how large the wood will be and how the wood will be situated and anchored. The RRT recognized this work will be undertaken prior to implementation; however, they are used to seeing designs as part of a typical OWEB application.

Additional information on the tree planting and tree protection aspects would be helpful to better evaluate success. The RRT recognized that this planting design work will be undertaken prior to implementation; however, they are used to seeing planting plans as part of a regular grant program application. The RRT raised several questions to consider specific to the plantings and their establishment: If the extensive plantings are installed and grow in the water level conditions presented to them, how will the change in water levels and fluctuations after the final installation of the MTR tide-gates affect the survival rates of the established plantings? How were the plant species and the number of trees to be planted identified? What will the site preparation techniques entail? How will the trees/shrubs be planted? How extensive are invasive species and how will they be controlled? Who will manage seasonal fence needs? Who will manage the cattle? What type of off-stream livestock water will be provided and how will it be funded?

Overall, the RRT found the proposed budget not very descriptive and was depicted as lump sums rather than a more detailed split out of costs. The reviewers felt a thorough explanation of how the funds will be spent was important to determining the cost and benefits as well as the cost effectiveness of what is being proposed. The RRT raised several questions specific to the budget: Project management costs seem high and duties of those providing project management and project oversight are not described. The budget allocates $30,000 for pre-project monitoring costs related to coho salmon passage and movements in contract with Oregon State University, yet there is no discussion of this in the grant application. $210,000 is listed in the budget for removal of old tide-gate structures from the mouth of China Camp Creek, but there is no discussion or explanation of this or why it will cost so much.

The RRT recognized that there are a lot more partners involved in the project than the application described and they felt strongly that the application should clearly identify the extent that other partners are involved in this project.

The reviewers found the review process for this project confusing and frustrating at times. This application review was outside of the normal regular grant application, review and evaluation process that they are familiar with and took some adaption. The RRT recognized that a lot of the technical assistance, design and engineering work is not complete and will be completed prior to the project being implemented; however, the information from this pre-project work would have better informed the review and likely answered many of the questions raised.

The project is highly visible and success of this project could contribute to more willing participants in the area. The proposal presents OWEB with an opportunity to assist with the restoration of important coastal wetland resources that have much intrinsic value.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff: Fund with Conditions

Review Team Comments (Note: Some of these comments have been converted to conditions in the funding recommendation in the staff report:

- Develop clear and concise agreements with timelines on partner responsibilities, including Drainage District and landowner responsibilities on topics such as: fundraising for new tide-gates, tide-management, intervals between stream cleaning, seasonal fencing, cattle management, plant establishment and site access.
- All land owner and Drainage District agreements and permits must all be in place prior to on-the-ground project implementation funds being released.
- Channel and large-wood placement engineering and design work must be completed and evaluated prior to funding for the on-the-ground project implementation phase being released.
- Tree planting prescriptions and plant establishment plans need to be developed and evaluated prior to funding for the on-the-ground project implementation phase being released.
- Additional budget detail and cost breakout to provide a clear understanding of what the budget estimate was based on including information on how costs were determined for the budget elements and if there are any unusual cost factors. This must also include a project management and oversight scope of work containing the time and activities that would be involved.
- A monitoring plan needs to be developed with review and evaluation prior funding for the on-the-ground project implementation phase being released. The plan should require dissolved oxygen, temperature, conductivity/salinity, and macro-invertebrate monitoring. Recommend that a Sampling and Analytical Plan be developed and reviewed by DEQ. There is also an opportunity to learn something about management alternatives for hydro-modified systems. This discussion and metrics could be included in the monitoring plan.

- Develop public relations strategy.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O-1 – 2017-2019 Grant Cycles and Board Meeting Schedule
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report seeks board approval for the solicitation of grant offerings and Board meetings for the 2017-2019 biennium.

II. Background

Staff recommend the following grant offerings based on the 2017-2019 spending plan, with the expectation that subsequent updates would be recommended to the spending plan and grant cycle offerings based on the award of Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds (PCSRF):

A. Four cycles for Restoration and Technical Assistance (May 2017, November 2017, May 2018, and November 2018). If approved in the spending plan, Technical Assistance offerings will include eligible activities leading to land and water acquisition projects, and funded from the land and water acquisition spending plan line items.

B. Two cycles (November 2017 and November 2018) for Outreach and Monitoring, with the content of the Outreach offering subject to change based on the work of the outreach application work group and rulemaking advisory committee.

C. Two cycles for Land Acquisitions (October 2017 and October 2018)

D. Two cycles for Water Acquisitions (December 2017 and December 2018). These cycles are coordinated with the National Fish and Wildlife Federation's Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program solicitation.

III. 2017-2019 Grant Cycle and Board Meeting Dates

Staff have developed a recommendation for grant cycle deadlines and board meeting dates for the 2017-2019 biennium, which is included in Attachment A.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board adopt the 2017-2019 schedule of grant application deadlines and board meeting dates, as shown in Attachment A to this staff report. This schedule may be subject to change based on pending and future PCSRF awards.

Attachments

Attachment A 2015-2017 Proposed Grant Application Deadlines and Board Meeting Dates

2017-2019 Biennium Grant Application Deadlines and Board Meeting Dates

Application Deadline	Application Type(s)	Board Meeting Dates/Locations
	N/A	July 25-26, 2017 (T-W) Region 4, Boardman
May 1, 2017	Restoration, Technical Assistance	October 24-25, 2017 (T-W) Region 3, Lebanon
	N/A	January 30-31, 2018 (T-W) Region 1, Florence
November 6, 2017* *Water Acquisition deadline to be announced by NFWF	Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, Monitoring, Land Acquisition, Water Acquisition	April 24-25, 2018 (T-W) Region 5, TBD
	N/A	Date and Location TBD, joint meeting with Washington SRF Board
May 7, 2018	Restoration, Technical Assistance	October 30-31, 2018 (T-W) Region 2, TBD
	N/A	January 29-30, 2019 (T-W) Location TBD
November 5, 2018* *Water Acquisition deadline to be announced by NFWF	Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, Monitoring, Land Acquisition, Water Acquisition	April 23-24, 2019 (T-W) Location TBD
March 7, 2019	Council Capacity	July 23-24, 2019 (T-W) Location TBD
May 6, 2019	Restoration, Technical Assistance	October 22-23 2019 (T-W) Location TBD

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O-2– November 2016 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle and funding recommendations. As a part of approving a slate of recommended grants, staff request the board consider amending the spending plan to increase funds in the restoration and outreach line items and approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachments E-J to the staff report. Staff recommend funding 44 restoration projects, 18 technical assistance projects, 17 monitoring projects, and 10 outreach projects.

II. November 2016 Cycle Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle offered Restoration, Technical Assistance, Monitoring, and Outreach applications. A total of 200 grant applications seeking over $21 million were received. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. Applications Withdrawn

Following the application deadline, one restoration application (217-3020) was withdrawn by the applicant prior to review.

C. Review Process

Staff sent eligible grant proposals for review to the agency's six Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Staff scheduled site visits to as many proposed projects as possible. Per OWEB process, all RRT members were invited on these visits.

Following site visits, OWEB facilitated RRT meetings in each region. Reviewers considered the ecological significance of the proposed project, technical merit, feasibility, likelihood of success, experience of the applicant, whether the budget supports the proposed work and the overall cost-benefit of applications. After classifying applications as "fund" or "do not fund," the RRTs then prioritized the projects recommended for funding by application type.

The RRTs' evaluations and recommendations in summary form are distributed to all applicants whose proposals were reviewed by that team. Prior to the board meeting, staff forward to the board all written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

III. November 2016 Grant Cycle and Board Policy Decisions

A. Salmon License Plate Projects

At the July 2015 Board meeting the board adopted a Salmon License Plate Policy (Agenda Item I). Based on this policy, staff recommend distributing $400,000 of Salmon License Plate funds for this cycle among four projects listed in Attachment B.

B. Sage-grouse Projects

At its April 2015 meeting the board adopted a policy to make available at least $10 million through its granting programs over the next ten years in support of projects located in Oregon's sage steppe ecosystem directed to improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. For the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle, there is one project (217-5039, Parsnip #2) recommended for funding that meets these criteria, requesting $113,736. The project will restore 2,000 acres of core sage-grouse habitat by treating invasive medusahead, rangeland seeding, cross fencing, and conservation management plans. Note that the board's January 2016 award of $2,171,000 for the *Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties* Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiative resulted in fewer sage-grouse projects eligible for Open Solicitation awards. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects since April 2015 is $3,404,355.

IV. Funding Recommendations

The funding recommendations for the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: 2015-17 Spending Plan and November 2016 Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations

Grant Type	Spending Plan Total	Previously Awarded	Grant Funds Available	Staff Recommendations	Difference
Restoration	$25,207,000	$18,796,000	$6,411,000	$7,185,831	($774,831)
Technical Assistance	$3,060,000	$2,224,000	$836,000	$666,769	$169,231
Monitoring	$2,120,000	$971,000	$1,149,000	$1,124,991	$24,009
Outreach	$600,000	$310,000	$290,000	$337,471	($47,471)
TOTAL	$30,987,000	$22,301,000	$8,686,000	$9,315,062	

Table 1

A. Development of Staff Recommendations

OWEB staff considered the RRT recommendations and the funding availability in the 2015-2017 spending plan in developing the staff funding recommendation to the board. Attachment D contains the number of applications recommended for funding

by RRTs and staff by region and type, and the funding requests recommended by staff by region and type.

Given that this is the last grant cycle in the biennium, and that land and water acquisition requests are much lower than available funds in that spending plan line item, staff considered restoration projects that initially fell below the funding line to determine whether any of those projects were similarly qualified as those above the line. Two projects that met those criteria are recommended for funding: 217-1023, Oak Ranch Salmon Passage Improvement, and 217-6048, Walla Walla Managed Aquifer Recharge for Instream Flow.

B. November 2016 Cycle – Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend that the board decrease the spending plan line item for land and water acquisitions by $825,000 and increase the restoration line item by $775,000 and increase the outreach line item by $50,000. Staff recommend the board fund the applications listed in Attachments D-I.

Attachments

A. Grant Applications Submitted
B. Salmon License Plate Projects
C. RTT and Staff Funding Recommendations
D. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

Attachment A

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
November 1, 2016 Application Cycle

Applications Received by Type

	Monitoring	Outreach	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	6	6	7	12	31
Region 2	9	4	2	22	37
Region 3	4	10	5	19	38
Region 4	2	6	6	10	24
Region 5	2	2	3	23	30
Region 6	6	3	5	26	40
Totals	29	31	28	112	200

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	Monitoring	Outreach	Technical Assistance	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	346,000	142,756	212,571	2,995,179	$3,696,506
Region 2	623,515	129,823	75,807	3,701,689	$4,530,834
Region 3	246,118	341,601	166,845	2,670,063	$3,424,627
Region 4	380,093	265,141	288,698	1,876,617	$2,810,549
Region 5	121,561	41,012	110,428	2,956,881	$3,229,882
Region 6	558,002	68,155	163,985	2,735,295	$3,525,437
Totals	$2,275,289	$988,488	$1,018,334	$16,935,724	$21,217,835

Attachment B

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

November 2016 Grant Cycle Salmon License Plate Projects

Application #	Title	Project Objectives	Total Project Cost	Salmon License Plate Contribution
217-1027	Upper Sunshine Creek Habitat Project	Address the lack of instream complexity by placing 179 logs in-stream and planting 3100 conifers along 1.4 miles of Sunshine Creek to improve habitat for Coho.	$91,683	$91,683
217-2032	Powell Creek Instream Restoration	Place large wood structures in Powell Creek, as well as address an old diversion structure impacting fish passage, to improve habitat for Coho, Steelhead, and Chinook.	$159,595	$71,810
217-3021	Upper Sandy River Basin Habitat Restoration Project	Restore habitat elements believed to be most limiting to spring Chinook, Coho, and winter Steelhead in Salmon River and Still Creek, by increasing off-channel habitat, floodplain connectivity, and instream large wood abundance.	$235,497	$150,000
217-6048	Walla Walla Managed Aquifer Recharge for Instream Flow	Design and construct five aquifer recharge sites returning 4.2 cfs to Walla Walla streams during critical periods for Chinook and Steelhead.	$346,746	$86,507
			Total	**$400,000**

Attachment C

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations for the November 2016 Grant Cycle

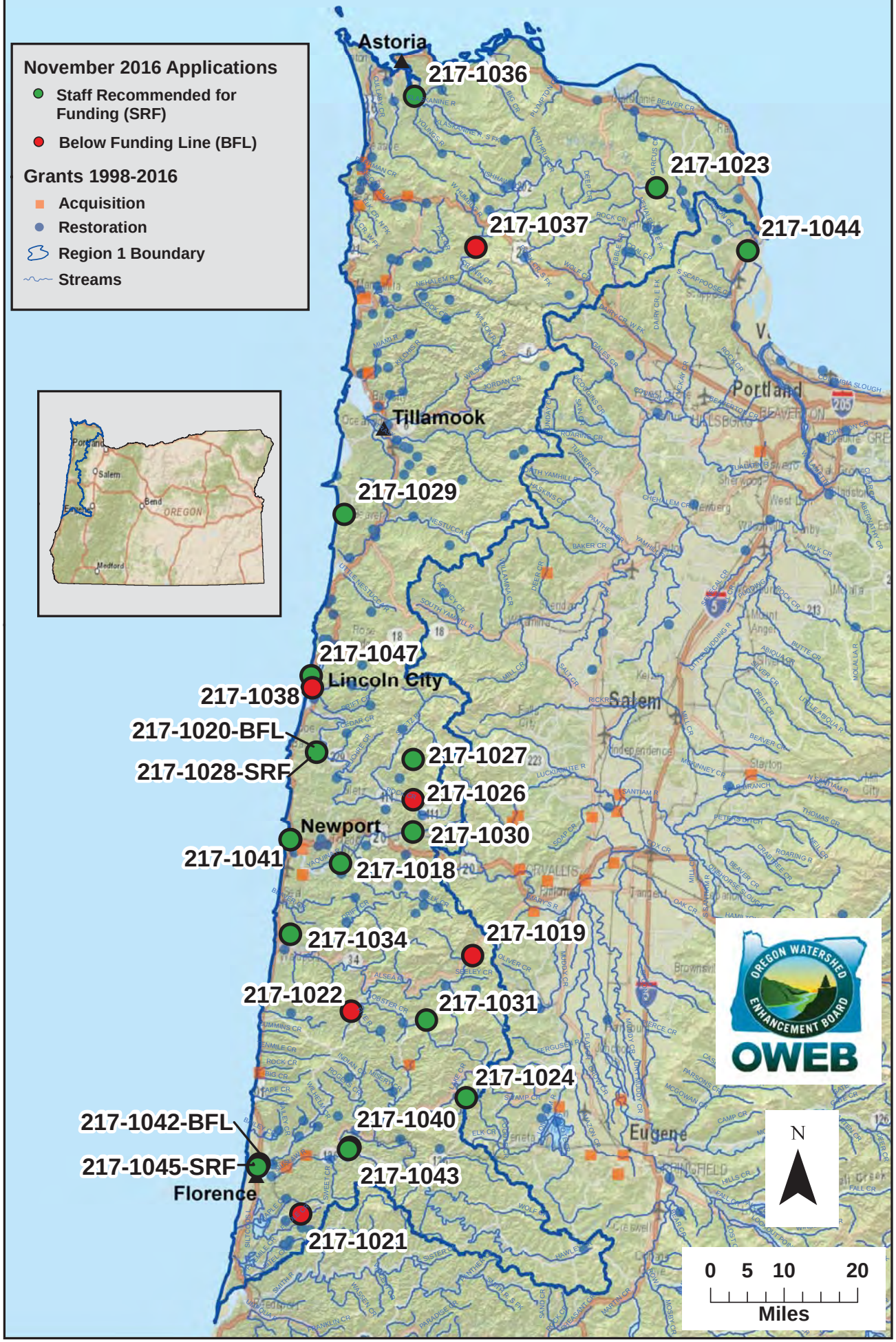
Number of Applications Recommended by Review Teams and Staff for Funding

Region	Restoration			Technical Assistance			Monitoring			Outreach		
	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%
Region 1	10	6	60%	4	4	100%	5	4	80%	5	2	40%
Region 2	17	7	41%	2	2	100%	7	6	86%	4	1	25%
Region 3	14	7	50%	3	3	100%	2	2	100%	8	2	25%
Region 4	5	5	100%	4	2	50%	1	1	100%	5	1	20%
Region 5	13	11	85%	2	2	100%	2	2	100%	2	2	100%
Region 6	22	8	36%	5	5	100%	2	2	100%	3	2	67%
Total	**81**	**44**	**54%**	**20**	**18**	**90%**	**19**	**17**	**89%**	**27**	**10**	**37%**

Dollar Amounts by Application Type Recommended by Staff for Funding

Region	Restoration	Technical Assistance	Monitoring	Outreach
Region 1	$1,663,557	$139,255	$168,933	$47,365
Region 2	$1,028,991	$75,807	$456,064	$47,311
Region 3	$1,068,700	$127,035	$51,162	$105,208
Region 4	$976,461	$98,885	$112,723	$40,344
Region 5	$1,042,233	$61,802	$121,561	$41,012
Region 6	$1,405,869	$163,985	$214,548	$56,231
Total	**$7,185,831**	**$666,769**	**$1,124,991**	**$337,471**

Application Funding Status
North Coast Region - November 2016



ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- April 2017

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Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Region 1 - North Coast

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-1027	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Upper Sunshine Creek Habitat Project	This project addresses the lack of instream complexity caused by the absence of large wood in Sunshine Creek, a tributary of the Siletz River. 179 logs will be placed and 3100 conifers planted throughout 1.4 miles of mainstem Sunshine Creek to improve habitat for at-risk fish species.	91,683	Polk
217-1024	Siuslaw WC	Fish Creek Large Wood Placement Project	This project aims to increase the quantity and quality of coho spawning and rearing habitat in Fish Creek, a major tributary to Lake Creek in the Siuslaw watershed. Approximately 450 logs and root wad pieces will be added to a 3 mile reach in Fish Creek, an identified priority stream by the Draft Siuslaw Coho Business Plan.	206,459	Lane
217-1018	MidCoast WC	MCWC Salvage Log Fund	The project will acquire and stockpile logs for use in stream restoration projects throughout the MidCoast region by providing funds for log transport of salvaged material on a year-round basis. Restoration partners will be able to quickly take advantage of donated salvage logs that often come available as a result of winter storm events.	55,924	Lincoln
217-1028	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Lower Siletz Strome Park Phase One	This project will enhance and create complex channel habitat in a 6,000' reach of the Siletz River to support juvenile salmonids and lamprey during key periods of mainstem habitat use. Engineered large wood and boulder structures will be placed at strategic locations within the reach in order to slow velocities and capture bedload under channel forming conditions.	572,859	Lincoln
217-1026	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Buttermilk Creek Habitat Project	This project addresses the lack of instream complexity caused by the absence of large wood in Buttermilk Creek, a tributary to the Yaquina River. Approximately 175 logs in 32 individual structures will be placed in 1 mile of stream, improving habitat for coho salmon, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, and cutthroat trout.	95,472	Lincoln
217-1023	Upper Nehalem WC	Oak Ranch Salmon Passage Improvement	This project replaces a complete fish passage barrier under Apiary Road on Oak Ranch Creek in the Nehalem watershed. Fish passage will be restored to over 7 miles of high quality aquatic habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon, Chinook, cutthroat trout, steelhead, and lamprey species.	641,180	Columbia
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**1,663,577**	

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-1020	Lincoln SWCD	Little Rock Creek Aquatic and Riparian Restoration	118,137	Lincoln
217-1022	MidCoast WC	Crazy and Cougar Creek Fish Passage	624,471	Lincoln
217-1021	Siuslaw SWCD	Bear Creek Habitat Enhancement Phase I	175,752	Lane
217-1019	MidCoast WC	Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration	59,705	Benton
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**2,641,642**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
217-1017	Salmon Drift Cr WC	Thompson Creek Fish Passage Restoration	279,571	Lincoln
217-1025	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation	Long Praire Creek Plant Establishment	60,606	Lincoln

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-1030	MidCoast WC	Yaquina Tidal Wetland Restoration Design	Restoration designs for a tidal restoration and enhancement project will be developed for a 55-acre site in the Yaquina estuary.	42,468	Lincoln
217-1029	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Councils	Sand Lake Watershed Coho Limiting Factors Analysis	A working group will be convened to develop a coho Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) document for the Sand Lake watershed. The LFA will provide a strategic framework for prioritizing restoration actions related to coastal coho habitat limitations and water quality improvements.	31,938	Tillamook
217-1034	The Wetlands Conservancy	Bayview Oxbow Restoration Design	Conceptual designs will be developed for restoration alternatives for the Bayview Oxbow Preserve, a former tidal wetland within the Alsea estuary. The design aims to restore estuarine function and hydrological connectivity to the site, a historic oxbow of the Alsea River located upstream of the town of Waldport.	22,207	Lincoln
217-1031	Alsea Watershed Council	Lobster Millpond	This project will produce designs required to address migratory fish passage over the Meadow Creek dam in the Lobster Creek watershed, a tributary of the Alsea River. The goal is to restore a run of coho salmon, cutthroat trout, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey to the Meadow Creek basin.	42,642	Benton
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**139,255**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-1032	David Michael Pitman	David M. Pitman Clatsop County Project	12,000	Clatsop
217-1033	Salmon Drift CR WC	Drift Creek Restoration Action Plan	23,322	Lincoln
217-1035	Upper Nehalem WC	Upper Nehalem Watershed Council Fishhawk TA	41,871	Clatsop

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-1045	Siuslaw School District 97J	Siuslaw Middle School Stream Team	The program provides hands-on watershed education opportunities to 6th and 7th graders in the Siuslaw School District 97J in Florence.	8,850	Lane
217-1044	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	North Coast Outreach Project	The North Coast Outreach Project targets 4th through 6th grade students, teachers, parents, and communities in the lower Columbia River watershed from Scappoose to Warrenton. The ongoing program provides waterhsed education through in-class learning and field experiences.	38,515	Clatsop
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**47,365**	

Outreach Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-1042	Siuslaw SWCD	Siuslaw Salmon & Watershed Studies (Stream Team Extension X)	31,276	Lane
217-1043	Siuslaw WC	Siuslaw Watershed Camps	17,952	Lane
217-1047	Salmon Drift CR WC	Restoring Ecosystems Educating the Future (REEF)	24,919	Lincoln
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**121,512**	

Outreach Projects *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-1046	Lincoln SWCD	Backyard Habitat Conservation	21,244	Lincoln

Region 1 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-1036	North Coast WS Assn	NCWA Monitoring Network	This project will continue and expand an existing volunteer-based monitoring network focused on summer temperatures of major rivers in the Youngs Bay, Skipanon, Nicolai-Wikiup, and Ecola watersheds.	10,199	Clatsop
217-1040	Siuslaw WC	2017-18 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program	The project will continue and expand upon an existing temperature and dissolved oxygen monitoring effort in the Siuslaw River basin. Continuous monitoring will be employed in strategic locations throughout the watershed to establish whether water quality is meeting state standards.	17,578	Lane
217-1038	Salmon Drift Cr WC	2017-2018 Salmon Drift Water Quality Monitoring	The Salmon-Drift Creek Watershed Council will collect water quality data for sites within the Salmon River, Drift Creek, and Schooner Creek watersheds. The data will help to inform restoration actions in the three watersheds, all of which are listed for water quality issues that threaten the health of fish populations.	26,141	Lincoln
217-1041	Lincoln SWCD	Mid Coast Monitoring Project	This project will fund the continuation of another year of Aquatic Habitat Inventory and spawner survey data collection in the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, and Yachats River watersheds within the mid-coast basin in Lincoln County. The project fills crucial data gaps by providing effectiveness monitoring for restoration projects and continuing long term baseline survey work.	115,015	Lincoln
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**168,933**	

Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-1037	Lower Nehalem WC	Nehalem Watershed Rapid	173,267	Clatsop
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**342,200**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
217-1039	Lincoln SWCD	Siletz-Yaquina Basin Continuous Dissolved Oxygen Monitoring	3,800	Lincoln
Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award			**2,019,130**	**22%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award			**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1017**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Thompson Creek Fish Passage Restoration		
Applicant:	Salmon Drift Cr WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$279,571.00**	**Total Cost:**	$355,454.00
Proposed Match:	$75,133.00		

Application Description

This project replaces a series of culverts and improves passage for aquatic species on Thompson Creek. Thompson Creek is a tributary to Devils Lake, a natural freshwater lake located in Lincoln City. A total of nine culverts on the mainstem of Thompson Creek currently limit access to habitat for cutthroat trout, steelhead, and coho salmon, all of which use the creek for spawning and rearing.

This project is the result of an OWEB-funded Technical Assistance grant completed in 2016. It is designed to be the first phase of a comprehensive effort to restore unimpeded access to approximately 2 miles of aquatic habitat, and this phase replaces 3 of the 9 culverts on the system. Project partners included Lincoln County, Devils Lake Water Improvement District, a landowner, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Century Link, NW Natural, and Lincoln City Public Works.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Thompson Creek has a unique and important native coho population that continues to exist in a stream impacted by home development and timber extraction. The stream contains good habitat for coho with low gradient and good gravel.
- The structure types proposed make sense for the system and associated site constraints.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The revised designs were not implementation-ready. Potential utility issues exist that have not been addressed, and the plan to get the designs to a state of completion appropriate for project construction is unclear.
- Culvert #1 in the system is mentioned as having failed since the last application submission, but no details on its condition were provided.
- The proposed designs are strictly hydrologically based and lack consideration of Aquatic Organism Passage (AOP) principles.
- The proposed alternatives in the application requesting the review team to reconsider the past application from the April 2016 cycle were confusing.
- There was no discussion on impacts to the stream's morphology that would result from only completing 3 of the culvert replacements at one time.

- There was no discussion on impacts to Culvert #3 that might result from replacing the culverts immediately upstream and downstream. The review team also had concerns about the Culvert #3 landowner being unsupportive of the project and about the degree to which this culvert's fish passage had been evaluated.
- Utility companies were listed as providing in-kind match, but there were no letters of support from the companies or other acknowledgement that the companies were on board with the project.
- It appeared from the technical memo that design guidance was utilized for a 25-year event, rather than a 100-year event.

Concluding Analysis:
The reviewers continued to recognize the opportunity to work in Thompson Creek and thought that the stream was of good habitat quality despite the adjacent surrounding land use. They felt that a restoration project along this reach would have benefit in improving both stream processes and fish passage. They appreciated that the proposal now included structures designed to meet federal fish passage criteria, but they still found the project planning and associated designs to be lacking in many requirements. Despite the fact that the designs had been upgraded to 1.5 ACW since the last OWEB request, the review team did not find that the project team had considered common principles of Aquatic Organism Passage. The application requested that the review team consider the previous application designs, which was confusing since there is no mechanism within the review process to consider past materials. The range of possible budget options outlined by the applicant was also confusing, and there appeared to be no clear strategy with the sequence of culverts proposed for replacement. The application did not address the review team's concerns from the previous evaluation about the potential effects on the stream morphology and other crossings should the approach of replacing only two or three of the crossings at one time be adopted. The review team was not confident that the project as planned and designed would result in restored passage of all life stages of aquatic species.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1018**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	MCWC Salvage Log Fund		
Applicant:	MidCoast WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Lincoln	
OWEB Request:	**$55,924.00**	**Total Cost:** $161,374.00	
Proposed Match:	$105,450.00		

Application Description

This project acquires and stockpiles logs for use in stream restoration projects throughout the MidCoast region by providing funds for log transport on a year-round basis. Project partners will be able to act proactively in the fall and winter months to take advantage of donated salvage logs that become available as a result of storm events. Logs will be moved directly to planned restoration sites or to storage areas for future use in restoration projects. By providing a steady source of large wood to restoration projects, this project aims to address the lack of habitat complexity in coastal streams caused by historical and current land management practices that have included past steam-cleaning efforts and industrial timber harvest.

This effort is the fifth iteration of a successful program that has allowed regional partners to obtain and provide hundreds of salvage logs for placement in streams throughout the MidCoast region. Partners involved include ODFW, watershed councils in the MidCoast region, Lincoln SWCD, and industrial timber landowners.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The program has been successful to date and allows the partners the opportunity to act quickly when donated wood becomes available.
- Trees damaged during landslide or storm events are frequently hauled off for disposal and the log salvage program enables them to be used otherwise to create habitat.
- Finding large wood of an appropriate size and quantity is a pervasive problem for restoration practitioners in this region.
- There are many large wood projects planned for implementation in the mid-Coast region over the next few years and this project will help fill that expected need.

*No **concerns** were identified during review.*

- None

Concluding Analysis:

The review team recognized the value of this innovative project that allows restoration partners in the region to capitalize on the sporadic availability of salvage wood. They found that the project had been critical in the past for helping augment the wood supply for several habitat projects. Habitat complexity is a significant limiting factor for coho salmon and this program would help facilitate

future large wood placement projects aiming to implement the recovery plan. The review team recommended the project for funding, recognizing that a significant number of large wood projects are currently planned for the mid-Coast region and the availability of suitable material has been a challenge this project will help to address.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 55,924.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 55,924.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1019**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration		
Applicant:	MidCoast WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Benton
OWEB Request:	**$59,705.00**	**Total Cost:**	$84,335.00
Proposed Match:	$24,630.00		

Application Description

This project will improve stream complexity and riparian and aquatic habitat conditions on Ernest Creek by adding large woody debris and planting conifer species on the Thyme Garden property in Alsea, OR. Ernest Creek is a tributary of Crooked Creek in the Alsea River watershed and provides habitat for coho and Chinook salmon, cutthroat and steelhead trout, and lamprey species. Current wood loading on the stream is significantly below ODFW benchmark values, and as a result the creek has reduced complexity, floodplain connectivity, and increased channel incision.

The project site was the subject of a previous OWEB restoration grant funded in 2002, which restored Earnest Creek into its historical channel. Once returned, the stream did not encounter legacy large woody debris in the historical channel as anticipated and has subsequently experienced channel incision. This project adds a total of 16 large wood structures on a half mile of Ernest Creek in order to increase habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity, and plants conifers on 2 acres of riparian habitat to increase potential for large wood recruitment. Project partners include the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership, Thyme Garden, Georgia Pacific, and a local landowner.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project will add more habitat complexity to Ernest Creek, an identified limiting factor for coastal coho salmon.
- The addition of large wood to the system would maintain and improve the long-term stability of the channel, and facilitate sediment deposition on the floodplain.
- The landowner is very engaged and does a great job providing outreach about watershed issues to the public.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The design included the placement of boulders within the in-stream environment and there was concern that permitting, particularly SLOPES, would be a challenge with this project element. The applicant planned to classify the project under the Oregon Forest Practices Act in order to avoid standard in-stream permitting, but it was unclear whether this would be an appropriate pathway given the type of activities proposed.
- There was some question as to the stream's preferred channel to Crooked Creek and whether or not the stream had reached equilibrium since it was initially diverted. It was unclear that the project as designed would fully stem the erosion that is occurring; based on the site visit

it appeared that the stream's hydrology was not fully considered in the original (2002) project design.
- Since the "design" is planned to occur "on the spot" during installation, there should not be a separate design fee.

Concluding Analysis:
The reviewers welcomed the opportunity to work on Ernest Creek, especially given the dedicated landowner of the Thyme Garden property who is committed to sharing watershed education with the visitors to the farm. The addition of large wood to the system will help stabilize the stream channel in addition to increasing habitat complexity for aquatic species. There were concerns about the boulders proposed for placement and the permitting approach. The review team did appreciate the alternative submitted after the site visit, which addressed an idea proposed by a review team member to relocate the channel at the point of greatest erosion. Ultimately though, that idea was not considered due to the potential disturbance to the riparian area and the lack of detailed design that would need to happen in order to implement that project change. The review team had a lot of questions about the stream's hydrology as it related to the original diversion funded in 2002, and whether the stream's preferred channel was different than the current pathway. The team recommended the project for funding despite their concerns, recognizing the excellent public outreach opportunity present on the site and acknowledging that the large wood placements could help stabilize the stream channel and increase habitat complexity.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
10 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 59,705.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1020**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Little Rock Creek Aquatic and Riparian Restoration		
Applicant:	Lincoln SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Lincoln	
OWEB Request:	**$118,137.00**	**Total Cost:** $169,581.00	
Proposed Match:	$51,444.00		

Application Description

This project improves aquatic and riparian habitat by placing large wood structures, removing invasive vegetation, and planting a diversity of native shrubs and trees on Little Rock Creek, a tributary of the Siletz River. The project site, located east of the town of Logsden and owned and currently managed by the Confederated Tribe of the Siletz Indians, has been the subject of legacy practices of land clearing and unmanaged livestock access. These practices have resulted in reduced stream shading and habitat complexity.

Large wood will be added to 14 sites along 0.6 miles of Little Rock Creek, and blackberry and reed canary grass will be controlled and replaced with plantings of native trees and shrubs on 20 acres of riparian and floodplain area. Project partners include the Confederated Tribe of the Siletz Indians, the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership, ODFW, Oregon Health Authority Drinking Water Source Program, and the USFS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is located in a drinking water source protection area and will positively address water quality issues by stabilizing the riparian area and reducing erosion and stream temperature.
- The project site provides a good opportunity for floodplain reconnection.
- The tribe is an engaged landowner committed to the success of the project. The site has the opportunity to be utilized by tribal members for cultural practices and could also serve as a key location for public and tribal outreach.
- The project design has a diverse planting plan and will increase biodiversity within the watershed.
- There is good connectivity with other nearby restoration projects on both tribal and private land.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The plan for maintenance of the project was unclear in the application and the amount of time allocated in the budget for plant establishment work seemed insufficient given the current cover of invasive blackberries in the proposed planting areas.
- The geomorphology of the floodplain lends itself to the possibility of the large wood floating in high water events, which the application and design did not address.

- The bank sloping and stabilization activities proposed did not seem necessary to achieving the goals and objectives of the project.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team felt that the project as proposed had the potential to achieve many ecological and social benefits: improved habitat complexity for aquatic species, reconnection of the floodplain, water quality improvements, and cultural and outreach opportunities possible with the site's tribal ownership. They found the planting plan to be well-considered, particularly the suite of species proposed. The review team had some concerns with the limited amount of plant establishment work allocated in the budget given the current cover of invasive species within the planting areas. On the site visit, the Siletz tribal representative voiced the tribe's commitment to the project's success and explained that the tribe was planning to do much of the maintenance themselves. The application would have benefitted from a clear and adequate plan for the plant establishment phase that acknowledged the tribal contribution. The review team was also concerned about the proposed large wood becoming adrift in high water events given the morphology of the channel and floodplain, but felt comfortable recommending the project trusting that the project team would consider appropriate design elements when installing the wood to prevent this possibility. The last concern regarding the bank sloping and stabilization activities was resolved at the site visit when the applicant proposed to remove those plans from the project design.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
7 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 118,137.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1021**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Bear Creek Habitat Enhancement Phase I		
Applicant:	Siuslaw SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$175,752.00**	**Total Cost:**	$286,847.00
Proposed Match:	$111,096.00		

Application Description

This project improves in-stream habitat complexity and establishes appropriately sized buffers of native vegetation on the mainstem and tributaries of Bear Creek, a tributary of Fiddle Creek in the Siltcoos Lake watershed located just northeast of Florence. The subject property is actively managed for livestock and timber and is subject to land use impacts typical of private agriculture and forest lands on the Oregon Coast. Portions of the property are leased for grazing and livestock have unconstrained access to the riparian and in-stream resources.

The project site contains many low gradient reaches considered high intrinsic habitat for coho salmon. The project will improve aquatic and riparian habitat along 1.3 miles of Bear Creek by placing 21 large wood structures in-stream, planting 6 acres of native tree and shrub species, and constructing livestock exclusion fence. Fish passage to 0.5 miles of habitat will also be improved with the replacement of an undersized culvert with a bridge that allows for full aquatic organism passage. Project partners include the USFS and Mason Bruce and Girard (for the landowner).

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project addresses several limiting factors: habitat complexity, stream temperature, and fish passage.
- The application was well written with a clear project description.
- The project location is in a focus area of the SWCD and ties in with other nearby restoration projects well.
- The project focus is on high intrinsic potential areas for coho.
- The project site has long been considered a key area for restoration actions, and a recent change in land ownership has allowed this possibility. This project could be a catalyst for future projects in other high priority locations within the same ownership.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The mainstem of Bear Creek was not addressed in this application, but is in urgent need of restoration work. The mainstem is in substantially worse condition than the tributaries where work was planned.

- The planting plan seemed heavily focused on shrubs, causing concern that large wood recruitment might be limited in the future.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team found this project to be well-planned with a strategic approach to addressing several limiting factors. They had a minor concern about the planting plan heavily relying on willows and shrubs and perhaps limited future large wood recruitment, but acknowledged that willows and other shrub-dominated communities are common in the Coastal Lakes watersheds. The reviewers felt that the project site was a high priority in which to accomplish some restoration work, and were excited that the current landowner was open to improvements to habitat on the property. Several representatives of the landowner attended the site visit and expressed their commitment to the project, and also seemed open to expanding efforts to other locations within the watershed in the future. The most significant concern with the application was that the mainstem of Bear Creek was severely degraded by livestock grazing, much more so than the tributaries where work was proposed. The review team was disappointed that this iteration of the project did not address the mainstem, but understood that the current landowners wished to start slowly. They recommended the project for funding with the hopes that future work on the mainstem would become possible.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
9 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 175,752.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1022**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Crazy and Cougar Creek Fish Passage		
Applicant:	MidCoast WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Lincoln	
OWEB Request:	**$624,471.00**	**Total Cost:** $1,259,399.00	
Proposed Match:	$634,929.00		

Application Description

This project addresses fish passage issues in the Middle and Upper Five Rivers 6th field watershed by replacing undersized and damaged culverts with structures that allow for full aquatic organism passage on Cougar and Crazy Creeks. Both creeks are tributaries of Five Rivers, which flows into the Alsea River at river mile 25, just east of the town of Tidewater. The undersized culverts are inadequately designed for aquatic organism passage and currently present complete or partial barriers for fish to these streams, both of which provide important cool water refugia for salmonids.

The project replaces 2 culverts on Crazy and Cougar Creeks and removes an 18" bedrock step on Crazy Creek near its confluence with Five Rivers. A watershed assessment conducted by the MidCoast Watersheds Council in 2001 identified the Middle and Upper Five Rivers 6th fields as having high potential for restoration of Oregon Coastal Coho salmon and prioritized fish passage work. With the replacement of the two culverts, unimpeded access will be restored to 6.75 miles of coho habitat critical for summertime rearing. Project partners include Lincoln County, Lane County, and the USFS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The habitat upstream of both Crazy and Cougar creeks is excellent, and the project would make available approximately 6 miles combined of spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids.
- The project would restore full volitional fish passage for all aquatic organisms, including lamprey.
- The project would address two limiting factors in the basin- water temperature and access to cold water refugia.
- The crossing under Cougar Creek is in danger of failing and the need for replacement is apparent.
- The designs for the two structures are straightforward.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- While the two structures are currently not providing full volitional fish passage for all stages of life, reviewers familiar with the streams indicated that they are both passing adult fish.

- This is the third time the project has been submitted to OWEB's Open Solicitation grant program, and it increased in price significantly (by 220k) since the last application with no change in the expected ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team found this application to be substantially improved over the previous two submissions, with the provided designs detailed, clear, and appropriate for the sites and the project planning thorough. The team felt that if constructed, the project as designed would have a high likelihood of success to restore Aquatic Organism Passage in the two creeks, both of which are high intrinsic potential streams for Oregon coastal coho salmon. However, the cost-benefit of the project was called into question with the price of the project significantly increased from previous submissions and the existing structures able to pass adult fish. While the review team appreciated the quality of the application and project planning, the cost-benefit came into consideration when the review team prioritized projects recommended for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
8 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 624,471.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1023**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Oak Ranch Salmon Passage Improvement		
Applicant:	Upper Nehalem WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Columbia	
OWEB Request:	**$641,180.00**	**Total Cost:** $974,980.00	
Proposed Match:	$315,000.00		

Application Description

This project restores fish passage by replacing a double barrel culvert with a concrete arch structure that will provide for unimpeded fish access to aquatic habitat on Oak Ranch Creek, which flows into the Nehalem River at river mile 80 between the communities of Pittsburg and Mist in Columbia County. The existing crossing is a complete passage barrier to fish at all flows.

Many of the passage barriers on Oak Ranch Creek have been addressed in recent years, and this project will replace the last remaining barrier located at river mile 3.82 and open up 7+ miles of high quality aquatic habitat to Oregon coast coho salmon, Chinook salmon, cutthroat trout, steelhead, and lamprey species. Project partners include Columbia County and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Oak Ranch Creek is a top contributing stream for salmonid populations in the Nehalem watershed. The project will have multi-species benefits with Chinook, coho, steelhead, and cutthroat trout all utilizing Oak Ranch and its tributaries.
- Replacing this barrier will also allow for passage of bedload to replenish spawning beds downstream.
- Restoring fish passage is a high priority for this stream and this barrier is the last significant obstacle in achieving this goal. Replacement of this crossing will restore access to approximately 7 miles of high quality habitat in the Oak Ranch mainstem, and even more when factoring in tributaries of Oak Ranch.
- The project builds on past investments, with the downstream crossing replaced in 2015.
- The applicant addressed many of the design considerations and concerns resulting from previous reviews of the project.
- The applicant has completed the installation of large wood structures upstream and downstream of the lower crossing and the stream is responding well.
- Addressing this problem has a degree of urgency with significant match funding from ODFW set to expire if this OWEB request is not funded.
- The project has been permitted and is ready to implement.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The review team felt that the designs were not at 100% and it was not clear how the remainder of the design work was to be funded.

- The application and designs lacked information on how the material proposed for installation inside the structure was sized and when asked during a review conference call, the project team was unable to produce information about the reference calculations.
- The review team had still hoped to see a technical memo addressing the mode of failure at the lower crossing. They appreciated the pictorial information put together describing what happened during the flood event in December 2015, but questions remained after review.
- Due to the flood damage at the lower crossing, there were concerns about the project's ability to provide full Aquatic Organism Passage.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team appreciated the design changes that had been incorporated since the last submission and felt that the project was well positioned to restore fish passage to the Oak Ranch Creek, a priority sub-watershed within the Nehalem. Those that had the opportunity to visit the project site since the large wood implementation in the summer of 2016 were pleased with how the stream was responding to the placements, noting that gravel was being held and the spawning beds were beginning to be rebuilt after the flooding events of December 2015 that damaged the lower crossing, which had just been replaced by the applicant. The reviewers wanted more information evaluating the mode of failure at the lower crossing and there was significant discussion about whether the design approach at the upper crossing was rigorous enough to prevent another failure. The review team acknowledged that the project partners were exploring repairs to the lower crossing and that ODFW had expressed a commitment to ensuring fish passage at both of the crossings. With that, a majority of the review team wanted to fund the project, noting its urgency for both Oregon coast coho recovery and funding availability.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 641,180.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 641,180.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1024**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Fish Creek Large Wood Placement Project		
Applicant:	Siuslaw WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$206,459.00**	**Total Cost:**	$366,051.00
Proposed Match:	$159,592.00		

Application Description

The project aims to increase the quantity and quality of coho spawning and winter and summer rearing habitat in Fish Creek through the addition of large wood. Fish Creek is a major tributary to Lake Creek in the Triangle Lake 6th field sub-watershed. Lake Creek is a tributary of the Siuslaw River that enters the river near the town of Swisshome and river mile 29. Historic timber practices in the Fish Creek sub-watershed have limited the effectiveness of natural watershed processes that deliver and retain large wood to the stream from upslope and riparian sources. As a result, the stream currently lacks complexity, has minimal off-channel habitat development, and has reduced floodplain connectivity.

Approximately 450 logs and root wad pieces will be placed in a three mile reach of Fish Creek, configured to simulate naturally occurring jams. Habitat restoration work for coho has been prioritized on Fish Creek by both the Draft Siuslaw Coho Business Plan (2016) and the BLM's aquatic restoration strategy for western Oregon (2015). The project area has recently transitioned to management as a Late Successional Reserve by the BLM, and the Triangle Lake 6th field HUC was identified as a focus sub-watershed for the agency. The BLM is the major project partner along with the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is located in a priority watershed identified during the Coho Business Plan strategic action planning process.
- Fish Creek is a significant coho producer and the work addresses a primary limiting factor identified in the draft recovery plan- habitat complexity.
- The project is landscape scale, treating over 3 miles of stream.
- The work is the result over a growing partnership between the BLM and the Siuslaw Watershed Council and the BLM is contributing significant funds and technical expertise.
- The project is located within designated Late Successional Reserve forest and the opportunity for future sustainable large wood recruitment exists.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Some of the large wood for the project was planned to be sourced from Riparian Reserve areas.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team found a lot to like about this project-- a relatively straightforward habitat complexity project that could have significant ecological benefit with over 3 miles of prime coho stream treated with large wood. It was clear from both the site visit and from data collected by the project partners that the stream was far below benchmarks for large wood from both NOAA and ODFW. The reviewers appreciated that the project reach had real potential to generate its own large wood recruitment into the future, given that the BLM had just designated the surrounding forest as Late Successional Reserve. There was a concern about the plan to source trees from designated Riparian Reserves, but the reviewers who had been on the site visit were able to clarify that with the exception of one small area, all of those areas were located on the opposite side of a forest road and would not be able to contribute trees to the stream should they fall. They also noted the relatively large width of the BLM's Riparian Reserves and the plan to carefully select source trees with a wildlife biologist. The review team felt comfortable with this approach and recommended the project for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 206,459.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 206,459.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1025**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Long Prairie Creek Plant Establishment		
Applicant:	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$60,606.00**	**Total Cost:**	$75,776.00
Proposed Match:	$15,170.00		

Application Description

This project will improve riparian habitat and provide a source of future large wood recruitment by planting native trees and shrubs on Long Prairie Creek, a tributary to Sams Creek. Sams Creek enters the mainstem Siletz River at river mile 43.7 near Logsden. The riparian areas targeted by the project are either dominated by hardwoods or reed canary grass, with only a minimal conifer component. There is currently limited potential for the riparian areas to contribute large wood to the stream.

The project site is the location of a recently funded OWEB Restoration grant (#217-1002) that will increase habitat complexity by placing large wood structures along 5.4 miles of Long Prairie Creek. This project will plant 8,505 native conifer and hardwood trees along 2.4 miles of stream on industrial timber lands, totaling 45 acres in planting area. Planting techniques will be a combination of underplanting in the hardwood dominated areas and plant community restoration in the reed canary grass meadows. Project partners include ODFW, ODF, and the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Control of the reed canary grass meadows adjacent to the creek and establishment of trees in the riparian zone will contribute to large wood recruitment in the future.
- There is a good cost-benefit for the scale of planting proposed.
- There is wide range of partners involved in the project with both timber landowners and agencies participating.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The plan for site preparation and plant maintenance was not well described in the application with both herbicide and mechanical methods mentioned. This could not be cleared up at the site visit, with some of the partners unsure of the timeline and approach for site preparation.
- There were concerns about the herbicide use proposed and its potential impacts to water quality. The need for herbicide had not been fully established especially given the prevalence of low-cost labor available to the project from one state agency partner. The proposed use of larger plant stock designed to compete with invasive species from the Northwest Oregon Partnership should have further mitigated that need.

- There was a disconnect between partners about the planting and site prep activities, raising concerns that project planning may have been limited.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team appreciated the opportunity to address large wood recruitment in Long Prairie Creek, seeing it as a good opportunity to be proactive about the root causes of reduced instream habitat complexity in the region. It was clear that the reed canary grass-dominated meadows common along the stream are inhibiting succession of the riparian forest. The reviewers also liked the large scale of the planting and the myriad partners involved. However, there were significant concerns about the lack of project planning that led to the review team not recommending the project for funding. In particular, the plan for site preparation was unclear in the application and the site visit did not resolve the questions the reviewers had. Herbicide was proposed at various times and instances throughout the project but the timing of applications and whether it was for site prep, maintenance, or both, was unclear at the time of the site visit. Mechanical control was also a mentioned technique, but the project partners did not indicate where and lacked clarity about the planting project details. More information is needed to justify the use of herbicide on the site.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1026**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Buttermilk Creek Habitat Project		
Applicant:	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Lincoln	
OWEB Request:	**$78,972.00**	**Total Cost:** $100,431.00	
Proposed Match:	$19,600.00		

Application Description

This project will address the lack of instream complexity caused by the absence of large wood in Buttermilk Creek by placing large wood structures in-stream and planting trees in the riparian area to increase future potential for large wood recruitment. Buttermilk Creek is a tributary to the Yaquina River and is located in the upper part of the watershed between Norton and Nashville, entering the river at river mile 43. The entirety of the creek drains private industrial timberlands and large wood densities in the stream are extremely low. As a result, channels are simplified and there is an acute lack of habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity.

The project places 174 logs in up to 32 individual structures in approximately 1 mile of stream, improving aquatic habitat conditions for coho salmon, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, and cutthroat trout in Buttermilk Creek. 3,100 native conifers will be planted in the riparian area to increase the potential for future large wood recruitment. Project partners include ODFW, Starker Forests Inc., and the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project addresses habitat complexity, a significant limiting factor for Oregon coast coho salmon as identified in the draft recovery plan.
- Buttermilk Creek is considered an excellent coho producing stream but current wood loading is under benchmarks.
- The sizes of large wood proposed for placement were appropriate and well considered.
- The project adopted a holistic approach to restoration and addressed future large wood recruitment in the system by also planting substantial numbers of conifers within the currently hardwood-dominated riparian reach.
- The project builds on past efforts and learns from previous restoration projects in the reach.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- There appeared to be shortfalls within the budget. It was questioned whether the amounts proposed for the self-loading log truck and materials were sufficient given current rates in the area.
- Planting was proposed on industrial timber lands and there was concern that the restoration effort could be slated for harvest in the future.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team knew Buttermilk Creek to be a good coho-producing stream and thought the project would have good ecological benefit, especially given the need for habitat complexity to address a significant limiting factor of coastal coho salmon. They appreciated that the applicant had considered future large wood recruitment in the project plans with the inclusion of a notable planting effort within the project. There was concern that not enough funds were allocated in the budget for several key project expenses, and also that the plantings proposed could be in danger of future harvest given their location on private timberlands. There was much discussion about the latter concern and on the site visit the review team had asked the applicant to follow up with the timber companies involved to see if a commitment might be solicited to leave the trees into perpetuity. A formal commitment was unable to be produced given the uncertainties about land ownership and regulatory climate, but the review team understood the complex logistics involved in the timber industry. The project was recommended for funding with the hopes that good stewardship of the riparian areas would continue and with the knowledge that the planting areas are within designated riparian zones and will be managed in accordance with the Forest Practices Act. The concern about the inadequacies of the budget was resolved by deciding to increase the budget to allow for more breathing room in the materials and contracted services categories.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions: Add $10,000 to materials budget for logs and add $5,000 to Contracted Services budget for the self-loading log truck.

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 95,472.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 95,472.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1027**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Upper Sunshine Creek Habitat Project		
Applicant:	Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Polk	
OWEB Request:	**$75,183.00**	**Total Cost:** $96,643.00	
Proposed Match:	$19,600.00		

Application Description

This project places large wood structures in Sunshine Creek with the goals of increasing winter rearing habitat, cover, and overall habitat complexity for salmonids. Conifers will be planted in the riparian area throughout the project reach to improve the potential for future large wood recruitment. Sunshine Creek is a tributary of the Siletz River, entering the Siletz at river mile 57.5 near Logsden, Oregon. The creek drains primarily industrial timber lands where past and current land use practices have significantly reduced the amount of large wood in the stream, thereby reducing habitat complexity, floodplain connectivity, and the availability of off-channel habitats. Riparian areas are currently dominated by hardwoods and provide little opportunity for future large wood recruitment to the stream.

Throughout 1.4 miles of mainstem Sunshine Creek and 1200' of lower 4th of July Creek, 179 logs will be placed in a total of 29 individual structures. Three thousand one hundred conifers will be planted along the riparian area for the length of the project reach. Sunshine Creek contains over 15 miles of high quality anadromous fish habitat and 4 miles of coho winter rearing habitat. The creek is identified as a priority area for restoration by both ODFW and the MidCoast Watersheds Councils and has been the subject of past wood placement efforts, most of which were done in the mid 1990's and have since degraded. This effort will place greater numbers of larger logs in order to increase the lifespan of the project. Project partners include ODFW, Weyerhauser, and the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project addresses habitat complexity, a significant limiting factor for Oregon coast coho salmon as identified in the draft recovery plan.
- Sunshine Creek is a high priority stream in the Siletz watershed in which to work. It is a highly productive coho stream with ideal low gradient aquatic habitat and is currently lacking large wood.
- There is good potential for increasing floodplain connectivity with the work proposed. There is good potential for side channel and gravel bar development with the addition of large wood.

- The project ties in well with past restoration efforts and would connect the project to the recently funded restoration project on 4th of July Creek, which is slated for a 2017 summer implementation.
- The project adopted a holistic approach to restoration and addressed future large wood recruitment in the system by also planting substantial numbers of conifers within the currently hardwood-dominated riparian reach.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- There appeared to be shortfalls within the budget. It was questioned whether the amounts proposed for the self-loading log truck and materials were sufficient given current rates in the area.
- Details on the planting plan appeared not to be finalized, with limited information provided in the application and at the site visit.

Concluding Analysis:

Sunshine Creek was recognized by the review team as an excellent place to work to increase habitat complexity for aquatic species, in particular Oregon coast coho salmon. The habitat is low gradient with good availability of gravel and the system will likely respond well to the addition of large wood. The project ties in well with other habitat complexity projects in the watershed and will connect with another recently funded OWEB project on 4th of July Creek, thus increasing the economy of scale of ecological benefit provided by both projects. The review team had concerns that the budget was lacking in adequate costs for both materials and the self-loading log truck given the current local rates for these services and supplies in the area. The review team wanted to fund the project and increase the budget in those two categories to ensure that the project team had sufficient funds in which to accomplish the stated goals and objectives.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions: Add $10,000 to the materials budget for logs and add $5000 to the budget for the self-loading log truck.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 91,683.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 91,683.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1028**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Lower Siletz Strome Park Phase One		
Applicant:	Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Lincoln	
OWEB Request:	**$619,219.00**	**Total Cost:** $775,841.00	
Proposed Match:	$399,621.00		

Application Description

The project will enhance and create complex channel habitat in a 6,000-foot reach of the Siletz River to support juvenile salmonids and lamprey during key periods of mainstem habitat use. Engineered large wood and boulder structures will be placed at strategic locations within the reach in order to slow velocities and capture bedload under channel forming conditions. The Siletz River is a 67 mile river that empties into the Pacific Ocean just south of Lincoln City. Past land management practices removed complex geomorphic features from the main channel of coastal Oregon rivers in order to improve waterway navigability, resulting in reduced channel complexity and floodplain connectivity.

The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians in 2012 identified the lower 47 miles of the Siletz mainstem as a priority for improving late winter, spring, and early summer habitat for anadromous salmonids and lamprey. This project is the result of an OWEB-funded Technical Assistance grant and is part of a larger pilot project that will construct 17 structures at 7 sites throughout the reach, this OWEB request will fund placement of 10 structures at 3 sites with the remainder accomplished with additional funding sources. Project partners include the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project addresses the limiting factor of habitat complexity during a key period in the life cycle of salmonids during outmigration in the spring. Similar work in other Oregon rivers has been shown to have a dramatic positive impact on fish populations.
- Restoration work in the mainstem of our coastal rivers is needed and is beneficial to habitat and water quality. This pilot project could serve as a catalyst for other mainstem work in coastal watersheds in the future.
- The tribal landowner is contributing trees and long-term monitoring to the project.
- The technical assistance project planning work completed for the project was of high quality and the commitment of the landowner is evident.
- The project will help inform the level of modeling that went into the project design and help refine the model for future phases.
- The applicant has already conducted outreach to the public and seems well positioned to implement this kind of project.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The use of threaded rod within the structures was not a preferred approach to anchor in-stream wood. More naturally designed structures without the use of hardware would have been preferred.
- It can take a long time for the benefits of this kind of project to be realized.
- There are some social concerns for a project of this nature with regards to the perceived effects on river navigability.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team liked seeing a project involving work on the mainstem of a major coastal river. There is an identified need for habitat complexity work on coastal mainstems, but these types of projects are complicated and difficult to implement. The work proposed will increase habitat for salmonids at a key point in their life cycle that is not often addressed by restoration work. The review team recognized that having a willing and committed landowner such as the tribe presented a good opportunity to start working on bigger systems. The project was well designed with a diversity of funding sources proposed to fund the entirety of the first phase of the project.

There was some concern among the review team that the design relied too much on the incorporation of threaded metal rods. Since this is a pilot project and there are few site constraints, reviewers would have preferred at least one structure to be constructed without the use of supplemental hardware. However, after this concern was raised on the site visit the applicant spoke with the engineering firm that designed the project and the engineer concluded that the threaded rods were necessary for structural stability. The review team was also concerned about social concerns about the project since the structures could be perceived as hazardous to river navigability. However, the concern was resolved with the knowledge that the tribe had proactively been conducting outreach to local river users about the project and the reviewers understood that markers could easily be placed to help boaters locate the structures.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced (applicant requested): $572,859

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 10

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 572,859.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 572,859.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1029**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Sand Lake Watershed Coho Limiting Factors Analysis		
Applicant:	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Tillamook
OWEB Request:	**$31,938.00**	**Total Cost:**	$48,087.00
Proposed Match:	$16,150.00		

Application Description

This project will convene a working group to develop a coho Limiting Factors Analysis (LFA) document for the Sand Lake watershed. The LFA will provide strategic framework for prioritizing potential watershed restoration actions related to coastal coho habitat limitations, and water quality improvements. The Sand Lake watershed encompasses 15,000 acres and 89 miles of streams and is located in Tillamook County, between Cape Lookout and Pacific City. Restoration partners working in the Sand Lake watershed do not have a planning document in place to guide projects that can address limiting factors, especially for coho salmon.

The Sand Lake estuary is notable for being one of only a few minimally altered estuarine systems in Oregon and its watershed provides habitat for coho, chum, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, and coastal cutthroat in addition to a myriad of terrestrial wildlife species including the Western snowy plover and Henderson's checkermallow. A watershed assessment was last completed in 1998, but it did not identify nor prioritize restoration actions. The LFA produced will be used by partners to set restoration priorities, based on specific recommended actions that enhance and restore the watershed. Project partners include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Forest Service, ODFW, ODEQ, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, OPRD, and the North Coast Land Conservancy.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Little information about fish use is available within the Sand Lake watershed, and this project will address this data gap.
- The project complements ongoing restoration and conservation actions and will help inform the myriad of future actions planned. The working group and data collection will help focus strategic restoration.
- The Sand Lake watershed is a priority area for the USFS and there is good potential to identify conservation areas upstream.
- The Sand Lake population of Oregon coast coho salmon has been considered to be on the threshold of being an independent population. North coast fish biologists have been increasingly interested in working in the watershed and would welcome the additional information.
- The ongoing State Park planning process has highlighted much discourse about working in the estuary and altering flooding regimes. The project should provide good information to help weigh social and ecological cost-benefits of such projects.

- The proposed working group is comprised of a good diversity of partners.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- ODFW was not listed as an engaged partner, but the agency has been involved in other discussions and efforts and would like to be involved in this working group.
- State Parks is a significant landowner in the lower estuary and the agency's will to engage in meaningful restoration is unclear.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team found a lot to like about this project. With all the ongoing and proposed restoration and conservation work happening in the Sand Lake watershed, it was clear that filling this identified data gap would help partners strategize and prioritize projects for restoration. Reviewers were enthusiastic about coho-focused work in Sand Lake, and the review team recognized that this population was on the threshold of being designated an independent population and that fish biologists would welcome more data in order to inform policy and practice. The application was also strengthened with the knowledge that the USFS was looking to prioritize work in the watershed. While the review team was concerned about the reluctance of State Parks to engage in restoration, they felt that there was enough potential work upstream to warrant investment.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

2 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 31,938.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 31,938.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1030**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Yaquina Tidal Wetland Restoration Design		
Applicant:	MidCoast WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$42,468.00**	**Total Cost:**	$81,828.00
Proposed Match:	$39,360.00		

Application Description

This project will produce restoration designs for a tidal restoration/enhancement project on a 55-acre site in the Yaquina estuary. The site is located upstream from Toledo at river mile 15 from the mouth of the Yaquina River. Estuaries and tidal wetlands provide important ecological functions as habitats for species of fish and shellfish including Oregon coast coho salmon, but since the 1850's the Yaquina estuary has lost approximately 84% of its tidal wetlands.

A portion of the project site was the location of one of OWEB's first estuarine restoration projects funded in 1999. Though that work achieved good ecological outcomes, the land remains subsided and channels have not deepened as much as expected. Additional work is necessary in order to achieve optimum fish use and habitat value. Restoration designs that restore and enhance full tidal function will be completed for the entirety of the 55-acre site, with designs developed to both enhance the original 38-acre restoration site and restore a new 17-acre adjoining site. Project partners include the City of Toledo, ODFW, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project presents a good opportunity for estuarine restoration.
- The Wetlands Conservancy already owns the property involved.
- This is an opportunity to revisit one of OWEB's earliest estuarine projects and ensure that it meets ecological objectives in the future.
- The project also will expand upon the old project by designing restoration on an area of the site that was previously out of reach due to utility concerns. The situation has changed and the City of Toledo is now committed to relocating the water line that had been limiting the restoration opportunity.
- This location within the Yaquina estuary near the confluence of Mill Creek makes this a prime spot for salmon fry, particularly chinook and Oregon coast coho.
- The selected technical assistance firm is highly skilled and the information collected as part of the design process will help elevate the state of knowledge with regards to restoration in tidal habitats.
- The Confederated Tribe of the Siletz Indians have indicated that they will contribute fish monitoring data to help further inform the work proposed and assist with effectiveness monitoring.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The landowner does not allow for public access.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team felt that this project was a good opportunity to revisit an old estuarine restoration project and both learn from past practices and apply recent innovations in tidal restoration science. The team also recognized the opportunity to work on a new 17-acre portion of the site that had been off-limits when the project was first implemented due to the location of a waterline. Recent developments have led the City of Toledo to become engaged with moving the waterline, and the review team liked that the City was now a partner in the project. Reviewers noted that public outreach was not possible with this particular landowner, who typically does not allow access to its properties, but overall the review team felt that this was a good project with high potential for excellent ecological benefit.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 42,468.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 42,468.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1031**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Lobster Millpond		
Applicant:	Alsea Watershed Council		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Benton
OWEB Request:	**$38,765.00**	**Total Cost:**	$53,265.00
Proposed Match:	$14,500.00		

Application Description

This project will produce designs required to address migratory fish passage over the Meadow Creek Dam with the goal of restoring a run of coho salmon, cutthroat trout, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey to the Meadow Creek basin. The project will address an aging earthen dam on Meadow Creek, a tributary of Lobster Creek. Lobster Creek is a major tributary of the Alsea River, flowing into the river just east of the town of Tidewater. The dam is currently a complete barrier to upstream fish passage, including federally threatened Oregon coast coho salmon.

Migratory fish passage has been blocked at river mile 0.2 of Meadow Creek since a log mill pond was constructed in the mid-1940s. Immediately downstream of the dam, a culvert on Hazel Glen Road also blocks fish passage. The OWEB requested funds will be utilized to fund designs of a fish passage solution to the Meadow Creek Dam, while Lane County will be contributing the designs for replacement of the downstream Hazel Glen Road culvert. When both crossings are replaced with infrastructure capable of passing aquatic species, access to 1.2 miles of habitat will be restored. Project partners include Benton County and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Meadow Creek contains excellent coho habitat, the majority of which is currently not available due to the presence of the earthen dam. Coho and other aquatic species have not had passage around the dam for over 70 years.
- The project presents a key opportunity to work with landowners who have long been hesitant to implement restoration actions on their properties but have since become engaged.
- ODFW considers this site to be the top priority fish passage barrier to address in the Mid Coast District.
- The timing of the project coincides well with Benton County's plans to replace the downstream culvert.
- There is a good possibility that the resulting restoration project will be affordable.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The landowners are opposed to removing the dam, which would result in a greater ecological benefit for a lower cost.
- The application was lacking in information and detail, particularly regarding the type and quality of habitat.

- There are concerns with potential contamination in the pond given its past use as a mill site.
- There are largemouth bass in the pond that would need to be removed.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team welcomed the opportunity to work in this area, recognizing that it is a high priority location for Oregon coast coho salmon, and that the landowners involved in the Lobster Creek Valley had historically not been engaged with watershed restoration work. Reviewers were pleased to see the property owners now interested in restoring fish passage and saw the Meadow Creek passage issue as a high priority to address in the basin, with over 1.2 miles of prime spawning and rearing habitat present upstream. The timing to address the Meadow Creek dam is ideal with the county engaged to replace the downstream culvert.

The application is limited in detail with no photographs of the site, but review team members familiar with the project location and watershed were able to provide information essential for review. The reviewers would have preferred that an option to remove the dam be evaluated, but also recognized the landowner's desire to keep the lake for recreational purposes. Other concerns were raised about the quality of the habitat given the potential for contamination in the lake from its past use as a mill pond. Reviewers felt that a good solution to fish passage could be identified and recommended that the project include an evaluation of the need for future environmental assessments to address contamination and the presence of non-native fish species in the lake.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 38,765.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund Increased with Conditions. Add $3,877 to the Indirect Costs budget category; the Project Completion Report shall include an evaluation of the need for future environmental assessments to address contamination and the presence of non-native fish species in the lake.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 42,642.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1032**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	David M. Pitman Clatsop County Project		
Applicant:	David Michael Pitman		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Clatsop
OWEB Request:	**$12,000.00**	**Total Cost:**	$15,000.00
Proposed Match:	$3,000.00		

Application Description

This project will engage a professional to evaluate a project site on the Necanicum River and recommend habitat restoration actions, explore the feasibility for public access, and develop project specifications for site access, erosion mitigation, log structures, and weed control needs. The project site is an 8-acre parcel of land with frontage on the Necanicum River in the city of Seaside in Clatsop County. The Necanicum River watershed supports populations of several anadromous fish species including chinook salmon and steelhead, both found in the river on this property. Changes in the flow of the river have increased erosion on the property and negatively impacted spawning habitat.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project presents an opportunity to provide more public access on the Necanicum River.
- The landowner/applicant is engaged and interested in restoration work.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The goals and objectives of the work are unclear. The application was limited in detail and there were no site photographs or useful maps provided in which to evaluate the project.
- River containment is mentioned as a goal of the project, which is not consistent with restoration goals.
- There were no partners on the project and local watershed groups were not aware of the site or proposed work.
- $200/hour for consulting work seemed very high and the desired qualifications of the contractor were unclear.

Concluding Analysis:

While the review team appreciated the landowner's interest in restoration work, they found that the application details were too limited in which to effectively evaluate the proposal. Photographs, maps, and other details about site conditions would have been helpful. It was unclear as to the ultimate goals and objectives of the technical assistance work. The mention of river containment was a possible hint that bank stabilization may be the ultimate goal of the work, an action that has the potential to run counter to restoration goals. The review team recommended that the applicant contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the Necanicum Watershed Council, or the Clatsop Soil and Water Conservation District for assistance evaluating the site potential and

designating appropriate funding programs that may have a nexus with restoration activity on the site.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1033**	**Project Type:** Technical Assistance	
Project Name:	Drift Creek Restoration Action Plan		
Applicant:	Salmon Drift Cr WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Lincoln	
OWEB Request:	**$23,322.00**	**Total Cost:** $42,111.00	
Proposed Match:	$18,790.00		

Application Description

This project will develop a Restoration Action Plan for Drift Creek that identifies and prioritizes restoration needs in the watershed and addresses high priority limiting factors. Drift Creek is a major tributary of the Siletz River, entering the Siletz Bay just south of the town of Lincoln City in Lincoln County. Drift Creek is listed as impaired for summer water temperature and biological criteria, and while it provides habitat for a number of anadromous fish species, that habitat is further impaired by anthropogenic impacts including logging road densities, large wood removal, and floodplain disconnection through diking and dredging.

Regional partners recognize that much opportunity exists for restoration projects in Drift Creek, but without an action plan past projects have been scattered and opportunistic. Restoration planning and prioritization will occur with this project utilizing the Conservation Action Planning framework used successfully in other estuaries on the Oregon coast, providing partners with an effective tool for planning strategic restoration efforts. Project partners include the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Lincoln SWCD, MidCoast Watersheds Council, USFS, and the USFWS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project has many partners involved and would build on momentum in the watershed.
- The application was well written with an interdisciplinary approach.
- Drift Creek is a good place to work with opportunity for estuarine restoration in the lower reaches. A comprehensive action plan would be a good tool to focus partner efforts.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and the USFWS are both contributing data collection that will help both with project prioritization and monitoring. The tribal interest in the watershed extends beyond fish and also focuses on uplands and terrestrial wildlife, bringing a broader scope to the possibilities.
- The project could tie in with the ongoing TMDL process in the region.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- There is a disconnect between the planning methodology proposed and the desired outcomes. The applicant proposed to utilize the Conservation Action Plan method but hoped to arrive at a list of prioritized restoration projects, which is not an end result of the CAP process.

- The application indicated a lack of understanding of the CAP process with several activities listed out of sequence. It was unclear if the organizational staff slated to do the work had the training necessary to facilitate a CAP and produce the resulting documents.
- Many of the letters of support from the various partners expressed different expected outcomes of the planning process.
- The application was not clear as to the roles of the staff involved.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team was impressed with the breadth of partners involved and the interest in restoration planning work in Drift Creek, which they recognized to be an excellent place to work with high potential for ecological lift. They agreed that an action plan would be a big boost to the partners wanting to work in the area, given that the last watershed plan was completed in 1993 and is considered outdated. However, the review team felt that the proposed planning method was not necessarily appropriate for the desired outcomes and that the application exhibited a lack of understanding of the chosen method. The review team thought that this had the potential to be a good project building on momentum in the watershed, but felt that the planning process needed to be better defined and the partners on the same page with regards to the expected outcomes before moving forward with the project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1034**	**Project Type:** Technical Assistance	
Project Name:	Bayview Oxbow Restoration Design		
Applicant:	The Wetlands Conservancy		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Lincoln	
OWEB Request:	**$22,207.00**	**Total Cost:** $84,574.00	
Proposed Match:	$9,375.00		

Application Description

This project will develop conceptual designs for restoration alternatives for the Bayview Oxbow Preserve, a former tidal wetland within the Alsea estuary. The project aims to restore estuarine function and hydrologic connectivity to the site, which is part of a historic oxbow of the Alsea River located just upstream of the town of Waldport in Lincoln County. Tidal wetlands provide important functions within the hydrologic and ecologic systems, but two-thirds have been lost on the Oregon coast due to conversion to other uses primarily by diking. The project site is currently disconnected from the tidal regime by a tidegate on Bayview Road.

The Wetlands Conservancy has owned a substantial portion of the Oxbow since 2009 and now wants to explore restoration alternatives for the site. Project goals are to restore a hydrologic connection between the Alsea Bay and the Bayview Oxbow, while improving the habitat quality for anadromous fish, juvenile marine fish, mammals, shorebirds, and waterbirds in manner compatible with local land use and infrastructural needs. The project team will also explore a long-term protection and conservation strategy for the properties within the Bayview Oxbow. Project partners include the USFWS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This is an excellent site with high potential for tidal restoration that would benefit myriad fish and wildlife species and water quality. Estuarine restoration is a priority in the Alsea River watershed.
- The project will look at different alternatives to tide gates and hydrologically to connect the 200 acre site to the Alsea River estuary.
- There is good potential to complete the resulting restoration work in phases, with work happening on the west side of the Oxbow initially and then moving to the east side as easements or acquisitions become available. The applicant is looking at the area holistically and will complete a conservation plan for the entirety of the Oxbow.
- The data on alternatives from this project will be helpful when the applicant conducts outreach to landowners.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- There are a significant number of neighboring landowners involved, many of whom have not yet been approached. Opposition from some of the landowners could stymie a resulting restoration project.
- The resulting restoration project could involve a significant amount of infrastructure improvements to address S. Beaver Creek Road and other properties requiring protection and access.
- The work under this grant request will be focused on social outreach by the applicant in order to support the technical assistance design work funded by others, but there were limited details in the application as to the amount and type of outreach being done.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team had many questions about this application, recognizing the large number of surrounding landowners affected by a potential tidal restoration at this site. The review team also found the application limited in detail when it came to the aspects of what the applicant's staff would be doing in support of the design work, which is being funded by other sources. Nevertheless, they felt that the Oxbow had good potential and recognized the need for more social outreach in order to achieve the goal of hydrologically reconnecting the site with the Alsea estuary. They had confidence in the applicants to engage the right design team to resolve these issues, and the review team recommended funding the project expecting that a workable design alternative could be found to restore tidal influence to the site.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 22,207.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 22,207.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1035**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Upper Nehalem Watershed Council. Fishhawk TA		
Applicant:	Upper Nehalem WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Clatsop
OWEB Request:	**$41,871.00**	**Total Cost:**	$62,366.00
Proposed Match:	$17,996.00		

Application Description

This project will produce engineering design work for the Fishhawk Dam fish passage project, bringing design from a conceptual to a preliminary level of completion. The Fishhawk Dam is located across Fishhawk Creek 3 miles upstream of its confluence with the Nehalem River northwest of the town of Birkenfeld in Clatsop County. The dam and its associated infrastructure pose a significant barrier to juvenile salmonid upstream migration, affecting the passage of coho salmon, steelhead, cutthroat trout, and Pacific and Western brook lamprey. The dam also impairs fish habitat in the creek downstream by impeding the natural release of sediment.

Fishhawk Dam, constructed in the 1960s, created a 75-acre recreational lake that is the focal point of the Fishhawk Lake Reserve and Community. The FLRC has been independently funding engineering work to arrive at a conceptual design that will restore fish passage and deepen the lake. Using the additional OWEB funds requested by this project, the FLRC will contract with an engineering firm to complete Phase 1 and begin Phase 2 engineering work. Project partners include the Fishhawk Lake Reserve and Community and the Fishhawk Lake Ecological Foundation.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Several streams of significance drain into Fishhawk Lake, and improving fish passage over the dam would improve access to 2-3 miles of aquatic habitat. Fish passage at this location is a priority for ODFW's North Coast District.
- The Fishhawk Lake Reserve and Community is a committed partner looking to address the fish habitat issues associated with the dam. The community is providing good match and excellent project coordination.
- Most of the forest surrounding the lake is in public ownership, creating the potential for good habitat connectivity.
- The project would continue engineering work for a new design for the lake's outlet that would prevent the entrainment of juvenile fish that occurs with the current structure.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The proposed design includes a sluice gate, which was an option the review team did not prefer, due to the potential for ecological impacts including increased turbidity and the covering of spawning beds.

- It was not clear that the applicants had discussed with permitting agencies the possibility for releasing sediment downstream, and the review team felt that some aspects of the proposed design may be difficult to permit.
- There are water quality concerns with Fishhawk Lake, including dissolved oxygen levels and a 10-degree difference in water temperature from the upper lake to the lower dam gate. The lake itself may be a hazard for fish at certain times of year and the review team felt that the proposed design would not have a significant measurable impact on those issues.
- The focus of the work seems to be more about preserving the recreational aspects of the lake than the ecological benefit of the project.
- In the proposed design, the fish ladder is also planned to be used for water control at times. Reviewers questioned this aspect of the design and whether this function would impede passage.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team appreciated the potential benefits from improving fish passage at the dam location and recognized that this was a priority for the local ODFW district. They thought that the Fishhawk Lake community and Ecological Foundation was a good partner committed to restoring fish passage and implementing what could be a rather complex project. Since the review team had last reviewed a request from the applicant, the design work had continued without OWEB funding. One aspect of the design in particular, a sluice gate, caused concern that this feature would be difficult to permit and could have downstream impacts that were not addressed in the application.

The review team was also concerned about habitat quality in the lake and felt that some critical ecological issues were not addressed by the application. The lake's high temperature and dissolved oxygen content pose a hazard to native fish species. They felt that the main focus of the project was to preserve the recreational aspects of the lake and questioned whether this was truly a conservation/restoration project or more of an infrastructure project. It was acknowledged that the resulting project would have some ecological benefits, particularly to fish passage, but that the water quality issues within the lake may reduce that benefit. The review team felt that OWEB was perhaps not the most appropriate funding source for the continuation of the design work and the future implementation of the dam improvements.

The team recommended that the applicants engage with NOAA and DEQ on the sedimentation issue before continuing on their design pathway in order to make sure the proposed design solution is workable for permitting agencies.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1036**	**Project Type:** Monitoring	
Project Name:	NCWA Monitoring Network		
Applicant:	North Coast WS Assn		
Basin:	LOWER COLUMBIA	**County:** Clatsop	
OWEB Request:	**$10,199.00**	**Total Cost:** $15,630.00	
Proposed Match:	$5,432.00		

Application Description

This project will continue and expand an existing volunteer-based monitoring network focused on summer temperatures of major rivers in the Youngs Bay, Skipanon, Nicolai-Wikiup, and Ecola watersheds in the North Coast basin. Temperature is a limiting factor for salmonid survival and data about whether streams within the project area meet the ODEQ water quality standard for summertime temperature is largely unavailable.

Using continuous temperature loggers strategically placed throughout the watershed and engaging watershed volunteers with the "Adopt-A-Logger" method of involvement, the project will develop a dataset that can track critical summer water temperatures, support watershed planning efforts, and establish the effectiveness of the TMDL implementation effort. Project partners include the Oregon DEQ.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The OPMT likes that the applicant is recruiting local volunteers to play a role in this project to engage the public.
- This project would expand the continuous water temperature monitoring on the North Coast and would benefit the TMDL process.
- The applicant is coordinating with DEQ for technical assistance on this project and is in the process of amending their Sampling and Analysis Plan to include the expanded geographic area.
- The applicant has been successful in implementing a similar water temperature monitoring project that works with local volunteers.

Concerns:

- There were no letters of support from the local partners they discussed in the application.

Recommendations:

If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide water temperature loggers for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (75%), Medium (25%)
Certainty of Success: High (75%), Medium (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The data collected will support the TMDL effort while addressing a water quality data gap in the region. Data has not been collected in these watersheds since the TMDLs for the North Coast were developed in 2003.
- The project has been successful since its inception in 2016 and has a good track record to date.
- The effort is expanding to include other high priority watersheds in the area.
- The "Adopt-a-Logger" method is a good volunteer recruitment mechanism and the project has had good success engaging volunteers to date.
- The project is cost-efficient.
- The types of smaller site-specific reaches that are proposed for inclusion in the project have been shown to have big impacts on temperatures in watersheds.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Only one week was allocated for sorting through the 20-year data set from the Ecola watershed, which seemed like an inadequate amount of time for analyzing such a large quantity of data.
- It wasn't clear that the project design demonstrated a whole watershed perspective on temperature issues.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team had enthusiasm for continuing this project, noting the success the effort has enjoyed since its inception in 2016. Reviewers familiar with the project mentioned that the data collected to date was high quality and that the Adopt-a-Logger methodology had been successful at attracting volunteers. The proposed expansion of the project to neighboring watersheds was welcome, and the review team felt that the recruitment of additional volunteers would build interest and support for watershed restoration projects in the region. The review team appreciated the opportunity to incorporate and analyze the data collected in the Ecola watershed over the last several decades, but was concerned that not enough time was allocated in the budget for this effort. The only other concern noted by the team was that the project may not have realistic expectations of drawing conclusions on the sources generating high temperatures in the watershed, but overall the review team felt that the project was a highly valuable and cost-efficient effort.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 10,199.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 10,199.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1037**	**Project Type:** Monitoring	
Project Name:	Nehalem Watershed Rapid Bioassessment		
Applicant:	Lower Nehalem WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Clatsop	
OWEB Request:	**$173,267.00**	**Total Cost:** $274,967.00	
Proposed Match:	$101,700.00		

Application Description

This project will collect monitoring data using the Rapid Bioassessment method throughout the majority of the Nehalem watershed within Tillamook, Clatsop, Columbia, and Washington counties. The Nehalem watershed is an 855 square mile watershed that originates on the east side of the Coast Range and the river travels 118.5 miles before draining into the Nehalem Bay Estuary just south of the town of Nehalem in Tillamook County. Recent planning efforts have identified a lack of quantitative assessments within the watershed of juvenile salmonid abundance or distribution, data which would be helpful for implementing a data driven approach to restoration prioritization.

A contracted consultant will be hired to conduct all data collection, analysis, and produce a final report that reviews abundance, distribution, and relative contribution to the watershed for each stream. It is expected that the data will spatially describe the distribution and abundance of juvenile salmonids, spawning gravels, and key anchor habitats within the entirety of the Nehalem basin. Information collected will be utilized within the Nehalem Strategic Action Plan for Coho planning process. Project partners include Western Oregon University, Columbia SWCD, Clatsop SWCD, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- These efforts support the development of a Strategic Action Plan to implement the Coastal Coho Business Plan to recover coho salmon on the north coast.
- This project is part of a broad collaboration of agencies and local groups.
- The methods are reasonable for the objectives stated on page 9 of the application.
- The OPMT liked that the applicant will work to incorporate existing data.
- The project will support large-scale efforts to prioritize the type and place of restoration actions.

Concerns:

- The application lacks detail on what the limiting factors analysis model is, what it does and how this RBA data is required to make it work.
- The OPMT was concerned that the RBA data would only provide a one-year snapshot of juvenile distribution. It will be important to consider the results in the context of low spawner abundance, given that a period of low adult marine survival is expected in the coming years.

- The monitoring that is proposed will not address many of the objectives laid out on page 8 of the application.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (60%), High (40%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The Rapid Bioassessment (RBA) method will provide important data that will be useful to apply to the coho recovery plan and Coho Business Plan (CBP) Strategic Action Plan (SAP). The method has been shown to effectively capture the types of habitat within a watershed.
- The 6th field approach employed in the CBP SAP process has the potential to miss smaller streams containing cold water refugia, which this RBA effort may be able to identify. The RBA data will also have the ability to help confirm the accuracy of the modeling work being done throughout the CBP process.
- There is good collaboration between the upper and lower portions of the Nehalem watershed, and the partners involved have a good track record of success.
- An identified need for the data has been demonstrated, and the information generated will be used to help prioritize restoration projects.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The cost per mile for this type of work seemed very high, resulting in the review team questioning the cost-benefit of the project. The budget also contained several lump sum amounts that made it difficult to decipher the amount of time proposed for each project task.
- The timing of the data collection effort seemed out of sync with the timeline of the coho SAP process, since a draft plan had been expected by now. There was additional concern that the CBP SAP processes should be consistent throughout the coastal region and completing watershed-wide RBA data collection for every location involved in the CBP SAP process would not be feasible.
- Some of the match proposed for the project was ODFW R&E funds, which is highly competitive and the likelihood of that funding source being allocated to a monitoring project may be low.
- A 1-year snapshot of juvenile abundance may or may not be valuable. The review team felt that ideally for coho 3 years of data is necessary to gain an understanding of their distribution in a watershed, although it was recognized that this would be cost-prohibitive for a watershed the size of the Nehalem.
- It was unclear whether key landowners were on board with the project and would provide the access necessary to accomplish the work.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team appreciated the applicability of the RBA data to the Coho Business Plan – Strategic Action Plan process and understood that the information collected would help the partners prioritize restoration projects and inform the efficacy of the modeling that had been done to date. They also recognized that the Nehalem watershed had significant data gaps relative to information on juvenile abundance and habitat use, and thought the project would help to fill those gaps and increase the usability of the resulting SAP.

The reviewers were concerned with the timing of the data collection given that the SAP process is nearing completion for the watershed and felt that a clear plan wasn't presented in the application as to how the data would be analyzed, who would be responsible for analyzing it, and how the SAP

would be revisited after the project was complete. The review team was also concerned with the cost-benefit of the project, noting that the price per mile of stream was much higher than what they had seen in recent applications employing the RBA method. The applicant did not indicate whether they planned to sole source the contract or employ an open bid process that may result in a lower project cost, and the team felt that opportunities to achieve cost savings may have been overlooked during project development.

Despite those concerns, the review team felt that the project would generate important data and the value of the RBA method was well understood in the region. The review team opted to recommend funding the project, hoping that the identified concerns would be resolved as the project came to fruition.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 173,267.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1038**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	2017-2018 Salmon Drift Water Quality Monitoring		
Applicant:	Salmon Drift Cr WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$26,141.00**	**Total Cost:**	$65,816.00
Proposed Match:	$28,960.00		

Application Description

The Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council will collect continuous temperature, continuous dissolved oxygen, and grab sample data for sites within the Salmon River, Drift Creek, and Schooner Creek watersheds in Lincoln County. The project partners plan to build upon past water quality monitoring efforts by developing a monitoring plan specifically targeted at DEQ needs for establishing a dissolved oxygen TMDL for the Salmon River. All three watersheds involved in the monitoring are currently on the 303(d) list and have water quality issues that threaten the health of at-risk anadromous fish populations.

In addition to collecting continuous temperature and dissolved oxygen data within the three watersheds, grab samples will be collected at strategic locations on the Salmon River. Flow data, bacterial analysis, and handheld fluorometer readings will be utilized to pinpoint how flow influences dissolved oxygen patterns, the level of bacteria associated with target reaches, and to determine if bacteria might be attributed to rural-residential development. Project partners include the Norcross Wildlife Foundation, Neighbors for Kids, and ODEQ.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The applicant is coordinating with multiple partners in the different watersheds and submitted several letters of support.
- The nutrient analyses that are being proposed will be performed by the DEQ lab.
- This data would support DEQ in the development of the dissolved oxygen TMDL on the mid-coast.
- The application references established methods and provides assurance that appropriate QA/QC protocols will be followed.
- Given the applicant's experience and support from participating organizations, the project is likely to be successful.

Concerns:

- DEQ's commitment to over $14,000 of in-kind lab analysis and sampling is pending budget decisions that will not be confirmed until March 2017. Large parts of this project hinge on DEQ's involvement to analyze samples and model the data.
- More details and justification for the timeline would be helpful. It was not clear why the timing of logger deployments varied across the three watersheds.
-

- The extent to which this application will adequately address the project objectives could be made clearer with additional details on data analysis methods, particularly for reference site comparisons and assessing the overall efficacy of optical brighteners.
- The data analysis and reporting phases are unlikely to include the results of the QUAL2Kw modelling given the differing timetables.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (60%), Medium (40%)
Certainty of Success: High (60%), Medium (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The data that will be collected directly supports TMDL development within the MidCoast region, and DEQ has identified this work as critical to the ongoing process. The applicant has been successfully coordinating with DEQ staff throughout project development.
- More information on Drift Creek is needed to inform the prioritization of restoration activities.
- The application was much improved from the last submittal, particularly the well-defined goals and objectives.
- The applicant has a good track record with this type of work and there is a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The proposed comparison between Schooner Creek and Drift Creek seemed a bit tenuous, given the degree of unique characteristics exhibited by small coastal watersheds.
- The efficacy of the proposed testing with the optical brightener is debatable considering the level of bacterial numbers in the watershed and the detection limits of the brightener.
- 80 hours was included in the budget for the executive director, but it was unclear what that position would be contributing to the project.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team was very familiar with this project from past iterations and was pleased to see the work continuing and progressing to incorporate the collection of data critical for TMDL development within the region. The applicant had been coordinating with DEQ and the project design was well-considered to address the data needs in the three involved watersheds. There were minor concerns identified regarding the proposed methodology and the budget, but the review team had confidence in the project partners to achieve the stated goals and objectives.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

3 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 26,141.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 26,141.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1039**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Siletz-Yaquina Basin Continuous-Dissolved-Oxygen Monitoring		
Applicant:	Lincoln SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$3,800.00**	**Total Cost:**	$4,800.00
Proposed Match:	$1,000.00		

Application Description

A new comprehensive set of dissolved oxygen and temperature data will be collected for the Siletz River Basin, a 237,720 acre watershed located in the mid-coast region that drains into the Siletz Bay just south of Lincoln City. While some continuous data does exist, there are several critical data gaps that will be addressed by this project in order to support TMDL development within the MidCoast area and Siletz River watershed in particular.

This OWEB request supports a larger effort supported by the DEQ's 319 funds with the purchase of some additional equipment. Project partners include the ODA.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Concern:

- DEQ can provide the two dissolved oxygen loggers this application seeks to purchase.

Recommendation:

Contact DEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator. DEQ can provide water the dissolved oxygen temperature loggers for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (50%), Medium (50%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (75%), High (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The data that will be collected directly supports TMDL development within the MidCoast region, and DEQ has identified this work as critical to the ongoing process. The applicant has been successfully coordinating with DEQ staff throughout project development.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The project is part of a larger effort that was only briefly mentioned in the application and the budget and match funding did not accurately reflect the scope of the monitoring work occurring.
- The DEQ's Volunteer Monitoring Coordinator, a member of the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team, offered to provide the two loggers to the applicant.

Concluding Analysis
This application was only briefly discussed by the team since the reviewers were made aware that the DEQ Volunteer Monitoring Program intended to offer the necessary equipment that was proposed for acquisition in this application to the applicant, free of charge. With that in mind, the review team elected not to recommend funding the project and wanted to direct the applicant to contact DEQ to obtain the materials and supplies outlined in the project's budget.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1040**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	2017-18 Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program		
Applicant:	Siuslaw WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$17,578.00**	**Total Cost:**	$36,518.00
Proposed Match:	$18,940.00		

Application Description

This project will continue and expand upon an existing temperature and dissolved oxygen monitoring effort in the Siuslaw River basin, a 773 square mile watershed in the central Oregon coast range that empties into the Pacific Ocean just south of the city of Florence in Lane County. An extensive portion of the Siuslaw River is 303(d) listed for temperature, dissolved oxygen, bacteria, biological criteria, and sedimentation, and the Oregon Coastal Coho Assessment has identified water quality as population-limiting across the Siuslaw Basin.

Monthly grab sample monitoring will be continued to determine long term data trends and continuous monitoring for both temperature and dissolved oxygen will be employed at strategic locations throughout the watershed with the goal of establishing whether or not measured stream temperatures and dissolved oxygen levels are meeting the state water quality standards. The project geodatabase will also be maintained and updated by project staff. Project partners include the Siuslaw SWCD, Surfrider Foundation, ODEQ, Mapleton School District, and the BLM.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This application builds off an existing strong volunteer monitoring program.
- Several letters of support were provided for this application.
- The applicant is coordinating with DEQ and these efforts will support the development of the DO TMDL.

Concerns:

- The OPMT would like to see the applicant spend time analyzing the grab sample data they have collected over the years and report on the information generated by the program.
- The application lacks a clear monitoring design.
- The application was not easy to follow and provided additional information that confused the answers to the questions.
- The existing Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP) only covers grab sampling; information to address other monitoring proposed needs to be incorporated into the SAP.

Recommendations:

- If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance for dissolved oxygen monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide dissolved oxygen loggers for this project.
- If funded, complete the revised SAP in coordination with ODEQ's Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator.
- If funded, analysis of past monitoring data should be performed before any subsequent grant applications are considered.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (60%), High (40%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (60%), High (20%), Low (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The data that will be collected directly supports TMDL development within the MidCoast region, and DEQ has identified this work as critical to the ongoing process. The applicant has been successfully coordinating with DEQ staff throughout project development.
- The proposal brings a renewed focus on dissolved oxygen monitoring.
- The project has good landowner involvement.
- The selection of the Hult Dam as one of the focus areas for monitoring well positions the project to help inform the Environmental Impact Study process that is beginning.
- The project addresses the identified need for database management.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The grab samples collected by the volunteers may not be providing useful information. Focusing volunteers on appropriate monitoring types may be a more efficient and beneficial use of volunteer time.
- It was unclear whether the Sample and Analysis Plan had been updated in the recent past, and if not, the review team felt that an update was overdue.
- The application did not address how the data has been used in the past or provide much detail on how the continued collection of data will specifically inform the goals of the watershed council in the future.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team was very familiar with this project, given the numerous iterations over the past decade and found the applicant to have a good track record with this type of work. They appreciated the more refined effort to focus on dissolved oxygen in the watershed and felt that the coordination with DEQ, landowners, and volunteers had been thorough and set the project up for continued success. Some concern existed with the continuation of the grab sampling. While the review team recognized the ability of the grab sampling to engage volunteers in citizen science, they thought that the data collected might not be as useful as the continuous monitoring and felt that the applicant should explore ways to continue to engage volunteers on more rewarding monitoring approaches. The review team was also interested in how the council uses the data, and would have appreciated more detail in that regard. Despite these concerns, the review team had confidence that the applicant could achieve the goals and objectives stated in the application and recommended the project for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund
Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 17,578.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions; incorporate continuous monitoring into the Sampling and Analysis Plan.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 17,578.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1041**	**Project Type:** Monitoring	
Project Name:	Mid Coast Monitoring Project		
Applicant:	Lincoln SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Lincoln	
OWEB Request:	**$115,015.00**	**Total Cost:** $153,967.00	
Proposed Match:	$38,952.00		

Application Description

This proposal will fund the continuation of another year of Aquatic Habitat Inventory and spawner survey data collection in the Salmon, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea, and Yachats River watersheds within the mid-coast basin in Lincoln County. The MidCoast Monitoring Project fills crucial data gaps by providing effectiveness monitoring for restoration projects and continuing long-term baseline survey work threatened by broad state agency budget cuts.

The Mid Coast Monitoring Project has been conducting Aquatic Habitat Inventories and spawning surveys of spring and fall chinook, coho, and steelhead in the rivers and streams of the Mid Coast for the past 20 years. The synthesis of the information has been used to identify and prioritize restoration sites and sequence the development and implementation of projects. Project partners include ODFW, NRCS, and the MidCoast Watersheds Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This application contributes to a long-term ongoing monitoring project that has successfully collected spawner and habitat data for 18 years.
- The applicant coordinates with ODFW to collect data that is valuable to the agency.
- There were letters of support provided by PSMFC and ODFW.
- The applicant follows acceptable protocols that are identical to the methods that ODFW follows.
- The applicant has developed relationships with the landowners and is able to access private lands that ODFW cannot.

Concerns:

- The application had a very long narrative that provided extraneous information in some of the questions.
- There was no letter of support from the Siletz Tribe, but the application mentions working with them.
- OWEB monitoring grants may not be a sustainable funding mechanism over the long term. Loss of this project would be a significant concern to ODFW.

Recommendations:
The OPMT is interested in how the information that is provided to ODFW is used to understand the effectiveness of restoration projects and would like to figure out a process to do that.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (60%), Medium (40%)
Certainty of Success: High (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation
*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The surveyors are highly experienced and collect consistently high quality data.
- The program is well-established and provides important information on the success of OWEB restoration projects in the mid-Coast region.
- ODFW is no longer conducting many of the surveys due to budget shortfalls, and this work fills an important data gap. The long-term data sets continued by the project have high value to the region.
- The data has been important for the development of the coho recovery plan, and continued data collection will remain important as partners pivot towards implementation of the plan.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- This project has been funded long-term by OWEB, but it is unclear what the exit strategy is should funding become unavailable in the future.
- The review team is unclear on the users of the data beyond ODFW. There was concern about how much of the data is collected in response to partner inquiries to assist with restoration project development and monitoring, and how much is collected in response to requests from ODFW. Reviewers prefer a focus on restoration project development and effectiveness monitoring.
- The need for continued data on effectiveness monitoring sites was unclear; 20 years of data may be sufficient at this point.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team recognized the value of this long-term monitoring project and appreciated the high- quality data that is produced. The data collected on effectiveness of restoration projects is a focus area of this work that the review team felt was particularly important to continue. They understood that other partners heavily rely on this data, particularly ODFW. There were continued concerns consistent with previous reviews of this project that OWEB is not the most appropriate funding source for this work, given that monitoring funds are limited and should this project not be funded, many partner programs that depend on the data would be imperiled.

Given that the project has been funded by OWEB for almost two decades, the review team would appreciate a report that summarizes the data collection and results from the project's nearly 20 year history. The review team also requested a breakdown of how much of the work is effectiveness monitoring of restoration projects and how much is in response to ODFW requests. The review team recommended the project for funding, but requested that this information be submitted in future funding cycles.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 115,015.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment
OWEB staff will work with the applicant and project partners to develop reporting requirements for the grant agreement that address the review team's questions and concerns.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions; grantee to provide a report summarizing the conclusions drawn from 20 years of monitoring data, and for this project, a breakdown showing the proportion of the project dedicated to effectiveness monitoring, and the proportion dedicated to responding to ODFW questions.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 115,015.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1042**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Siuslaw Salmon & Watershed Studies (Stream Team Extension X)		
Applicant:	Siuslaw SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$31,276.00**	**Total Cost:**	$61,673.00
Proposed Match:	$20,000.00		

Application Description

This project is a continuation of a unique watershed program (Stream Team) throughout the Siuslaw, Mapleton, and Reedsport schools. This application for the 2016-17 school year would continue to fund the program to provide classroom instruction and 48 field trips for approximately 1000 students in grades 1-12 in three different communities. Emphasis will continue to be on hands-on experiences to introduce and reinforce watershed stewardship.

Partners include the Siuslaw School District, the USFS Mapleton District, OPRD, Florence STEP, BLM, Siuslaw SWCD, the Siuslaw Watershed Council, and family volunteers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project has an excellent track record of success and has well-developed partnerships with the school district, natural resource agencies, and the local community.
- The program has a good connection with other work OWEB funds and increases awareness of restoration projects within the Siuslaw watershed.
- An important expansion of the Stream Team program is provided to a broader set of students, and the Siuslaw School District has integrated the program into its curriculum.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- None

Concluding Analysis:

The review team was very familiar with this successful program and appreciated the number of students involved and the diversity of learning activities that connect the classroom to restoration work happening within the watershed. The broad partnerships involved and the highly experienced project manager continue to ensure the program's success, and the review team enthusiastically recommended the project for funding. The review team encouraged the project team to diversify its funding sources and continue the excellent work in the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 31,276.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1043**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Siuslaw Watershed Camps 2017-2018		
Applicant:	Siuslaw WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Lane	
OWEB Request:	**$17,952.00**	**Total Cost:** $35,292.00	
Proposed Match:	$17,340.00		

Application Description

The Siuslaw watershed drains 504,000 acres and has roughly 18,000 residents. A number of different school districts serve the basin residents, including Siuslaw (Florence), Mapleton, and Triangle Lake. The three school districts have established in-school natural resource programs, but during the summer months there are few formal opportunities for students in the basin to further explore natural resource and watershed health issues.

This application seeks to continue a popular "Watershed Camp" facilitated by the Siuslaw Watershed Council. It provides 13 days of camp for approximately 50-60 students from grades 4 through 12. The Camp workshops focus on providing the campers with an overview of the need for watershed restoration projects as well as practical, hands-on experience with different types of restoration projects. Campers will study post-implementation restoration sites and work on active restoration project sites.

Partners in the project include USFS-Mapleton District, Siuslaw School District 97J, BLM, private foundations, local businesses, camper families, the Siuslaw SWCD, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The watershed camps fill an identified outreach need in the community and are offered at a cost that is affordable to local families.
- The program has a good connection with OWEB-funded restoration projects and students engage in hands-on learning opportunities at project sites.
- There are social benefits generated from the promotion of restoration, conservation, and education through the camp program.
- The program has a great track record of success and has consistently reached target numbers of campers.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- None

Concluding Analysis:
The review team was familiar with this successful low-cost program that provides an important summer opportunity for local families and connects the community to restoration work happening in the local watershed. The diversity of activities involved and the hands-on learning opportunities promote awareness of conservation issues. The review team recommended this project for funding and had no concerns. The review team encouraged the camp program to diversify its funding sources to continue providing this opportunity within the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 17,952.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1044**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	North Coast Outreach Project		
Applicant:	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		
Basin:	LOWER COLUMBIA	**County:** Clatsop	
OWEB Request:	**$38,515.00**	**Total Cost:** $53,385.00	
Proposed Match:	$16,336.00		

Application Description

The North Coast Outreach Project targets 4th through 6th grade students, teachers, parents, and communities in the lower Columbia River watershed from Scappoose to Warrenton. The ongoing program provides watershed education through in-class learning and field experiences that connects students to their watershed and offers opportunities to help restore habitat through implementation of a service learning project.

Partners include Otto Peterson Elementary, Lewis and Clark Elementary, and Hudson Park Elementary School.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This long running and successful program offers both classroom and field activities to 4th through 6th graders, which is a good time of engagement to connect with students about watershed issues.
- The unique experience of getting students out on the water provides a powerful and memorable connection to the natural world.
- The program has a good geographical scope, reaching students throughout the Lower Columbia watershed.
- The program lays a good foundation for future study in natural resource areas, and positions students to potentially take advantage of forestry tech programs offered at the high school level in some participating school districts.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- None

Concluding Analysis

The North Coast Outreach Project has a good track record of success and reaches a broad geographical area within the Lower Columbia watershed. The review team found the program's curriculum to be well-developed and appreciated the thorough evaluation measures designed to track outcomes. The team thought that targeting 4th through 6th graders was an optimum audience to foster a greater understanding of watershed science principles. The project was enthusiastically recommended for funding. The review team encouraged the program to further diversify its funding sources and continue providing this opportunity within the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 38,515.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 38,515.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1045**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Siuslaw Middle School Stream Team		
Applicant:	Siuslaw School District 97J		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Lane	
OWEB Request:	**$8,850.00**	**Total Cost:** $23,807.00	
Proposed Match:	$6,957.00		

Application Description

The Siuslaw Middle School Stream Team has been in place for twenty years and this grant proposal continues the successful program focusing on sixth and seventh graders in Siuslaw School District 97J, located in Florence in Lane County. Students will receive 45 days of in-class instruction in watershed processes and 2-5 field trips per quarter that will reinforce their classroom experiences. The program provides hands-on learning activities including: measuring stream flow and sediment loads, physical and chemical analysis of streams, fish identification, identification and removal of invasive plants, basic hatchery operations, macroinvertebrate analysis, and recreational uses of the watershed.

Project partners include the U.S. Forest Service, OPRD, ODFW, volunteers, and the Siuslaw School District.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This is a long running and highly successful program that is well respected in both the local community and broader environmental education communities.
- This program operates in conjunction with the companion "Siuslaw Salmon and Watershed Studies" program, which extends the watershed learning opportunities to the surrounding grades. Together, the programs have a larger impact.
- There is great enthusiasm for this program found through the staff, the students and the communities involved.
- The former Stream Team teacher is now the principal of the school and is continuing to support this program throughout the school and the district.
- Some of the teachers who are involved with the program were formerly Stream Team students themselves.
- The project has likely had long-term social impacts in the watershed that have made restoration and conservation work possible.
- The project is very cost-effective for the number of students reached.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- None

Concluding Analysis
The review team was very familiar with this award-winning outreach program that has been in place in the Siuslaw watershed for over two decades. They appreciated the commitment the school district has shown to the Stream Team program, recognizing that the program is fully integrated into the curriculum and that several teachers in the district had gone through the Stream Team program themselves as students. The program is very cost-effective and the local community is involved in some of the cost-sharing through fund raising efforts. The review team enthusiastically recommended the project for another year of funding. The review team encouraged the program to further diversify its funding sources and continue providing this opportunity within the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 8,850.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 8,850.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1046**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Backyard Habitat Conservation		
Applicant:	Lincoln SWCD		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:** Lincoln	
OWEB Request:	**$21,244.00**	**Total Cost:** $27,318.00	
Proposed Match:	$6,075.00		

Application Description

A Backyard Conservation Certification program will be developed that focuses on outreach to the urban areas of Lincoln County with the goals of reducing water demand and enhancing urban wildlife habitat. The program will focus on the development of written materials, community presentations, and workshops with a target audience of students, entrepreneurs, and community homeowners. The program will build on past efforts by the Lincoln SWCD to foster development of rainwater collection systems throughout the county. Project partners include OSU Extension, MidCoast Watersheds Council, and Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project will engage a pool of water users/constituents that is not typically engaged with OWEB's outreach programs.
- The project has the potential to improve the understanding of conservation issues among the local community.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The focus on the rainwater workshops was a large portion of the budget and the expected outcomes of the workshops were unclear.
- The goals and objectives were unclear and needed some streamlining and focus.
- The application was confusing and the review team was unsure of the target audience, since several different targets were mentioned.
- The design of the program did not appear consistent with other similar Backyard Conservation Programs around the state.
- Program planning for the effort seemed incomplete, with many details unknown about program specifics.

Concluding Analysis

The review team liked the concept of the project and appreciated the opportunity to work with a group of constituents not normally targeted by watershed outreach programs. They thought that expanding the knowledge of the local community with regards to water conservation and watershed restoration issues would have broader ecological benefits within Lincoln County. However, they found the details of the application unclear, with the agriculture community and urban residents both listed as the target audience. Another concern is whether reliance on the two relatively costly rainwater workshops was the right approach for a burgeoning Backyard Conservation Program,

especially as the expected outcomes of that investment were not well described in the application. The review team suggested that the Water Resources Department might be a good fit as a project partner in a future effort, and wanted to encourage the applicant to reconsider the design of the proposed program before returning with a future funding request.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
North Coast Review Team (Region 1)

Application No.:	**217-1047**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Restoring Ecosystems Educating the Future (REEF)		
Applicant:	Salmon Drift Cr WC		
Basin:	NORTH COAST	**County:**	Lincoln
OWEB Request:	**$24,919.00**	**Total Cost:**	$48,232.00
Proposed Match:	$19,294.00		

Application Description

The Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council (Council) is requesting funding to continue the REEF program into its 5th year and provide watershed education and conservation career development ideas to an anticipated 820 Lincoln City students in grades 5 through 12. The students will participate in learning about watershed ecology by 1) in-class presentations; 2) plant propagation and maintenance at the REEF native plant nursery; 3) water quality monitoring and watershed restoration; 4) hands-on restoration monitoring-based field trips; 5) a multi-faceted watershed ecology/water quality summer internship; and 6) conservation career path presentations.

Project partners include the Lincoln County school district, U.S. Forest Service, Lincoln SWCD, the Sitka Center for Arts and Ecology, ODFW, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The program provides a wide range of activities that expose students to different facets of natural resource science and practice.
- The program reaches a wide range of students, with hundreds of students in multiple grade levels participating.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application was hard to follow and the outcomes section was unclear.
- The application did not address past concerns the review team had about the program's lack of focus.
- At least one agency listed as a contributing partner had specifically asked not to be included in the application.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team recognized the value of this program to Lincoln City students and appreciated that the program enjoys good local support. They liked the diversity of activities included in the program and thought that the wide array of learning opportunities was a good approach to engaging program participants. The review team continued to have concerns with the program's lack of focus, the high cost of project management, and the lack of clarity with the expected outcomes described in the application. The review team also had reservations about the level of engagement with listed partners, since one agency listed as a contributing participant expressed that they had

specifically asked to not be included in this iteration of the project. Despite their concerns, the review team recommended the project for funding as they understood the value of the program to the community and wanted to see it continue.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

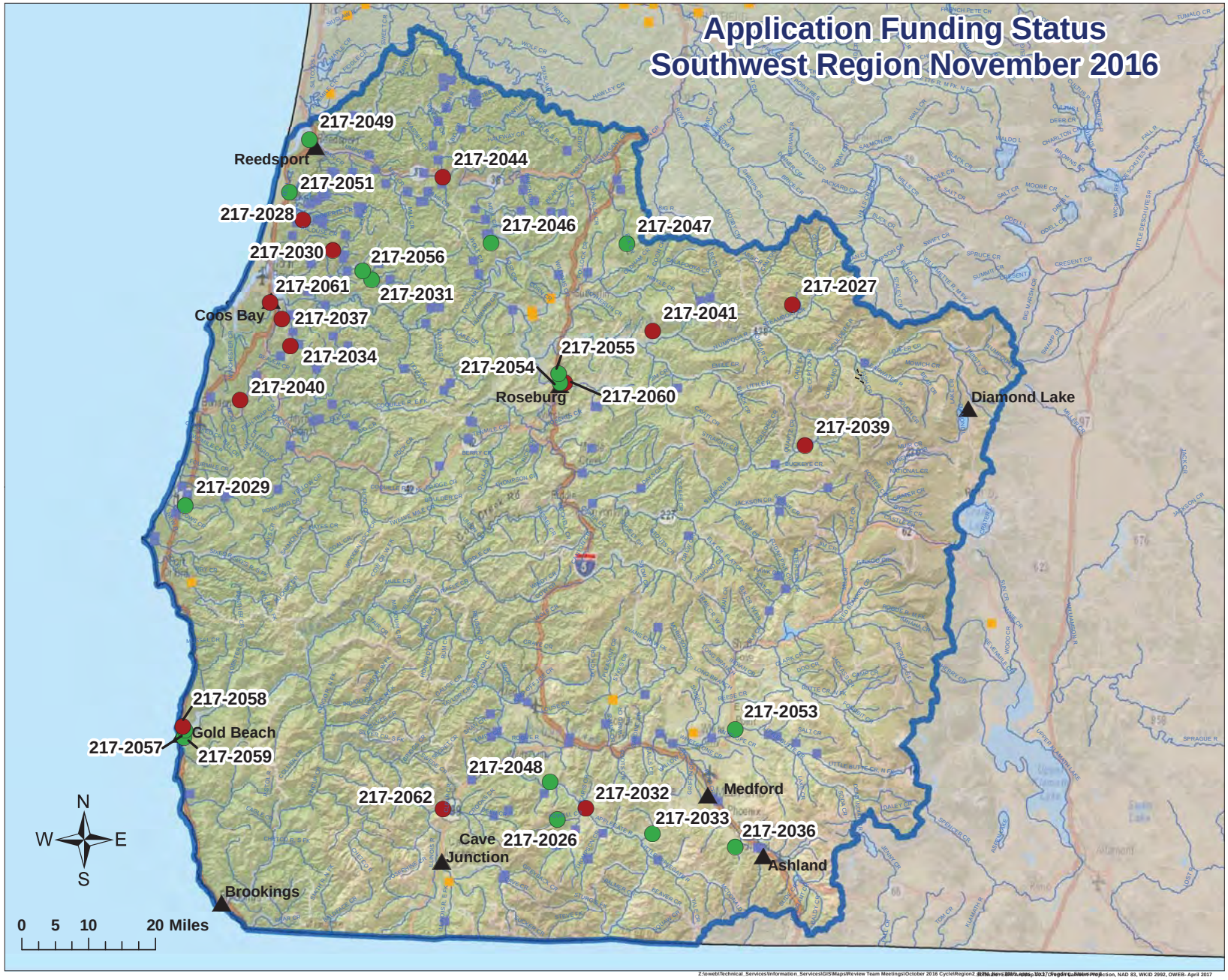
Recommended Amount
$ 24,919.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

Application Funding Status
Southwest Region November 2016



November 2016 Applications

- Staff Recommended for Funding
- Below Funding Line

Grants 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisition
- **Region 2 Boundary**
- **Streams**

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
OWEB

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St, NE Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
(503) 986-0178
http://oregon.gov/OWEB/

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Region 2 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Region 2 - Southwest Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-2036	Rogue River WC	Beeson-Robinson Fish Passage Improvement	The applicant proposes to remove the Beeson-Robinson diversion dam and replace it with a regraded stream channel to address juvenile salmonid fish passage issues at that location. The Beeson-Robinson Diversion Dam is located on Wagner Creek, 2.3 miles upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek near Talent.	25,668	Jackson
217-2032	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Powell Creek Instream Restoration - Phase 2	The project proposes to place large wood structures in Powell Creek, a tributary to Williams Creek in the Applegate River watershed located near Williams, as well as address an old diversion structure impacting fish passage.	159,595	Josephine
217-2033	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Forest Creek Barrier Project	This project will improve fish passage for salmonids at the lowest fish passage barrier on Forest Creek, a tributary to the Applegate River near Ruch. A by-pass channel will be constructed to facilitate passage around the structure.	97,704	Jackson
217-2031	Coos Watershed Association	Middle East Fork Millicoma River Instream Habitat Restoration and Road Sediment Reduction	The project proposes to address sediment inputs from logging roads in the middle section of the East Fork Millicoma, near Coos Bay, by upgrading and storm proofing them. In addition, the project partners propose to add large wood and boulder structures to the stream.	384,614	Coos
217-2047	Elk Creek WC	Headwaters Elk Creek Habitat and Riparian Improvement	The project seeks to restore a 0.85 mile reach of upper Elk Creek, located above Drain, through placement of large wood, fencing the riparian area, riparian plantings, and construction of a livestock crossing.	116,116	Douglas
217-2029	Curry SWCD	Lower Floras Creek Mainstream Riparian Improvement	The project proposes to restore a one-half mile reach of riparian area along Floras Creek near Langlois through invasive species removal and replanting with native tree and shrub species.	21,941	Curry
217-2046	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	McGee Creek Instream Restoration	The project proposes to restore 3.2 miles of McGee Creek through placement of large wood and boulder structures, planting riparian vegetation and fencing and removing a partial fish passage blocking culvert. McGee Creek, a direct tributary to the Umpqua River, is located 10 miles south of Elkton.	223,353	Douglas
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**1,028,991**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Prioritiy Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-2041	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	French Creek Instream Restoration	127,006	Douglas
217-2028	Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership	Lower Adams Creek Riparain and Fish Passage Enhancement	129,889	Coos
217-2044	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Butler/Lutsinger 2017 Instream Restoration	149,891	Douglas
217-2034	Coos Watershed Association	Ross Slough Restoration Project Phase III	130,405	Coos
217-2026	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Applegate Riparian Restoration Project	429,994	Jackson
217-2039	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Upper South Umpqua Habitat Restoration Project Phase IV	106,865	Douglas
217-2027	North Umpqua Foundation	South Fork Steelhead Creek AOP	157,254	Douglas
217-2037	Coos Watershed Association	Catching Creek Riparian Restoration Project	97,175	Coos
217-2040	Coquille Watershed Association	Seestrom Tidal Channel Restoration Phase I	482,598	Coos
217-2030	Coos Watershed Association	West Fork Millicoma River Fish Passage Improvements 2017	110,404	Coos
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**2,950,472**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
217-2035	Curry SWCD	Lower Rogue Estuary Enhancement	67,739	Curry
217-2038	Smith River WC	Big Creek Instream Restoration Phase II	264,283	Douglas
217-2042	Coos SWCD	Adams Creek Culvert Removal and Riparian Enhancement Project	80,990	Coos
217-2043	Elk Creek WC	Jack Creek Habitat Improvement (Phase I)	65,781	Douglas
217-2045	Coos SWCD	North Bank Working Landscape Preservation & Tidal Channel Restoration	272,424	Coos

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-2049	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Leed's Island Restoration & Acquisition Technical Assistance	This Technical Assistance project will develop a suite of restoration options at Leeds Island, a potential conservation property that was historically a wetland complex with three islands at the confluence of the Umpqua River, Scholfield Creek, and Providence Creek near Reedsport.	49,975	Douglas
217-2048	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Applegate Fish Passage Improvement Project Outreach	This proposal will seek to develop landowner and water user agreements along with the conceptual project development designs for at least 13 priority barriers in the Applegate River Watershed located in Jackson and Josephine Counties.	25,832	Josephine
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**75,807**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
NONE				

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-2059	Curry SWCD	Curry Watersheds Education Program 2017-18	Curry County Watershed Outreach target audience is 1,040 K-8th grade youth and 20 teachers thoughout Curry County and intends to also reach 575 youth and their families through after-school outreach events. This includes reaching them during school with watershed education field trips, partnered outreach events and project-based learning opportunities.	47,311	Curry
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**47,311**	

Outreach Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-2061	Coos Watershed Association	Coos Watershed Youth-Led Community Stewardship Program	55,952	Coos
217-2062	Siskiyou Field Institute	Watershed Education at Siskiyou Outdoor School 2017	14,344	Josephine
217-2060	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Eggs to Fry Program 2018-2019	12,216	Douglas
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**129,823**	

Outreach Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
NONE				

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Recommended**	**County**
217-2053	Rogue River WC	WISE Effectiveness Monitoring Project - Baseline Monitoring	This 2-year project supports the continued operation of water quality sondes and grab sample monitoring at four locations in the Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds located near Medford. The project will continue to generate baseline data essential to determine whether the Water for Irrigation, Streams and Economy is achieving success.	41,497	Jackson
217-2055	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Collaborative Monitoring 2017-2019	This project proposes to continue the Partnership for the Umpqua River's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program to monitor the health of the Umpqua Basin streams in the Umpqua River basin located in Douglas County by identifying the status and observing the trends over time in basin stream conditions.	216,431	Douglas
217-2057	Curry SWCD	Curry Watersheds Comprehensive Strategic Monitoring Plan Development	The project seeks to develop a plan to delineate the Curry Watersheds Monitoring Program's tasks for the next 15-20 years, and designate the protocols and sampling plans used to implement those tasks throughout Curry County watersheds. The plan will apply to the Partnership's entire geographic domain, which extends roughly 90 miles along the Oregon coast from the California border north to the New River watershed.	45,246	Curry
217-2054	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Stream Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project	This project proposes to collect another two years of low flow and summer stream temperature data at select sites in the Umpqua Basin located in Douglas County which would extend the record of data that has been collected since 1998 at these sites.	60,401	Douglas
217-2056	Coos Watershed Association	East Fork Millicoma Oxbow Passage Monitoring Program - Phase I	The project proposes to document the response of fish to restoration actions to the Oxbow re-connection project located on the East Fork Millicoma near Coos Bay. Coho, fall Chinook, steelhead, and anadromous cutthroat trout populations are expected to respond to a measurable degree due to resolution of the passage barrier at the Oxbow.	56,052	Coos
217-2051	Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership	Eel Lake Pacific Lamprey and Native Fish Monitoring	The proposed project is the continuation of a successful program originated in 1998 to monitor flows and temperatures in 23 high restoration priority WABs (Water Availability Basins) during the low-flow summer and fall months.	36,437	Coos
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**456,064**	

Monitoring Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-2058	Curry SWCD	Curry Watershed's Spawning Surveys: 2017-2019	29,417	Curry
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**485,481**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
217-2050	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Southwest Oregon Side by Side Trial	69,581	Jackson
217-2052	Elk Creek WC	Elk Creek Rapid Bioassessment and Action Plan	68,453	Douglas
Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award			**1,608,173**	**17%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award			**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2026**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Applegate Riparian Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Applegate Partnership, Inc.		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Jackson
OWEB Request:	**$429,994.00**	**Total Cost:**	$713,218.00
Proposed Match:	$146,040.00		

Application Description

This project focuses on riparian restoration on the Applegate River, within three strategic project reaches: BLM Provolt Seed Orchard, the Cantrell Buckley Park, and private lands in the Upper Applegate area. The Applegate River is listed by DEQ as 303(d) water quality limited for summer temperature and most of this project will be in high intrinsic potential habitat for coho. Riparian areas have been simplified through historic land management and levee construction. Invasive species (blackberry) dominate much of the riparian areas.

Project activities include removal of invasive vegetation through mechanical methods from the river's riparian area. Once cleared of the invasives, the area will be replanted with a diversity of native trees and shrubs with planting plans developed for each property. Setbacks will range from 100' to 400' from the edge of the riverbank. The plantings will be maintained (mulched, watered and protected) for 5 years after planting while invasive species regrowth will continue to be suppressed. These efforts will improve water quality for salmonids by increasing stream shading, which will aid in the long-term reduction of summer stream temperatures, and filtration of nutrient runoff. Project partners include the Klamath Bird Observatory, Dutch Bros. Coffee, landowners, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Applicant has experience implementing riparian restoration projects in the Applegate.
- Addressing water quality here is important and this work would benefit that effort. The area is important for coho.
- Some work has already started on the Provolt site and that work is going well.
- Reviewers noted that due to multiple submissions over time, the applicant could be in danger of losing match funding and project partners.
- The plant establishment activities proposed seemed reasonable but diligence will be required to keep the invasive species at bay.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was noted that previous comments related to stream temperature were not addressed. It was not apparent how much mainstem planting would actually improve water temperature or if there was any likelihood of being able to build connectivity between sites due to the large distances between them.

- Long-term management of the Provolt site was not clear, making it harder to assess the likelihood of long-term success.
- Letters of support were very broad in nature.

Concluding Analysis:
Restoring the riparian areas in the Applegate system is important for addressing water quality issues. The proposed properties will be challenging due to the non-native blackberry and dry summer conditions. The site preparation and plant establishment plan presented are designed to help the plantings succeed and improve riparian function in these sites. Reviewers felt the distance between these mainstem sites along with the uncertainty of being able to restore significant acreage between the sites make it harder to realize cumulative water quality benefits, but establishing sites to work out from is a first step in that direction.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
12 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$429,994.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2027**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	South Fork Steelhead Creek AOP		
Applicant:	North Umpqua Foundation		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:** Douglas	
OWEB Request:	**$157,254.00**	**Total Cost:** $319,304.00	
Proposed Match:	$150,000.00		

Application Description

This project proposes replacing an undersized perched culvert, located on Forest Service Road (FSR) 3800, that is a barrier to upstream migration of anadromous and resident fish populations. South Fork Steelhead Creek is located in the Steamboat Creek sub-basin above Glide. The current culvert was placed in 1959 and currently is a complete upstream barrier. Steelhead Creek is a high-quality tributary of Steamboat Creek, a key summer steelhead stream in the North Umpqua River with high value habitat for spawning and rearing of steelhead and cutthroat trout, and provides clean, cool water to Steamboat Creek.

The existing culvert will be replaced with a stream simulation structure to allow for fish passage of all age classes at a wide range of stream flows. The structure will be sized to accommodate greater than bank full flows and will be infilled with stream substrate to create a seamless link between the aquatic habitats downstream of the structure to the stream channel upstream of the structure. Removal of this barrier will open up close to a mile of high quality habitat for both steelhead and cutthroat trout. During construction stream flows will be routed around the site to minimize disturbance to downstream habitats. Construction will occur when the stream is at or near its low-base flow. Fish salvage will occur as necessary prior to implementation. Project partners include US Forest, The North Umpqua Foundation and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project was the site of a USFS design training in 2016. Designs are based on another site implemented in the drainage in 2014 and will be finalized for the site prior to implementation. The culvert is set on bedrock and the stream in the project area and above is high gradient.
- Project would benefit summer steelhead and cutthroat trout.
- Good level of cash match.
- The site is a complete barrier to adult and juvenile passage and this would complete the fish passage work in the sub-basin.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was unclear if the project would meet SLOPES but discussion revealed it would not need to go through the SLOPES process.

Concluding Analysis: The project is ready for implementation in the 2017 field season and would complete fish passage work in the sub-basin. Stream gradient makes this smaller stream useable by steelhead and cutthroat trout.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
14 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 157,254.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2028**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Lower Adams Creek Riparian and Fish Passage Enhancement		
Applicant:	Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$129,889.00**	**Total Cost:**	$173,809.00
Proposed Match:	$43,920.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to address two juvenile fish passage impediments and implement riparian restoration actions on Adams Creek. Adams creek is a tributary within the Tenmile Lakes watershed near Lakeside. Currently, fish passage, exotic species, and simplified habitat complexity are limiting factors impacting coho and other native salmonid species.

Project partners propose to correct the two improperly functioning historic stream crossings with bridges. At Site 1, the existing culvert currently sized at 20' x 24" will be replaced with a 15' x 22' steel I-beam stringer bridge engineered for the site. At Site 2, the existing culvert currently sized at 20' x 36" will be replaced with a 15' x 22' steel I-beam stringer bridge engineered for the site. These projects will improve juvenile fish passage to 4 miles of high-priority stream habitat. Additionally 5,500 feet of livestock exclusion fencing will be constructed and 2,000 willows, 2,000 Oregon ash, and 1,000 Douglas fir will be planted. Setbacks will average 20'.

The riparian restoration efforts will help improve water quality and restore more natural stream function in the project area. Project Partners include landowners, TLBP, Stuntzer Engineering and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- There is a TMDL in place and the work would support the implementation.
- Landowner is willing and ready for this project. Large cash and in-kind match. Project is ready for implementation.
- Area upstream from the site has good coho spawning habitat.
- Fences are designed to withstand flows and elk. There is a grazing plan submitted with the application. Fencing setback meets and/or exceeds guidelines.
- The bridge is going to be 2 times the channel width which will restore stream function at the site and improve fish passage.
- Work proposed ties into other projects.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The previous submittal showed the bridge would improve access to 4 miles of stream; this application states 5.5 miles. It is unclear which is correct.

- The plans for the bridges presented in the application are for a different site. It was noted that the applicant uses this design for all bridges and utilizes pre-fabricated slabs to make the sites very uniform in approach. The resulting bridges are wider than required which increases benefits to stream function.
- Reviewers noted that there were no shrubs included in the planting plan because of landowner concern with filling in the channel and trapping debris, causing sedimentation in the field.
- The project lacks an in-stream component; however, discussion determined that locations like this where there is a low-gradient, narrow valley agricultural land with the stream pushed to one side of the valley make it not an ideal location for large wood placement.

Concluding Analysis:
The applicant has worked with the landowner to address previous reviewer concerns and added and expanded on the riparian and fencing components. Streams in this watershed flow through narrow agriculture valleys and have been pushed to one side of the valley. While there is a low likelihood of them ever being returned to historic meander patterns, restoring riparian function and removing the culvert would benefit water quality, stream function and fish access.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
9 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$129,889.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2029**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Lower Floras Creek Mainstem Riparian Improvement		
Applicant:	Curry SWCD		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Curry
OWEB Request:	**$21,941.00**	**Total Cost:**	$34,540.00
Proposed Match:	$8,400.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to restore a reach of riparian area along Floras creek near Langlois through invasive species removal and replanting with native tree species. Historic land use practices have left Lower Floras Creek impacted by poor water quality, flood plain disconnection, and lack of instream habitat complexity.

The project will treat a total of 2.5 riparian acres along both sides of over one half-mile of stream. Native tree and shrub species will be used following a planting prescription developed for the site to treat specific areas based on needs and conditions. Invasive species such as blackberry will be treated prior to planting. Blackberry treatment will consist of a late spring/early summer cutting followed by a late fall application of an aquatically-labeled, NOAA Fisheries-approved glyphosate product. The restoration activities included in this proposal will enhance water quality and instream habitat in Lower Floras Creek, which is an important stream with regard to coho and Chinook salmon as well as steelhead. Project Partners include landowners and BLM.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project supports a likely future TMDL. The stream system is in the southern-most portion of OC Coho range.
- The project schedule is appropriate and considers timing of implementing instream actions prior to riparian planting work.
- Planting plans are good and based on previous experience.
- The project predicts a high survival success rate.
- The project request from OWEB is low and the cost per mile of this project is very reasonable.
- The project would help build connectivity between previous project sites including one landowner enrolled in CREP (although close to expiration, landowner has indicated willingness to re-enroll some portions of property.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application mentions instream log placement but does not include funds in the budget for this activity.

- The riparian area already has conifers that have reached the free-to-grow state. The application did not describe how the riparian plantings in these areas would improve over what was already there.
- The fencing setback averages only 17' and seems narrow.

Concluding Analysis:
The project builds on previous efforts within the watershed to improve riparian and stream health; the applicant has developed a great track record of implementing this type of project. The fencing setback will need to meet guidelines. The project will help restore stream and riparian function in the project reach.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff:
Fund with Conditions; fencing setbacks must meet restoration guidelines.

Regional Review Team Priority
6 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$21,941.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board:
Fund with Conditions; fencing setbacks must meet restoration guidelines.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 21,941.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2030**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	West Fork Millicoma River Fish Passage Improvements 2017		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$110,404.00**	**Total Cost:**	$288,403.00
Proposed Match:	$177,999.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to replace two undersized culverts on salmon tributaries that flow under the West Fork Millicoma Road into the West Fork Millicoma River, located northeast of Coos Bay, with active channel width bridges. Both culverts are perched over 4 feet above the stream grade on the outfalls, obstructing passage to a total of 2.75 miles of upstream spawning and rearing habitat and disrupting sediment transport and natural stream function.

The Schumacher Creek culvert is located 3 miles past the blacktop on the WF Millicoma Road and is improperly imbedded with an outlet drop of approximately 5 feet and no jump pool at the outfall, blocking access for adult salmonids and juveniles to 2.5 miles of spawning and rearing habitat. An unnamed tributary to the West Fork flows through the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Millicoma Interpretive Center and Salmon Trout Enhancement Program Hatchery. This culvert is also perched with an outlet drop of 5 feet with no jump pool; the outlet drop is a barrier for adults and juveniles to access to 0.25 miles of habitat upstream. Fish passage and natural stream function would be restored through removal of both culverts and replacing them with active-channel width bridges. Project partners include Coos County Road Department and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Placement of bridges would remove maintenance and sediment input issues at that point.
- Coho are present downstream of the culverts, but cannot access areas upstream of them. Schumacher Creek has 2.5 miles of habitat above the culvert and unnamed creek has 0.25 miles.
- Project demonstrates good partnerships.
- The streams provide cool water refugia during the summer months.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Habitat quality above culverts is low intrinsic potential habitat.
- Work would restore substrate and gravel movement back into mainstem area but this area is mainly bedrock without much structure available to catch it.
- The design did not appear to provide a low-flow channel.
- Designs may not meet NOAA passage criteria, but there are exceptions for high gradients.
- The cost of the unnamed creek versus the amount of habitat did not seem to have as high a cost-benefit ratio as Schumacher Creek.

Concluding Analysis:
The applicant has a good track record of implementing similar projects. The quality of habitat above the culverts is currently lower quality but restoring fish passage to cool water refugia is important in areas with higher mainstem water temperatures. The cost-benefit ratio is less for the unnamed culvert because of the amount of habitat above this site.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions; designs shall meet NMFS/ODFW fish passage criteria.

Regional Review Team Priority
17 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$110,404.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2031**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Middle East Fork Millicoma River Instream Habitat Restoration and Road Sediment Reduction		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:** Coos	
OWEB Request:	**$384,614.00**	**Total Cost:** $568,334.00	
Proposed Match:	$183,720.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to address sediment inputs from logging roads in the middle section of the East Fork Millicoma by upgrading and storm-proofing them. In addition, the project partners propose to add large wood and boulder structures to the stream. The East Fork Millicoma River is located near Coos Bay and supports coho, Chinook, and chum salmon, and steelhead and cutthroat trout. The stream has been simplified through historic logging and stream cleaning practices and watershed assessments and instream habitat is a major limiting factor for fish in this basin.

Project partners propose to address salmonid habitat limiting factors in the uppermost 11.4 miles of the 4000 Road by installing 74 additional cross-drain culverts and replacing 10 undersized cross-drain culverts to reduce fine sediment delivery to anadromous streams. This project will complete road sediment reduction work on the 4000 Road mainline haul route from its junction with the 1000 Road, up to the watershed divide. Finally, the applicant proposes to install 50 large-wood and boulder structures in 3.0 miles of the East Fork Millicoma River. All structures will be placed with an excavator. Project partners include the Coos Watershed Association, the Weyerhaeuser Company and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project site is above the oxbow reconnection project (216-2012), which improved fish access for Chinook and coho to this proposed project reach.
- The project demonstrates a strong partnership in place.
- The project is very well developed and laid out with good methodology for site selection. The project is designed and is ready for implementation.
- It is a multifaceted project with benefit to numerous species from both habitat and access perspectives, and will help improve water quality through sediment input reduction.
- High cost/benefit ratio.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Some concern was raised over material size and boulder placement for stabilization. Discussion concluded that the designs were based on modeling efforts developed for placement of similar structures in the larger reaches of the West Fork Millicoma by the

applicant. The applicant has a great deal of experience designing and placing this type of structure.

Concluding Analysis:
The project builds on access work accomplished below the site. The project is part of a strategic plan to restore the West Fork Millicoma River. The project has been designed and is ready for implementation during the 2017 instream work window.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 384,614.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 384,614.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2032**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Powell Creek Instream Restoration - Phase 2		
Applicant:	Applegate Partnership, Inc.		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Josephine
OWEB Request:	**$159,595.00**	**Total Cost:**	$265,264.00
Proposed Match:	$105,670.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to place large wood structures in Powell Creek as well as address a diversion structure impacting fish passage. Powell Creek is a tributary to Williams Creek in the Applegate River watershed located near Williams. The project reach in Powell Creek has been shown in prior habitat surveys to be large wood debris (LWD) deficient. Current stream conditions are lacking in both the necessary structure and habitats needed by salmonids to successfully complete their lifecycle.

The project will build on work undertaken in Phase I which placed 31 large wood structures instream along 1.1 miles of stream. Phase II proposes to use 202 logs to install 37 large wood structures on 1.9 miles of Powell Creek immediately below Phase I. Phase II also includes the removal of an abandoned concrete dam located at river mile 1.8. The dam is a small concrete structure with stop board slats and an approximately 45' wide structure overall, an 8' opening in the creek, and a 3.5' concrete apron. The dam would be completely removed.

Project Partners include the Middle Rogue Steelheaders, Southern Oregon Flyfishers, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The headwaters provide cold water through the instream project site and down to where water diversions begin where 95% of the flow is quickly removed from the stream. Getting juvenile salmonids above the dam is important for summer survival.
- The applicant has revamped the application to address concerns from previous submittals, including dropping lower priority culvert replacement activities and adding a dam removal component.
- The project would benefit steelhead and coho. Chinook have been confirmed this season in the project area for the first time. The project would build continuity and expand the instream work successfully accomplished directly upstream of the proposed reach.
- The project has a good mix of partners and good level of match.
- There are no water rights associated with the dam and it does not impound water.
- The applicant has experience implementing dam removal projects and has ODFW and BLM technical expertise involved in the project.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The dam removal component was not as detailed as the instream habitat activities. It would have been helpful to understand the composition of sediments behind the dam and whether there was any anticipated head cutting.
- A site plan detailing material disposal would also have been helpful to the review; although the permitting process will address concerns about disposal. The dam is a smaller one and should be a fairly straight forward removal process.
- It was suggested the applicant consider doing stream profile surveys to monitor the stream post-removal.

Concluding Analysis:
The applicant presented a revised submittal that addressed concerns from previous reviews and added a dam removal component. The project builds on successful instream habitat restoration activities directly above the proposed project reach. Restoring access to cool water refugia is important to summer juvenile salmonid survival making removal of the abandoned diversion dam very timely.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$159,595.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$159,595.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2033**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Forest Creek Barrier Project		
Applicant:	Applegate Partnership, Inc.		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:** Jackson	
OWEB Request:	**$97,704.00**	**Total Cost:** $192,439.00	
Proposed Match:	$94,735.00		

Application Description

This project will improve fish passage at a concrete dam structure through construction of a by-pass channel. The project site is located 1.9 river miles from its confluence with the Applegate River near Ruch. Despite this history, the habitat on Forest Creek located upstream of this barrier is high intrinsic potential habitat for coho.

This project will open up passage through construction of an engineered bypass channel around the existing concrete structure. The structure is the first fish passage barrier on the stream and impacts adult and juvenile salmonid passage including coho and steelhead. The preliminary designs for this project were completed with funding from OWEB TA grant 215-2033-11631. The project will provide access for adults and juveniles to 2.4 miles of coho habitat and 4.2 miles of steelhead habitat upstream. This concrete structure was historically used to fill two large log ponds for the adjacent log mill, but has been unused for many decades and now currently provides stability for the road and pond levee. Partners include the BLM, landowners, Middle Rogue Steelheaders and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- It is the first known barrier on the stream and blocks juvenile and adult coho and steelhead passage to over 4 miles cool water, high intrinsic potential habitat.
- Applicant addressed design concerns from previous review. The design engineer is experienced in working on fish passage issues in the area and has worked on several other projects.
- Design has been approved by ODFW and a NOAA engineer but still needs to go through consultation with federal agencies.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The site is challenging and constrained by ownerships and the landowner's strong desire to leave the concrete structure in to protect the road bed. To address these concerns the design conformed to these boundaries.
- It was noted that the plantings do not have an irrigation component. It was not clear if watering was necessary at this location or an oversight.

- There was some confusion over the schedule which indicated design and implementation would overlap in the same month.
- Concern was raised over viability of project moving forward if ODFW R&E funds were not secured.

Concluding Analysis:
The project is the result of an OWEB TA Grant (215-2033). The project would address the lowest barrier on a tributary stream and open up considerable cool water, high intrinsic potential habitat for coho as well as quality habitats for steelhead and trout. The applicant has done a good job of addressing reviewer concerns from the previous submission. The project is designed and ready for implementation.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$97,704.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$97,704.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2034**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Ross Slough Restoration Project Phase III		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:** Coos	
OWEB Request:	**$130,405.00**	**Total Cost:** $229,665.00	
Proposed Match:	$99,260.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to replace an undersized culvert with a bridge on Ross Slough near Coos Bay. Ross Slough is an historical tidal wetland and tributary of Catching Slough, situated in a narrow agricultural valley that has been heavily impacted by past and current land management practices which have resulted in stream channelization and removal of riparian vegetation.

The culvert would be replaced with a bridge designed to pass a 100-year flood event. The current culvert is a 72" corrugated steel pipe that was placed within a reach of Ross Slough that has an 8'active channel width. The current culvert will pass a maximum of 178 cfs. The 50-year and 100-year peak flows are 417 cfs and 481 cfs, respectively. The proposed bridge is a 40'x25' modular bridge with guardrails with a 12' active channel width. The culvert is located at the bottom of the recently completed channel re-meandering and riparian restoration project (OWEB 216-2045). This project is located in lowland habitat accessible to Chinook, coho, Pacific lamprey and steelhead. Project partners include ODFW and the Coos County Road Department.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- High visibility project with a strong likelihood it will open the door to other projects.
- Applicant has developed a strong track record implementing this type of project.
- Having adequate access to direct estuary lowland tributaries is important to juvenile coho life history.
- This is a high priority culvert for project partners.
- Project ties directly to channel re-meander project above this site. This project would help with restoring natural stream function and drainage to the channel re-meander and CREP project upstream.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The plan lacked specific design details.
- The reviewers wanted to make sure BMPs were followed to ensure grout did not enter the stream.
- The proposed project schedule for implementation in June-September 2017 seemed ambitious; reviewers questioned whether the schedule was correct.
- Future work should include riparian planting and fencing at this site.

Concluding Analysis:
The project ties directly to upstream channel and habitat restoration efforts, and replacement would allow for a more natural stream function. Reviewers recognized the experience the project partners have in this type of work but having site-specific design detail is important to help reviewers evaluate the likelihood of success of the project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions. Bridge must meet NOAA/ODFW fish passage criteria. Grout application on bridge needs to follow BMPs.

Regional Review Team Priority
11 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$130,405.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2035**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Lower Rogue Estuary Enhancement		
Applicant:	Curry SWCD		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:** Curry	
OWEB Request:	**$67,739.00**	**Total Cost:** $86,376.00	
Proposed Match:	$18,637.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to undertake large wood placement in addition to invasive plant species removal and riparian planting activities in two estuary tributaries to the Lower Rogue near Gold Beach. Estuary conditions have been simplified through loss of estuary area and historic land use practices.

Enhancements to the riparian vegetation community are proposed for 10.5 acres along God Wants You Slough and Krambeal Creek. Invasives such as reed canary grass, English ivy, vinca, and blackberry will be addressed through manual removal, including a variety of approaches such as hand-pulling, chopping or digging, and weed eating. Following removal, planting plans will be finalized and a variety of native tree and shrub species will be planted according to the plans developed. Six log and boulder structures will be placed to help improve instream habitat complexity and flood plain interaction. The goal of the project is to increase suitable year-round habitat for all freshwater life stages of coho and other native salmonids, while also supporting channel/floodplain processes that will benefit other native aquatic species.

Project Partners include the Middle Rogue Steelheaders, ODFW, USF&WS, the Wild Rivers Coast Alliance and project landowners.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Restoring estuary function and floodplain connectivity is a priority.
- Project work would benefit multiple coho populations.
- Good outreach potential; post-project work involves local school students doing some monitoring

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application did not contain site-specific design details. Work in tidally influenced areas can be challenging because designs have to incorporate tidal movement as well as high tide and flood concerns. Large wood placement will need to consider all of these factors into the design.
- The application set a high target for planting survival but did not provide a planting plan or plant establishment plan. These are important to help the reviewers evaluate the likelihood of success.

- Budget identified fertilizer and herbicide components but the application did not describe details such as BMPs or license requirements for these activities.
- Additional information describing the importance of the proposed project site would also be helpful for laying the foundation for project need.
- Monitoring activities were identified as match but no specifics were provided.

Concluding Analysis:
Estuary and direct estuary tributary habitat restoration helps to address key factors impacting juvenile salmonid survivability. The reviewers suggested the applicant consider applying for a technical assistance grant to help support design for this project. Future applications can be strengthened with large wood design information, planting and plant establishment details, discussion on monitoring activities, and discussion on importance of sites proposed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2036**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Beeson-Robinson Fish Passage Improvement		
Applicant:	Rogue River WC		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:** Jackson	
OWEB Request:	**$25,668.00**	**Total Cost:** $142,977.00	
Proposed Match:	$35,036.00		

Application Description

The applicant proposes to remove the Beeson-Robinson diversion dam and replace it with a regraded stream channel to address juvenile salmonid fish passage issues at that location. The Beeson-Robinson Diversion Dam is located on Wagner Creek, 2.3 miles upstream of the confluence with Bear Creek near Talent.

This 5.5-feet high concrete and stop log dam blocks upstream trout, juveni1e steelhead and coho movement from April through October. The stop logs are removed during adult migration, but a 3-feet high leap or swim through heavy flows are required to pass the concrete sill. There are 4.5 miles of habitat upstream of the dam, 2 miles of which are low-gradient. Wagner creek has low summer water temperatures making it good rearing habitat. The applicant proposes removing the dam, building a 160-foot long, 5% gradient re-profiled stream channel, installing an irrigation water collection box and extending the water conveyance system to this point. The project will restore more natural stream function and hydrology to the location allowing for juvenile fish passage.

Project partners include The Freshwater Trust, Patagonia, Trout and Salmon Foundation, The Jubitz Family Foundation, Middle Rogue Steelheaders, Resource Legacy Fund, Rogue River Watershed Council, Jackson SWCD, Cascade Stream Solutions, Land owners, Rogue Basin partnership, Geos Institute, Schwemm Family Foundation and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project has been submitted multiple times. The applicant has done an excellent job of addressing reviewer comment and concerns.
- Landowners are committed to the project and the landowner agreement was provided in the application.
- The project ties into ODA Strategic Investment Area work with landowners on the ditch fed by this diversion, which have active projects in the SIA program. Upland areas above Wagner Creek are part of the Ashland Forest Health FIP.
- The applicant has done an outstanding job of fund-raising and reducing the request from OWEB.
- The project has been the subject of numerous outreach activities and has received national coverage.
- The project has a high benefit-to-cost ratio.

- Project designs are technically sound and the project has a high likelihood of success. ODFW fish passage permit has been obtained.
- The stream is one of the few cold water streams left in the Bear Creek watershed.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- If not funded soon there will be a loss of significant match.
- While the project area lacks documented coho use in the stream reach, coho are present in the watershed and there is no reason coho cannot access the project reach. Steelhead use is documented.

Concluding Analysis: This project is designed and ready for implementation. The project ties directly into other restoration activities and lays the foundation for improvements to the current irrigation system fed by the diversion. This project marks the first entry of new funding sources to the area. If the project is successful there is a high likelihood partners will continue to invest in fish passage efforts in the Rogue. The project will improve passage to a large section of the rare cool water refugia critical for juvenile salmonid survival in the Bear Creek system.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions; NOAA to confirm designs meet fish passage guidelines.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$25,668.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund with Conditions; prior to first fund request, the applicant will provide confirmation from NOAA and ODFW that designs meet fish passage criteria.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$25,668.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2037**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Catching Creek Riparian Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:** Coos	
OWEB Request:	**$97,175.00**	**Total Cost:** $131,075.00	
Proposed Match:	$33,900.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to restore riparian function through riparian planting and fencing and improve fish passage through the replacement of an undersized culvert on Catching Creek, a tributary to catching Slough near Coos Bay. Catching Creek is situated in a narrow agricultural valley that has been heavily impacted by past and current land management practices which have resulted in stream channelization and removal of riparian vegetation.

The project proposes to plant a variety of native tree and shrub species according to the planting plans developed. Invasive blackberry will be addressed prior to planting along a 3,300' reach of stream. A 350' section with steep bank will receive a pull-back treatment prior to planting. Plant establishment activities will occur after the planting to insure a goal of 80% survival. 3300' of livestock exclusion fencing will be installed along the mainstem and tributary with a 20' and 14' setback. An undersized culvert will be upgraded to pass a 100-year flood event and meet NOAA fish passage criteria. This project is located in lowland habitat accessible to Chinook, coho, and steelhead. Riparian plantings and fencing will improve bank stability and reduce sediment loads. Upgrading an undersized culvert will prevent future issues that may occur such as plugging and velocity barriers to improve access to 1.2 miles of spawning habitat.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The site is a high-profile area and should provide a great outreach opportunity.
- The landowner is providing a high-degree of match and is heavily involved in the project.
- The project would help protect riparian zones and improve riparian function and water quality.
- The applicant has a lot of experience and patience in approaching planting in similar areas.
- The bank pull-back proposed seemed reasonable and the best approach for that site.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The culvert plan information in the application was confusing. Some designs referenced a 7 ft., and others referenced an 8 ft. culvert.
- Planting plan information was unclear. The monitoring plan was not well described; the proposed high-density planting would have benefitted with more information on why that approach was appropriate and how it would be managed into the future.

- The bank pull-back component did not include an erosion control plan.

Concluding Analysis:
The project presents a great outreach opportunity as well as implements several restoration actions that benefit water quality and habitat conditions. The applicant has developed a good track record with similar projects. In this case, more design detail would have helped strengthen the application.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$97,175.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2038**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Big Creek Instream Restoration Phase II		
Applicant:	Smith River WC		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:** Douglas	
OWEB Request:	**$264,283.00**	**Total Cost:** $628,163.00	
Proposed Match:	$363,880.00		

Application Description

This project proposes to install large wood and boulder structures on nine tributaries to Big Creek, a tributary to the Smith River located near Reedsport. Big Creek has been impacted through historic land use practices which have resulted in simplified instream habitat conditions.

One hundred and three priority sites have been identified on nine tributaries to Big Creek. 75 sites will be treated by helicopter and 28 sites will be treated by excavator log placements. Five of these sites will add material additions to previous instream placements, including a total of 40 boulders to existing ballast structures; no other boulders will be used. The total material count is 828 logs and 40 boulders. Implementation of this project will treat all remaining high priority sites in the Big Creek watershed. Project activities would benefit natural stream function and help improve instream habitat conditions for steelhead, Chinook, cutthroat, coho and Pacific lamprey. Project partners include BLM, Roseburg resources Inc., ODFW, Western Native Trout Initiative, Douglas Timber Operators, Umpqua Fishery Enhancement Derby.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application presents a good mix of partners and takes a prioritized approach to tackling restoration in this watershed. The project continues to build on instream restoration activities. This is the highest ranked basin in the area for BLM.
- Project would benefit multiple species including coho. The area has High Intrinsic Potential for Coho.
- Reviewers appreciated the extra effort taken to coordinate helicopter mobilization.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Designs were not included in the application. Designs and discussion on log lengths are important to the review to help determine the likelihood of success.
- The application did not describe the excavator road work identified in the budget.
- Information on the previous project in the area with details on the reasons for failure or and how the proposed work would fix the issue would strengthen the proposal.

Concluding Analysis:
There is a lot of momentum to restore instream habitat in this watershed. The project would continue the prioritized approach of the project partners. While supportive of this priority work, reviewers did not feel they could support the project for funding at this time without design information.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2039**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Upper South Umpqua Habitat Restoration Project Phase IV		
Applicant:	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$106,865.00**	**Total Cost:**	$262,705.00
Proposed Match:	$155,840.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to install rock weirs and spawning gravels to help restore spawning and rearing opportunities for salmonids on the upper South Umpqua River near Tiller. Historic stream cleaning and land use practices have resulted in a simplified instream habitat and impaired stream function.

The project is located immediately upstream of Skillet and Emerson Creek and proposes to treat 500' of important spawning and rearing habitat, and increasing habitat diversity by constructing four rock weirs, adding 1,200 cubic yards of spawning gravel and placing 10 large trees in three clusters upstream of a prominent cobble bar. Project activities will help create a more complex, naturally functioning stream system in the project reach benefiting spring Chinook, other salmonids and Pacific lamprey. Project partners include Ecotrust and USFS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project site identification and prioritization are based on 20 years of monitoring data.
- The project would benefit spring Chinook whose numbers in the South Umpqua are at very low levels.
- Sites are located near summer holding pools to facilitate ease of access for fall spawning.
- The project is designed and ready for implementation. The project builds on previous work in the watershed to improve spawning opportunities.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The cost of the project is high compared to the amount of habitat to be improved.

Concluding Analysis:

The project is a resubmittal and was recommended the previous cycle but fell below the staff-recommended funding line. The project would help provide spawning opportunities for depressed spring Chinook populations in the South Umpqua. The work will help insure that adults have access to spawning areas in immediate proximity to summering pools which will increase the likelihood of spawning success.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$106,865.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2040**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Seestrom Tidal Channel Restoration Phase I		
Applicant:	Coquille Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:** Coos	
OWEB Request:	**$482,598.00**	**Total Cost:** $760,218.00	
Proposed Match:	$277,620.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to replace two old tidegates with one muted tidegate regulator and construct a new channel network behind the new gate as well as fence and plant the restored channel areas on a 201-acre property located on the southeast floodplain of the Coquille River near river mile 13.6 above Bandon. The project area was historically a tidal wetland. The lands in the Coquille River Valley floor were cleared, leveed, tidgated, and drained for agricultural purposes in the late 19th or early 20th century, thereby substantially altering the land from its historical state as a freshwater tidal swamp into a drained pasture.

The Seestrom Tidal Channel Restoration Phase I is planned for 201 acres of the northern portion of the Isenhart Ranch properties. The project will remove two tidegates and completely eliminate one and combine the channels and install a new concrete box culvert and side-hinged aluminum tidegate with a muted tidegate regulator inflow control device to allow a prescribed level of tidal inflow into the channel network. Approximately 15,000' of reconstructed tidally influenced channel will mimic more natural tidally influenced wetland conditions. Additionally, 11,000' of livestock exclusion fence will be constructed on primary channels with livestock crossings incorporated in order to facilitate continued use of the adjacent pastures following channel reconstruction and habitat improvements. Native woody and shrub species will be planted within the 10 ft. setback area adjacent to the tidal channels. Project activities will benefit coho and Chinook salmon juveniles as well as cutthroat trout and other species. The work will also help restore more natural tidal influence and benefit water quality. Project partners include landowners, ODFW, Powers Native Species Center and Bandon Go Native Programs, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, Coos Soil & Water Conservation District, and USF&WS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The landowner is supportive of the project, and has a multi-generational approach to management. The project would have benefits both for watershed health and for livestock management. The landowner is providing a great degree of match for the project.
- The project could make a good working landscape model.
- Off-channel habitat in tidally influenced lowlands during the winter is important to coho and other species life histories. The creation of additional access to improved habitat will greatly improve the value of existing coho habitat.

- Currently two tidegates are present. Project would eliminate the need for one and replace other with a more fish passage friendly muted tidegate regulated design.
- USFWS will be funding the engineering and design phase.
- Riparian and wetland plantings will help benefit water quality and support likely TMDL actions.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No designs were included for the channel or the tidegate. Designs have not yet been undertaken but with the USFWS support and funding that will begin soon. Without complete designs it is difficult to determine the accuracy of the budget and the likelihood of project success.
- If any levee work is involved there needs to be involvement by a specialist and exploratory work undertaken.
- A water management plan will need to be developed.
- There needs to be a mosquito management plan.
- The permit schedule seemed unrealistic based on the design schedule. The tidegate will need to meet NOAA/ODFW fish passage criteria which should be taken into account during the design and permitting phases.
- Fencing setbacks and large wood placements will need to meet guidelines.
- It was not clear if CREP might be an option for the landowner.

Concluding Analysis:
USFWS funded design and engineering will begin in the winter of 2017 but implementation will not be able to begin until 2018. The work is important to addressing loss of juvenile overwinter habitat which is a key limiting factor impacting coho. The project would benefit the watershed as well as improve the landowner's ability to effectively manage the property. The engineering work is just beginning and will better inform the budget and technical aspects of the final project design with construction anticipated in the 2018 field season.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions; develop a water management plan and a mosquito management plan.

Regional Review Team Priority
16 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$482,598.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2041**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	French Creek Instream Restoration		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:** Douglas	
OWEB Request:	**$127,006.00**	**Total Cost:** $253,420.00	
Proposed Match:	$126,414.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to add instream log and boulder structures to French Creek, a tributary to the North Umpqua River near Glide. French Creek's instream habitat has become simplified due to historic land use practices, stream cleaning, and grazing.

Project partners propose to place large wood and boulders at 57 sites throughout 2.25 miles of French Creek using 135 logs, 8 whole trees and 1,470 boulders. Logs, trees, and boulders will be placed using a cable yarder and excavator. Sites will consist of approximately 10 to 50 boulders, 0 to 2 trees, and 0 to 7 logs depending on size and hydrologic conditions of sites. Whole trees with root wads will be tipped, yarded, and placed in the stream. The addition of large wood and boulder complexes will help restore instream habitat complexity and promote more natural stream function. French Creek supports coho, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, Pacific lamprey, and other native resident fish. Project Partners include BLM, ODFW and the Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project builds on other restoration efforts undertaken in the area. The project is a high priority for the applicant.
- The project has high-outreach potential. The landowner is proactive and open to have people come and look at the project. The landowner is providing a good level of match to the project.
- The stream has high intrinsic potential for coho and supports trout, steelhead and Pacific lamprey

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application did not present revised boulder designs, which were delayed due to ODFW staff changes but are now in process with boulder placement shifting to lower bedrock stretches of stream. Long-term natural recruitment of large wood is unlikely to occur in the foreseeable future.

Concluding Analysis:
The project is a resubmittal which fell below the staff funding line during the last cycle. The project represents an excellent outreach opportunity with a very supportive landowner. The work would complement other restoration efforts. The stream has high intrinsic potential and the work proposed would benefit coho.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
8 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$127,006.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2042**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Adams Creek Culvert Removal and Riparian Enhancement Project		
Applicant:	Coos SWCD		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:** Coos	
OWEB Request:	**$80,990.00**	**Total Cost:** $104,287.00	
Proposed Match:	$23,298.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to address a juvenile fish passage impediment and implement riparian restoration actions on Adams Creek. Adams creek is a tributary within the Tenmile Lakes watershed near Lakeside. Currently, fish passage, exotic species, and simplified habitat complexity are limiting factors, impacting coho and other native salmonid species.

Under this proposal, 2,650' of riparian livestock exclusion fencing would be constructed with a 10' setback on a tributary to Adams Creek and 5,075' of riparian exclusion fencing at a 15' setback would be constructed on the main Adams Creek channel. The fenced streamside area will then be revegetated with a mix of willow, spruce, and cottonwood. Additionally an undersized deteriorated culvert would be removed and replaced with an engineered active channel width spanning bridge. Project activities would help benefit water quality issues as well as improve fish access to habitat above the project area. Project partners include ODFW, landowners, Coos SWCD and Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The landowner is supportive of the project and providing cash match.
- Project work would benefit water quality and would help implement the TMDL.
- The project would build on other restoration efforts in the watershed. Fencing and the bridge approach are based on methods proven to work well in this watershed.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application did not provide design information for bridge or culverts. Concerns were raised over use of the poly pipe in the side tributary. Poly pipe is not the preferred material and will likely not hold up as well as other types.
- Fencing setbacks do not meet minimum guidelines.
- A grazing management plan would be helpful to have in place. Soil types present make having a grazing plan essential to management.
- More information on herbicide application would be helpful.

Concluding Analysis:
The project would benefit water quality issues and support TMDL implementation in the watershed. Without design detail and with questions associated with fencing setbacks, lack of a grazing management plan and other related details, the review team did not feel they could recommend the project for funding at this time.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2043**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Jack Creek Habitat Improvement (Phase I)		
Applicant:	Elk Creek WC		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:** Douglas	
OWEB Request:	**$65,781.00**	**Total Cost:** $108,354.00	
Proposed Match:	$38,573.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to increase in-stream habitat complexity through placement of large wood in Jack Creek, a tributary to Elk Creek located near Drain. Historic land management practices such as stream cleaning have resulted in incised channels and bedrock substrates which are limiting the effective spawning and rearing habitat for coho in the watershed

The project will place in-stream logs in a three-quarter mile reach of Jack Creek. Specifically 71 logs and 40 boulders will be installed at 15 sites. Structures will be placed using an excavator. In addition, a perched culvert on Jack Creek Road is restricting access for both juvenile and adult coho into approximately 1.75 miles of Johnny Creek, a major tributary of Jack Creek, and will be replaced with a "fish friendly" culvert. Project partners include the landowner, BLM and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project reach contains high intrinsic potential habitat for coho.
- The applicant clearly described the process they used of prioritizing projects.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Simplified instream habitat is only one of the issues impacting the stream and while instream conditions are a limiting factor, stream health is also impacted by issues identified in the previous submission.
- The size of materials proposed seemed small for the system. It was not clear they would meet the guidelines.
- Some concern was noted at the ditch relief culvert draining into a field and potential for cutting into the field.
- No letter of support from the land owner was included.

Concluding Analysis:

The project is a resubmittal, which was not recommended for funding previously. The proposal was scaled down by approximately two-thirds and divided into phases. The Phase I request from OWEB focuses placement of material in areas where livestock do not have access. Reviewers felt the project resubmittal did not address concerns from the previous submission related to developing a more comprehensive approach to restoring the stream to address other important limiting factors and meeting NOAA fish passage requirements at the culvert proposed as match. Reviewers felt the

issues identified in the first review were still relevant despite the changes and did not recommend it for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2044**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Butler/Lutsinger 2017 Instream Restoration		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:** Douglas	
OWEB Request:	**$149,891.00**	**Total Cost:** $408,396.00	
Proposed Match:	$258,505.00		

Application Description

This project seeks to improve instream habitat conditions on Butler and Lutsinger Creeks by placing large wood and boulders instream. These streams are tributaries to the lower Umpqua River located near Elkton. These stream systems have been simplified through historic land management practices and stream cleaning.

This project seeks to restore 4.3 miles of Lutsinger Creek (including tributaries), and 1 mile of Butler Creek. The project will place, with a helicopter and excavator, 424 logs, 61 whole trees and 103 whole trees with root wads at 86 sites. Project work will help create habitat complexity with more natural stream function essential to salmonid spawning and rearing. Lutsinger Creek has already been the subject of restoration activities. When this proposal is implemented, all reaches of Lutsinger Creek and Butler Creek that are accessible to salmonids will be fully restored. The streams support coho, cutthroat trout, and steelhead and Pacific lamprey. Project partners include BLM, Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Bring Back the Natives, Meyer Memorial Trust, Roseburg Resources, Co., and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project would benefit coho and other species. Project locations contain high intrinsic potential habitat.
- Cost-per-mile seems reasonable and the applicant is utilizing quality materials.
- The project would complete large instream wood restoration in the two watersheds. This is complementary to previous restoration efforts in Butler and Lutsinger creeks. There is not much natural large wood recruitment making a more passive approach difficult.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The timing of the helicopter work seemed late in the season. Factoring in potential for fire season and the location in upper watershed, there is a high degree of likelihood a waiver would be granted to allow for the late season instream work.
- Reviewers would have preferred to see a higher match contribution from the landowner.
- Tree cutting costs were high.

Concluding Analysis:
The project was a resubmittal from the previous cycle but fell below the staff funding line. The applicant did a good job of addressing reviewer concerns from the last submission. The reviewers felt the applicant was taking a reasonable approach to getting the largest amount of work done in the area as possible at one time to maximize cost savings and avoid needing to re-enter the system for additional work. Project work would address key limiting factors for coho in the system and help improve stream function.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$149,891.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2045**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	North Bank Working Landscape Preservation & Tidal Channel Restoration		
Applicant:	Coos SWCD		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:** Coos	
OWEB Request:	**$272,424.00**	**Total Cost:** $352,125.00	
Proposed Match:	$79,702.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to replace an old tidegate with one muted tidegate regulator and construct a new channel network behind the new gate as well as repair failing levee areas and fence and plant the restored channel areas on a property located on the Coquille River near river mile 7.1 above Bandon. The project area was historically a tidal wetland. The lands in the Coquille River Valley floor were cleared, leveed, tidgated, and drained for agricultural purposes in the late 19th or early 20th century, thereby substantially altering the land into a drained pasture used seasonally.

The project is planned for a 41-acre parcel. The project will replace one old tidegate and install a new concrete box culvert and side-hinged aluminum tidegate with a Muted Tidal Regulator inflow control device to allow prescribed levels of tidal inflow into the channel network, which will see approximately 4,500' of reconstructed tidally influenced channel designed to mimic more natural tidally influenced wetland conditions. Large woody debris will be installed in the channel network to increase hiding cover and overall complexity. Also, 2,950' of livestock exclusion fence will be constructed on primary channels with livestock crossings incorporated in order to facilitate continued use of the adjacent pastures following channel reconstruction and habitat improvements. Native woody and shrub species will be planted within the setback area adjacent to the tidal channels. Project activities will benefit coho and Chinook salmon juveniles as well as cutthroat trout and other species. The work will also help restore more natural tidal influence and benefit water quality. Project partners include project landowners and the family trust, ODFW, Coquille Watershed Association, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance and Coos Soil & Water Conservation District.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Off-channel habitat in tidally influenced lowlands during the winter is important to coho and other species life histories. The creation of additional access to improved habitat will greatly improve the value of existing habitat for coho.
- The project could make a good working landscape model.
- The landowner is very supportive and is interested in increasing their capacity to manage the land.
- Riparian plantings will help benefit water quality and support likely TMDL actions.
- The project would complement other tidally influenced off-channel habitat work in the area.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Designs for the tidegate and constructed channels project have not have been done. This makes it difficult to evaluate the costs and activities being proposed.
- Levee work needs to be designed by a specialist and include exploratory work.
- There needs to be a water management plan in place as well as a mosquito management plan.

Concluding Analysis:
The project has great potential to provide tidally influenced off-channel rearing habitat for juvenile coho and other species. Funding is not currently available for this activity. Coos SWCD and ODFW are interested in assisting, but additional support for that work will be needed. Reviewers felt they could not support a funding recommendation without design information that would allow the approach and budget to be reviewed for appropriateness and likelihood of success. The reviewers felt this type of project and its complexity made for a good candidate for a technical assistance proposal.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2046**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	McGee Creek Instream Restoration		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:** Douglas	
OWEB Request:	**$223,353.00**	**Total Cost:** $405,616.00	
Proposed Match:	$182,263.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to place large wood and boulder structures, plant riparian vegetation, and fence and remove a partial fish passage-blocking culvert on McGee Creek, a direct tributary to the Umpqua River located 10 miles south of Elkton. McGee Creek has simplified instream habitat conditions and suffers from a lack of large wood.

The project seeks to restore 3.2 miles of McGee Creek through the placement of LWD and boulders, removal of exotic vegetation, removal of a partially fish-blocking culvert, and installation of a riparian livestock exclusion fence. Using an excavator, 241 logs and 616 tons (approximately 440 boulders) of boulders will be placed into 41 sites on 3.2 miles of the mainstem McGee Creek and its tributaries. One mile of stream will see invasive blackberry removal and willow planting as well as livestock exclusion fencing. An undersized culvert will be removed and replaced with a railcar bridge. Project activities will improve instream conditions and water quality benefiting coho, steelhead and cutthroat trout as well as Pacific lamprey. Project partners include the project land owners, Roseburg Resources Inc., BLM and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Landowners are very enthusiastic and committed to the project. Land is managed from a multi-generational approach. The applicant has developed a great track record implementing similar projects.
- Coho and steelhead utilize the stream and while it has high intrinsic potential it is in a lower quality condition. Cool water refugia are present in the upper reaches.
- The project presents a full package of restoration actions (instream habitat, riparian planting, invasive species eradication, fish access and fencing) which will benefit instream and riparian health, addressing several limiting factors.
- Fencing and planting help implement TMDL actions.
- There is great potential for long-term large wood recruitment.
- Fencing setback exceeds the restoration guidelines (average 35').
- Good level of match.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Some of the design information had numbers which did not match numbers on photos.
- The application did not explain the large number of boulders being proposed. Discussion concluded boulders were concentrated in bedrock dominated areas and bedrock areas where tributaries joined to create backwater areas.

Concluding Analysis:
The project presents a well-rounded approach to addressing several issues impacting the health of the stream including helping improve water quality and instream habitat conditions for over-wintering juvenile salmonids. The stream provides important cool water refugia for juveniles needing to escape from summer stream conditions in the Umpqua River.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$223,353.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$223,353.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2047**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Headwaters Elk Creek Habitat and Riparian Improvement		
Applicant:	Elk Creek WC		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:** Douglas	
OWEB Request:	**$116,116.00**	**Total Cost:** $200,521.00	
Proposed Match:	$76,405.00		

Application Description

The project seeks to restore a reach located on upper Elk Creek, located above Drain, through placement of large wood, fencing the riparian area, riparian plantings, and construction of a livestock crossing. Historic land management practices such as stream cleaning have resulted in incised channels and simplified instream habitat conditions. The lack of large wood has increased water velocities and prevented bedload accumulation and the formation of spawning habitat and deep pools with complex rearing habitat.

Restoration will be done along 0.85 miles of private land and 1.5 miles of BLM-managed land. Approximately 2,700 feet of riparian fencing will be constructed to exclude livestock from the creek. A 40-foot railcar bridge will be installed for the livestock crossing. On the private land portion of the project, 1,000 willows will be planted to encourage expansion of the current beaver population. Additional willows will be planted on the BLM sites.

Project partners include ODFW, BLM, Umpqua Fisheries Enhancement Derby, Douglas SWCD and the landowner.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The landowner is very enthusiastic and involved in the project.
- This is a tier 1 key watershed for coho and has high intrinsic potential. The project would help address limiting factors.
- There are good partnerships and match.
- The landowner has a grazing plan and utilizes it in management.
- The fencing setback meets/exceeds restoration guidelines.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Reviewers felt additional information on herbicide use and location of use would have been helpful. The herbicide applicator was reminded to follow label requirements and use BMPs.
- Reviewers felt investment in the bridge warranted having the design stamped by a licensed professional engineer. Bridge work site isolation was not identified in the budget and needs to be factored in to the work. The bridge design does meet fish passage requirements.

- The planting survival target is very ambitious with potential for beaver predation if successful in reintroducing them.

Concluding Analysis:
The project is a resubmittal and was not recommended for funding during the last cycle. The reviewers felt the applicant did a good job of addressing concerns from the previous evaluation and presented a well-rounded approach which addresses several factors impacting the stream.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions; bridge design is stamped by a PE.

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 17

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$116,116.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions; bridge design is stamped by a PE prior to releasing funds for that budget line item.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$116,116.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2048**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Applegate Fish Passage Improvement Project Outreach		
Applicant:	Applegate Partnership, Inc.		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Josephine
OWEB Request:	**$25,832.00**	**Total Cost:**	$42,831.00
Proposed Match:	$17,000.00		

Application Description

This proposal will seek to develop landowner and water user agreements along with the conceptual project development designs for at least 13 priority barriers in the Applegate River Watershed located in Jackson and Josephine Counties.

A comprehensive fish passage improvement program is critical to scaling up the collective impact in the Rogue River Basin. Every fish passage improvement project requires extensive landowner and water user outreach and agreement negotiation prior to project design and implementation. The project proposes to conduct the necessary outreach and advance negotiated agreements with landowners and water users for at least 13 fish passage structures in order to begin the process of fish passage improvement. Additionally, this project will support the successful delivery of at least eight negotiated fish passage improvement projects in order to leverage and secure significant match funding. Project Partners include the Rogue Basin Partnership and Trout Unlimited.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Application demonstrates strong partnerships that have been working together to address a key limiting factor impacting salmonids in the Rogue Basin.
- Builds on previous OWEB-funded efforts to address barriers.
- Application clearly laid out project outcome expectations and anticipated accomplishments. There has been good progress in the Rogue basin toward addressing passage issues. Engaging landowners proactively is going to be key to getting traction to address remaining priority barriers.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Water quantity is also a key limiting factor and many barriers have active diversions associated with them. Looking for opportunities to improve irrigation and on-farm efficiency and realize instream water savings needs to be a central theme of this type of work.

Concluding Analysis:
Partners in the Rogue basin have developed an outstanding track record of addressing fish passage barriers, an important issue impacting salmonids in the Rogue Basin. This project would continue that momentum. Water quantity is also a key limiting factor in the Rogue and incorporating instream water savings through irrigation and on-farm efficiencies where possible needs to be a central theme in this type of work.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions. Incorporate exploring irrigation effectiveness/efficiency at sites involving water rights.

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$25,832.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions. Final report will document efforts to explore irrigation effectiveness/efficiency at sites involving water rights.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$25,832.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2049**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Leed's Island Restoration & Acquisition Technical Assistance		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$49,975.00**	**Total Cost:**	$66,708.00
Proposed Match:	$16,734.00		

Application Description

This Technical Assistance project will develop a suite of restoration options at Leeds Island, a conservation property that was historically a wetland complex with three islands at the confluence of the Umpqua River, Scholfield Creek, and Providence Creek near Reedsport. Partners will undertake the critical due diligence required to best meet the needs and desires of the current landowner and the ecological requirements of restoring a tidal wetland. The resulting project will identify a broad list of ecological goals and objectives for the site. Concurrently, this grant will fund the essential community outreach work necessary to build support for the project.

Project Partners include McKenzie River Trust, ODFW, Umpqua SWCD and the land owner.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Protecting/restoring tidal estuarine areas is very important to many species including coho and will help improve water quality. This project offers a great opportunity to build a solid, meaningful acquisition project from the start. The project covers significant acreage with one supportive landowner.
- The project is based on lessons learned from other efforts. Scoping upfront will help the project be efficient and effective and support the critical outreach efforts.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The proposed outreach activities Require 26 staff days, which seems excessive for community outreach; however, the RRT realized that this project is based on lessons learned from other efforts and the applicant wants to make sure all the bases are covered adequately.
- There needs to be a mosquito management component.
- LiDAR should also be considered as a tool already in place that can help with design and planning work.

Concluding Analysis:

The proposal represents a good opportunity to develop a community supported acquisition project from the inception. The work proposed is based on previous lessons learned from prior efforts as well as lessons learned from other areas.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions. Incorporate development of mosquito management component

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$49,975.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions. The final report will document development of mosquito management plan component.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$49,975.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2050**	**Project Type:** Monitoring	
Project Name:	Southwest Oregon Side by Side Trial		
Applicant:	Applegate Partnership, Inc.		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:** Jackson	
OWEB Request:	**$69,581.00**	**Total Cost:** $102,794.00	
Proposed Match:	$20,723.00		

Application Description

The applicant is proposing to monitor the survival of riparian planting at two sites, one located along the mainstem Applegate River and the other along a tributary, Thompson Creek. The Applegate River is a tributary to the Rogue River. Project sites are near Williams and Applegate.

The project will monitor 6,400 trial plantings for 5 years. These trial plantings are split between the Provolt Riparian Restoration Project along the Applegate River, and the Thompson Creek Habitat Restoration Project Phase 2 (OWEB #215-2022). This work will produce region-specific guidance for riparian restoration specific to the unique characteristics found in the mixed plant communities of southwest Oregon. With data from this trial, restoration practitioners will be able design data-driven planting prescriptions based on demonstrated species success, availability of irrigation water, and stock size. Project partners include OSU Extension, BLM and The Freshwater Trust.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The applicant has identified the need for riparian planting guides in the mixed mesophytic plant communities of SW Oregon's riparian habitat.
- This information will be shared with the Rogue Basin Partnership's Riparian Working Group.
- The timeline seems reasonable to understand how the different treatments affect the parameters they will be measuring.

Concerns:

- The application did not provide basic information such as the species of plants or how the plants were to be planted.
- The application lacked information to understand how the applicant would verify the amount of water provided to the plants is consistent over the study areas and period.
- The application mentioned measuring solar exposure, but did not explain how it would be measured, which limited understanding of whether this information could be collected consistently over the study areas and period.
- The application provides little information to determine if the applicant is working with the appropriate organizations in the area. The limited contributions by The Freshwater Trust and OSU Extension did not help to clarify how these organizations would contribute to the success of the project over the life of the study.

- It was not clear how the applicant will compile this information after the project is completed to make it useful for others. The application mentioned creating a guide, but did not carry that through in other sections of the application.
- There was no letter of support from BLM.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (100%)
Certainty of Success: Low (75%), Medium (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Work would focus on implemented OWEB-funded riparian restoration work and the data collected could be helpful to inform future project design.
- The budget was well presented and the breakdown provided clear justification for the costs. The project would consider a large sample size.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application did not describe the statistical analysis that would be done.
- There are many different factors that can impact a planting site and it was not clear that this work could address all of those factors.
- There are several documents that are already developed to help guide plant establishment efforts in Southwest Oregon and it was not clear that this work would add anything to what is already known.

Concluding Analysis:

Improving the success rate of riparian planting is a worthwhile effort and important to ensure the investment in this work has the best likelihood of return. There is a lot of information on planting and establishment approaches, but it was unclear if this work would add to what is already known.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2051**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Eel Lake Pacific Lamprey and Native Fish Monitoring		
Applicant:	Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$36,437.00**	**Total Cost:**	$68,190.00
Proposed Match:	$31,754.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to identify Pacific and brook lamprey and other fish passage barriers in Eel Creek, a tributary to Eel Lake located just south of Reedsport, and collect water quality and baseline and trend data for Pacific lamprey and other native fish species at tributaries of Eel Lake and the Eel Lake Trap facility.

Pacific lamprey passage surveys will occur at nine stream crossings on Eel Creek. These surveys will follow protocols and data forms established in the "Evaluation of Barriers to Pacific Lamprey Migration in the Eel River Basin" prepared by Stillwater Sciences for the Wiyot Tribe in 2014. During the summer of 2017, Pacific lamprey presence/absence and habitat surveys will be conducted. The baseline and trend data collected and analyzed in this project will be essential in developing the Tenmile Lakes Basin Lamprey Conservation Plan. Coho, winter steelhead and cutthroat trout passage surveys and presence surveys will also occur along with water quality monitoring of pH, turbidity, dissolved oxygen and temperature. Project partners include Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians, Eel/Tenmile S.T.E.P. group, and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Attention to lamprey is a good thing in this area.
- The applicant appears to be coordinating with the Tribes and ODFW's local biologist and lamprey coordinator.
- The protocol proposed to be used was developed by a reputable firm and seems very well defined and reliable.
- The applicant has a good track record on past water-quality monitoring projects funded by OWEB and has done a good job of reporting out results to the community.

Concerns:

- The salmon monitoring that is proposed seems like an after-thought.
- The application contains limited information about exactly what this monitoring is going to do and how it will inform decisions.
- It appears the applicant is connected with the right people at ODFW, but the lack of a support letter causes the OPMT to question the level of coordination that will actually occur.

- Only one year of data collection is being proposed, which seems insufficient for baseline data collection.
- The lack of clarity on exactly what monitoring is being proposed makes it difficult to evaluate whether the positions included in the budget can actually accomplish the proposed monitoring and meet their stated objectives.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (60%), High (40%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (60%), High (20%), Low (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project demonstrates good partnerships and builds on Tenmile Lake Basin Partnership's successful monitoring record.
- Not much is known about Pacific lamprey and this would help begin to fill in the blanks.
- The lamprey component was well-thought-out and described.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- One year of data collection may not be sufficient to develop a sound baseline.
- eDNA might be an effective alternative method of gathering data.
- The salmonid/trout monitoring component did not seem as well-thought-out as the lamprey work.

Concluding Analysis:

Getting information on Pacific Lamprey and other native fish species use would fill a data gap. The project demonstrates tribal and agency partnerships. The project would lay the foundation for future collaborative restoration and monitoring work. Looking at a longer-term effort would provide a more solid set of baseline data.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$36,437.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$36,437.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2052**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Elk Creek Rapid Bioassessment and Action Plan		
Applicant:	Elk Creek WC		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:**	Douglas
OWEB Request:	**$68,453.00**	**Total Cost:**	$89,871.00
Proposed Match:	$21,418.00		

Application Description

The project would fund bio-assessment and habitat data collection on streams in the Elk Creek watershed, a tributary to the Umpqua River, located near Elkton.

The Elk Creek Watershed is an important spawning and rearing habitat for endangered coho salmon, as well as other aquatic species. The project proposes to collect information necessary to develop reach-specific action plans for instream restoration in priority sub-watersheds. To accomplish this bio-assessment and habitat, data collection would occur on approximately 25 miles of streams. The data collected would be analyzed and reach-specific restoration action plans would be developed. Project information would also be utilized in outreach activities to landowners to engage them in the possibility of undertaking restoration activities. Project partners include Roseburg District BLM, ODFW, Douglas SWCD and InSight Consultants.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This project would be helpful to engage landowners and potentially increase involvement in future restoration projects.
- The applicant is working with a planning group that includes biologists from BLM, ODFW and a consulting firm to develop a modified RBA protocol to fill data gaps.
- The applicant plans to hire a contractor familiar with the protocol.
- The letter of support from a landowner, showing local buy-in, was appreciated.

Concerns:

- The application was not clear on how they are going to share the information with ODFW.
- It was not clear who is managing the project since the applicant did not include any project management funding in the budget.
- Some of the information in the budget narrative was helpful, but the applicant did not describe why the $10,000 for crew support was needed since the contracted services covered travel and per diem expenses.
- The application and the attachments did not clearly describe how the continuous water temperature monitoring would be implemented. It was vague as to how long the continuous monitors would be operated and where they would be deployed to compliment the spot measurements that would be taken during the RBA survey.

- The OPMT was concerned that the RBA data would only provide a one-year snap shot of juvenile distribution. It will be important to consider the results in the context of low spawner abundance, given that a period of low adult marine survival is expected in the coming years.

Recommendations:

- If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide water temperature loggers for this project.
- If funded, the applicant should better account for the match they will be providing to manage this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (60%), High (40%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (80%), High (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is a high priority for the applicant and ties in with previous work with ODFW. The protocol is sound and would allow for comparison to ODFW data.
- The applicant undertook a similar trial project on a tributary and it was completed successfully.
- The areas proposed are considered high intrinsic potential for coho.
- Information collected could help with landowner outreach efforts in the watershed.
- The temperature data collection would be helpful to round out the picture of watershed conditions.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The RRT felt the cost per mile was high compared to costs associated with similar work undertaken by agencies.
- One year of survey work only provides a single glimpse of juvenile distribution. It is not clear how adult spawning numbers and ocean conditions would be factored into one year of data in a meaningful way.
- The application did not appear to address previous reviewer comments about looking at the Umpqua River watershed as a whole to determine if Elk Creek would be the priority area to start this work as well as engaging the Partnership of the Umpqua River on this issue.
- It was not clear the level of land owner support for the project and whether the likelihood of getting enough contiguous landowners on board was achievable. This area has a high degree of mistrust of government agencies and it was not clear if landowners would agree to information collected on their properties being open to the public, especially the water temperature information.

Concluding Analysis:

Collecting data on juvenile coho distribution can be a valuable tool for both targeting restoration efforts as well as outreach activities. The watershed is known as being difficult to gain landowner trust. This work could help open that door by helping them understand the importance of their streams to the salmon population, but reviewers were unsure whether landowners would allow access to do the work. The review team continues to feel that the proposal could be strengthened by showing how Elk Creek fits into the larger Umpqua River watershed and by engaging the Partnership of the Umpqua River in that discussion.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2053**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	WISE Effectiveness Monitoring Project - Baseline Monitoring		
Applicant:	Rogue River WC		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Jackson
OWEB Request:	**$41,497.00**	**Total Cost:**	$128,457.00
Proposed Match:	$68,886.00		

Application Description

This 2-year project supports the continued operation of water quality sondes and grab sample monitoring at four locations in the Bear Creek and Little Butte Creek watersheds located near Medford, and will continue to generate baseline data essential to determine whether the Water for Irrigation, Streams and Economy (WISE) Project benefits aquatic life and habitat. This work will provide data for basin partners to prioritize restoration projects in Little Butte Creek and Bear Creek watersheds. Project partners include Jackson SWCD, DEQ, RVCOG, Medford Water Commission, and Rogue River Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application has clearly stated objectives and a suitable explanation of the protocols that will be followed.
- This project is ongoing and relies on an established relationship among the partners to continue to collect pre-restoration monitoring data.
- There is a good amount of match being provided by the partners.
- The applicant has addressed issues that were identified since the application was last submitted in regards to data management and the number of monitoring sites.
- The applicant has had success in collecting over a year of data with funds previously provided by OWEB.

Concerns:

- It was not clear why the field hours were so high for the monthly sonde calibration and maintenance checks.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The work builds on an ongoing project and the data collected will support the TMDL.
- Well-written application and plan.
- Project demonstrates a great array of partnerships and high match.
- The work builds on past OWEB projects.
- Work clearly would help fill a data gap.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No Concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis:
The project demonstrates strong working partnerships and a well-thought-out proposal. The effort has a high likelihood of continued success. Besides setting baseline condition information for the WISE project, the information collected will help discern impacts of other restoration efforts.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$41,497.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$41,497.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2054**	**Project Type:** Monitoring	
Project Name:	Umpqua Basin Stream Flow and Temperature Monitoring Project		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:** Douglas	
OWEB Request:	**$60,401.00**	**Total Cost:** $96,586.00	
Proposed Match:	$36,185.00		

Application Description

This project proposes to collect another two years of low-flow and summer stream temperature data at select sites in the Umpqua Basin located in Douglas County, which would extend the record of data that has been collected since 1998 at these sites.

The proposed project is the continuation of a successful program originated in 1998 to monitor flows and temperatures in 23 high restoration priority WABs (Water Availability Basins) during the low-flow summer and fall months. Stream flow and temperature data will be used by PUR for effectiveness monitoring, by DEQ for TMDL modeling and long-term water quality analysis, by ODFW for flow restoration assessment, and by OWRD to protect instream water rights and leases. Project partners include Douglas County, ODFW, BLM, USDA Forest Service and the Collins Foundation.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This application has improved from the previous submission and now includes a component of data analysis that includes funding for this task.
- The applicant has a good track record for collecting high-quality data that is shared with a variety of partners.
- The data are used by the Douglas County watermaster to manage water allocations during low-flow periods.

Concerns:

- The application was not clear about the different uses of data that is collected, who uses the data and what the products of the analyses would lead to in terms of future uses.
- The in-kind labor for DEQ that is stated in the budget is not described well in the grant application.

Recommendations:

- If funded, please provide a list of new restoration projects developed or past restoration projects that have been evaluated by PUR and/or partners with this data in the project completion report.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (75%), Medium (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project builds on a long-running program and data set that utilizes established protocols.
- Demonstrates good partnerships and match commitment.
- Letters of support and landowner agreement samples were provided.
- Nor West database is being used.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application lacked sufficient detail on the need for additional data collection.
- It was suggested that looking at flow data during the entire year would help document changes in flow patterns that would be expected from climate change.
- Mileage costs seemed high but work is based on previous project work.
- The application lacked a description of how the data has been specifically used to evaluate past restoration project effectiveness.

Concluding Analysis:

The project builds on a long running program and established data set and has proven to provide useful for project partner's work and ties into other monitoring efforts. Future applications can be strengthened by providing detail describing value of adding additional years of data onto what already exists as well as documenting how information collected specifically helps identify and develop future restoration sites as well as how the data is being used to evaluate past restoration activities success.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions; provide a list of new restoration projects developed or past restoration projects that have been evaluated by PUR and/or partners with this data.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$60,401.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund with Conditions; provide a list of new restoration projects developed or past restoration projects that have been evaluated by PUR and/or partners with this data in the project completion report.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$60,401.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2055**	**Project Type:** Monitoring	
Project Name:	Umpqua Basin Collaborative Monitoring 2017-2019		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:** Douglas	
OWEB Request:	**$216,431.00**	**Total Cost:** $317,022.00	
Proposed Match:	$100,591.00		

Application Description

This project proposes to continue PUR's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program to monitor the health of the Umpqua Basin streams in the Umpqua River basin located in Douglas County by identifying the status and observing the trends over time in basin stream conditions.

Work activities consist of standard monthly water quality monitoring runs in three fifth-field watersheds of the Umpqua Basin plus monitoring reference sites. Each run will be monitored once per month, collecting water quality data on temperature, turbidity, conductivity, dissolved oxygen, pH, total coliform, E. coli bacteria, blue/green algae, total chlorophyll and photo points at 12 to 20 sites per watershed. In addition, summer instream temperature data loggers, recording every 30 minutes, will be located throughout the watersheds. Project partners include BLM and the Collins Foundation.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The OPMT likes the rotating basin approach that PUR has taken, which targets three sub-basins at a time, to implement their monitoring approach over a broad spatial area.
- The applicant has a good track record of completing monitoring efforts in the past.
- The application contains sound methods and good QA/QC procedures that are documented in a DEQ approved Sampling and Analysis Plan.

Concerns:

- The application lacks detailed monitoring questions and a description of the analyses performed to prioritize restoration projects.
- There was no mention of using volunteers in the application, yet the budget includes volunteers as in-kind match. It would have been helpful to describe how these volunteers are trained and what their role in the project is.
- The applicant did not define why the parameters monitored are needed. The OPMT noted that this project would benefit by adding nutrients and total suspended solids to the sampling plan.
- The application doesn't explicitly identify how the data will inform the TMDL and agricultural water quality management processes.
- This application has a high cost.

Recommendations:

- If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide resources to reduce the costs for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (75%), Medium (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project builds on a long running program and data set that utilizes established protocols.
- Demonstrates good partnerships and commitment.
- The approach to moving methodically through the watershed within the basin is sound.
- The project has established, sound protocols and good QA/QC in place.
- Applicant has developed a great track record for implementing monitoring projects.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Reviewers noted previous applications from the basin included stream gage support and questioned whether stream gages had a role in the monitoring plan in the future.
- Personnel costs seemed high but it was noted this is a year-round project with corresponding work and analysis activities.

Concluding Analysis:

The project has developed an established successful track record and is taking a planned approach to gathering data in the watershed. The work is built on good protocols and methods. The methodical approach to monitoring a few sub-basins every two years with the ultimate goal of focusing on a few critical ones after this is complete is a sound tactic.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions; coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$216,431.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund with Conditions; Coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. This will be documented as part of the Final project completion report.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$216,431.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2056**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	East Fork Millicoma Oxbow Passage Monitoring Program - Phase I		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:**	Coos
OWEB Request:	**$56,052.00**	**Total Cost:**	$100,324.00
Proposed Match:	$44,272.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to document the response of fish to restoration actions at the Oxbow re-connection project located on the East Fork Millicoma near Coos Bay. Coho, fall Chinook, steelhead, and anadromous cutthroat trout populations are expected to respond to a measurable degree due to resolution of the passage barrier at the Oxbow.

The spawning surveys will document changes in the temporal and spatial distribution of coho and fall Chinook in response to the elimination of the passage barrier at the bypass chute by reconnecting the 0.6 mile historic Oxbow channel that was cut off in 1958. Additional work will conduct surveys that replicate pre-project surveys in order to track the morphological and habitat changes that occur within the newly reconnected Oxbow channel. Project partners include ODFW and Weyerhauser Timber Company.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This project makes good use of the baseline and continuing monitoring by ODFW.
- This project has potential to describe biological outcomes associated with a large investment in restoration projects.
- The applicant is proposing to collect a lot of data that can be linked together to describe the benefit of this restoration project.
- The protocols and timeline are reasonable.
- There are several support letters, and good match is provided.

Concerns:

- This is a unique project, and the OPMT questioned if the results of this project could be exported to other areas.
- The timeline did not describe when or how long the data analysis would take to occur before providing a comprehensive final product.
- The OPMT questioned if effectiveness of the restoration can be gauged by using the existing and ongoing ODFW monitoring data, thus not requiring OWEB funds.
- In general, this restoration effort is a fish-passage project. Strong evidence already shows that there is a positive fish response to opening more habitat. The OPMT questioned if the

investment in monitoring makes sense, in light of the limited availability of funds, if nothing new is learned.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (80%), High (20%)
Certainty of Success: High (80%), Medium (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The oxbow reconnection project represented a sizeable important investment and demonstrating success is important.
- The application presented a robust data analysis plan for using the data.
- Incorporates both adult and juvenile survey work.
- Project demonstrates a strong partnership and a high degree of match.
- The applicant has a very strong track record of developing and implementing monitoring projects and utilizing data collected to inform future actions as well as assess success of efforts.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was not clear if survey work was being coordinated with possible ODFW surveys that may be happening in the area. ODFW is a project partner so that may be occurring and just not clear from the application.
- It was not clear why physical surveys needed to be repeated every year.

Concluding Analysis:
Tracking and validating the success of restoration activities is very important to describing the success of investments. The project offers a great opportunity to document uplift from restoration activities.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 7

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$56,052.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$56,052.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2057**	**Project Type:** Monitoring	
Project Name:	Curry Watersheds Comprehensive Strategic Monitoring Plan Development		
Applicant:	Curry SWCD		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:** Curry	
OWEB Request:	**$45,246.00**	**Total Cost:** $81,785.00	
Proposed Match:	$36,540.00		

Application Description

The project seeks to develop a plan to delineate the Curry Watersheds Monitoring Program's tasks for the next 15-20 years, and designate the protocols and sampling plans used to implement those tasks throughout Curry County watersheds. The plan will apply to the Partnership's entire geographic domain, which extends roughly 90 miles along the Oregon coast from the California border north to the New River watershed.

The plan will include justification for why the tasks are needed, the objectives of each task, and a temporal and spatial blueprint for the timing and location of the prescribed monitoring. The plan will include all types of monitoring conducted by the Partnership, and it will integrate data and findings produced by the Program over the last 20 years. The plan will also identify the agencies and other non-profit organizations that will play a role in the implementation of the plan, and define their roles.

The purpose of the plan is to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of the Partnership's Monitoring Program. Project Partners include Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, ODFW, ODA, DEQ, and BLM.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The OPMT liked the approach the applicant proposes to take to reflect on 20 years of data to identify future monitoring priorities.
- The past and future monitoring efforts would be useful to inform agriculture water quality management plan and TMDL processes.
- The application shows leverage of in-kind contributions from ODFW and BLM, along with funding that is being provided by DEQ.
- The application identifies well-formed objectives and questions to develop their monitoring plan.

Concerns:

- The application lacked detail on the statistical approach that would be followed to develop a new monitoring strategy, although the budget includes a line item to hire a consultant to complete the work.

- There was some redundancy in the objectives and questions stated in the application. It may be challenging to generate the final product if the questions are not focused and/or clarified.
- There was only one letter of support (provided by ODFW), though other organizations are identified as providing match.

Recommendations:

- If funded, we encourage the grantee to communicate with DEQ to coordinate on the sharing of historic data and products from this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (80%), High (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project would support a host of other efforts including the ongoing FIP capacity building project and TMDL work.
- This effort would save time and money through identifying and coordinating efforts across a large area.
- Very ambitious project looking outward 15-20 years.
- Strong partnerships and commitment to the work in place. The project builds on a successful track record of monitoring efforts across a large swath of landscape.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The applicant is in a transition period and currently does not have a monitoring coordinator. The current South Coast coordinator served in the monitoring program in the past and so can help with familiarity and continuity.
- It was noted that previous monitoring efforts included data analysis and it was unclear whether some of the work proposed was duplicative of what had already been done.

Concluding Analysis:

This is an ambitious effort that can greatly benefit the applicant and partners by laying a clear framework and plan for the long-term. The work will tie into other important efforts underway.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions; coordinate with DEQ on the sharing of historic data and products from this project.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$45,246.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment

Discussion with the OPMT coordinator confirmed that the data analysis work is not redundant.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund with Conditions; coordinate with DEQ on the sharing of historic data and products from this project. This will be documented in the final project report.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$45,246.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2058**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Curry Watersheds' Spawning Surveys: 2017-2019		
Applicant:	Curry SWCD		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:**	Curry
OWEB Request:	**$29,417.00**	**Total Cost:**	$52,916.00
Proposed Match:	$23,500.00		

Application Description

The project proposes to conduct salmon spawning surveys in predominately small sub-watersheds in Curry County where coho are typically the target species. Other tasks include operation of smolt traps, and conducting a multi-parameter small streams assessment.

Through this proposal, project partners will update data sets on small streams to evaluate the effectiveness of both individual projects and the cumulative effects of multiple projects. They will collect baseline data to evaluate critical off-channel coho rearing habitat. This data will improve understanding of the limiting factors in these small watersheds, which in turn will lead to future restoration projects. This data provides insight into the health of these streams, particularly with regard to sediment loading, temperature, and morphology.

Project partners include ODFW, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, Bureau of Land Management Pacific Marine & Estuarine Partnership, and Curry SWCD.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Local ODFW staff is working with the applicant. Past data provided by the applicant has been valuable.
- This project proposes to perform spawning surveys in areas where data are limited.
- The applicant proposes to follow known and accepted methods.
- This project represents a partnership between the Curry SWCD, South Coast WC and Lower Rogue WC through the Curry Watersheds Partnership.

Concerns:

- It was unclear if the applicant plans to collect data at 24 or 15 sites.
- The application does a poor job conveying the actual benefits it will provide, while instead talking about objectives that it is unlikely to achieve.
- It is unlikely that spawning surveys are the appropriate tool to identify limiting factors.
- It was unclear if this work would result in the development of future restoration projects.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (100%)
Certainty of Success: Low (60%), Medium (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Applicant has a strong track record of monitoring success.
- The area to be surveyed is under-served for this type of monitoring effort and would help inform coho SONC recovery efforts.
- The project utilizes standard protocols.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was not clear the level of coordination the applicant has with the Corvallis ODFW research office. This coordination is important. The applicant is working with the local ODFW office.
- Winter weather could influence the ability to survey effectively. There are other methods which may be more effective to undertake this work, such as eDNA.
- It can be hard to connect adult returns with project results because of the influence of ocean conditions. The time period of the work will not hit all three brood years of coho, but it is difficult to get funding to cover that time period upfront.

Concluding Analysis:

The project targets streams in an area that does not have a lot of information on adult or juvenile coho use. The data would inform SONC coho recovery efforts. Implementing this can be tricky if winter weather is very wet. The applicant has a strong track record of successful monitoring efforts and the work would help them identify and prioritize future restoration efforts.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

7 of 7

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$29,417.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2059**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Curry Watersheds Education Program 2017-18		
Applicant:	Curry SWCD		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:** Curry	
OWEB Request:	**$47,311.00**	**Total Cost:** $81,753.00	
Proposed Match:	$34,442.00		

Application Description

The target audience for this project is 1,040 K-8th grade youth and 20 teachers throughout Curry County through watershed education field trips, partnered outreach events and project-based learning opportunities. An additional 575 youth and their families will be involved through after-school outreach events.

Activities include watershed lessons in combination with field trips to streams, Adopt-a-Stream programs with a myriad of projects, and a stream simulation trailer. A primary goal of this project is to inspire a behavior change that will benefit watersheds, water quality, and salmon and steelhead habitat. Emphasis is placed on actions which benefit watersheds, water conservation and clean water.

Project partners include Oregon Parks and Recreation, BLM, Oregon South Coast Fishermen, OSU Extension, USFS, City of Gold Beach, Curry County School District, Brookings Harbor School District, 2cj School District, Central Curry School District, Kalmiopsis Elementary School, Port Orford Ocean Resources Team and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application is very descriptive and clearly ties to past and future restoration and monitoring efforts. The proposal covers a broad range of watershed issues and activities related to addressing or monitoring them. Restoration projects have been incorporated directly into the curriculum for teachers, which directly engage the schools in a hands-on approach.
- The application detailed riparian planting work and accomplishments from previous work.
- A pre- and post-testing component is utilized to gage program effectiveness.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- None identified

Concluding Analysis:

The application would continue a successful ongoing outreach partnership with local schools and local community groups in Curry County. The project has been able to continue to diversify its funding portfolio and has clearly established itself locally.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$47,311.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$47,311.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2060**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Eggs to Fry Program 2018-2019		
Applicant:	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers		
Basin:	UMPQUA	**County:** Douglas	
OWEB Request:	**$12,216.00**	**Total Cost:** $31,051.00	
Proposed Match:	$18,835.00		

Application Description

This project will partner with ODFW's Fish Eggs to Fry program to provide teachers with the resources needed to effectively educate elementary-aged students about salmonids, their life cycle, and habitat needs. The project's target audiences are first- through fifth-grade students and their teachers in Douglas County with moderate to low knowledge and understanding of the salmonid life cycle and habitat. This program will reach approximately 500 students and 12 teachers over the two-year project period. Participating teachers and students will develop a greater understanding and appreciation of watershed stewardship.

Project partners include Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers, ODFW, participating schools and the Umpqua Fisheries Derby.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is continuing to build partnerships with schools and is expanding to new schools.
- The project information is tailored to different age groups making the messages delivered more effective.
- The letters from the students were a good addition to the application.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It is not a clear connection to see the link to a specific restoration or monitoring component. The program does connect water quality and salmon survival, making it clear to students the need for healthy watersheds.
- It was noted there will be a new project manager starting this year and concern was raised over potential loss of connections.
- It was unclear why evaluations from previous work were not received, and what steps were being taken to address this. The RRT emphasized the importance of documenting and determining effectiveness through evaluation.

Concluding Analysis:
The program has grown since its beginning and is now connecting with more students. Project proponents are clearly working to improve delivery. Project information is also shared with the parents and could be a positive influence getting them involved with project partners. The applicant needs to work on clearly establishing the program's connection to monitoring and/or restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$12,216.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2061**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Coos Watershed Youth-Led Community Stewardship Program		
Applicant:	Coos Watershed Association		
Basin:	SOUTH COAST	**County:** Coos	
OWEB Request:	**$55,952.00**	**Total Cost:** $110,782.00	
Proposed Match:	$54,830.00		

Application Description

The 6th year of this youth-led community stewardship program (Master Watershed Stewards) targets 70 youth from up to six schools in the Coos Bay School District. This program provides outdoor learning opportunities for youth who otherwise have little access to watershed education and gives them a chance to share their knowledge with the community. Students will continue to play an active role in restoring and monitoring land in the Coos watershed. Student groups may be specifically involved with activities such as re-planting riparian zones in recently restored sites, designing and conducting preliminary monitoring projects, and designing education/outreach activities to ensure future protection of our watershed.

Project partners include Coos Bay School District, participating Coos bay schools, Coquille Tribal Community Fund, Coos County Cultural Coalition, the United Community Action Network and Friends of Coos Watershed Association.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project builds on a successful track record of actively engaging students in hands-on restoration and monitoring activities throughout the entire school year.
- The application demonstrates strong partnerships and commitments to the work.
- The project focuses on continued involvement of participants. Project partners are invested in long-term recruitment and success of the program. The approach provides real depth to the education experience the participants receive and demonstrates the possibilities of careers in natural resources

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The reviewers discussed the possibility of increasing the number of new students reached. While the impact of the program is clear, reviewers questioned whether the program could be expanded to more students without sacrificing the quality. Future applications could elaborate more on the pros and cons of this approach to help reviewers understand whether it is better to have a smaller group of students or a broader program covering more students.
- The evaluation should be expanded to collect information on the science knowledge learned.

Concluding Analysis:
The project has developed a strong track record with great local support and impact on students who are participating. This project reaches a smaller number of students than other proposals but the proposal clearly articulates the positive impact that the work is having.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$55,952.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Southwest Oregon Review Team (Region 2)

Application No.:	**217-2062**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Watershed Education at Siskiyou Outdoor School 2017		
Applicant:	Siskiyou Field Institute		
Basin:	ROGUE	**County:** Josephine	
OWEB Request:	**$14,344.00**	**Total Cost:** $53,444.00	
Proposed Match:	$32,300.00		

Application Description

The Siskiyou Outdoor School is part of the statewide effort to provide a week-long, science-based residential "outdoor school". Project activities will target 6th graders attending the Three Rivers School District in the Illinois Valley near Selma.

At the Deer Creek Center, project partners will engage the students by implementing the Deer Creek Center's Conservation Management Plan, which provides conservation direction for the 850 acres making up the property. Work includes monitoring for temperature, pH and sedimentation; identification of sensitive and invasive plants and animals; and understanding the dynamics of natural and human activities within the riparian zones of both Squaw Creek and Deer Creek and on the serpentine uplands.

Project partners include Gray Family Foundation, Chaney Family Foundation, Three Rivers School District (21st Century Grant) and US Dept. of Interior - Oregon Caves National Monument.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project reaches a large number of students and teachers.
- The application demonstrates strong match and partner commitment.
- There is a strong pre- and post-test evaluation component to the project,
- The Siskiyou Field Institute supports the statewide effort to provide "Outdoor School for All."

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The on-the-ground component focuses on riparian establishment and addressing invasive species, monitoring, and implementing the OWEB management plan for the property. More information on the plan and progress implementing the plan would help strengthen future proposals.
- The RRT questioned the appropriateness of OWEB funds for the rope course.

Concluding Analysis: The project focus has been scaled back from previous submittals to more of a camp-style approach and provides an opportunity to attend a week of the science-based Siskiyou Outdoor School. The project would reach a large number of students in a rural area and ties into a larger state-wide effort.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 4

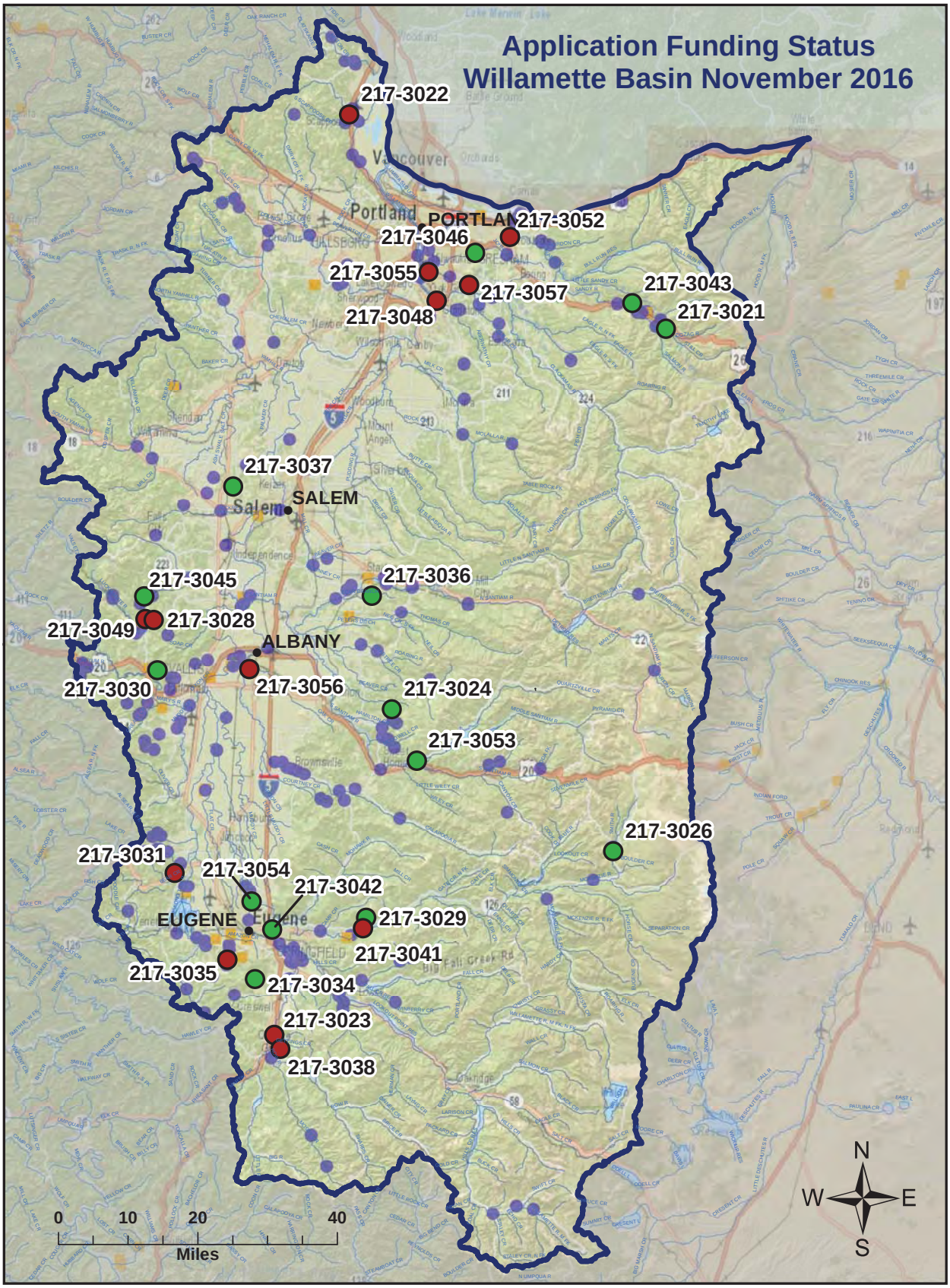
Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$14,344.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00



ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB-April 2017

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November 2016 Applications

- Staff Recommended for Funding
- Below Funding Line

Grants 1998-2016

- Acquisition
- Restoration
- Region 3 Boundary
- Streams

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
OWEB

Region 3 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Region 3 - Willamette Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-3021	The Freshwater Trust	Upper Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project	Sandy River basin spring Chinook, coho, and winter steelhead are negatively impacted by loss of stream habitat. Proposed project will restore habitat elements believed to be most limiting to these fish in Salmon River and Still Creek, tributaries of the Sandy River in Clackamas County, by increasing off channel habitat, floodplain connectivity, and instream large wood abundance.	235,497	Clackamas
217-3030	Benton SWCD	Crestmont Land Trust Restoration and Enhancement Project	Proposed project located in the Marys River Watershed near Philomath, Oregon will restore historic oak savanna and woodland conditions that will benefit native wildlife, including endangered butterflies, and improve stream conditions. This will be achieved by converting timber production to historic oak-dominated habitat, controlling noxious weeds, replacing stream culverts, and installing infrastructure to manage grazing.	196,657	Benton
217-3036	North Santiam WC	Bear Branch Prairie, Oak and Stream Restoration	Project located on Bear Branch, a Lower North Santiam River tributary in Linn County, will restore remnant Willamette Valley wet prairie and oak habitats, instream aquatic habitat complexity and streamside native vegetation.	320,103	Linn
217-3026	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project Phase II	The "Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project" will improve ecological function and biological productivity for native fish while providing opportunities to increase public awareness of and support for watershed restoration in the McKenzie Watershed. Project activities include adding instream pieces of key large wood through stream-side tree pulling, engaging local students in project monitoring and outreach, and engaging residents and members of the public through tours.	23,500	Lane
217-3034	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Salyers Ranch Riparian Restoration Project	Proposed project will restore streamside habitat by controlling invasive plant species and establishing native plants on Camas Swale Creek in the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed, south of Eugene, Oregon. Restored stream corridors will support a diversity of plants that will provide water quality and habitat for native birds, reptiles, fish, and amphibians.	44,928	Multnomah

217-3024	South Santiam WC	Scott Creek Steelhead Enhancement Project	Proposed restoration will enhance spawning and rearing steelhead stream habitat on lower Scott Creek, located in the South Santiam River watershed in Linn County. Activities include placement of instream large wood structures and planting native trees along the stream.	49,361	Linn
217-3037	Institute for Applied Ecology	Plants for People Phase II	Willamette Valley prairies and oak savanna and woodland habitats are some of North America's most imperiled ecosystems due to habitat fragmentation, fire suppression, and land use conversion. Proposed project will restore diverse, resilient prairie, oak, and stream habitats while establishing beneficial links between local tribes, public lands, agriculture, and conservation at five locations in the Willamette Valley in Lane, Polk, Benton, and Marion Counties.	198,654	Polk
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**1,068,700**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-3031	Long Tom WC	Bear Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration at Bennett Vineyards	89,773	Lane
217-3035	Long Tom WC	Spencer Creek Oak Woodland Restoration, Old Gimpl Farm Oak Savanna Restoration, and Biochar Creation	139,504	Lane
217-3029	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Pure Water Partners Riparian Restoration Project	112,903	Lane
217-3038	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Carnine Upland Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration Phase 1	97,761	Lane
217-3023	Upper Willamette SWCD	Gettings Creek Riparian Restoration Project	31,350	Lane
217-3028	Luckiamute WC	Building Resiliency and Connecting Corridors - Maxfield Creek Phase I	273,717	Benton
217-3022	Scappoose Bay WC	South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration - Phase 1, Zones G&H Design/Construction	304,093	Columbia
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**2,117,801**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-3025	Marys River WC	Henderson Creek Fish Habitat	106,127	Benton
217-3027	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Smith Creek Fish Passage Enhancement	104,713	Lane
217-3032	Calapooia WC	Truax Island Phase 1 - Dead River Crossing	197,522	Linn
217-3033	Johnson Creek WC	Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhancement	111,174	Multnomah

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-3043	Sandy River Basin WC	Sandy-Salmon Confluence Value Engineering	Technical Assistance will develop feasible actions to reconnect the Sandy-Salmon confluence floodplain and restore the area's extensive value as floodplain and off-channel habitat for migrating wild salmon and steelhead in the Sandy River Basin in Clackamas County.	46,552	Clackamas
217-3041	Cascade Pacific RC&D	PWP Landowner Recruitment	Technical Assistance will promote awareness of and participation in the Pure Water Partners (PWP) program, an incentive-based strategy that aims to protect existing healthy riparian areas and restore degraded riparian forests along the McKenzie River through voluntary actions.	49,490	Lane
217-3042	Long Tom WC	Designing for Downstream: Voluntary Urban Water Quality Projects	Technical Assistance will convene a technical team of local stakeholders and partners to create a project prioritization matrix through which potential voluntary urban stormwater retrofit projects can be ranked; and apply this methodology to the current list of nearly 200 proposed project sites in the Long Tom watershed.	30,993	Lane
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**127,035**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-3039	Scappoose Bay WC	South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration - Phase 2, Zong F & I Design	27,321	Columbia
217-3040	Johnson Creek WC	Kelley Creek Fish Passage	12,489	Multnomah

Region 3 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-3053	South Santiam WC	South Santiam Natural Resource Education Program	The "South Santiam Natural Resource Education Program" provides student mentoring between schools and engage youth in civic and watershed enhancement activities as they learn about watershed ecology, watershed councils, and how to create change in their own communities through participating in democratic institutions.	55,240	Linn
217-3054	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Watershed Action Teams for Education, Restoration and Stewardship Program	The "Watershed Action Teams for Education, Restoration and Stewardship (WATERS) Program" is a scalable, regional approach to inquiry-based, field-focused environmental education and public outreach involving secondary students, public agencies, non-governmental agencies, utilities, and landowners. WATERS involves three components including team-based student projects with active watershed project development and monitoring, Salmon Watch, and public outreach.	49,968	Lane
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**105,208**	

Outreach Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-3052	Sandy River Basin WC	Connecting Timberline to Troutdale	31,815	Multnomah
217-3057	Clackamas River Basin Council	Engaging Clackamas Communities in the Health of their Watershed	37,375	Clackamas
217-3049	Luckiamute WC	Kings Valley Watershed Stewards - Phase I	32,751	Benton
217-3056	Calapooia WC	Oak Creek Open Space Community Engagement	26,629	Linn
217-3048	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	Lower Willamette Stewardship and Outreach Project	32,742	Clackamas
217-3055	N.Clackamas Urban Watershed Council	NCUWC Urban Landowner and Volunteer Outreach	17,774	Clackamas
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**284,294**	

Outreach Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-3050	Freshwaters Illustrated	Using the UPRIVER film to increase audience and inclusivity of watershed restoration groups	17,402	Linn
217-3051	Oregon Env. Council	Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Outreach	39,905	Multnomah

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-3045	Luckiamute WC	Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring	The "Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring" project will provide comprehensive, high quality stream temperature data to support prioritizing restoration projects and solid baseline data against which the effectiveness of future restoration projects can be judged.	41,079	Polk
217-3046	Johnson Creek WC	In-line Pond Temperature Monitoring	The "In-line Pond Temperature Monitoring" project has a long-term goal to restore high-priority ponds in the Johnson Creek watershed to reduce stream temperatures and provide climate change resilience. Proposed monitoring is the next phase of this longer-term vision and will conduct an on-the-ground survey of the 8 largest accessible in-line ponds in the watershed.	10,083	Multnomah
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**51,162**	

Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-3044	Scappoose Bay WC	Scappoose Bay Watershed Strategic Water Quality Monitoring	21,377	Columbia
217-3047	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Beaver and a declining amphibian: implications for Oregon spotted frog population recovery	173,579	Lane

Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,352,105**	**15%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3020**	**Project Type:** Restoration
Project Name:	Silver Creek Riparian Restoration	
Applicant:	Pudding River WC	
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Marion
OWEB Request:	**$32,726.00**	**Total Cost:** $53,919.00
Proposed Match:	$22,925.00	

Withdrawn

Application Description

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Regional Review Team Priority

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3021**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Upper Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project		
Applicant:	The Freshwater Trust		
Basin:	LOWER COLUMBIA	**County:** Clackamas	
OWEB Request:	**$235,497.00**	**Total Cost:** $690,558.00	
Proposed Match:	$432,798.00		

Application Description

The "Upper Sandy River Basin Aquatic Habitat Restoration Project" will increase off-channel habitat by restoring year-round surface flow to a groundwater channel/alcove, increase off-channel habitat by restoring year-round surface flow to side channels, increase large wood abundance instream and in an alcove, increase large wood abundance and boulders to create an emulated landslide deposit, and increase habitat complexity and diversity on pool tailout and riffle by placing boulders. These proposed actions will increase habitat complexity and diversity on the Salmon River and Still Creek, tributaries of the Sandy River in Clackamas County, by increasing off-channel habitat, floodplain connectivity, and large wood abundance. Sandy River basin spring Chinook, coho, and winter steelhead are negatively impacted by loss of habitat and this project will restore habitat elements believed to be most limiting to these fish. Proposed project relies on active restoration techniques and is designed to restore ecological function so that high quality habitat is self-sustaining into the future. Project partners include BLM, USFS, City of Portland, Pacific Power, The Boeing Company, and NFWF.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous successful restoration investments in a large-scale, long-term strategy that directly addresses limiting factors for ESA-listed fish.
- Project location is a high priority habitat area for ESA-listed fish, supporting recovery of Chinook, steelhead, and coho by increasing spawning and rearing habitat.
- Log jams are well engineered and designed to repair stream processes by incorporating large wood structure properly sized for the stream.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application would be strengthened by more detailed information on how the project fits within and implements the restoration strategy developed by The Freshwater Trust and the Sandy Basin Partnership.

Concluding Analysis:

The project will continue restoring anchor habitat in a salmon stronghold, which contributes to ESA-listed fish recovery.

The final project phase is expected to be completed in the next couple years on these tributaries, and completed restoration has proven to be successful as indicated by data from previous work that has shown outstanding habitat and fish responses.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 235,497.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 235,497.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3022**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration - Phase 1, Zones G&H Design/Construction		
Applicant:	Scappoose Bay WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Columbia	
OWEB Request:	**$304,093.00**	**Total Cost:** $408,493.00	
Proposed Match:	$104,400.00		

Application Description

The "South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration" project will restore fish and wildlife habitat along transitional areas of South Scappoose Creek between the tidal extents and upper watershed habitat. Restoration activities will include: (1) lowering elevation of the adjacent stream floodplain by excavating floodplain and terrace deposits to provide a gradual transition from the top of bank to water surface; (2) shaping floodplain terraces to enable floodplain interaction along the creek; (2) installing large wood complexes with boulder support to protect stream banks, provide salmonid cover, and retain sediment; (3) reconnecting the main channel to historic side-channels for the creek to interact with shallower areas during higher flows; (4) restricting cattle with fencing and a single water access; (5) removing invasive species and replanting with a high-density cover of native vegetation; and (6) engaging the community in restoration activities through information and volunteer opportunities. The project is located on South Scappoose Creek near Scappoose, Oregon in Columbia County. Restoration will address the following watershed problems within the lower South Scappoose Creek: (1) simplified and degraded salmonid habitat, including poor winter rearing areas, and lack of cover and refugia; (2) stream channel incision and stream-bank erosion; (3) floodplain disconnection; and (4) degraded riparian buffers with resulting solar exposure. This will benefit ESA-listed salmon and steelhead by restoring critical transitional habitat and adding a lower-reach connection to salmonids moving between the spawning areas upstream and the migration areas of the lower Scappoose Bay and Columbia River. Project partners include landowner, City of Scappoose, Columbia SWCD, and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on a technical assistance grant investment, was prioritized from a limiting factors analysis, and utilizes a design that was identified through an alternatives analysis.
- Resulting restoration implements Conservation Recovery Plan actions for ESA-listed fish in a priority watershed, and will functionally connect Scappoose estuary with upper watersheds that are biologically significant habitats for these fish.
- Project is located at a highly visible location, offering public outreach opportunities.
- Project partner support is demonstrated by letters of support and partner match.
- Selected engineering consultant has relevant experience and reasonable cost.
- Application is well written.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Overall project cost is high compared to the ecological benefit gained from the limited stream extent to be restored.
- It is unclear if project design adequately addresses watershed process and function limiting factors by giving the creek enough space to function effectively.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed restoration will benefit ESA-listed fish in a priority location for their recovery. However, high overall project cost limits cost-benefit of ecological gains expected from proposed restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
14 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 304,093.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3023**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Gettings Creek Riparian Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Upper Willamette SWCD		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Lane	
OWEB Request:	**$31,350.00**	**Total Cost:** $40,062.00	
Proposed Match:	$8,712.00		

Application Description

The "Gettings Creek Riparian Restoration Project" will restore a functioning riparian habitat by eradicating invasive plant species, restoring native riparian vegetation, and stewarding plantings until they reach a "free-to-grow" state. Project is located on Gettings Creek in the Coast Fork Willamette River watershed north of Cottage Grove, Oregon. Restoration will provide shade that will benefit water quality needed to support seasonal migration of spring Chinook and winter steelhead and habitat for aquatic species, such as rainbow trout, cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey that historically utilized this tributary for rearing and spawning. Project partners include the landowner and Northwest Youth Corps.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- A significant area of riparian zone will be restored in an ODA and SWCD focus area.
- The planting design is technically sound and utilizes the Rapid Revegetation Method.
- Project has a dedicated landowner, which is demonstrated by their match contribution.
- Project presents potential for building momentum for future restoration in adjacent areas.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The restoration plan proposes a limited window for site preparation that could result in needing to use additional herbicides to control weeds after plantings, which could affect success of native plants if they are accidentally sprayed.
- Project could be strengthened by leveraging with CREP.

Concluding Analysis:

Proposed restoration will benefit water quality in an ODA and SWCD prioritized area at a reasonable cost. Applicant is encouraged to consider using a less expensive grass seed that establishes quickly to prevent erosion while native trees and shrubs establish.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

12 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 31,350.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3024**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Scott Creek Steelhead Enhancement Project		
Applicant:	South Santiam WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Linn
OWEB Request:	**$49,361.00**	**Total Cost:**	$91,696.00
Proposed Match:	$32,335.00		

Application Description

The "Scott Creek Steelhead Enhancement Project" will enhance spawning and rearing steelhead habitat on lower Scott Creek through placement of instream large wood structures, adding wood to existing structures, and repositioning large blow down conifers into the stream channel. Cedars will also be planted in the riparian understory to increase long-term shade and future large woody debris recruitment. Project is located in Hamilton Creek sub-basin, a tributary of South Santiam River in Linn County. The middle and lower reaches of Hamilton Creek sub-basin have a narrow zone of discontinuous riparian vegetation due to this vegetation being cleared for agriculture and other land uses in the 20th century. As a result, the creek has limited in-stream habitat complexity, a lack of riparian shade, and poor conifer recruitment in riparian areas, which negatively impacts ESA-listed populations of Upper Willamette Spring Chinook and the core genetic legacy populations of winter steelhead that are endemic to the South Santiam Watershed. Project partners include Weyerhaeuser, MMT, ODF, and USACE.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Restoration will benefit steelhead in a priority location for this ESA-list fish species.
- Project design is straight forward and technically sound.
- Overall project cost is reasonable for the ecological benefit.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No significant concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis:

Given recent diminished steelhead returns, any restoration action benefiting this species is a priority. The proposed project provides high cost-benefit for ecological gains that will support this ESA-listed fish species in a priority watershed. Applicant is encouraged to consider using a mix of conifer species since cedars are very slow growing in understories and will take a long time to establish.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
6 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,361.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 49,361.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3025**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Henderson Creek Fish Habitat		
Applicant:	Marys River WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Benton	
OWEB Request:	**$106,127.00**	**Total Cost:** $142,562.00	
Proposed Match:	$36,435.00		

Application Description

The "Henderson Creek Fish Habitat" project will: (1) increase instream wood densities, bedload aggradation, frequency of floodplain interaction, abundance of spawning gravel, storage of nutrient bearing silts and sands, and sinuosity and thus channel complexity; (2) restore unencumbered passage to all age classes of salmonids and adult lamprey; (3) sequester summer flows in a hyporheic lens to address systemic habitat limitation of elevated stream temperatures; (4) restore a functional riparian corridor that has capacity to contribute coniferous wood to the aquatic corridor long-term; and (5) strengthen small private land partnerships that result in long-term watershed council relationships. Restoration activities include: (1) culvert replacements that will provide an unencumbered migration corridor to both adult and juvenile native fish; (2) instream large wood placement in the active stream channel; (3) boulder weir and spawning gravel placement where much of the channel has scoured to bedrock and minimal gravels are present in the stream banks for recruitment; and (4) planting native riparian corridor vegetation. Project is located on Henderson Creek in the Beaver Creek sub-basin of Marys River Watershed south of Philomath, Oregon. This restoration will reduce legacy effects of habitat simplification on Henderson Creek. Project partners include landowners, Greenbelt Land Trust, and MMT.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on Willamette Model Watershed investments and is the last proposed restoration site in this sub-basin.
- Restoration design will address multiple issues limiting stream conditions, including water quality, riparian vegetation, and stream process and functions that support cutthroat trout.
- Project is supported by partnerships and leveraged with match.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The upstream earthen dam limits ecological benefits that will result from restoring fish passage on this stream due to the limited stream habitat that will be made accessible. Furthermore, this dam is aging and could potentially fail and it is unclear how this could impact proposed downstream restoration activities.

Concluding Analysis:
Due to the limited ecological benefit and risks associated with potential impacts that might occur from an upstream dam failure, the proposed project has uncertainty that limits the project's cost-benefit. Furthermore, since there does not seem to be urgency for implementing restoration in the near-term, applicant might consider further efforts to incorporate the landowner with the dam into the project or providing further information on how the restoration design addresses potential dam failure.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3026**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project Phase II		
Applicant:	McKenzie Watershed Alliance		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Lane	
OWEB Request:	**$23,500.00**	**Total Cost:** $46,000.00	
Proposed Match:	$18,000.00		

Application Description

The "Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project" will improve ecological function and biological productivity for native fish, while providing opportunities to increase public awareness of and support for watershed restoration. Project activities include adding instream pieces of key large wood through stream-side tree pulling, engaging local students in project monitoring and outreach, and engaging residents and members of the public through tours. Project is located on Deer Creek in the McKenzie River Watershed. Past land management practices within the Deer Creek sub-watershed have disrupted natural processes including wood supply and storage, sediment transport and storage, channel and floodplain dynamics, and organic matter transport and storage. These disrupted processes have negatively impacted habitat for native fish by reducing wood supply and storage, increasing transport capacity of habitat materials out of the stream system, reducing the amount of available spawning gravel, reducing floodplain connectivity, decreasing the amount of off-channel and high flow refuge habitat, reducing the frequency of deep pools and amount of complex cover, and contributing to increased summer stream temperature. Proposed restoration will address habitat limiting factors for native fish, including ESA-Threatened spring Chinook salmon and bull trout, Oregon Sensitive coastal cutthroat trout, and rainbow trout. Project partners include USFS and McKenzie Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous successful restoration. Furthermore, this current application presents a strong case for why the past grant award underestimated funding needs and the added benefit of proposed additional work to protect this previous investment.
- Project benefits critical habitat for Chinook and bull trout, and is timely because the McKenzie Watershed has the last remaining Willamette bull trout population.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No significant concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis:

Project is time sensitive because proposed tree tipping into the stream will provide a pinning mechanism to stabilize previous work and protect that investment.

This phase 2 work will increase success and effectiveness of this previous work, therefore, providing a high benefit-cost- for this restoration investment in a high priority watershed for ESA-listed fish recovery.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 23,500.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 23,500.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3027**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Smith Creek Fish Passage Enhancement		
Applicant:	Coast Fork Willamette WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Lane	
OWEB Request:	**$104,713.00**	**Total Cost:** $198,279.00	
Proposed Match:	$93,566.00		

Application Description

The "Smith Creek Fish Passage Enhancement" project will improve fish passage by replacing undersized culverts, improve spawning habitat by enabling gravel and woody material movement and sorting in the stream system that is currently limited by these culverts, and improve water quality by slowing water and increasing hyporheic flows as a result of more natural stream processes restored by the proposed culvert replacements. Project is located on Smith Creek, a tributary in the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed east of Cottage Grove, Oregon. Restoration will benefit Western brook lamprey and cutthroat trout. Project partners include Weyerhaeuser and BLM.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Proposed restoration design is technically sound.
- Project is supported by partnership with landowners.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application is unclear on how proposed restoration actions are connected to the referenced watershed issues and link to water quality for drinking water.
- Application overstates project alignment with the Oregon Conservation Strategy, which recommends replacing culverts in general but not these specific culverts.
- It is unclear from the application why restoration at the proposed sites is an important priority.

Concluding Analysis:

Project benefit to the watershed is limited due to its location above Doreena reservoir. Furthermore, OWEB investment may not be necessary for these road crossings to be addressed since it seems likely these culverts will be replaced regardless of OWEB funding being awarded.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3028**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Building Resiliency and Connecting Corridors - Maxfield Creek Phase I		
Applicant:	Luckiamute WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Benton	
OWEB Request:	**$273,717.00**	**Total Cost:** $349,211.00	
Proposed Match:	$75,494.00		

Application Description

The "Building Resiliency and Connecting Corridors" project will implement management actions to create a connected riparian corridor and increase canopy cover along Maxfield Creek from its confluence with the Luckiamute River to the transition into industrial timberlands. Project activities include: (1) establishing or enhancing riparian forest and riparian-upland transitional zone through aggressive weed control and establishment of a diverse mix of native woody trees and shrubs; (2) providing landowners with the knowledge and skills to steward project areas long-term; (3) initiating temperature monitoring pre- (2017) and post-project implementation at the up- and downstream ends of the target reach (included in separate Monitoring application); and (4) supporting restoration opportunities with the adjacent Kings Valley Charter School (included in separate Outreach application with additional volunteer opportunities included in this project).

The primary project focus is restoration of degraded riparian corridors along Maxfield Creek, a tributary to the Luckiamute River in Benton County. Degraded and absent riparian corridors on Maxfield Creek resulted in a poor single-strata canopy cover and poor vegetation diversity. This condition leads to elevated temperatures, diminished nutrient inputs and large wood recruitment for aquatic species and instream habitat, reduced buffering of surface runoff, and fragmented habitat for terrestrial species dependent on migration corridors. Landowners have also reported increased erosion and channel entrenchment, with observable changes in channel form after single disturbance events. Riparian revegetation and enhancement will improve water quality in the long-term by increasing canopy cover, filtering nutrient loaded runoff, and reducing bank erosion and fine sediments entering the system. These activities promote stream shading and create conditions favorable to the future large wood recruitment in the system for increased habitat complexity. Proposed actions will benefit listed Upper Willamette River Steelhead by directly supporting three of the "five main drivers of habitat condition and use by salmon: sediment supply regime, hydrologic regime, thermal regime, riparian vegetation, and connectivity." Project partners include landowners, MMT, Greenbelt Land Trust, and BEF.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Restoration builds on previous Willamette Model Watershed investments and will benefit ESA- listed steelhead.
- Project was identified through careful consideration and well-thought restoration prioritization in the Luckiamute watershed.

- Project design is technically sound, and builds on recent lesson learned to effectively restore native riparian vegetation.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application would be strengthened by additional information on the proposed herbicide use and approach; this information was provided later after the review team site visit. Applicant is encouraged to follow NOAA programmatic guidance for herbicide use in project design.
- Landowner capacity to help maintain sites in the long-term is unclear; however, project design will likely result in a riparian area that is easier to maintain. Additionally, some landowner property management actions at one of the project sites seem disconnected from achieving proposed project objectives (e.g. future large wood recruitment for streams will have limited impact if landowners are removing wood structures).
- It is unclear how important and timely restoration is at all the proposed sites.

Concluding Analysis:
Restoration on Maxfield Creek is needed because stream conditions will not likely recover without active restoration efforts and will continue to deteriorate, which will cause restoration at a later date to be more expensive. While the project will generally provide watershed benefits in a Willamette Model Watershed, there does not seem to be a strong sense of urgency for implementation in the near-term.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 273,717.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3029**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Pure Water Partners Riparian Restoration Project		
Applicant:	McKenzie Watershed Alliance		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$112,903.00**	**Total Cost:**	$182,102.00
Proposed Match:	$69,200.00		

Application Description

The "Pure Water Partners Riparian Restoration Project" will protect and enhance McKenzie River water quality, enhance habitat for key native fish and wildlife, and increase public awareness of and support for watershed restoration. Project activities include: (1) establishing native trees and shrubs along the McKenzie River; (2) increasing native plant diversity and decreasing invasive vegetation on project site; (3) increasing awareness and understanding of local riparian conservation by engaging students annually in riparian restoration at project sites; and (4) increasing awareness of and support for the Pure Water Partnership by engaging landowners and members of the public through tours at the project sites. The project is located on the McKenzie River east of Springfield Oregon in Lane County.

Restoration will address degraded riparian forest habitat in the McKenzie River sub-basin that have been impacted by a variety of historic and current land management practices. Urban and rural development, forestry, road development, flood control, and hydroelectric projects have all reduced the quantity and degraded the quality of riparian forests. These changes have negatively impacted fish and wildlife habitat and contributed to downward trends in water quality. Enhanced riparian forests, protected through long-term agreements with landowners, will address one of the root causes of riparian function degradation in the sub-basin; rural residential and agricultural development. The proposed project will contribute toward long-term maintenance and enhancement of McKenzie River water quality and enhanced habitat for spring Chinook salmon and other native species while implementing a locally developed cooperative approach to voluntary conservation. Project partners include landowners, Eugene Water and Electric Board, USFS, and McKenzie Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Proposed project will benefit ESA-listed spring Chinook in a priority watershed for their population recovery.
- Planting design utilizes the Rapid Revegetation Method and reference conditions to inform the project design.
- One of the project sites is unique, because it is an unusually large sized rural residential property that is protected by a conservation easement.
- Project is leveraged by significant match, and supported by partners demonstrated by letters of support.

- Application addressed previous regional review team concerns regarding elk browse and CREP eligibility.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No major concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed restoration is part of an innovative pilot program that is expected to recruit additional sites and expand benefits from restored riparian areas across the McKenzie watershed. Current project is important and timely for building landowner interest and momentum in the Pure Water Partner Program during the program roll out.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 112,903.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3030**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Crestmont Land Trust Restoration and Enhancement Project		
Applicant:	Benton SWCD		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Benton	
OWEB Request:	**$196,657.00**	**Total Cost:** $592,891.00	
Proposed Match:	$193,479.00		

Application Description

The "Crestmont Land Trust Restoration and Enhancement Project" will protect and increase habitat diversity components, such as snags, legacy trees, pollinator habitat, hardwood trees, and stream habitat. Restoration includes: (1) converting timber production to historic oak-dominated habitat; (2) removing and controlling invasive vegetation to manage for native grass and nectar species; (3) opening fish passage by addressing culverts; and (4) installing infrastructure to facilitate grazing as a habitat management tool while protecting streams and banks. The project is located in the Marys River Watershed near Philomath, Oregon. Project will restore historic oak savanna and woodland conditions that will benefit native wildlife, including endangered butterflies and other species. Project partners include Crestmont Land Trust/landowner, NRCS, and USFWS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Restoration activities meet several metrics found in regional plans, such as the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and will benefit several priority species habitats, including Fender's blue butterfly and Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. Restoration at this site provides potential connector habitat between known butterfly populations.
- Project site is highly visible through public access and connects with several adjacent conservation properties in the area; therefore, providing landscape-scale benefits.
- Project is well leveraged with match.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Cost benefit of replacing culverts is unclear without information about the stream system, fish presence, habitat quality, stream conditions upstream and downstream of the project site, and design alternatives that were considered.

Concluding Analysis:

Project will significantly benefit priority species relying on upland oak habitat, because of its unique location that connects more broadly with adjacent oak habitat restoration efforts. While the culvert project elements are not a priority on their own, replacing them will restore stream process and function. This will contribute to the proposed implementation of a whole watershed approach integrated into a resource management level plan across the entire property.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 196,657.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 196,657.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3031**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Bear Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration at Bennett Vineyards		
Applicant:	Long Tom WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$89,773.00**	**Total Cost:**	$136,242.00
Proposed Match:	$51,162.00		

Application Description

The "Bear Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration" project will: (1) improve instream habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity by installing instream logs; (2) restore historic riparian habitat structure and decrease the rate of warming of downstream water temperatures by installing high density streamside tree and shrub plantings that increase stream shading; (3) restore historic oak woodland habitat structure by planting native tree, shrubs, and forbs; (4) enhance native prairie plant diversity within reforestation area; (5) create suitable nesting habitat for native pond turtles with basking logs; and (6) create suitable nesting and rearing habitat for native amphibians by establishing vernal pools. The project is located on Bear Creek, a tributary of the Long Tom River in Lane County. Restoration will benefit native fish and wildlife species, including turtles and amphibians, water quality, and instream and riparian habitat function. Project partners include the landowner and USACE.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous investments in a culvert replacement on the project site and the Willamette Model Watershed program.
- Project includes a mix of restoration activities that will provide a diversity of benefits to fish and wildlife species habitats.
- Application provides a well explained, detailed budget.
- Project is well leveraged with match and committed landowners.
- Project provides outreach opportunity because of vineyard visitors.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application overstates restoration benefit to ESA-listed salmon.
- Project design includes some experimental approaches that may have uncertain results. This includes bringing in soil for turtle habitat; and the herbaceous planting plots with maintenance requirements that might be difficult to implement and achieve long-term success in restoring these plant communities.

Concluding Analysis:

The project implements restoration actions that are part of a Willamette Model Watershed strategy and benefits a diversity of habitats supporting native fish and wildlife species, which results in a cost-effective project for the expected watershed benefits.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
8 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 89,773.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3032**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Truax Island Phase 1- Dead River Crossing		
Applicant:	Calapooia WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Linn	
OWEB Request:	**$197,522.00**	**Total Cost:** $264,835.00	
Proposed Match:	$67,313.00		

Application Description

The "Truax Island" project will increase off-channel habitat for native Willamette Valley fish and improve hydraulic connectivity of Dead River and the Willamette River by replacing a failed road crossing. This will improve passage and instream conditions within a large side slough of the Willamette River. Truax Island Access is a 128-acre undeveloped Willamette Greenway site within the Upper Willamette River Floodplain Conservation Opportunity Area with 2.17 miles of Willamette River-frontage between the cities of Corvallis and Albany. Restoration will benefit several Oregon Conservation Strategy species, including willow flycatcher, white-breasted nuthatch, bald eagle, Western pond turtle, and ESA- listed anadromous fish. Project partners include TNC, Knife River, and OPRD.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project is based on thorough design work.
- The project site location on a side-channel of a mainstem Willamette River backwater has high ecological value for Oregon Conservation Strategy species, ESA-listed anadromous fish, and a Willamette greenway site.
- Proposed road crossing replacement has low risk and high probably of success.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Culvert replacement has limited ecological benefit for the high project cost because fish can already access this slough habitat in the winter when water rises. The slough is unlikely to provide fish habitat benefits in the summer due to high water temperatures; therefore, summer fish passage into the slough is not necessary. As a result, the application may overstate the project benefits for fish.
- Application lacks information on whether restoration alternatives were considered and why less costly approaches with potentially higher ecological benefit are not feasible, such as removing the culvert and road, using alternative access roads, or using a ford.

Concluding Analysis:

The benefit-cost of replacing the culvert is limited. There is potential for further ecological gains in a future phase 2 of this project that will restore native vegetative community on the Oregon Parks

greenway property; however, it requires road access provided by this proposed phase 1 project. This access could be achieved through more cost effective approaches, such as an alternative route or ford crossing. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide further information to better understand ecological benefits of the project, analysis of alternatives for site access, and explanation why the chosen alternative is cost-effective for the expected ecological benefits gained.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3033**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhacement		
Applicant:	Johnson Creek WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Multnomah	
OWEB Request:	**$111,174.00**	**Total Cost:** $258,218.00	
Proposed Match:	$147,044.00		

Application Description

The "Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhacement" project will: (1) reduce heat loading by decommissioning/removing an in-line pond and restoring riparian and upland vegetation in the vicinity of the pond; (2) restore fish passage in the project area; and (3) recreate a stream channel with a stable and sustainable channel geometry within the footprint of the existing pond to provide quality salmonid habitat. This new instream habitat will consist of large wood structures for rearing and holding habitat and hiding cover, as well as constructed riffles to promote riffle-pool sequences in the constructed alluvial channel form that can serve to trap spawning gravel. Project is located on Mitchell Creek, a tributary in Johnson Creek Watershed near Gresham, Oregon. Restoration will benefit water quality and stream habitat for amphibians, such as red-legged frogs, and ESA-listed salmonid fish species. Project partners include TNC, Metro, East Multnomah SWCD, EPA, and National Civilian Community Corps.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Removing the proposed in-line pond will benefit water quality by improving stream temperature, which is confirmed by pre-project data that clearly indicates this shallow pond is serving as a heat source with a seven degree difference in water temperatures of flows entering the pond versus the water exiting the pond.
- Project is located at a semi-public school district property, offering future public outreach opportunities.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Project design does not account for site context because proposed restoration targets a highly engineered fish spawning habitat; however, site conditions and presence of beaver activity indicate this site is more likely beaver habitat.
- Overall project cost is high for the expected ecological benefits.

Concluding Analysis:

Removing ponds will provide significant benefits to stream water quality; however, project design should focus on beaver habitat instead of fish spawning habitat to match site context. Site has indicators that beaver are present, which could reverse the effectiveness of proposed fish habitat restoration due to the resulting influence typical of beavers on stream conditions. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to consider focusing project design to restore beaver habitat

to fit site context, reducing the complex engineering approach, utilizing beaver reference sites, and connecting this project to applicant's monitoring project to test monitoring strategy.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3034**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Salyers Ranch Riparian Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Coast Fork Willamette WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$44,928.00**	**Total Cost:**	$77,353.00
Proposed Match:	$32,425.00		

Application Description

The "Salyers Ranch Riparian Restoration Project" will restore riparian habitat by controlling invasive plant species and establishing a native riparian buffer. Project is located on Camas Swale Creek in the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed, south of Eugene, Oregon. Restored riparian corridors will support a diversity of native trees, shrubs, and forbs that will provide shade over the creek and reduce erosion. Habitat restoration will benefit many species of birds, reptiles and amphibians, including the listed western pond turtles and red-legged frogs. Project partners include the landowner and volunteers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Restoration will benefit a Vesper sparrow population, which is a species that is likely to soon be listed on the Endangered Species Act. The project site is one of a few locations with a Vesper sparrow population and conservation efforts at this site could lead to this species being listed as threatened instead of endangered, which provides more flexibility in working with landowners on voluntary conservation.
- Restoration plans for the site are technically sound.
- Project site could potentially be protected by a conservation easement in the future. Proposed restoration could result in a more competitive application for the grant that would fund this easement.
- Project leverages partnerships, CREP program, and a committed landowner that is responsibly managing the property.
- Project has a reasonable budget for the expected ecological benefits from proposed restoration.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No significant concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis:

Project provides high habitat benefit for the project cost, will support a priority bird species on an ecologically significant site, and has potential for future habitat restoration that will further increase the impact of this project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 44,928.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 44,928.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3035**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Spencer Creek Oak Woodland Restoration, Old Gimpl Farm Oak Savanna Restoration, and Biochar Creation		
Applicant:	Long Tom WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$139,504.00**	**Total Cost:**	$181,233.00
Proposed Match:	$48,903.00		

Application Description

The "Spencer Creek Oak Woodland Restoration, Old Gimpl Farm Oak Savanna Restoration, and Biochar Creation" project will improve oak woodland and savanna habitat structure, function, native species diversity, and connectivity. Restoration will include: (1) removing encroaching woody vegetation, thinning dense stands of oak, retaining age-class diversity among oak seedlings, and transplanting seedling oaks into a portion of former savanna that is currently a hay meadow; (2) improving seasonal stream corridors and pond habitat structure and function to support native plant and animal species by controlling invasive species; and (3) improving oak habitat and riparian restoration best management practices utilizing biochar and rotational grazing. Project is located within the Spencer and Coyote creek subwatersheds of the Long Tom Watershed in Lane County. Restoration will benefit oak savanna and woodland habitats, two of the most endangered habitats in Oregon and nationwide with many plants and animals dependent solely or in part on these habitat types that are also threatened or in decline. Project partners include landowners, community volunteers, Biochar consultants, and NRCS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project is located near previous restoration sites; therefore, proposed work will contribute to landscape scale benefits and will benefit priority upland plant species and pond turtles.
- Proposed restoration techniques are technically sound and site-appropriate.
- Application includes a detailed, cost-effective budget for oak restoration.
- Project support is demonstrated by match and letters of support from project participants.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Fire danger associated with dead Douglas fir trees may be somewhat overstated since these trees will likely resolve themselves by becoming snag habitat; therefore, benefit-cost- of the Douglas fir removal is limited.
- The results from integrating biochar are unpredictable and experimental in nature. Furthermore, monitoring results may not be very useful for informing impacts of biochar due to natural variability in soils already present. It would be difficult to identify what monitoring results are attributed to biochar use.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed restoration is a straight forward, reasonable cost oak restoration project in proximity to other similar restoration sites providing opportunity for habitat connectivity. Project also integrates a couple of unique opportunities. The first is using a different, potentially cost-effective, approach to slash disposal by converting it to biochar. Slash disposal is commonly a difficult and costly product of oak restoration. Two biochar consultants involved in the project with different skillsets could maximize learning from biochar application to treat slash. The second is building on enthusiastic landowner participation by pairing landowners in a potential peer mentoring relationship.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
9 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 139,504.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3036**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Bear Branch Prairie, Oak and Stream Restoration		
Applicant:	North Santiam WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Linn
OWEB Request:	**$320,103.00**	**Total Cost:**	$631,658.00
Proposed Match:	$94,709.00		

Application Description

The "Bear Branch Prairie, Oak and Stream Restoration" project will: (1) restore remnant Willamette Valley wet prairie, oak savanna and oak woodland habitat; (2) restore instream aquatic habitat complexity with large wood structures and reconnect the stream with its historic floodplain; and (3) restore ecological functions of the riparian/floodplain corridor through strategic vegetative management. Restoration activities include oak release, weed control, seeding and planting native plant species, establishing native plants, and placing instream large wood structures. Project is located on Bear Branch, a Lower North Santiam River tributary in Linn County. The following limiting factors will be addressed: (1) loss of Willamette Valley wet prairie, oak savanna, and oak woodland habitats due to land use conversion to agriculture and/or urban development, conifer encroachment, commercial logging operations, and the absence of fire; (2) loss of wetland and upland prairie biodiversity and extent due to prairie conversion to pasture and agricultural use, invasion of non-native grasses and blackberry, and hardwoods encroachment due to fire suppression; (3) lack of instream channel complexity and large wood structures due to channel simplification, installation and maintenance of flood and channel migration control structures, timber harvesting, conversion of floodplain and riparian forest lands to agriculture and agricultural land to urban, and construction of road networks; and (4) loss of floodplain and off-channel habitat reduced available spawning, rearing, and cool water refugia habitat for native fish species using the system due to channelization from removing instream large wood and lack of intact floodplain forests reducing the natural recruitment of large wood, has significantly decreased in-stream aquatic habitat complexity. Project partners include USFWS, NRCS, landowners, MMT, ODFW, CPRCD, FSA, and BLM.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous Willamette Model Watershed investments in a stream that supports ESA-listed winter steelhead downstream of the project site.
- Project site is located in close proximity to nearby conservation properties and restoration underway by applicant, providing opportunity for habitat connectivity and recruitment of future restoration in the local community.
- Restoration will benefit both priority upland and stream habitats.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.
- Project is well leveraged with match.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application overstates direct benefit of restoration on this site to ESA-listed fish species. Restoration will likely directly benefit cutthroat and provide secondary water quality benefits to downstream ESA-listed fish.

Concluding Analysis:
The proposed project is timely because landowners have already removed cattle grazing on the site; therefore, it is important to begin restoration treatment before noxious weeds move into the site. Restoration is well positioned on the landscape by connecting with other priority restoration efforts that will continue to build momentum on this priority tributary, especially with opportunities that could arise as the local soil and water conservation district considers selecting Bear Branch as a future focus area. Resulting restoration will benefit a mosaic of multiple upland and stream habitat types with one of the best cost-benefits ratios in terms of per acre cost for restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 320,103.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 320,103.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3037**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Plants for People Phase II		
Applicant:	Institute for Applied Ecology		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Polk	
OWEB Request:	**$198,654.00**	**Total Cost:** $546,112.00	
Proposed Match:	$267,817.00		

Application Description

The "Plants for People" restoration project will restore previously farmed or otherwise human-impacted land to functioning prairie, oak, and riparian habitat while establishing beneficial links between local tribes, public lands, agriculture, and conservation. The proposed project will restore diverse, resilient habitats through invasive species control and oak release to support native species, including rare and culturally significant plants, and pollinator and other wildlife species. Additionally, this project will incorporate Traditional Ecological Knowledge into habitat restoration planning and implementation at project sites by engaging tribes in planning processes, increasing availability of culturally significant plant materials for use in restoration projects and traditional tribal practices, and improving access to appropriate sites for traditional gathering and harvest of plant materials by tribal members. The project includes five locations in the Willamette Valley in Lane, Polk, Benton, and Marion Counties.

Willamette Valley prairies and oak savanna and woodland habitats are some of North America's most imperiled ecosystems due to habitat fragmentation, fire suppression, and land use conversion. Less than 1% of native prairie remains, and less than 10% of oak habitat is still present today. Native plant and wildlife species dependent on these habitats have declined as a result of this, some to the point of requiring protection under the Endangered Species Act, including streaked horned lark (threatened), Fender's blue butterfly (endangered), Taylor's checkerspot butterfly (endangered), Bradshaw's lomatium (endangered), golden paintbrush (threatened), Kincaid's lupine (threatened), Nelson's checkermallow (threatened), Willamette daisy (threatened), white-topped aster (threatened), peacock larkspur (threatened, State) and white-rock larkspur (threatened, State). Restoration will improve the quality and amount of native prairie and oak habitat at project sites to help reverse trends of loss and degradation in these imperiled Willamette Valley habitats. Project partners include UC-Davis, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, ODFW, City of Corvallis, OPRD, and USFWS.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on a previous successful phase one investment, will maintain project momentum, and will ensure availability of native plant materials for upland oak prairie restoration.
- Project is leveraged with match and supported by partner involvement, which is demonstrated by letters of support.

- Project will benefit wildlife species across large acreage.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application would be strengthened by a budget explanation that links the grant request with the project description to better understand how funds will be spent.
- It is unclear whether restoration actions are ecologically sustainable so that outcomes can be maintained without constant financial support.

Concluding Analysis:
Project timing is important to maintain momentum with partners, including Oregon Parks and Recreation and the tribe, utilize the qualified staff from phase 1 to effectively continue this work, and utilize time-limited match. Reviewers highlighted that it is assumed that tribal gathering was an extractive process; however, in reality it was a landscape management tool that tribes relied on to maintain habitats, such as prairies. By re-establishing gathering sites as will occur with the proposed project, it also re-establishes habitat maintenance. The resulting project benefits priority species over a large acreage that results in ecological gains with reasonable cost-benefits.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
7 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 198,654.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 198,654.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3038**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Carnine Upland Prairie and Oak Savanna Restoration Phase 1		
Applicant:	Coast Fork Willamette WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Lane	
OWEB Request:	**$97,761.00**	**Total Cost:** $130,991.00	
Proposed Match:	$33,230.00		

Application Description

The Carnine restoration project will restore upland prairie-oak savanna vegetation to provide habitat for native Willamette Valley wildlife while contributing to biodiversity and functionality. Activities include invasive weed control, releasing oak through thinning, prescribed burns in prairie areas, and restoring native plant community by seeding and planting forbs and bulbs. The project is located in the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed east of Cottage Grove, Oregon. Restoration will benefit Willamette prairie and oak habitat, which currently has only 2% remaining from historic conditions, along with benefiting populations of grassland birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. Project partners include USFWS, landowners, Institute for Applied Ecology, and Kennedy Conservation Corps.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Proposed project design utilizes technically sound and site-appropriate restoration practices, including judicious use of herbicides to control weeds.
- Project location in the Willamette Valley fringe area is a priority for restoring oak and upland plant communities to preserve sensitive species relying on these habitats; the site could potentially provide an anchor location between two Conservation Opportunity Areas.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.
- Project is supported by the landowner, which is demonstrated by match and a letter of support.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Project location among adjacent forested lands could limit whether target species will be able to utilize restored project site as a stepping stone between habitat locations; the site might be too isolated among timber lands.

Concluding Analysis:

The proposed project will benefit oak habitat and species that are dependent on these upland habitats utilizing site appropriate techniques. The extent to which this site can provide connectivity with nearby sites is uncertain due to its location on a fragmented landscape; therefore, potentially reducing the ecological benefit of this project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
11 of 14

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 97,761.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3039**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration - Phase 2, Zong F & I Design		
Applicant:	Scappoose Bay WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Columbia
OWEB Request:	**$27,321.00**	**Total Cost:**	$36,820.00
Proposed Match:	$9,500.00		

Application Description

The "South Scappoose Creek Floodplain Restoration" technical assistance project will develop final construction designs for restoration activities along a 0.2 mile reach of the South Scappoose Creek. Restoration activities will be designed to improve stream function and floodplain interaction by reducing stream incision, erosion and unstable stream banks, removing invasive species, and enhancing riparian and instream habitat. Specific elements likely to be included in the final design are laid-back banks, a floodplain bench, and potential side-channel reconnections. The result (if implemented) will be a waterway with enhanced salmonid habitat that provides additional winter refuge, and rearing habitat in a connection stream reach between the tidal extent and upper watershed. Project partners include City of Scappoose.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous investments, implements restoration on one of the few large land parcels in this watershed, and is identified in a strategic plan.
- Project budget is reasonable with efficient use of funds directly supporting design work.
- Landowner support for the project is demonstrated by letters of support.
- Resulting restoration will functionally connect the estuary with upper watersheds, which are biologically significant habitats for multiple species, including ESA-listed fish.
- Proposed project is responsive to previous regional review team recommendations to look broadly beyond the city park project site.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Project design will address a small stream segment, therefore, limiting overall project impact.
- Resulting restoration project is likely to be a high cost implementation project for the expected ecological benefits gained.

Concluding Analysis:

Proposed project has potential for providing habitat benefits for ESA-listed fish species in a priority watershed. However, the resulting design will likely result in a high cost restoration project, which limits overall cost-benefit of these restoration actions. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to consider a design solution that limits the extent of streambank shaping that results in

costly movement of large amounts of materials, and consider design alternatives to determine a cost-effective design approach.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3040**	**Project Type:** Technical Assistance	
Project Name:	Kelley Creek Fish Passage		
Applicant:	Johnson Creek WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Multnomah	
OWEB Request:	**$12,489.00**	**Total Cost:** $29,979.00	
Proposed Match:	$17,491.00		

Application Description

The "Kelley Creek Fish Passage" technical assistance will provide a preliminary/30% engineering design and probable cost estimate for a construction project to restore 100% fish passage at the barrier on Kelley Creek, which enters Johnson Creek at river mile 11.4 near the boundary for Portland, Oregon. This six foot high human-made dam on a private property was built in 1989 as a diversion dam to supply the landowner's water rights to an offline pond. This barrier is of particular importance because it is the first 100% salmonid barrier in the Kelley Creek watershed. When implemented, the resulting project will open fish passage to 1.8 miles of habitat on Kelley and Mitchell Creeks (1.6 on Kelley, 0.2 on Mitchell). Project partners include the Johnson Creek Inter-Jurisdictional Committee, East Multnomah SWCD, and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project is identified in a watershed action plan.
- Restoration will address the first full barrier in this stream system, and will open a significant length of stream habitat to fish.
- Project is leveraged by significant match, and supported by partners demonstrated by letters of support.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Landowner project support for restoration is unclear because there is no letter of support from them; furthermore, the landowner agreement provided in the application commits the landowner to only survey and design project elements.
- It is unclear whether the chosen consultant has relevant expertise to address the complexities associated with removing this six-foot dam and associated challenges, such as sediment built up behind the dam. This is a sizeable dam in an urban setting; therefore, it is important for the consultant to have appropriate experience with dams to ensure likelihood for project success.
- Resulting restoration project is likely to have a high cost. Since the application does not include a description of the conditions and importance of fish habitat located above the dam, it is difficult to determine cost-benefits of removing this dam.

Concluding Analysis:
Dam removal has potential for having high impact to watershed benefits, while also having potential for high risk. Without more explicit landowner support for the whole restoration project (i.e. design and implementation), it is difficult to determine whether technical assistance investment will result in a restoration project. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide the following information: (1) design alternatives under consideration and how the applicant will work towards a design approach that is not limited to a high cost, heavily engineered restoration design product; (2) a letter from the landowner articulating support for restoration actions that include implementation; (3) explanation on how permitting agencies will be engaged through the design process; and (4) plans for funding the resulting restoration project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3041**	**Project Type:** Technical Assistance	
Project Name:	PWP Landowner Recruitment		
Applicant:	Cascade Pacific RC&D		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Lane	
OWEB Request:	**$49,490.00**	**Total Cost:** $127,956.00	
Proposed Match:	$82,130.00		

Application Description

The "PWP Landowner Recruitment" technical assistance will promote awareness of and participation in the Pure Water Partners (PWP) program, an incentive-based strategy that aims to protect existing healthy riparian areas and restore degraded riparian forests along the McKenzie River through voluntary actions. Landowners will be recruited through mailings and meetings/workshops. Additionally, riparian health assessments, long-term landowner agreements, and funding proposal development will be completed. Riparian forests within the McKenzie River sub-basin have been impacted by multiple land management practices including conversion to urban, residential and agricultural land uses, installation of flood control dams and hydroelectric power projects, forestry, and roads. These land management practices led to a reduction in the quantity and connectivity of riparian forests, and contributed to documented downward trends in McKenzie River water quality and degraded habitat for native fish and wildlife. Increased private landowner participation in voluntary actions designed to restore and provide long-term protection of riparian forests will help enhance water quality and stream habitat within the McKenzie River over the long term. The PWP programmatic approach will allow for developing and maintaining capacity among a wide range of partnering organizations, leveraging funding partners, and prioritizing riparian enhancement and protection in the McKenzie River sub-basin across partners that will result in large-scale implementation of riparian conservation and restoration projects. Project partners include Eugene Water and Electric Board and Upper Willamette SWCD.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on a succeeding, voluntary approach, and incorporates an innovative landowner ambassador concept.
- McKenzie Watershed is an important location for priority fish species, including Chinook, bull trout, and Oregon chub.
- Proposal describes clear, ambitious, achievable, and measurable goals and objectives for landowner recruitment, starting with outreach to securing landowner agreements.
- Applicant staff roles and responsibilities required for successful implementation of technical assistance is clearly described in the application.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis:
Pure Water Partners offers a program that could be transferred to other basins, and provides a unique approach to working with landowners in a watershed experiencing increasing pressure from urban and rural development. Proposed technical assistance benefits a priority watershed for ESA-listed fish species; and leverages a high cost-benefit because of the future landscape-scale watershed efforts that will likely result from this work.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,490.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 49,490.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3042**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Designing for Downstream: Voluntary Urban Water Quality Projects		
Applicant:	Long Tom WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$30,993.00**	**Total Cost:**	$60,902.00
Proposed Match:	$31,586.00		

Application Description

The "Designing for Downstream" technical assistance project will convene a technical team of local stakeholders and partners to create a project prioritization matrix through which potential voluntary urban stormwater retrofit projects can be ranked, and apply this methodology to the current list of nearly 200 proposed project sites. Additionally, project designs will be developed for two of the highest ranked project sites for near-term implementation. Projects are implemented through the watershed council's Urban Waters and Wildlife Program in which commercial and industrial businesses take the "Trout Friendly Landscape Pledge" that provides them incentives to alter or enhance their landscape, maintenance, and business practices to reduce pesticide use, improve soil health, increase native and pollinator friendly species, and to incorporate stormwater management and other pollutant source control measures. Project partners include City of Eugene, City of Springfield, Willamalane Parks and Recreation District, Eugene Water and Electric Board, Springfield Utility Board, ODEQ, USFS, and local businesses.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous urban restoration and provides a tool to prioritize project demand. Applicant's urban program seems to be generating a high level of interest from businesses that want to "do good" for resident trout.
- Project team has relevant, proven experience; therefore, the project has a likelihood of success.
- Project is strongly leveraged with match.
- Application addresses primary concerns from previous regional review team comments.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Methods described in the application are vague because these will be developed by a technical team as part of the project. As a result, it is unclear how exactly projects will be prioritized.
- Application would be strengthened by an explanation on how these urban stormwater projects will have a measurable impact in the watershed, or efforts the applicant will integrate into the project to determine this impact.
- Proposed team has under-representation of fish-focused expertise considering the "trout friendly" project focus.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed project addresses a gap in stormwater treatment at locations that were not required to install stormwater infrastructure when they were built. This project model could also be transferred to other watersheds; therefore, providing additional cost-benefits from this technical assistance investment.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 30,993.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 30,993.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3043**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Sandy-Salmon Confluence Value Engineering		
Applicant:	Sandy River Basin WC		
Basin:	LOWER COLUMBIA	**County:**	Clackamas
OWEB Request:	**$46,552.00**	**Total Cost:**	$78,102.00
Proposed Match:	$31,550.00		

Application Description

The "Sandy-Salmon Confluence Value Engineering" technical assistance project will conduct data and field surveys, hydrologic modeling, and expert reviews to revise conceptual plans and produce permit-level design for implementation of a high-impact restoration project on the mainstem Sandy. The project will develop feasible actions to reconnect the Sandy-Salmon confluence floodplain and restore the area's extensive value as floodplain and off-channel habitat for migrating wild salmon and steelhead. Floodplain reconnection could occur through modification of levees that currently disconnect the floodplain from the mainstem Sandy. Options include levee setbacks, partial breaching, levee removals, and passive restoration of the floodplain surface. Excavating side channels, which are currently connected to the Sandy only at high flows, through the floodplain surface would increase habitat function and diversity. Potential grading strategies will likely be required to restore floodplain processes, as well as limiting risk to nearby roadways, bridges, and other infrastructure. Large wood and log jam placements would be evaluated, with different types of structures assessed to facilitate habitat development and help restore connectivity and geomorphic processes. Project partners include BLM, Clackamas SWCD, Sandy River Basin Partners technical committee, and Sandy Basin Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project location is in a high priority area for ESA-listed salmonid recovery with extensive planning efforts completed that identified this location as one of three priority subwatersheds in the Sandy Basin.
- This technical assistance project focuses on identifying cost-effective approaches to achieving aquatic ecosystem benefits at a large scale.
- Proposed designer has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application would benefit from a budget narrative that explains the significant staff cost associated with this project to understand their roles in ensuring successful completion of proposed technical assistance.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed technical assistance will provide restoration designs in a priority location for ESA-listed fish that emphasizes cost-effectiveness of resulting watershed restoration. Applicant is encouraged to ensure technical assistance includes an assessment of design alternatives, and any future restoration applications include a clear explanation of a cost-benefit analysis for the alternative chosen as the final design.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 46,552.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 46,552.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3044**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Scappoose Bay Watershed Strategic Water Quality Monitoring		
Applicant:	Scappoose Bay WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Columbia
OWEB Request:	**$21,377.00**	**Total Cost:**	$29,522.00
Proposed Match:	$8,145.00		

Application Description

The "Scappoose Bay Watershed Strategic Water Quality Monitoring" project will assess current water quality conditions in the major Scappoose Bay Watershed sub-basins to guide restoration prioritization for a watershed strategic plan. Previous water quality monitoring data found water quality concerns that are likely impacting listed salmonids, including elevated stream temperatures, turbidity and bacteria, and low dissolved oxygen. Proposed monitoring will assess water quality at a subset of previous sampling locations to identify any significant changes since the last 2008-2010 sample events, and to identify key locations for prioritized restoration actions. Data collected will include a combination of continuous temperature sensors and single measurement samples of temperature, turbidity, and dissolved oxygen. Project partners include volunteers and DEQ.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application's objectives are good and the questions listed in the hypothesis section are mostly achievable and relatively clear.
- The applicant has the qualifications to complete the work.
- The monitoring efforts proposed in the application are focused and build on past monitoring efforts.
- The proposed monitoring efforts are tied to the applicant's internal planning processes.

Concerns:

- There were no letters of support or partners identified in the application; not engaging with other local groups could be an issue with getting people on board at a later date.
- The OPMT questioned if this monitoring would help them determine the effectiveness of past restoration efforts based on the percentage of restoration actions that have occurred in the watershed and how the monitoring is structured (e.g., trends cannot be determined in three years).
- The application does not describe specific monitoring methods and only stated they would follow approved methods.
- The application only described generating reports and did not mention sharing data with local partners or DEQ.

Recommendations:
If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator to clarify the match they can provide and determine if resources are available to implement the water temperature monitoring.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (50%), Medium (50%)

Certainty of Success: High (50%), Medium (50%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous monitoring efforts.
- Proposed water sampling covers a large area over the watershed, which results in comprehensive spatial representation of the watershed.
- A DEQ Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) will be completed prior to start of the project.
- Data will be used to prioritize restoration that will benefit Oregon Conservation Strategy species in addition to ESA-listed fish species.
- Application includes detailed maps and sampling table.
- Budget is reasonable.
- Project is leveraged with match from DEQ and volunteers.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Data to be collected will not be useful for meeting monitoring objectives to identify trends because sites are too spatially far apart. It is especially difficult to identify water temperature trends because of spatial and temporal variability in stream temperatures.
- Applicant does not have a critical mass of completed restoration projects for monitoring data to detect watershed changes resulting from these restoration efforts.
- Application would be strengthened by letters of support that document project partnerships.

Concluding Analysis:
It is unclear how monitoring data is a critical need to support restoration planning, when there is already a significant amount of information available. Furthermore, there are more useful tools for identifying and prioritizing projects than water quality monitoring data, including aerial photos and GIS. Applicant should consider planning this monitoring project later, such as in 2020, after there is a critical mass of restoration completed to determine impacts of these efforts on the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3045**	**Project Type:** Monitoring	
Project Name:	Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring		
Applicant:	Luckiamute WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Polk	
OWEB Request:	**$41,079.00**	**Total Cost:** $53,754.00	
Proposed Match:	$12,676.00		

Application Description

The "Luckiamute Temperature Monitoring" project will provide comprehensive, high quality stream temperature data to support prioritizing restoration projects and sound baseline data against which the effectiveness of future restoration projects can be judged. The proposed project will fill a data gap to address the following key questions: (1) are the upper reaches of streams as they emerge from forested watersheds currently providing suitable salmonid habitat in the summer based on the 18º C standard for rearing and migration, and over time, are those temperatures being maintained, warming, or cooling?; (2) what is the current status of reaches targeted for restoration activities (pre-project)?; and (3) are restoration efforts having the expected effect on stream temperatures in the long-term (post-project, future monitoring)? Monitoring activities will include: (1) collection and analysis of surface water temperature data at twelve stations during summer months of 2017 and 2018; and (2) incorporation of existing data and new data collected as a result of this proposal into the Luckiamute Watershed Council (LWC) project prioritization with the LWC Project Review Committee and Board. Project partners include Meyer Memorial Trust.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The applicant has developed a clear monitoring approach to meet their objectives.
- The applicant identified landowners that are willing to share data and selected sites to be monitored under this project in a way that would allow the applicant to share data with DEQ.
- The applicant proposes to follow approved methods, and the description of methods is adequate.
- There are letters of support from a variety of state agencies and landowners.

Concerns:

- No concerns were identified by the OPMT.

Recommendations:

If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide resources to reduce the costs for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (50%), Medium (50%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Monitoring methods are technically sound; proposed temperature data could help identify locations of cold water habitat important to fish, therefore, providing useful information to support project prioritization.
- Project builds on previous monitoring efforts, including rapid bioassessment and NetMap products, to establish trends; new data resulting from this project will be integrated into GIS along with this previous work.
- Partnership has relevant, proven experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood for success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Project cost seems high for the number of proposed monitoring sites. The application would be strengthened by further explanation on how budget numbers were determined; for example, high cost could be attributed to travel time required to access monitoring sites.
- Application is unclear on how data will be used to prioritize projects, and how this data is necessary or adds value to recent NetMap work that is already providing information for restoration identification and prioritization.

Concluding Analysis:
While project cost seems high for the data, the application demonstrates that resulting data will be high quality and there is strong commitment to use the data in planning future watershed restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 41,079.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 41,079.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3046**	**Project Type:** Monitoring	
Project Name:	In-line Pond Temperature Monitoring		
Applicant:	Johnson Creek WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Multnomah	
OWEB Request:	**$10,083.00**	**Total Cost:** $26,091.00	
Proposed Match:	$16,008.00		

Application Description

The "In-line Pond Temperature Monitoring" project has a long-term goal to restore high-priority ponds in the Johnson Creek watershed to reduce stream temperatures and provide climate change resilience. Proposed monitoring is the next phase of this longer-term vision and will conduct an on-the-ground survey of the 8 largest accessible in-line ponds in the watershed. Two primary and several secondary data sets will be collected for each pond. The primary data includes temperature and flow data, which will be used to calculate temperature loading--the primary parameter that will be used to gauge each pond's priority ranking for restoration. Secondary data that will be collected and used in considering project ranking include pond shape and structural information, such as depth, outlet release method, and landowner interest. Proposed project will result in a ranked list of the 8 top-priority ponds in terms of restoration potential and benefit to downstream temperature and a survey protocol that can be used for additional future pond surveys, including written procedures, suggested parameters to collect, and/or important questions for landowners. Project partners include East Multnomah SWCD and Johnson Creek Interjurisdictional Committee.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The OPMT liked that the applicant is targeting a temperature stressor in the basin that has been identified through past monitoring efforts.
- This approach would complement existing riparian vegetation restoration efforts to reduce water temperatures.
- There is value in having the Johnson Creek Inter-Jurisdictional Committee (IJC) provide input and oversight to the analytical process.
- The OPMT appreciated that a portion of this project would be to develop and finalize the field methods to monitor additional ponds in the future.

Concerns:

- The application did not describe the field methods in enough detail to give the OPMT confidence they had a firm understanding of what standard methods should be followed when collecting temperature and flow measurements.
- The application was vague on the flow monitoring equipment they proposed to purchase, and the amount in the budget may not be enough to buy all of the equipment needed to collect flow measurements.

- The OPMT questioned what equations would be used to calculate loads given the data they propose to collect.
- There was not enough information in the application to determine if there were potential solutions to alter in-line ponds to reduce temperature impacts.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (50%), Medium (50%)

Certainty of Success: Medium (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Information collected through this project will be a useful communication tool to recruit landowners in addressing in-line ponds negatively impacting water quality.
- Data collection includes pond characteristics, such as depth and shape, in addition to stream temperature. This data will be useful in determining which ponds are negatively impacting stream temperature the most and, therefore, a priority for restoration. Not all ponds need to be removed since some deeper ponds can have a cooling affect and, therefore, would not be a priority for restoration.
- Overall project budget is reasonable.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application would be strengthened by additional information on field methods and detail on budget that explains the need for the considerable estimated staff time to implement project work tasks.

Concluding Analysis:

Proposed project will collect information on in-line ponds, which is a priority issue impacting water quality in the Johnson Creek Watershed since there are an estimated 147 in-line ponds in this watershed. Resulting data will support restoration prioritization for strategically addressing these ponds and landowner recruitment efforts. The applicant is encouraged to share resulting data with Oregon Water Resources Department.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 10,083.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 10,083.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3047**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Beaver and a declining amphibian: implications for Oregon spotted frog population recovery		
Applicant:	McKenzie Watershed Alliance		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$173,579.00**	**Total Cost:**	$276,892.00
Proposed Match:	$101,518.00		

Application Description

The proposed Oregon spotted frog (OSF) monitoring project will provide the first data and analysis of OSF population response to habitat alteration caused by beaver in the Northwest, and perhaps the first before-after and treatment-control design for amphibians and beaver in the USA. Understanding these dynamics will inform expectations around wildlife responses to natural beaver expansions, beaver translocations/reintroductions, and other restoration approaches. Monitoring will: (1) determine status of OSF in 2 populations in Mink Lake basin in the Three Sisters Wilderness using mark-recapture sampling; (2) document changes in habitat associated with beaver establishment; (3) evaluate responses of OSF to beaver establishment in the study area; and (4) characterize responses of introduced game fish to beaver in these sites. Project partners include ODFW, USGS, USFS, and McKenzie Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Attention to Oregon spotted frog is warranted and there is potential to feed into management decisions related to non-native fish.
- This project will leverage six years of existing spotted frog data.
- The applicant is working with the USGS staff on this project and, combined, these entities are capable of collecting the data.
- There is a large amount of match being provided by USGS, ODFW and USFS.

Concerns:

- This monitoring project seems very site specific and the OPMT questioned how exportable the findings would be to other areas where beaver may be reintroduced.
- Information provided in the application makes it difficult to determine the benefit; rather, this project seems more like an opportunity rather than a monitoring need.
- There were no specific methods described in the application and it was not clear how the applicant would document the habitat changes, water level differences and vegetation dynamics associated with the different wetland sites.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (100%)

Certainty of Success: Medium (60%), High (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Monitoring data is intended to benefit a listed species with few populations remaining, and to inform management decisions that support OSF. This information could also support understanding of other management questions related to beaver and non-native fish populations.
- The project is timely because it takes advantage of current conditions for a natural experiment to understand potential impacts of beaver on OSF populations.
- Project support is demonstrated by letters of support from partners.
- The partnership has relevant knowledge and experience; therefore, project has a high likelihood for success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Overall project cost is high.
- The research strategy is reasonable if the project was only looking at the two monitoring sites described in the application; however, since there is only one control and one treatment site, it would be difficult to infer information to other locations as described in the project objectives because there are too many complicating factors (e.g. influence of beaver, fish, or other element of ecosystem process).
- It is unclear how the applicant would address beaver potentially moving into the control site and compromising the study. Removing beaver would be a complicated process that takes a long time for approval, which would be problematic for this monitoring project.

Concluding Analysis:

There is value to OSF monitoring to learn more about management that can address impacts to their populations; however, uncertainty related to the control site, potential influence of non-native fish, and other potential factors that could be affecting OSF populations may limit the extent to which monitoring results can be inferred to other locations beyond the study sites. This also limits the cost-benefits of this project. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to provide a description of how they will address potential for beaver moving into the control site, how the monitoring design will take into consideration influence of non-native fish as a factor affecting OSF populations along with other environmental factors that may affect monitoring results, and how results can effectively provide information for other locations with OSF populations.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3048**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Lower Willamette Stewardship and Outreach Project		
Applicant:	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Clackamas	
OWEB Request:	**$32,742.00**	**Total Cost:** $45,242.00	
Proposed Match:	$13,673.00		

Application Description

The "Lower Willamette Stewardship and Outreach Project" targets third to sixth grade students, teachers, and parents from underserved schools in Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas Counties that have diverse student bodies and poverty rates greater than 40%. The proposed project will provide watershed education and opportunities to help restore habitat through service learning project implementation. Project activities include three hands-on classroom lessons, a field trip, and a post field trip reflection class. Project partners include elementary and middle schools in Washington, Multnomah, and Clackamas counties.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Outreach project benefits underserved communities where there are high poverty rates.
- Project design integrates pre- and post- program surveys, is easy for teachers to participate in by providing all necessary materials, and engages parents.
- Project support is demonstrated by letters of support.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Ecological impact of outreach activities is limited because the primary focus of this outreach project is on education.

Concluding Analysis:

While project targets underserved communities, there is limited connection to on-the-ground restoration activities that benefit the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

7 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 32,742.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3049**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Kings Valley Watershed Stewards - Phase I		
Applicant:	Luckiamute WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Benton
OWEB Request:	**$32,751.00**	**Total Cost:**	$59,798.00
Proposed Match:	$27,048.00		

Application Description

"Kings Valley Watershed Stewards" targets K – 12 students at Kings Valley Charter School in a year-long, integrated program with classroom and outdoor activities; and students from Falls City school district engage in a peer-to-peer Field Day. Proposed outreach activities will improve students' knowledge of ponds, streams, watersheds, riparian function, habitat requirements, and restoration best practices. Community landowners will also participate in a spring tour that will showcase restoration techniques, local native plants for use in the Kings Valley region, and funding opportunities and contacts available for habitat protection and restoration. Project partners include landowners, Benton SWCD, Willamette Habitat Restoration Fund, Meyer Memorial Trust, Kings Valley Charter School, Institute for Applied Ecology, and ODFW.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Outreach activities include field work in a priority area for the watershed.
- The project will reach a diverse audience including students, teachers, and landowners, and utilizes strategies appropriate and effective for engaging these audiences. Lunch program data indicate this audience includes low income participants.
- Project support is demonstrated by letters of support.
- Application is well written, and describes a thoughtful approach to this outreach project design.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No significant concerns identified.

Concluding Analysis:

This phase 1 project provides a strong combination of active learning, hands-on activities, and data collection that will benefit the watershed. Phase two of this project is planned to be self-propelled and sustained on its own after this initial investment request.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

5 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 32,751.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3050**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Using the UPRIVER film to increase audience and inclusivity of watershed restoration groups		
Applicant:	Freshwaters Illustrated		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Linn
OWEB Request:	**$17,402.00**	**Total Cost:**	$23,002.00
Proposed Match:	$5,600.00		

Application Description

Proposed UPRIVER film outreach project targets audiences outside the 'inner circle' of watershed restoration who have yet to realize their role in watershed conservation. For example, this includes conservation-minded urban and suburban landowners who might see how decisions in their yard relate to Willamette River water quality and suitability for fish like Chinook salmon. Likewise, rural landowners and farmers might see examples of their agricultural peers making management decisions such as conservation easement agreements, or riparian protection on behalf of water quality and fish and wildlife. UPRIVER is a documentary film focusing on Oregon's watershed restoration movement through a place-based narrative of connected issues and actions in the Willamette river system. In particular, the film illustrates the often elusive connections between public and private lands, rural and urban issues and solutions, and generational efforts to improve water quality and fish habitat over the past century. The proposed project will partner with organizations throughout the valley to coordinate UPRIVER screenings and events with audiences from diverse backgrounds. These screenings will feature take home materials describing practices toward being a better 'UPRIVER Citizen" with links/connections to local conservation groups (e.g., watershed councils, land trusts, SWCDs) that are seeking more members, volunteers, and cooperating landowners.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The proposed project will communicate the value of restoration occurring in the Willamette Valley to a broader community than is typically reached by conservation groups; therefore, it has potential for providing a tool and building outreach capacity for these groups.
- Outreach project has a plan for measuring impact.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application would be strengthened by information on feedback or measures of the film's impact in previous showing events, how watching the film translates to public response that results in watershed benefits, and the level of success of previous events in raising funds for local conservation groups.
- The application would be strengthened by letters of support documenting project match and partner support to demonstrate a need for this outreach by the partners referenced in the application as benefiting from the project.

Concluding Analysis:
UPRIVER is a unique and inspiring placed-based film that could serve as a model for other locations; however, the outreach application is unclear on how this project will directly encourage further watershed restoration and what the level of need is for the proposed outreach activities without partner letters of support indicating benefits of film events to their watershed restoration efforts. If application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to work with local conservation groups, such as those referenced in the application, to actively partner on project development, demonstrate need, and document lessons learned from previous showings.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3051**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Outreach		
Applicant:	Oregon Environmental Council		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Multnomah
OWEB Request:	**$39,905.00**	**Total Cost:**	$49,905.00
Proposed Match:	$10,000.00		

Application Description

"Pesticide Stewardship Partnership Outreach" targets leadership from nine Pesticide Stewardship Partnerships (PSP) in Oregon (including Amazon Creek, Molalla-Pudding, Yamhill, South Yamhill, Clackamas, Hood River, Wasco, Walla-Walla/Milton-Freewater, and Middle Rogue). These leaders include representatives of soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, grower groups, tribal governments, municipal governments, chemical distributors, crop consultants, OSU Extension, and Research and Integrated Plant Protection Center faculty. Project activities include holding face-to-face conversations with leaders of each PSP to: 1) gather stories of success (and failure) and effective outreach material examples; and 2) begin building a sense of relationships and community amongst the PSPs. This information will be shared across PSPs to broaden knowledge and resources for all PSPs; and accelerate the pace and effectiveness of each PSP to leverage greater on-the-ground water quality improvements. Sharing information and outreach materials across the current PSPs will also create a resource library that can facilitate onboarding new watersheds into the PSP program. Project partners include the inter-agency Water Quality Pesticide Management Team.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The proposed project builds on initiatives that started by forming PSPs.
- PSPs can benefit salmonid recovery by addressing water quality issues associated with pesticide use.
- There is value in having a mechanism for sharing materials and outreach approaches to build a strong community of practice.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application is unclear on how outreach project design will be effective; for example, how will populations affected from applying pesticides (e.g. farm workers) benefit from proposed outreach? Two site visits per PSP would limit applicant's ability to build relationships, and there might be some alternative outreach approaches, such as webinars and peer to peer gatherings among PSPs, that would be more effective and expand project impact.
- Overall project cost is high for activities proposed.
- The application would be strengthened by additional context information, such as how active PSPs are and number of people that will be reached through this outreach project.

- The application would be strengthened by letters of support from PSPs and other organizations, such as ODA, to demonstrate partner support and need for proposed project.

Concluding Analysis:
While proposed outreach builds on and potentially improves PSP efforts through peer learning, it is unclear from the application whether PSPs need this work and whether the applicant is well-positioned among the PSP community to provide this service. Letters of support from project partners would provide evidence to demonstrate the need for the proposed outreach project. Furthermore, it is unclear how these outreach efforts will directly lead to watershed benefits.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3052**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Connecting Timberline to Troutdale		
Applicant:	Sandy River Basin WC		
Basin:	LOWER COLUMBIA	**County:** Multnomah	
OWEB Request:	**$31,815.00**	**Total Cost:** $85,760.00	
Proposed Match:	$53,546.00		

Application Description

"Connecting Timberline to Troutdale" targets Sandy River watershed residents and community members (including those who recreate in the basin). The proposed project will build connections between more traditional upper Sandy Basin resident audiences (Timberline and spawning tributaries including the Salmon and Zigzag basins) and expand outreach to diverse, urbanized audiences in the lower watershed residents and recreational community (Gresham, Troutdale, and beyond). Project activities will include the following events: a clean-up, Sandy River Delta Eco-Blitz and celebration, Flood of Information training, and Salmon Carcass Toss. These engagement opportunities provide community focused events and educational presentations that foster a sense for individual and community responsibility in watershed health and stewardship. Project partners include Metro, Multnomah County, local businesses, and SOLVE.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Outreach project will occur in a priority watershed for ESA-listed anadromous fish recovery.
- The applicant has developed a diverse outreach approach that links on-the-ground restoration with engaging stakeholders and landowners, integrates Spanish translation of outreach materials, and works to connect the upper and lower watershed audiences by utilizing the highly visible Sandy River Delta site, which is well positioned for engaging urban area residents.
- Project support is demonstrated by extensive cash and in-kind contribution from the community, including local businesses.
- The application addresses previous regional review team feedback.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It is unclear how applicant will leverage one-time and annual events to build momentum for future watershed restoration work.
- Project will reach a limited number of people for the cost.

Concluding Analysis:

Outreach approach is diverse, strategic, and well supported by community contribution. The unclear connection of how these efforts will directly lead to on-the-ground watershed restoration results in an uncertain cost-benefit for this outreach.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 31.815.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3053**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	South Santiam Natural Resource Education Program		
Applicant:	South Santiam WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Linn	
OWEB Request:	**$55,240.00**	**Total Cost:** $95,958.00	
Proposed Match:	$40,718.00		

Application Description

The "South Santiam Natural Resource Education Program" targets students from Sweet Home Junior High, Sweet Home High, Lebanon High, and Scio High Schools to provide student mentoring between schools and engage youth in civic and watershed enhancement activities as they learn about watershed ecology, watershed councils, and how to create change in their own communities through participating in democratic institutions. Additionally, the Salmon Watch Program will target 5th and/or 6th grade students from Sweet Home, Lebanon, and Scio schools in the four traditional Salmon Watch stations (including salmon biology, macroinvetebrates, water quality, and riparian areas) led by trained volunteers. The Salmon Watch program is designed to foster a deeper connection between humans and ecosystems, recognition of salmon as an indicator of watershed health, greater respect for the value of restoring native wild fish stocks, and understanding of the importance of salmon to native cultures. Project partners include USFS, Meyer Memorial Trust, and Linn Benton Salmon Watch Partnership.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project builds on previous outreach investments and expands into additional schools, including disadvantaged communities with high unemployment rates.
- The project involves young people directly in watershed council activities, including regular meetings, implementing watershed projects, and monitoring restoration.
- Partner support is demonstrated by letters of support from schools and cities, and strong in-kind match from the community.
- Previous program effectiveness is demonstrated from pre-, mid-, and post- program student evaluation integrated into the project.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application would be strengthened by further information on past program implementation and the connection between Salmon Watch and outdoor school project elements to understand why they are packaged together into this application.

Concluding Analysis:

The proposed outreach project builds on a successful program with proven success that directly links students with on-the-ground watershed restoration activities.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 55,240.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 55,240.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3054**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Watershed Action Teams for Education, Restoration and Stewardship Program		
Applicant:	McKenzie Watershed Alliance		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$49,968.00**	**Total Cost:**	$243,728.00
Proposed Match:	$35,230.00		

Application Description

The "Watershed Action Teams for Education, Restoration and Stewardship (WATERS) Program" is a scalable, regional approach to inquiry-based, field-focused environmental education and public outreach involving secondary students from eight school districts, federal agencies, water and electric providers, non-governmental organizations, and private landowners within Lane County, Oregon. WATERS involves three components including team-based student projects with active watershed project development and monitoring, Salmon Watch, and public outreach. This program focuses on water resources and riparian habitat through collaborative field projects; and the results of these projects will be shared with the public and private landowners in an effort to increase participation in local voluntary restoration and conservation projects. Project partners include private donations, Coquille Tribal Fund, Cow Creek Umpqua Indian Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, Gray Family Foundation, Collins Foundation, International Federation of Fly Fishers, EWEB, Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Springfield and McKenzie Public School Districts, EPA, BLM, and McKenzie Watershed Council.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous outreach investments that actively integrates students with on-the-ground watershed restoration by involving them in real projects, and uses this student engagement to build support with landowners.
- Proposed project phase scales up outreach program by expanding into the Coast Fork Willamette watershed.
- Materials will be provided in Spanish, as well as English, for parents.
- Applicant has a strong track record from implementing previous phases of this program.
- The project is supported by diverse partners, which is demonstrated by letters of support.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Scaling up this program by increasing the number of schools could have risk if applicant does not have enough capacity to support this. The application would be strengthened by further explanation on how applicant is planning to meet this new capacity need.

Concluding Analysis:
Proposed outreach project builds on a successful program that directly links students with on-the-ground watershed restoration and monitoring activities while recruiting future watershed restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,968.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 49,968.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3055**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	NCUWC Urban Landowner and Volunteer Outreach		
Applicant:	North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Clackamas	
OWEB Request:	**$17,774.00**	**Total Cost:** $36,224.00	
Proposed Match:	$18,450.00		

Application Description

"NCUWC Urban Landowner and Volunteer Outreach" targets streamside landowners in the North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council's (NCUWC) Streamside Stewards Program (SSP) to educate and inspire improved restoration project maintenance and landowner engagement. Since 2011, the NCUWC has worked with private landowners to restore their streamside properties along Kellogg, Mt. Scott, River Forest, Boardman, and Rinearson Creeks located in urban northern Clackamas County through the SSP, which also trains landowners to maintain and enhance their restored properties. Proposed outreach project also targets potential NCUWC volunteers through recruitment to participate in biological monitoring and providing a community presentation. Project activities include landowner trainings on restoration practices, site visits on landowner properties to create property maintenance plans, landowner surveys to identify future outreach activities, volunteer monitoring, and a community meeting focused on "benefits and impacts of living with beavers along their properties." Project partners include Clackamas County, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Oak Lodge Sanitary District, and Metro.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Proposed project focuses on encouraging landowners to be long-term stewards of restored streamside native vegetation after professional contractors have completed work.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Proposed two-hour landowner training may be too short to ensure landowners learn enough information to effectively maintain restoration.
- Volunteer biomonitoring project elements are unclear; application would be strengthened by additional information on number of volunteers needed, protocols that will be used, how data will be used, and where monitoring sites are located.

Concluding Analysis:

Landowners able to steward restored native vegetation are clearly needed. Proposed outreach offers an interesting approach for transitioning restored sites from professional crew maintenance to landowners providing long-term stewardship. However, it is unclear from the application whether workshops will provide enough opportunity to ensure this transition will successfully occur. The application also lacks enough information to understand the cost-benefit of voluntary monitoring project elements.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Remove monitoring project element and focus on landowner training with no funding reduction.

Regional Review Team Priority

8 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 17,774.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3056**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Oak Creek Open Space Community Engagement		
Applicant:	Calapooia WC		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:**	Linn
OWEB Request:	**$26,629.00**	**Total Cost:**	$34,578.00
Proposed Match:	$7,950.00		

Application Description

"Oak Creek Open Space Community Engagement" targets residents in the south Albany neighborhood surrounding and adjacent to the 233 acre Oak Creek Open Space, which is owned and managed by the City of Albany. The Calapooia Watershed Council (CWC) recently completed an OWEB-funded Oak Creek Open Space Assessment and Management Plan, which prioritized restoration and community engagement needs. Residents provided feedback at a recent Open Space community meeting about their values, uses, and concerns regarding the Open Space, which included interest in knowing more about Open Space habitat, being more involved in decisions about this site, and the Open Space feeling safer and cleaner while remaining a natural area. Proposed outreach project will address these residents' needs by convening and facilitating an Oak Creek Open Space community engagement group, learning and action events, and producing outreach materials. The group will meet monthly to support Oak Creek Open Space restoration through learning about existing and desired habitats, fostering a sense of pride and ownership in the Open Space, and taking action to enhance restoration efforts and user experiences. A secondary project audience includes students participating in the CWC Youth Education Program that will participate in watershed science field trips to the Open Space since it offers a nearby destination with a multitude of habitats, service learning opportunities, real world restoration processes, and residential interface with involved and engaged citizens. Project partners include TNC and City of Albany.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Application addresses previous regional review team recommendations to consider community outreach that encourages support for habitat restoration and increases likelihood of success for future weed control on this site.
- Proposed project design is ambitious.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Application would be strengthened by letters of support from members of the target community in addition to those provided from TNC and the City of Albany.

Concluding Analysis:

Proposed outreach is critical to secure community support for extensive noxious weed control efforts needed at the Oak Creek Open Space site.

It is unclear if outreach efforts would be more effective if timed before or concurrently with expected weed control efforts. Outreach could build community buy-in ahead of restoration efforts; alternatively, timing outreach concurrently with restoration could increase community engagement and participation directly in that restoration. As a result, it is difficult to determine the cost-benefit and priority of this outreach and likelihood for success.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
6 of 8

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 26,629.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Willamette Basin Review Team (Region 3)

Application No.:	**217-3057**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Engaging Clackamas Communities in the Health of their Watershed		
Applicant:	Clackamas River Basin Council		
Basin:	WILLAMETTE	**County:** Clackamas	
OWEB Request:	**$37,375.00**	**Total Cost:** $176,546.00	
Proposed Match:	$118,626.00		

Application Description

"Engaging Clackamas Communities in the Health of their Watershed" targets community members in the rapidly expanding neighborhood developments within Clackamas watershed, as well as underserved populations, including minority and low income community members. Adults and youth will be engaged in a diverse combination of strategies and activities through four programs that will engage students, teachers, volunteers, farmers, and residents of the watershed in stewardship opportunities that promote individual and community engagement in watershed health. Activities include an on-water Down the River Clean Up and Stash the Trash Campaign, teacher training to learn watershed-based curriculum, students raising salmon in the classroom, a salmon carcass toss into Clackamas tributaries, and watershed presentations to engage residents in riparian restoration. Lastly, residents, landowners, and farming operations will receive educational fact sheets, in-person consultations, training workshops, and pledge materials as part of voluntary pesticide reduction and invasive species eradication programs. Community members throughout the watershed will benefit from newsletters, social media, and blog posts that contain a diverse array of information with relevance to a varied population. These communication tools will create ownership of place to increase activity and investment in watershed protection. Project partners include Clackamas County, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, Clackamas River Water Providers, SOLVE, volunteers, ODFW, PGE, and We Love Clean Rivers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project builds on previous successful outreach investments and includes a tie in with the local Pesticide Stewardship Partnership.
- Proposed outreach will occur in a priority watershed for ESA-listed anadromous fish recovery and targets urban stakeholders where development pressure is a priority issue.
- Application is detailed and bundles successful outreach approaches into an overall program.
- Project is leveraged with a diversity of match, and supported by partnerships that include minority populations.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Distribution of partner and applicant staff roles and responsibilities in implementing proposed outreach is unclear in the application to fully understand how the project will be effectively implemented.

Concluding Analysis:
The proposed project utilizes proven outreach techniques in a priority watershed ESA-listed fish to engage citizens in watershed issues.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 8

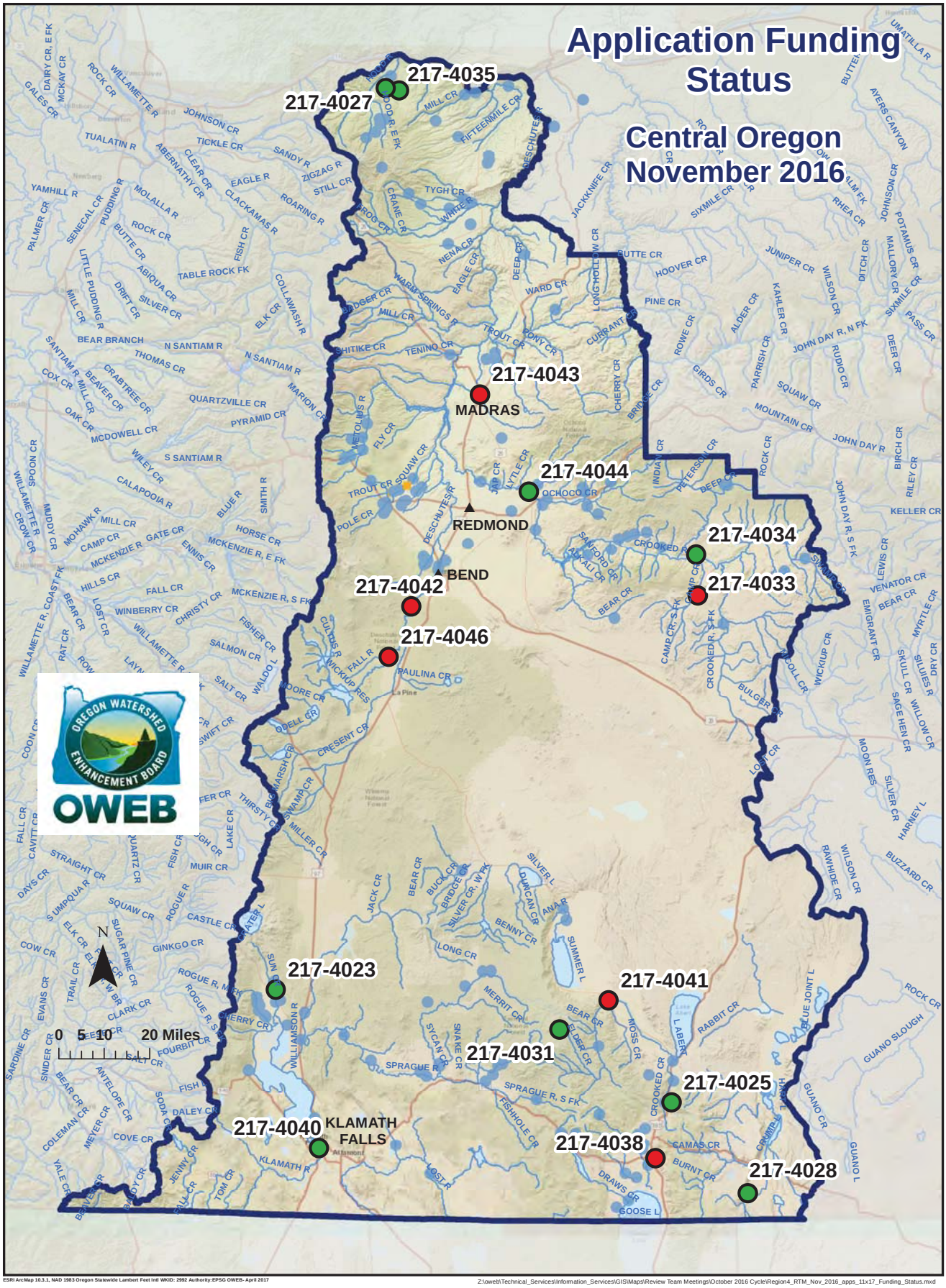
Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 37,375.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00



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November 2016 Applications

- Staff Recommended for Funding
- Below Funding Line

Grants 1998-2016

- Acquisition
- Restoration
- Region4
- Streams

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St, NE Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
(503) 986-0178
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Region 4 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Region 4 - Central Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4031	Goose Lake Fishes Working Group	Elder Creek Fish Passage	Fish passage restoration will take place on Elder Creek, a major tributary to the Upper Chewaucan River, and will open up eight miles of high quality habitat for sensitive Redband trout.	234,183	Lake
217-4025	Goose Lake Fishes Working Group	North Warner Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project	This large scale dry forest restoration project located in the Warner Basin of Lake County is a multi-partner, multi-approach to increase wildfire resiliency, large tree stand and canopy health, and improve wildlife habitat across thousands of acres by conducting small tree thinning.	537,338	Lake
217-4023	Trout Unlimited Inc	Melhase Ditch Fish Screen	The Melhase ditch fish screen located on the Upper Wood River will be retrofitted to keep fish in the Wood River while allowing allocated water to pass through into the ditch.	23,123	Klamath
217-4027	Hood River SWCD	Neal Creek Instream Enhancement at Denton-Doherty's	This restoration project located in Hood River County comprises engineered large wood jams on Neal Creek, a clear water tributary to the Lower Hood River. The restoration is geared towards improving instream and floodplain processes and spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed salmonids in Neal Creek.	98,559	Hood River
217-4028	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Twentymile Creek - MC Diversion Fish Passage	This project will improve channel connectivity, fish passage, and improve the operational safety of the existing MC Diversion on Twentymile Creek to benefit the endemic Warner Sucker and state sensitive Redband trout.	83,258	Lake
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**976,461**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-4024	Upper Deschutes WC	Cline Falls Dam Removal Project	242,490	Deschutes
217-4026	Crook SWCD	Hidden Falls Steelhead Habitat Restoration	137,783	Crook
217-4029	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Silver Creek Riparian Enhancement	66,934	Lake
217-4030	Goose Lake Fishes Working Groups	KV Bar Ranch Fish Screen and Upper Floodplain Restoration	220,059	Lake
217-4032	Sunriver Nature Center Inc	Oregon Spotted Frog Habitat Restoration	68,620	Deschutes

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4035	Hood River SWCD	Hood River Water Bank Implementation Plan	This technical assistance planning will assess the viability of a Hood River water bank to increase summer stream flows for fish and provide greater irrigation water reliability for perennial crop growers during dry or drought years.	49,990	Hood River
217-4034	Crook SWCD	Camp Creek Watershed Restoration Atlas	This watershed wide atlas for Camp Creek, tributary to the Upper Crooked River, will identify, locate, and prioritize all restoration work necessary to restore Camp Creek's Watershed function to the highest attainable level.	48,895	Crook
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**98,885**	

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-4038	Ducks Unlimited - Chris Colson	Lake County SONEC Partnership Biologist	49,973	Lake
217-4033	Crook SWCD	Camp Creek Sediment Retention TA	49,638	Crook
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**198,496**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
217-4036	Balancing Act Research and Education (BARE)	Klamath Basin Consolidation Project	49,610	Klamath
217-4037	Hood River WS Group	Meadows Creek Fish Passage Design	40,592	Hood River

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4044	Crooked River WC	Crook County Natural Resources CTE Outreach Program	This outreach project provides engaging activities for Crook County High School students to increase their awareness and understanding of watershed management, water quality, and watershed restoration and protection by offering new outreach programs that are directly linked to ongoing water quality monitoring, specific restoration projects, and pre- and post-implementation data collection projects with the Crooked River Watershed Council (CRWC).	40,344	Crook
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**40,344**	

Outreach Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-4043	Middle Deschutes WS	Middle Deschutes Youth Watershed Councils	34,578	Jefferson
217-4042	Upper Deschutes WC	The Deschutes River and Little Deschutes River Outreach Project	66,442	Deschutes
217-4046	Sunriver Nature Center	Watershed Ecology and Amphibian Monitoring Program	42,620	Deschutes
217-4041	Silver Lake Community WC	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council Outreach	31,871	Lake
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**215,855**	

Outreach Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-4045	Wasco SWCD	Urban Conservation Community Outreach	49,286	Wasco

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-4040	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Field-Based Data Collection and Verification of the Stream Classification Database for Klamath/Lake	This monitoring proposal will focus on status and trend monitoring by working with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to collect baseline data regarding stream classification, fish presence, fish passage barriers, and restoration opportunities on state and private lands in Klamath and Lake Counties.	112,723	Klamath
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**112,723**	

Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-4039	The Klamath Tribes	Evaluating Real-Time Nutrient and Sediment Loads to Upper Klamath Lake Using Surrogate Regressions	267,370	Klamath

Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,228,413**	**13%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4023**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Melhase Ditch Fish Screen		
Applicant:	Trout Unlimited Inc		
Basin:	KLAMATH	**County:** Klamath	
OWEB Request:	**$186,393.00**	**Total Cost:** $457,603.00	
Proposed Match:	$174,500.00		

Application Description

The Melhase diversion is located on the Upper Wood River near Fort Klamath in the Upper Klamath Lake watershed. The screen currently allows native fish (Redband trout and potentially Bull trout, salmon and steelhead should downstream dam removal proceed) into a myriad of irrigation diversion canals. This project will complete designs and install a new fish screen to keep fish in the Wood River and from entering the irrigation canals. The Melhase screen is the largest diversion on the Upper Wood River and is located near recent restoration and passage efforts on Sun and Annie Creeks.

The screen diverts approximately 35 cfs from the Wood River. Monitoring by ODFW indicates fish are moving past the screen and into the irrigation canals, becoming entrained. The landowner of the screen has an agreement with USFWS to maintain the proposed new screen. This project is a partnership between Trout Unlimited, ODFW, USFWS, USFS RAC, and the private landowner associated with operating the screen/ditch.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Redband trout spawning occurs just upriver from site.
- This project will complement recent restoration on adjacent Sun and Annie Creeks.
- There is potential Bull trout distribution in the area, especially since Sun Creek now connects with the Wood River just upriver of this project location.
- Good balance of project partners and matching funds.
- Upper Wood River is in good ecological condition; seems appropriate to invest there.
- Project will also benefit other native fish, including potentially salmon and steelhead should downstream dam removal proceed.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No letter of support from landowner or any of the water users associated with this screen and canals. The team would like to see more landowner buy-in and involvement.
- No discussion on new screen maintenance and upkeep, who would perform these tasks and who would pay for it. The team acknowledged the landowner agreement with USFWS provided was helpful.

- There was not a lot of discussion regarding the current screen, who maintains it, and why this design is not functional.
- Project budget for the Restoration Coordinator (280 hrs.) seemed high; more detail about tasks and responsibilities managing this project would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis:
The ecological benefit for replacing the Melhase screen is high. Redband trout, and potentially Bull trout, salmon and steelhead, will benefit by not having access to this large diversion and its associated irrigation canals. The habitat quality in the Upper Wood River is strong, and recent adjacent restoration projects on Sun and Annie Creeks will add value to this area over time, making a strong case for addressing this problem. The project displays a solid list of dedicated partners and match funding. Reviewers questioned the use of a cone screen design; it would have been helpful to understand why this is the preferred option. The proposal lacked information about screen ownership, maintenance, and upkeep. In addition, it would have been helpful to discuss what measures will take place to ensure the new screen is functional at keeping fish in the Wood River and out of the irrigation canals.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions. Prior to first payment, submit written acknowledgement that water right holders are aware of this project, submit a maintenance plan and written acknowledgement from the diversion owner accepting responsibility for screen maintenance.

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 186,393.00

Staff Follow-up
After the review team meeting, the applicant secured additional match funds and reduced the OWEB-requested amount to $23,123.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions. Prior to first payment, submit written acknowledgement that water right holders are aware of this project, submit a maintenance plan and written acknowledgement from the diversion owner accepting responsibility for screen maintenance.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 23,123.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4024**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Cline Falls Dam Removal Project		
Applicant:	Upper Deschutes WC		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:** Deschutes	
OWEB Request:	**$242,490.00**	**Total Cost:** $415,724.00	
Proposed Match:	$173,234.00		

Application Description

This restoration project will remove old dam infrastructure, and restore geomorphic processes and wetland/riparian/upland vegetation at Cline Falls, located on the Middle Deschutes River west of Redmond. The dam is located near the top of Cline Falls, a naturally-occurring feature on the Deschutes River that is potentially passable by fish at certain flows during limited times of the year. Aging and non-functional dam infrastructure is affecting stream process and potential fish movement at Cline Falls.

This project is a partnership between the Upper Deschutes WC and Central Oregon Irrigation District (dam owner and landowner). The dam to be removed is six feet high and spans 320 ft. across the channel. The dam causes upstream sediment accumulation in the stream channel and prevents natural sediment movement through the reach, reducing the quality and quantity of habitat in the river. An elaborate revegetation plan includes rehabilitation of disturbed uplands, riparian, and wetland areas. The project will also include the canceling of the existing hydro water right associated with the use of Cline Falls Dam. Onsite and effectiveness monitoring will be conducted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Removing concrete and dam material out of the river channel is beneficial.
- The removal of the material would likely restore geomorphic processes at the site.
- This project ties in regionally to the fish ladder installation at the North Unit Dam on the Deschutes River upstream in the City of Bend.
- The project and its partners are ready to move forward.
- High level of success is anticipated.
- The entire footprint of the dam and its infrastructure will be restored, having wetland, riparian and upland benefits.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Cline falls is a natural, channel-spanning waterfall, which likely acts as a natural barrier to fish movement. Dam removal unlikely to result in increased fish passage.
- Wetland loss would be a result of this project.
- Application lacked discussion of the dam's historical significance and any coordination with the State Historic Preservation Office.

- Project likeliness to move forward without OWEB support appears high;
- No protective caging was listed for planting, despite beaver and ungulate presence.

Concluding Analysis:
The team recognizes the need to remove the non-functional dam material out of the river channel and upland areas. The likelihood of the applicant and partners achieving success at project implementation is high. The project has a reasonable timetable. It appears if OWEB does not support this project, it will move forward regardless. Given the bedrock canyon downstream of this site, the improved sediment transport as a result of dam removal is likely to have marginal benefit to fish. The reviewers questioned the fisheries benefit, given Cline falls likely acts as a natural barrier to upstream migration. While the team supports removing this material out of the river, the marginal fish and watershed benefit for the OWEB request was not supported.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4025**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	North Warner Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project		
Applicant:	Goose Lake Fishes Working Group		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Lake
OWEB Request:	**$537,338.00**	**Total Cost:**	$2,935,527.00
Proposed Match:	$2,398,190.00		

Application Description

This large scale dry forest restoration project located in the Warner Basin of Lake County is a multi-partner, multi-approach to increase wildfire resiliency, large tree stand and canopy health, and improve wildlife habitat across thousands of acres. The proposed project is on public and private lands in the Crooked, Honey, Deep, and Thomas Creek basins north and east of Lakeview and includes small tree thinning in dry Ponderosa Pine and Aspen stands in priority mule deer and sage-grouse habitats. Fire suppression and lack of coordinated forest management has resulted in overstocked stands and loss of Aspen habitat.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WC, NRCS, ODF, ODFW, USFS, private landowners, and OSU extension. The OWEB funded portion will include 3,632 acres of thinning and slash treatment primarily on private lands (13 private landowners are on-board in treatment area), with a total project treatment acreage including 7,917 acres. Onsite and effectiveness monitoring will be conducted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is at a landscape scale, an all-lands approach to forest management.
- Project is well supported, with diverse match funding.
- Wildlife benefit is high for multiple species.
- The application discussed the project components well; it is clear what the project is and what funds will be used for.
- This project will provide an economic lift to the local economy.
- Landowner buy-in is strong.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Grazing management on private lands was not well-discussed; reviewers questioned how grazing management will be employed post-project to meet project outcomes.
- Landowner match was limited given project scale.
- Reviewers were concerned with potential capacity issues of the Lake County Umbrella WC, given the small staff and large number of projects.
- Project management costs seem high, reviewers questioned whether additional staff would be needed to assist with the project.

Concluding Analysis:
This project represents a large scale, all-lands approach to actively manage dry forests and Aspen stands to promote wildlife habitat abundance and complexity while building in wildfire resiliency. The number of partners both technical and financial, large scope, and all-lands approach reflects the well-coordinated effort to launch this project, which was recently funded under the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership. However, reviewers did express their concern with the capacity of the watershed council, given its small staff and large volume of projects.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 537,338.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 537,338.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4026**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Hidden Falls Steelhead Habitat Restoration		
Applicant:	Crook SWCD		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:** Crook	
OWEB Request:	**$137,783.00**	**Total Cost:** $191,295.00	
Proposed Match:	$53,512.00		

Application Description

This project proposes final design and restoration of Hidden Falls Creek, located just east of Prineville in Crook County. The restoration includes excavating a new stream channel for Hidden Falls Creek including connectivity with Ochoco Creek, a tributary to the Crooked River. Additional project elements include large wood structures on both Hidden Falls and Ochoco Creeks, riparian vegetation planting, and livestock exclusion fencing. Hidden Falls Creek is spring fed and no longer connects to Ochoco Creek, due to poor land management. This project aims to provide habitat connectivity for the newly reintroduced salmonids in the Upper Deschutes Basin.

This project is a partnership between the Crook County SWCD, USFWS, private landowners, Trout Unlimited, and Crook CWMA. Approximately 700 ft. of new channel will be created for Hidden Falls Creek, which will add ~0.2 cfs of cold water to Ochoco Creek, and 27 instream structures will be installed; planting will occur across six acres and will include 1,500 ft. or livestock exclusion fence.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project is a resubmit; applicant did a good job at responding to previous review team comments.
- Project would add in-stream and riparian habitat value to Ochoco Creek.
- The creation of the Hidden Falls Creek channel would likely add cool water and increased habitat potential.
- The planting plan submitted was thorough and well described.
- Ochoco Creek has documented returning Steelhead which are part of the reintroduction plan for the Upper Deschutes Basin.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Reviewers struggled with the overall approach to the Hidden Falls Creek design, particularly the sustainability of and rationale for turning a multi-thread alluvial fan system into a single thread channel.
- The stated flow benefit to Hidden Falls Creek at approximately 0.2 cfs is small, with marginal fish benefits.

- There were concerns with long-term stability using engineered structures in an alluvial fan system for stabilization.
- Permitting timeline seemed ambitious; likely not a general authorization eligible project. Agency staff has experienced difficulty receiving the right documentation from the project's engineer.
- Lack of landowner contribution or support of project.
- There was no discussion regarding the loss of wetland habitat as a result of diverting flow into a single thread channel.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a resubmit, and it was noted the applicant provided additional details addressing some of the previous review team comments. Ochoco Creek is within the Upper Deschutes Salmonid Reintroduction area and steelhead have been documented on this property. The project elements proposed are the right actions to improve aquatic and terrestrial habitat, however there were concerns with the design approach for this location. The biggest concern is technical soundness, and the approach being taken of proposing to transform a multi-thread alluvial fan system with associated wetlands and convert this into a single thread channel. The team questioned the sustainability of such an approach, and whether the relatively small flow contribution would make a measurable difference. All this work would occur on private land yet no letter of support or landowner match was included. The team wants to support habitat restoration efforts for the Upper Deschutes Basin Salmond Reintroduction area, but considering all factors discussed, could not support funding this project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4027**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Neal Creek Instream Enhancement at Denton-Doherty's		
Applicant:	Hood River SWCD		
Basin:	HOOD	**County:**	Hood River
OWEB Request:	**$99,559.00**	**Total Cost:**	$137,483.00
Proposed Match:	$37,925.00		

Application Description

This restoration project located roughly five miles from Odell in Hood River County comprises engineered large wood jams on Neal Creek, a clear water tributary to the Lower Hood River. The proposed restoration is geared towards improving instream and floodplain processes and spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed salmonids. Large wood structures will utilize boulders as ballast; disturbed areas will be reseeded with native vegetation. Degraded habitat conditions are a result of channel straightening for agriculture, aggressive wood removal in the 1980's, and most recently the impacts left from the 1996 historic flood.

This project is a partnership between the Hood River Watershed Group, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Hood River County, and private landowners on Neal Creek. Effectiveness monitoring will be conducted. Roughly 19 wood structures will be developed, utilizing approximately seven trees per structures and boulders for ballast. Wood structures would promote side channel activation at higher flows to increase refuge for juvenile fish. Careful consideration into the design phase will account for the adjacent County road, transportation and private infrastructure in the project area.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Completed habitat surveys are guiding restoration actions.
- Project aimed at improving habitat for ESA listed salmonids.
- Neal Creek is a clear water tributary, which provides more abundant habitat than glacial tributaries.
- Strong landowner support.
- Photo documentation provided was very helpful to understand the need for the project.
- Project has high visibility.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Lack of design details.
- Given the site's history and local hydrology, reviewers questioned the stability of large wood.
- Raising the channel elevation may increase risk of flooding.
- Effectiveness monitoring was checked, but no details were provided.

Concluding Analysis:
The team generally supports the approach and concept of this project. The completed habitat surveys that led the project team to selecting this site for habitat improvement provide assurance that the investment is in the right place. The applicant and its partners have a solid track record of completing successful projects. The landowners are supportive, yet their contribution to the project is marginal. The project does present some constraints, namely a County road which in some locations is very close to the creek, in addition to infrastructure that cannot be impacted as a result of this project. The value and foresight this project presents to ESA listed species warranted its recommendation for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced with Conditions; delete $1,000 from the Effectiveness Monitoring budget line.

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 98,559.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund Reduced with Conditions; delete $1,000 from the Effectiveness Monitoring budget line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 98,559.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4028**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Twentymile Creek - MC Diversion Fish Passage		
Applicant:	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Lake
OWEB Request:	**$83,258.00**	**Total Cost:**	$234,258.00
Proposed Match:	$151,000.00		

Application Description

Fish passage restoration is being proposed on Twentymile Creek roughly five miles south of Adel in the closed Warner Lakes Basin of Lake County; target species include the endemic Warner Sucker and state sensitive Redband trout. This project will improve channel connectivity and fish passage, improve the operational safety of the existing MC Diversion, and minimize impacts to existing diversion operations and functionality. The federally listed Warner sucker has suffered in the basin due to habitat fragmentation because of barriers and diversions such as this one.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WSC, BLM, USFWS, ODFW, and private landowners associated with the use of this irrigation diversion. This project will specifically Install a new fish passage culvert adjacent to the MC Diversion gated culverts to provide passage around the gates, build a bypass channel through the new culverts that connects Twentymile Creek upstream and downstream of the diversion area and replace two downstream culverts with culverts that meet ODFW fish passage criteria. A catwalk will be installed for safe access for maintenance and monitoring. Effectiveness monitoring will be conducted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project focuses on critical habitat for the Warner sucker, which has regional significance.
- With added passage and connectivity, Redband trout will also benefit from this project.
- Project is approved by its water users, their buy-in is critical to the projects longevity and success.
- ODFW's on-going monitoring of the Warner sucker will be valuable to understand project effectiveness.
- Project has good match.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application was hard to follow; project components were difficult to understand.
- Landowner access is improved, yet no match contribution from the landowner was provided.
- Project timeline seemed tight.
- Tasks 3 & 4 ($10,000 for site access and $11,450 for care and diversion of water) identified in the budget were unclear; an explanation of what these mean would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis:
Working to restore passage and habitat connectivity for the ESA listed Warner sucker and state sensitive Redband trout is a high priority in the closed Warner Lakes Basin. The applicant has successfully completed other projects of this magnitude in this area, which complement this project well. Complicated water diversions and delivery mechanisms can be challenging to describe; the application could have benefited from more detail on the complicated situation this project presents through more graphics. Resource managers have been working for some time in this area to address passage and habitat connectivity for these species, in addition to conducting monitoring. This project presents the correct action at the right location; therefore the project team recommends it for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 83,258.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 83,258.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4029**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Silver Creek Riparian Enhancement		
Applicant:	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:** Lake	
OWEB Request:	**$66,934.00**	**Total Cost:** $87,223.00	
Proposed Match:	$16,500.00		

Application Description

The proposed restoration project will aim at reducing stream temperatures and improving riparian areas along Silver Creek on private land through the installation of livestock exclusion fencing (including hardened water crossings) and willow clump planting. Located just outside of Silver Lake, Silver Creek is a tributary to Paulina Marsh and is home to Redband trout. Degraded habitat conditions are a result of poorly managed grazing, causing riparian vegetation loss, incised stream channels, and lack of instream complexity.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WSC, USFS RAC, and the Ranch owners. Riparian fencing will span across 2.5 miles along Silver Creek on both sides of the channel, and will include 4 hardened water crossings every half mile of stream. To further increase bank stability, willow clump planting will occur. This will entail willow root wads and cuttings harvested off-site and installed at the toe of slopes where they will be trenched in to reach the water table for long-term stability.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The objective of fencing off livestock from the riparian area is a sound approach for riparian recovery.
- The project was identified in a watershed assessment.
- Landowner letters of support were helpful.
- The project appears essential based on site conditions and site history.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The number of hardened crossings proposed seemed very high. There was some concern with permitting around these structures.
- Would have been helpful to show in map form where hardened crossings will be and where revegetation will occur.
- The planting plan provided was limited in information and didn't provide a full picture of what was being proposed and where on the landscape this planting would take place. No protective measures were identified for plants.
- The grazing plan proposed was also brief and there was some concern the measures proposed would not allow for riparian recovery.

- The application states 5 miles of fence, however the budget shows 6.5 miles of fence.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team acknowledges the need for this project. Landowner willingness and support is great to see. The combination of planting and fencing are the right actions for promoting riparian vegetation recovery and improved long term function. It was noted that fencing should not inhibit the ability of accessing the stream gage on the property. The technical components of this project could not be supported. While the team acknowledges the need for livestock access, the number of hardened crossing structures seemed high and reviewers questioned why so many were being proposed. There was also some concern with permitting these structures. The planting plan was limited in scope and it was challenging to understand planting locations; reviewers also questioned why protective caging was not included. The proposed grazing strategy appears inadequate to promote long-term riparian recovery.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4030**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	KV Bar Ranch Fish Screen and Upper Floodplain Restoration		
Applicant:	Goose Lake Fishes Working Group		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Lake
OWEB Request:	**$220,059.00**	**Total Cost:**	$279,990.00
Proposed Match:	$59,932.00		

Application Description

This restoration project will incorporate some final design to restore an irrigation diversion on Juniper Reservoir/Muddy Creek with a fish screen to prevent native fish entrainment in the flood irrigation infrastructure across the floodplain. In addition, this project will replace two degraded water control structures associated with the point of diversion just below the reservoir. These diversions distribute water across Muddy Creek's floodplain in the form of flood irrigation which serves value to migratory waterfowl. Muddy Creek is a tributary to Cottonwood Creek which releases into Goose Lake. The project site is roughly 15 miles west of Lakeview, OR.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WSC, KV Bar Ranch, Ducks Unlimited, and the USFWS. It is a continuation of a previous OWEB funded technical assistance grant. The screen will be designed to pass 20 cfs, and will keep native fish in the reservoir and from entering downstream into either diversion. The need for the screen and fish to be contained in the reservoir and not be given access downstream is that Muddy Creek below the reservoir is not suitable for fish year round due to temperature, flow, and habitat limitations.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project as planned would provide for improved fish, wildlife and waterfowl habitat.
- New landowners are eager to engage in conservation work.
- Keeping native fish where they will thrive is a benefit.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The flood irrigation appears to be resurrecting an old water right; the 54 acres of land in question is currently in upland vegetation condition.
- No ground photos were included, which would have been helpful to understand current conditions.
- No landowner contribution or letter of support.
- No explanation of floodplain irrigation plan or what this will entail. It would have been helpful to see a plan for how this would be carried out to align with wildlife benefits.
- High cost for marginal watershed benefit.
- No discussion on agriculture use, and how this project fits into or complements its use.
-

Concluding Analysis:
The reviewers commend the applicant for working with willing landowners to address both fish and wildlife habitat in one project. The on-site tour confirmed the need to address the dilapidated water control structure at the outlet of the reservoir on Muddy Creek. The approach of screening in fish to not have access downstream was challenging to understand but seems appropriate given downstream conditions. The proposed flood irrigation and planning around this component was not well-articulated. The 54 acres proposed to be flooded appear to have an abandoned water right. There was no discussion on agricultural use and how this project fits in with that use. There was no landowner contribution either, who stands to benefit greatly from improved water delivery. The team could not support funding this project as proposed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4031**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Elder Creek Fish Passage		
Applicant:	Goose Lake Fishes Working Group		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:** Lake	
OWEB Request:	**$234,183.00**	**Total Cost:** $304,182.00	
Proposed Match:	$70,000.00		

Application Description

Fish passage restoration is being proposed on Elder Creek, a major tributary to the Upper Chewaucan River in Lake County southeast of Paisley, OR. This barrier blocks miles of habitat for redband trout. The perched culvert impedes fish passage, and is located in a high gradient portion of Elder Creek. The culvert is buried under ten plus feet of road fill. The replacement culvert proposed is a bottomless arch with a stream simulated base, and the existing riparian and instream habitat on Elder Creek are in good condition.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WSC, ODFW, USFS, USFS RAC, USFWS, and Green Diamond Timber. This project is a result of a previous technical assistance grant to develop a detailed engineered cost estimate and construction ready design. The culvert replacement will open up eight miles of quality habitat upstream. Onsite monitoring will be conducted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project will open up eight miles of quality habitat upstream.
- Existing stream and riparian conditions are intact and healthy.
- Project is identified as a high priority in watershed assessment.
- Good match partners, especially from landowner Green Diamond.
- Project was well-explained in the application, solution was articulated well.
- Proposed approach is solid.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Timeline proposed may be tight given associated permitting requirements.
- Total project cost is high for one culvert.
- There was little discussion on how the design will handle sediment inputs from the road.

Concluding Analysis:
This project presents a great opportunity to address a high priority fish barrier to open up access to eight miles of quality habitat for redband trout. The solution and proposed design are solid and credible. The team commented on the total high cost of the project, but recognizes the amount of road fill in this high gradient system as a big contributor to high costs. New bridge technology consisting of pre-fabricated concrete assembled off-site is available and reviewer's questions about whether the applicant considered this alternative, is becoming widely used for its cost and durability benefits. Regardless, the team sees high ecological value in this project and recommends it for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 234,183.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 234,183.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4032**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Oregon Spotted Frog Habitat Restoration		
Applicant:	Sunriver Nature Center Inc		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:** Deschutes	
OWEB Request:	**$68,620.00**	**Total Cost:** $110,620.00	
Proposed Match:	$42,000.00		

Application Description

This restoration project located in Sunriver in southern Deschutes County is proposing habitat enhancement for the ESA listed Oregon spotted frog. Habitat enhancements are located in ponds and wetlands adjacent to the Upper Deschutes River and include bullfrog eradication and noxious weed control (cattails and reed canary grass). These areas once contained the highest density of Oregon spotted frogs. Data collection points to the introduction of bullfrogs as the biggest threat to the species.

This project will support Sunriver Nature Center staff and their ability to hire contract crews to work on bullfrog eradication and noxious weed control. Project partners include ODFW and USFWS. Bullfrog treatment methods will include using traps and specialized electro-fisher equipment. Sunriver staff and crews will continue to conduct monitoring to ensure they are having success, in addition to making sure the bullfrog is not becoming more widespread in the area. Noxious weed treatment methods were generally described as non-chemical.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project area is critical for the long-term viability and sustainability of the Oregon spotted frog.
- Great to learn Sunriver is already working on safe harbor agreements with the federal agencies.
- Project proposes effectiveness monitoring that is appropriate for this type of work.
- The team recognizes the previous efforts the applicant has done to promote habitat quality and monitor for this ESA listed species.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application lacked details on how electro-shocking would be carried forth, and the anticipated results.
- The components of the vegetation control were not articulated well; reviewers questioned why cattails (which are native) would be targeted. The need for this component was not described well.
- Eradication goal seems ambitious given known bullfrog populations upstream of this site.

- Collaboration with ODFW and USFWS did not seem well established; no letters of support from either agency were included.
- Proposal lacked detail on project timelines and project deliverables.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team applauds the applicant's efforts to date in addressing habitat degradation and invasive species to conserve this critical habitat for the Oregon spotted frog. It is documented that this population of the species is important for its long-term viability, and was once the largest known population. The correlation of bullfrog presence and Oregon spotted frog decline is documented and justified. However, the application lacked details and appeared quickly assembled. The application would have been more compelling if details were provided regarding how control measures would be implemented for bullfrog control. The vegetation management needed justification, details on how it would be implemented, and what the long-term strategy is for managing noxious vegetation. Coordination with regulatory agencies such as ODFW and USFWS was not evident; support letters documenting collaboration from these agencies would have been helpful. The review team strongly suggests the applicant re-apply and provide more details on project components as described.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4033**	**Project Type:** Technical Assistance	
Project Name:	Camp Creek Sediment Retention TA		
Applicant:	Crook SWCD		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:** Crook	
OWEB Request:	**$49,638.00**	**Total Cost:** $72,808.00	
Proposed Match:	$23,170.00		

Application Description

This project will develop surveys and designs for in-stream projects aimed at sediment retention along a thirteen mile stretch of lower Camp Creek, a tributary to the Upper Crooked River near Paulina. Camp Creek has been identified as a significant sediment source to the Upper Crooked River, degrading water quality for fish and wildlife.

This project is a resubmit. Camp Creek has been identified by the Crook County SWCD as their number one focus area. This project is a partnership between the District, ODA, local NRCS office, ODFW, and private landowners in the Camp Creek area. An OWEB funded watershed assessment developed in 2007 will serve as the basis for this work. The outcome of the technical assistance will be readily available designs and plan sets to implement projects in the lower 13 miles of Camp Creek with the goal of retaining sediment and promoting better water quality.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The SWCD is committed to focus on Camp Creek.
- Applicant addressed previous review team comments.
- The increased scope of work area gives the project more meaning for potential success.
- The applicant has good relationships with the private landowners.
- Proposed solutions will benefit water quality, an identified problem in Camp Creek.
- Project complements upland projects in the vicinity.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Camp Creek has low aquatic value and little fish presence.
- In addition to engineering, applicant should consider a consultant with a background in ecology and watershed process and function.
- Proposed solution is addressing a symptom, not the root cause of watershed degradation. Sediment is from eroding streambanks, not from uplands. Livestock access and riparian vegetation should be addressed.
- The reviewers questioned the long-term viability of such sediment retaining structures, given that structures previously installed are full of sediment and there was no mention as to what the next step is once this occurs.

- The application did not address the implications of the check dams on water rights and fish passage.
- Resulting solutions will likely be very expensive for relatively low ecological benefit.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a resubmit, and the applicant did a good job addressing previous review team comments. Increasing the area of scope will add value to the potential impact a future project may have. Active headcuts should be given priority in this study. The District should consider a multi-disciplinary team of consultants to develop viable ecological beneficial projects. The erodible soils are likely coming from the banks, therefore land management, including livestock grazing, should be analyzed and adapted to promote stability and maximize vegetative root growth buffering Camp Creek. Structures placed in Camp Creek in 2006 appear to be full, yet there was no discussion in the application with regards to what the next step is given these structures are full sediment. The applicant is strongly encouraged to consider long term effectiveness of any practice proposed through this technical assistance.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,638.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4034**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Camp Creek Watershed Restoration Atlas		
Applicant:	Crook SWCD		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Crook
OWEB Request:	**$48,895.00**	**Total Cost:**	$66,745.00
Proposed Match:	$17,850.00		

Application Description

This watershed-wide atlas for Camp Creek, a tributary to the Upper Crooked River near Paulina, will identify, locate, and prioritize all restoration work necessary to restore Camp Creek Watershed's function to the highest attainable level. This watershed restoration atlas will provide a "blueprint" to begin working cost effectively in specific locations on resource concerns that have the most impact on overall watershed conditions. Camp Creek is plagued by poor water quality, lack of emergent and woody riparian vegetation, juniper encroachment, and historic livestock grazing.

Camp Creek has been identified by the Crook County SWCD as their number one focus area. This project is a partnership between the District, Camp Creek landowners, OSU extension and a variety of local natural resource agencies to participate collaboratively to identify resource concerns, plan, and strategize the restoration of the Camp Creek watershed. An OWEB-funded watershed assessment developed in 2007 will serve as the basis for this work.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application was well-written and the problem well-articulated.
- The approach of developing the watershed atlas is strategic and brings together the right set of partners.
- The proposed ranking protocol seems appropriate.
- The application provided good detail about their sampling and data collection technique.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Lacked landowner support letters; only one letter was provided.
- Reviewers questioned how the District has used the 2007 assessment; there was little mention of how this assessment was put into action.
- The need for a new assessment, besides having technological advances, was not well articulated.
- Camp Creek has low aquatic resource value.
- The application noted potential future technical assistance required, but with no explanation as to why.

Concluding Analysis:
The application was well-written and the approach described should produce good plans. The applicants seek to bring the right partners to the table and the process for collecting information and prioritizing projects is sound. There was some concern whether Camp Creek should be a prioritized watershed, as it is not a priority for other resource agencies. While the structure and process for developing a watershed atlas seems solid, reviewers questioned whether the ecological uplift to result from projects warranted a new assessment since the 2007 assessment was thorough. That said, the District's commitment to Camp Creek is very strong and they are well positioned to affect change in the watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 48,895.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 48,895.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4035**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Hood River Water Bank Implementation Plan		
Applicant:	Hood River SWCD		
Basin:	HOOD	**County:**	Hood River
OWEB Request:	**$49,990.00**	**Total Cost:**	$97,705.00
Proposed Match:	$47,715.00		

Application Description

This technical assistance planning request will assess the viability of a Hood River water bank to increase summer stream flows for fish and provide greater irrigation water reliability for perennial crop growers during dry or drought years. This project will focus on the East fork and Middle fork irrigation district service areas in the Hood River Watershed. The assessment will analyze agricultural land use (annual vs. perennial), conduct economic analysis of pricing, conduct an analysis of legal and permitting pathways, and an analysis of instream benefit of how/where water would be temporarily protected.

This project is a partnership between the Hood River Watershed Group, the East Fork/Middle Fork/Farmers Irrigation Districts, and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs. Representatives from partnering organizations will participate in a stakeholder group to guide the consultant's work. This project is a creative approach to consider what type of options exists to meet continuing water demands when facing drought conditions.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project builds off success from a prior pilot project of a smaller scale.
- Good partner and match support.
- Project proposes an innovated approach that could benefit all water users.
- This project is a result of the completed Hood River Strategy.
- The tools and lessons learned here could be transferred to other basins.
- The project deals with lack of water during periods of drought.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Landowner willingness was unclear. Landowner participation will be essential to the project success.
- No support letters provided by landowners who may be impacted.
- It was unclear how instream water savings would be accomplished, and for how long.

Concluding Analysis:
The project presents a unique and potentially innovative way to handle drought conditions ensuring water for perennial growers and for fish and wildlife. Results from of a previous pilot project are encouraging. The reviewers applaud the creativity and that the Hood River Strategy is being put into action. Landowner involvement and participation will be critical for the project to be successful, but the application failed to address details on landowner recruitment and their potential involvement. The application did not articulate how instream benefits would be quantified, and for how long these instream benefits would occur. It was recommended to check-in with the Freshwater Trust as they have helped the Fifteenmile watershed council with similar efforts in neighboring Wasco County. Due to the potential in-stream benefits of the project, the review team recommended funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,990.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 49,990.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4036**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Klamath Basin Consolidation Project		
Applicant:	Balancing Act Research and Education (BARE)		
Basin:	KLAMATH	**County:**	Klamath
OWEB Request:	**$49,610.00**	**Total Cost:**	$74,610.00
Proposed Match:	$25,000.00		

Application Description

This project, based in the Upper Klamath Lake watershed, proposes to implement water quality monitoring in support of the stewardship, protection, and restoration of all beneficial uses within the Klamath River watershed, with the ultimate goal of restoring water quality. The technical assistance will help collect, organize and display water data and soil resource information. In addition, this work will update current map tracking for drought permits, erosion and reforestation control.

This project will collect data across a variety of habitats and areas in support of its mission to steward, protect, and restore beneficial uses within the Klamath Watershed. The applicant will work with resource and management agencies to support this effort.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Consolidating data for analysis in support of Upper Klamath Basin stewardship is beneficial.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The consolidation of data is already happening amongst local, state, federal, and tribal entities. The project appears redundant.
- The applicant has not made any contact with the agencies listed as partners in this effort.
- No letters of support were provided.
- The scope and geographic coverage of the project seemed very ambitious given the timetable and limited scope offered by technical assistance grants.
- The budget had errors and some line items were not appropriate or did not make sense.

Concluding Analysis:

This was a challenging application to read and follow. While the intent of the applicant seems good, the application lacked direction and details on project components. None of the resource agencies listed as partners was contacted regarding this project, nor were any letters of support provided. It was unclear what new data was going to be collected, and what the justification was. Consolidation of existing data is currently happening; the need for this was unclear.

The budget contained errors and some line items, such as digital cameras, laptops, and mileage rate did not seem appropriate.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4037**	**Project Type:** Technical Assistance	
Project Name:	Meadows Creek Fish Passage Design		
Applicant:	Hood River WS Group		
Basin:	HOOD	**County:** Hood River	
OWEB Request:	**$40,592.00**	**Total Cost:** $93,091.00	
Proposed Match:	$52,500.00		

Application Description

This project will result in construction-ready design plans for replacing two culverts on Meadows Creek, a tributary to the East Fork Hood River in the Mt. Hood National Forest located less than a mile from Mt. Hood Meadows Ski Resort. One culvert is located under Highway 35, the other is located under Teacup Road 100 yards downstream of the Highway 35 crossing. Meadows Creek is listed as designated critical habitat for the Lower Columbia River winter steelhead. These two barriers are the only two remaining barriers on Meadows Creek.

This project is a partnership between the Hood River Watershed Group and the USFS. Design efforts will be led by the USFS staff. The removal of these two barriers will provide access to 1.1 miles of habitat upstream. The resultant project would benefit fish passage potentially for steelhead and likely for cutthroat.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project would remove last remaining barriers on Meadow Creek.
- A good opportunity to address two barriers.
- Project is identified in various watershed action plans.
- Other work in the vicinity will allow for time and resource savings.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It is unclear why ODOT was not a partner, given one of the proposed culverts for design was under Highway 35.
- Steelhead benefit is marginal; they are not known to be present this far up Meadows Creek.
- 1.1 mile of habitat opened up in the near headwater areas of the creek has marginal benefit.
- There were strong concerns about using an OWEB grant to pay USFS salaries.

Concluding Analysis:

Working to address fish passage barriers is good practice. These two barriers are the last barriers to fish movement on Meadows Creek. Because these two barriers are near the headwaters, benefit to Lower Columbia River steelhead is marginal. Given one of the culverts is under Highway 35, the team questioned why ODOT was not a partner or even mentioned as being approached regarding

this project. Finally, a large portion of the grant would support USFS salaries. The team questioned whether the USFS should pay for the project since it is on their land.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4038**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Lake County SONEC Partnership Biologist		
Applicant:	Ducks Unlimited - Chris Colson		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Lake
OWEB Request:	**$49,973.00**	**Total Cost:**	$139,973.00
Proposed Match:	$90,000.00		

Application Description

This request is for the Southern Oregon – Northern California (SONEC) partnership to support a staff biologist to deliver the conservation programs to maintain and restore 3,000+ acres of flood-irrigated wet meadows on historic floodplains for the benefit of migratory birds. Based in Lake County, the biologist will continue landowner outreach, working with landowners already engaged, and enroll landowners in the conservation programs established to refurbish their flood-irrigation infrastructure.

This project is a partnership between Ducks Unlimited, the Intermountain West Joint Venture, local NRCS office, and participating landowners in Lake County. The partnership biologist works with landowners to enroll them in Farm Bill programs, particularly the Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP). The partnership has established 4+ years of EQIP funding through the NRCS Oregon State 'Waterbird Initiative' and through the $2.6 million SONEC RCPP grant that was recently awarded.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project is aimed at benefiting waterfowl.
- Good match and strong partnerships.
- Outreach to landowners in small rural communities is good and desirable.
- Opportunities also include addressing any noted fish passage issues.
- Groundwater recharge from flood irrigation practice is needed.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The key issue of converting flood irrigation to sprinkler was not well-articulated. Landowners convert for efficiency reasons; the application did not explain how this barrier to maintaining flood irrigation would be addressed.
- There was no plan provided for what happens after the two-year funding sunsets; two years is not long enough to achieve stated benefits.
- Proposal lacked specifics related to deliverables, such as how many landowners would be targeted and if there is a priority area(s) in Lake County.
- Flood irrigation without a functioning riparian area may not be very beneficial. Reviewers encourage the applicant to stress the importance of a healthy riparian vegetation community.

- Some of the statements made regarding sprinklers are general and not based on facts.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a resubmit. The grant would support a biologist position that would focus on outreach and technical planning to private landowners in Lake County with the focus of producing more flood irrigation practice and better land stewardship for waterfowl and fish. This type of outreach in rural Counties is very important, especially from a non-regulatory entity. The concept of this proposal is supported; however, there were some missing details. The application failed to present how outreach would be conducted and where outreach would be prioritized (Lake County is large). In addition, little detail was provided about how projects would be developed, and what the process would be to enroll landowners. Overall the project was supported, but specifics on deliverables and outcomes were vague.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 49,973.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4039**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Evaluating Real-Time Nutrient And Sediment Loads To Upper Klamath Lake Using Surrogate Regressions		
Applicant:	The Klamath Tribes		
Basin:	KLAMATH	**County:**	Klamath
OWEB Request:	**$267,370.00**	**Total Cost:**	$424,610.00
Proposed Match:	$157,240.00		

Application Description

This monitoring proposal will focus on status and trend monitoring by testing the hypothesis that nutrient loads are decreasing in tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake due to restoration efforts in the Upper Klamath Basin. Surrogate techniques will be used to assess concentrations and loads of total Phosphorus (TP) and suspended sediment as part of this study. Annual load results will be compared to prior water years with similar hydrologic regimes, as measured by mean annual streamflow. Sampling will take place at three locations on the Wood, Williamson, and Sprague Rivers.

This project is a partnership between the Klamath Tribes and USGS. USGS staff would collect and analyze the monitoring data, which will be shared and provided to a variety of data consortiums to disseminate the information. Water quality parameters to be monitored include total nutrients (TP and total nitrogen [N]), and dissolved nutrients (orthophosphate [PO4 as P], ammonia [NH4 as N], and nitrate + nitrite [NO3 + NO2 as N]).

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This method is currently being used for sediment and turbidity, has been published by USGS, and is available on the internet.
- This monitoring is linked to the nutrient TMDL for the Klamath River and will be helpful in tracking sediment and nutrient loads entering Upper Klamath Lake.
- Long-term monitoring is needed to track trends associated with conservation and restoration actions, and builds off previous efforts to develop sediment/turbidity regressions.
- Substantial match is being provided by USGS.

Concerns:

- The application lacked detail on methods to collect nutrient and sediment samples. It was not clear if these different samples would be split using a churn splitter or if they would collect them in separate Equal Width Increment (EWI) passes.
- There was concern raised over the budget due to multiple large USGS line items with very little budget detail.
- It was not clear what the “turbidity sensor operation” line item in the budget included.

- There are no letters of support from USGS or other agencies that are likely to be interested in this data.

Recommendations:
If funded, the USGS line items should be better described as to what work will be completed. The Klamath Tribes should also better account for the match they will be providing to this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation
*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The USGS is well-qualified to carry this out and know the area very well.
- This data will build information from previous OWEB funded restoration projects.
- The project ties directly into the TMDL for these water quality parameters. There is a strong need to understand total loading.
- The data obtained from this project will help inform/guide future projects.
- The application was well-thought-out and demonstrated a justified need.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was challenging to discern how or if the data would change restoration practices in these basins.
- Due to the chosen scale it will be challenging to determine whether specific restoration practices are effective towards addressing in-stream water quality issues.
- This project reads more like a research endeavor.
- No letter of support from the USGS or other partners.

Concluding Analysis:
The proposed project will continue to allow the USGS to use state-of-the-art science to estimate nutrient and suspended sediment loads in the Upper Klamath Basin. A suite of restoration actions have been on-going in the Wood, Williamson, and Sprague river basins and effectiveness monitoring would be useful for informing this work. While the USGS is well-qualified and the application was well-written, the reviewers questioned the applicability and use of the data given restoration practitioners have a good handle on what actions are needed to reduce pollutant loads for the given parameters. Additionally, making the correlation to specific actions in specific locations on the landscape may be challenging given the scale at which the monitoring would take place. For these reasons, the team could not support recommending this project for funding.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4040**	**Project Type:** Monitoring	
Project Name:	Field-Based Data Collection and Verification of the Stream Classification Database for Klamath/Lake		
Applicant:	Klamath Watershed Partnership		
Basin:	KLAMATH	**County:** Klamath	
OWEB Request:	**$112,723.00**	**Total Cost:** $148,441.00	
Proposed Match:	$35,719.00		

Application Description

This monitoring proposal will focus on status and trend monitoring by working with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to collect baseline data regarding stream classification, fish presence, fish passage barriers, and restoration opportunities on state and private lands in Klamath and Lake Counties. This monitoring effort will be directly linked to ODF's Stream Classification Database. Current data lacks sufficient information on the parameters discussed above, which causes delayed actions and additional burden on agency staff.

This project is a partnership between the Klamath Watershed Partnership, ODF, and ODFW. Approximately 420 miles of streams will be ground surveyed over the course of two years. There is an acknowledged lack of, and poor representation of information in the ODF database which proves to be a challenge. In addition to ground surveying stream segments, physical and biological parameters will also be collected to better characterize these systems and to also inform potential future restoration for fish passage and/or habitat enhancements that may be of local importance.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This application covers a wide area in Klamath and Lake counties and may serve as a pilot approach for future efforts in other areas.
- The OPMT liked the coordinated approach with KWP, ODF and ODFW to ground-truth and/or update the stream classification database. It is a good example of a local partnership to address an important data gap.
- There is match funding and letters of support from ODFW and ODF.
- The OPMT liked that the applicant will begin this project by identifying priority areas to work and contacting landowners for access before the field season begins in 2018.
- This information will help ODF regulate timber harvests effectively and assist ODFW in the development of its anadromous fish reintroduction implementation plan.

Concerns:

- It was difficult to determine if landowner approval will be an issue to gain access to property.

- There is a lot of territory to cover, so the schedule may be somewhat ambitious to complete in two field seasons.
- There is a possibility that a landowner may request information to be kept confidential to gain access to their land. All information collected with OWEB funds will need to be made publicly available.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (50%), Medium (50%)
Certainty of Success: High (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The effort will generate better data made available across State database platforms.
- The updated data will eliminate hurdles for implementing forest activities, saving time and staff resources.
- Addresses known data gaps that have been identified.
- Collected data will identify habitat needs to potentially inform future restoration opportunities.
- Fish passage inventory data would also be conducted, which would help inform and update the current ODFW database, and prove to help potential salmonid presence should dam removal move forward on the Klamath River.
- Project as proposed has appropriate sequence to achieve success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The application did not mention how the data would be made available to other State agency database platforms.
- The description of the habitat evaluation data were vague and provided slim detail.
- The data collected would be used to evaluate restoration potential, but it was unclear how that was going to take place.
- The mileage proposed in the budget is likely inadequate given the scale proposed on the maps provided.
- The project timeline and proposed number of stream miles is ambitious; site access in some areas identified may have late entry due to lingering winter conditions.
- The application did not discuss potential concerns with landowner confidentiality regarding information collected on their property. This has been an issue for agencies.

Concluding Analysis:

This monitoring project presents a good partnership with local State ODF and ODFW offices to address an acknowledged data gap and need for better, more efficient management. In addition, the habitat and fish passage data collected can be used to inform restoration actions and critical barriers to fish access and movement. While the goals and objectives are supported, there was a lack of details provided that would have been helpful to understand. The habitat surveys to be developed lack descriptions on what parameters would be collected and whether these would be done throughout the survey area or only in designated areas. There are scientifically sound protocols for collecting this type of data; the team recommends the applicant choose one that best fits the needs of this effort. It would have been helpful to understand the process of how this data will support future restoration actions.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 1

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 112,723.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with Conditions. Prior to first payment, submit for approval to the OWEB project manager the data collection protocols and a description of the how the data will be used to support future restoration actions.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 112,723.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4041**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council Outreach		
Applicant:	Silver Lake Community WC		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:** Lake	
OWEB Request:	**$31,871.00**	**Total Cost:** $40,235.00	
Proposed Match:	$8,264.00		

Application Description

This outreach effort in Lake County by the Umbrella Watershed Council will reach private landowners, land managers and resource agencies to encourage healthy partnerships among land owners, the Council, and local agencies as well as provide land owners with the information and tools necessary to become overall better land stewards. Additionally, the project serves to promote general awareness of watershed function, protection, and enhancement.

This project is a partnership between the Lake County Umbrella WC, private landowners, land managers and resource agencies throughout Lake County. More than 60 private landowners will be reached. The results of this outreach will be developing stewardship workshops for hands-on training and setting up site tours of accomplished restoration projects to discuss and share results. Additionally, a large benefit of this effort is to bridge any gaps between private landowners, the watershed council, and resource agencies in Lake County. This bridging is necessary to build trust and collaboration to facilitate working together to increase conservation and improve natural resources in Lake County.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- There is value in reaching out to landowners to get them familiar with the watershed council and their programs.
- Collaboration and resource sharing amongst landowners and resource agencies is a strong approach for soliciting new projects.
- Conducting landowner surveys to solicit their input and interest is a good approach.
- The calendar of events provided was thorough and detailed.
- The approach encompasses all of Lake County, a large area with a sparse population.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- This is a large endeavor for a small watershed council; reviewers were concerned that capacity would be an issue.
- It was difficult for reviewers to discern whether some of the proposed activities should be included in the Council Capacity grant.
- Deliverables were unclear, particularly with respect to how the work would directly tie into restoration on the ground.

- The application did not discuss how landowner awareness would be measured.

Concluding Analysis:
This project would bring together over 60 landowners, resource agencies, and the watershed council to bridge gaps and share information about watershed stewardship in Lake County. There is a lot of value and trust gained when people can understand what tools and resources are available to them and how they have been implemented throughout Lake County. Especially in rural areas, this outreach is integral for conservation work and trust building. There were some components in the application that were not well-articulated, particularly how this work would result into restoration on the ground. The activities proposed seemed like actions completed in the Council Capacity program; reviewers had a hard time distinguishing between the two.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 31,871.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below the staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4042**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	The Deschutes River and Little Deschutes River Outreach Project		
Applicant:	Upper Deschutes WC		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Deschutes
OWEB Request:	**$66,442.00**	**Total Cost:**	$111,231.00
Proposed Match:	$39,790.00		

Application Description

This request is a continuation of outreach efforts in the Upper Deschutes River basin targeting civic leaders and community members, middle school and high school students, teachers, and numerous riverfront landowners in LaPine, Bend, and Sunriver critical for restoration along the Upper Deschutes River and the Little Deschutes River. Project proposes engaging participants in community presentations about flow, water quality, riparian health, and Oregon spotted frog habitat needs, in addition to participating in hands-on restoration along a variety of project sites in the Upper Deschutes Basin.

This project is a partnership between the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Deschutes National Forest, PGE, Sunriver Anglers, and Roundhouse Foundation. Specifically, this proposal will engage youth in active and informed stream stewardship at an early age to connect with decision-makers, civic leaders and other adults through the compelling work of young citizens. Participants will integrate watershed stewardship activities and projects into service learning opportunities and educate future citizenry about the value and importance of stewarding on-the-ground restoration activities throughout the Upper Deschutes River watershed to improve water quality and habitat conditions for the benefit of fish, wildlife, and the Oregon spotted frog.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project is ongoing and has proven to be successful.
- Good to see efforts focused on teachers and civic leaders to provide long-term sustainability of the program.
- The workforce skills taught will prove to be invaluable to students who otherwise would not be reached.
- Student participation in the watershed summit builds good life skills.
- Project partners and match are strong.
- The metrics developed for effectiveness are very good.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- It was unclear how data collected in field studies would be used or applied.
- There is an acknowledged challenge establishing riparian vegetation in the upper basin; reviewers questioned how successful this component would be.

- Staff time budget as compared to other Outreach projects is high.
- Unclear how landowners will be engaged in streamflow restoration.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a continuation of outreach activities that have been successful. The applicant has a strong track record of delivering these types of programs in other areas of the Upper Deschutes Basin, such as Whychus Creek. The application was well-written and well thought-out, with clear objectives and deliverables. It was questioned whether efforts should be more focused on teachers than students, enabling teachers to carry forth the knowledge and skills over the long-term. There were concerns with planting in the areas identified in the grant since there is an acknowledged challenge of doing this successfully there. It would have been helpful to articulate the project's connection with the Oregon spotted frog, and how this project was going to benefit the species and its habitat.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 66,442.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4043**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Middle Deschutes Youth Watershed Councils		
Applicant:	Middle Deschutes WS Councils		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:** Jefferson	
OWEB Request:	**$34,578.00**	**Total Cost:** $48,627.00	
Proposed Match:	$14,050.00		

Application Description

This request is a continuation of the Middle Deschutes Youth Watershed Council outreach efforts. Through this project students will gain an awareness and understanding of salmon and steelhead life cycles, habitat needs, and restoration opportunities in the Middle Deschutes Watershed. Students will learn about the importance of water quality and how salmonids are regarded as an indicator species. The activities proposed include on-the-ground learning projects that will benefit salmonids and other aquatic species through education. The riparian restoration component will include planting of native species and site monitoring, improving water quality and habitat. These projects are planned to occur on Trout Creek and Willow Creek, both tributaries to the Deschutes River.

This project is a partnership between the Middle Deschutes Watershed Council and local NRCS, USFS, Jefferson SWCD, Children's Forest of Central Oregon, Jefferson County schools, and ODA. The students of the Middle Deschutes Youth Watershed Councils will exhibit an increased knowledge of watershed ecology, current conditions, and the necessary skills (researching, planning, and implementing) to conduct watershed enhancement projects. In addition, students will begin to understand the interconnectedness of their home watershed on a larger scale. They will demonstrate an understanding of the processes that connect the uplands, the upper and middle reaches of a stream, and the lowlands and riparian area of the lower reaches.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Bringing STEM activities into the schools is good to see.
- The applicant is working in an underserved area bringing otherwise unattainable resources to students.
- Proposal is building off previous outreach and program success.
- Utilizing existing restoration projects as field sites is a good learning experience.
- Building off existing restoration with student-led restoration adds a lot of value for learning and improving conditions on the landscape.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- Funding request for staff time appears high, given the lack of deliverables presented.
- There are concerns with paying USFS to give presentations; this service is provided for free in other areas.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a continuation of efforts to bring natural resource instruction and hands on experience to underserved communities and schools in Jefferson County. The utilization of existing restoration projects for instruction, monitoring, and building in additional restoration actions of these sites provides good hands on applicable learning experiences for youth. There was strong criticism for paying USFS salaries to provide presentations; it was noted other USFS offices provide this service for free. The budget was heavy on staff time. Nonetheless, providing this service to an underserved population and getting students hands-on experience with natural resource management and watershed concerns provides a lot of value for small communities.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 34,578.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4044**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Crook County Natural Resouces CTE Outreach Program		
Applicant:	Crooked River WC		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Crook
OWEB Request:	**$40,344.00**	**Total Cost:**	$70,040.00
Proposed Match:	$29,696.00		

Application Description

This request is a continuation of efforts for Crook County Natural Resources CTE Outreach Program which works with local high school students to enroll them in participation that directly links students to restoration projects in Crook County. Specifically, this project provides engaging activities for Crook County High School students to increase their awareness and understanding of watershed management, water quality, and watershed restoration and protection by offering new outreach programs that are directly linked to ongoing water quality monitoring, specific restoration projects, and pre- and post-implementation data collection projects with the Crooked River Watershed Council (CRWC).

This project is a partnership between the Crooked River Watershed Council, Central Oregon Community College (COCC), City of Prineville, Crook County High Schools, and High Desert Education District. The program design will guarantee that every student who enrolls in a CTE-Natural Resource Management course will have the opportunity to participate in at least one outreach field experience per month that directly relates to on-going CRWC projects. The total student population of approximately 82 students per semester will be divided into three separate groups with the optimal maximum of 27 students per group. Over the course of each school year, a total of 22 field outreach afternoons will be offered for the target students. Thus over the two-year grant cycle, a grand total of 44 field outreach projects will be conducted.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This project ties directly into attaining college credits.
- Course work provided spans a variety of natural resource disciplines and allows more in-depth learning.
- Project ties directly into monitoring and expanding restoration actions on current CRWC projects.
- Outreach area is an underserved population of Crook County.
- Project provides opportunity for job shadowing and internships with local natural resource management entities.
- Good support letters from partners.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The course work is general; the program could be more effective with a focus on watershed and aquatic ecology.
- Match from administrative staff, 180 hours, seemed high.

Concluding Analysis:
This project is a continuation of efforts led by the CRWC and partnering with local schools and instructors to provide natural resource coursework and field based hands-on experience with CRWC restoration projects. The project area is an underserved community and provides outreach and related fieldwork opportunities that otherwise would not be possible. The reviewers appreciated seeing the wide support and committed school participation. This project also provides willing students an opportunity to job shadow professionals in the field and, in some cases, secure internships with local natural resource entities in Crook County. Students also get a chance to participate in monitoring and additional restoration actions on current CRWC projects in the watershed, giving participants first-hand experience with watershed restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 40,344.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 40,344.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4045**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	Urban Conservation Community Outreach		
Applicant:	Wasco SWCD		
Basin:	HOOD	**County:** Wasco	
OWEB Request:	**$49,286.00**	**Total Cost:** $64,091.00	
Proposed Match:	$14,805.00		

Application Description

This outreach effort will target every streamside landowner within the City of The Dalles to be aware of the need for conservation, best management practices and mitigation of negative impacts within these watersheds. This work is necessary for gaining community support and increasing conservation of high value riparian areas. The District will generate innovative education and outreach materials and mail these documents to its target audience with the intent to result in on-the-ground actions.

This project is a partnership between the Wasco SWCD and streamside property owners within the City of the Dalles, which include Chenowith, Mill, and Threemile Creeks. The District will provide easy to understand, persuasive messaging intended to activate a significant number of people within the community. Additional outreach efforts will include: newsletter updates, local media promotions and an educational workshop outlining the benefits of sustainable backyard habitat best management practices. Collective urban conservation projects will enhance backyard habitat, mitigate stormwater runoff and reduce pesticide use.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project focuses on all the urbanized streams in The Dalles, providing consistent messaging and opportunities.
- Applicant has a strong track record of being successful.
- Good to see the mention and tracking of pesticide use.
- The project has wide support.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- There were no clearly defined outcomes of this outreach.
- The application stated this outreach would result in restoration, but failed to describe how.
- The budget was very lopsided towards staff time.
- Urbanized restoration has low ecological value.
- The application suffered from not providing any ground photos of conditions they are hoping to address.
- Would have been helpful to know how many landowners are within the target area, to get a better sense of the project's scale.

Concluding Analysis:
The team commends the District for targeting all the urbanized stream corridors within the City of The Dalles. It is recognized there are challenges and relatively low ecological uplift potential working in urbanized areas; nonetheless there is value working in these areas. The application suffered by not providing any details of what would result from the targeted outreach mailings. There was no mention of how this activity would translate into on-the-ground restoration. The budget was lopsided on staff time, with most funds going toward assembling and mailing outreach materials. It would have been helpful to provide a pathway and process for how the outreach mailings would translate into restoration, such as how the District plans to follow up after the mailings. More thought and detail would have been helpful to understand how the District will approach and prioritize the community's response from the mailings. Finally, ground photos would have gone a long way to demonstrate the restoration need and problems the restoration would seek to correct.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Central Oregon Review Team (Region 4)

Application No.:	**217-4046**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Watershed Ecology and Amphibian Monitoring Program		
Applicant:	Sunriver Nature Center Inc		
Basin:	DESCHUTES	**County:**	Deschutes
OWEB Request:	**$42,620.00**	**Total Cost:**	$55,397.00
Proposed Match:	$10,777.00		

Application Description

This outreach effort proposed by Sunriver Nature Center will work in concert with the restoration grant submitted aimed at restoring habitat for the Oregon spotted frog. Specifically, this project targets students in grades three through five in the Bend-La Pine school district in Deschutes County. This program provides opportunities to get outside, build curiosity and engage with the natural world through guided scientific processes and activities. The restoration/monitoring component of this program is answering an immediate need for Bullfrog eradication at the Nature Center grounds where the largest population of Oregon spotted frogs in our region is being decimated through Bullfrog predation.

This project is a partnership between the Sunriver Nature Center, Children's Forest of Central Oregon and a several Ben-La Pine schools. The proposal directly ties students with on-going restoration actions and monitoring specific to Bullfrog control to promote habitat enhancements for the Oregon spotted frog. Students will gain an understanding of watersheds, aquatic ecology, water quality and its impact on all living things, in addition to participating in a long-running amphibian project monitoring Lake Aspen and nearby waterway for populations of the Oregon spotted frog. Finally, students will learn about conservation methods and habitat restoration projects being conducted throughout Central Oregon.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Past achievements have proven their education model is successful.
- This outreach provides a strong nexus with ongoing restoration and monitoring for the ESA listed Oregon spotted frog.
- The proposed in-class presentations offer good primers prior to getting students out in the field.
- The Sunriver Nature Center is an ideal home base for outreach and education, and offers a variety of tools for learning.
- Target audience is underserved school districts.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- No letters of support were provided; it would have been helpful to see the schools' commitment to this program.

- The teaching of water quality and chemistry may be challenging to comprehend for the grade level the applicant is targeting.
- Barriers to education are not well articulated.

Concluding Analysis:
This project will engage 3rd-5th graders in the Bend-La Pine school district at the Sunriver Nature Center to connect students with the natural environment and to provide them with field-based hands-on experience of monitoring ongoing restoration. The restoration nexus this outreach project provides is a great connection and is well-articulated in the proposal. The reviewers questioned some of the relatively complex water quality analysis for the grade level of the targeted audience. The application suffered from no support letters, which would have been helpful to understand the commitment from the participating schools.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

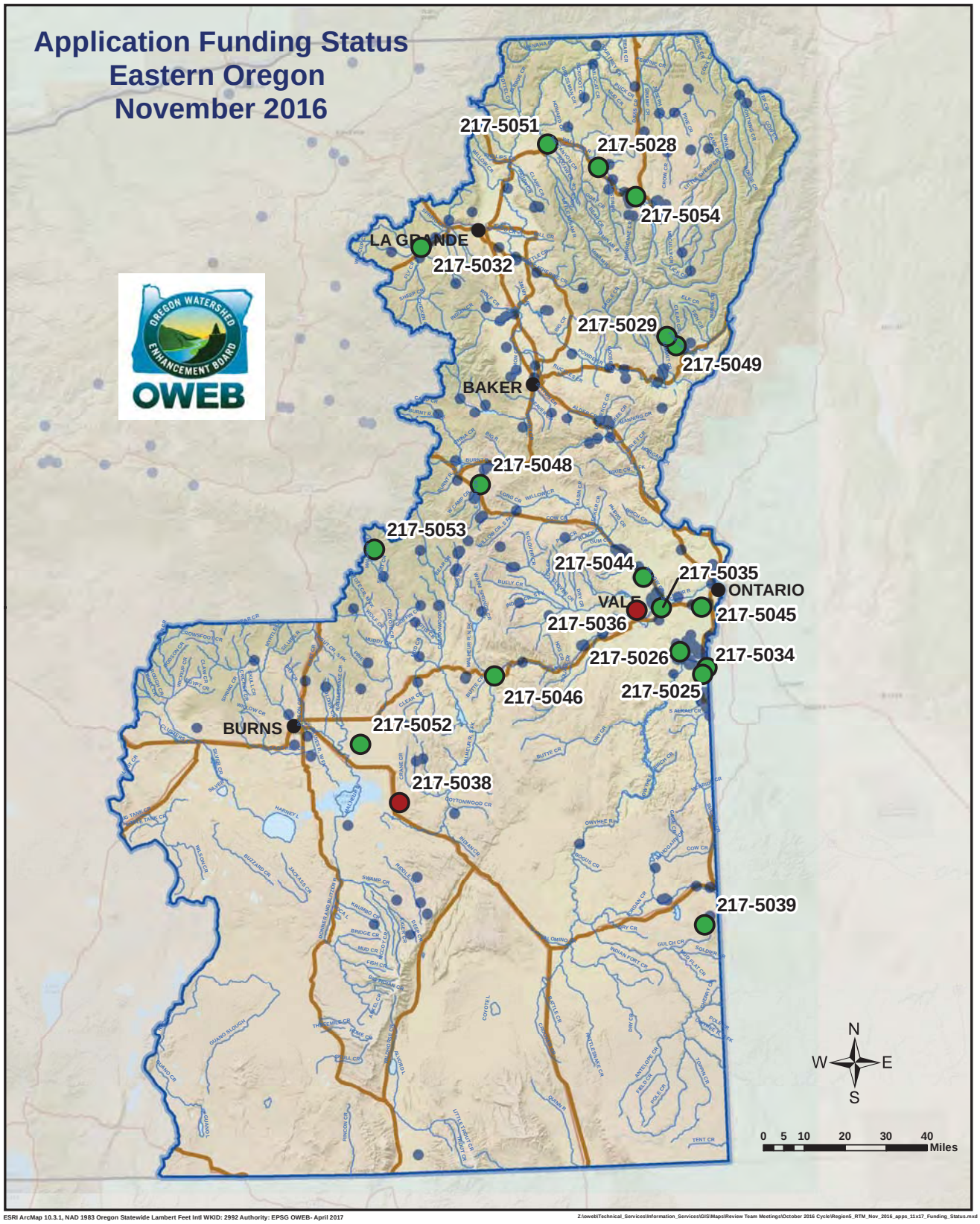
Recommended Amount
$ 42,620.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

Application Funding Status
Eastern Oregon
November 2016



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November 2016 Applications

- Staff Recommeded for Funding
- Below Funding Line

Grants 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Streams
- Region 5 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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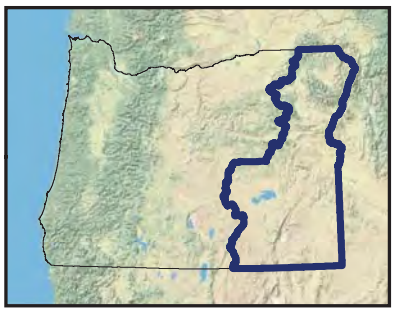

Region 5 ~ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board: Restoration, Technical Assistance, Outreach, and Monitoring Grant Cycle - November 1, 2016

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-5045	Malheur SWCD	Vista View Pipeline	Owyhee Irrigation District's will install 10,500 feet pipe in lateral 38.7 that supplies 16 cfs of irrigation water to 640 acres. Implementation will enable landowners to convert from flood irrigation to sprinkler or drip.	323,812	Malheur
217-5028	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Lostine River /Tulley-Hill Fish Passage Improvement	The Tulley-Hill irrigation diversion is a seasonal passage-barrier to ESA-listed spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout and other aquatic species. Located on the Lostine River near the town of Wallowa, this diversion will be replaced to provide adequate passage	168,786	Wallowa
217-5029	Eagle Valley SWCD	Thad Leep Diversion	A push-up dam, constructed annually during the late spring and removed in the fall, dewaters 700 feet of Pine Creek. Eagle Valley SWCD and Idaho Power Company (IPC) will install a fish-friendly diversion to provide passage and improve critical bull trout habitat.	99,573	Baker
217-5026	Owyhee WC	Border Line Water Quality Improvement	This project is 5 miles south of Adrian and converts 57 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation to improve water quality by eliminating runoff that directly flows into the Snake River. The project will install mainline, pipe, 10 steel bridge structures and an 856-foot pivot.	27,853	Malheur
217-5039	Owyhee WC	Parsnip #2	The Parsnip Peak Invasive Annuals project is in core sage-grouse habitat in the sagebrush-steppe south of Jordan Valley. It will control 2,000 acres of medusahead using integrated pest management strategies, including chemical treatment, seeding and installation of cross-fencing.	113,736	Malheur
217-5032	Tri-Cnty Co-Op Weed Mgmt Area	Upper Grand Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase II	The Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control project will chemically treat leafy spurge, spotted knapweed and meadow hawkweed. The CWMA proposes to treat 130 acres along 26 stream miles of salmonid habitat in the upper Grande Ronde.	25,000	Union
217-5035	Malheur WC	Cleaning Up Down by th Malheur River	This project 2 miles south of Vale will treat 3 separate properties on 116 total acres that border the Malheur River. Flood irrigation will be converted to sprinklers, sediment ponds and gated pipe.	67,513	Malheur
217-5025	Owyhee WC	Klamath Water Quality Improvement	The Klamath Water Quality project is in the Twilight Water Quality Improvement Zone priority area, 5 miles northwest of Adrian. The project will install pivots and piping to connect to lateral 12.4 and convert of 72 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation to improve water quality.	48,572	Malheur
217-5046	Malheur SWCD	Juntura Riparian Restoration and Pumpback Irrigation System	The project is located on the South Fork of the Malheur River east of Juntura. It will improve riparian conditions by piping a ditch and planting 480 willow posts; eliminate reed canary grass; and installing 80 cages and weed mats on 15 acres.	105,208	Malheur

217-5044	Malheur WC	Getting the Power Outta the Way	Located near Willow Creek this project will complete a project to convert 37 acres from flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation. A pivot irrigates 21 acres and 16 acres are flood-irrigated due to a power line blocking the pivot path which will be removed.	19,300	Malheur
217-5034	Owyhee WC	Tater Road Water Quality Improvement	Tater Road Water Quality Improvement project will converting 32 acres from furrow irrigation to sprinkler irrigation by installing a pivot and piping. Implementation will improve water quality by eliminating tailwater that flows into the South Alkali drain and directly into the Snake River bordering project site.	42,880	Malheur
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**1,042,233**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-5038	Harney Co. Co-Op Weed Management	Beaver Tables Medusahead	245,206	Harney
217-5036	Malheur WC	Table Top Water Quality Improvement	30,903	Malheur
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**1,318,342**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
217-5027	Baker Valley SWCD	Ellis Road Ditch Conversion	238,431	Union
217-5030	Burnt River SWCD	Hereford Stockwater Project	40,193	Baker
217-5031	Grande Ronde Model WS Program	Wallowa River- Baker Restoration Project	126,170	Wallowa
217-5033	Tri-County Co-Op Weed Mgmt Area	Baker Sage Grouse Priority Habitat Restoration Phase I	62,000	Baker
217-5037	Wallowa SWCD	Hurricane Pipeline	459,043	Wallowa
217-5040	Wallowa SWCD	Boner Pivot	51,393	Wallowa
217-5041	Wallowa SWCD	Birkmaier Flood to Sprinkler	86,304	Wallowa
217-5042	Wallowa Resources	West Zumwalt Prairie Weed Control	23,630	Wallowa
217-5043	Powder Basin WC	Lower Clear Creek Restoration (Phase 1)	148,461	Baker
217-5047	Malheur SWCD	Hoodoo Restoration	287,194	Malheur

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-5048	Burnt River SWCD	Camp Creek Weed Survey	The Upper Burnt River Weed Control District will inventory 2,000 acres of riparian habitat near Unity for Scotch thistle, medusahead, perennial pepperweed, white top and knapweeds. An intern will compile treatment plans for landowners including maps, vegetation tables, soils and treatment recommendations.	14,447	Baker
217-5049	Powder Basin WC	Upper Pine Creek Flood Restoration Design	Nine landowners along 0.8 miles of upper Pine Creek near Halfway will participate in a technical design project to improve conditions and prevent future flood damage. Pine Creek is critical habitat to ESA-listed bull trout and an important migration corridor.	47,355	Baker
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**61,802**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Requested	County
217-5050	Powder Basin WC	Lower Clear Creek Restoration Plan (Phase 2)	48,626	Baker

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-5054	Grant County 4-H Association	Wallowa Resources' Watershed Evaluation Teams (WET)	Wallowa Resources in Enterprise initiated a watershed evaluation team (WET) program designed to provide hands-on experience that builds environmental awareness for students. The WET Program reaches approximately 150 students in the 6th, 10th and 11th grade in Wallowa County.	20,728	Wallowa
217-5053	Grant County 4-H Association	2017 Natural Resource Camp	The 2017 Natural Resource Camp targets 40 students in grades 7 through 9. The camp offers students the opportunity to learn the importance of natural resource management and introduce youth to activities that generate interests in conservation and restoration.	20,284	Grant
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**41,012**	

Outreach Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Requested	County
NONE				

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-5051	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation Water Years 2017 & 2018	This project continues the operation of 12 gauges in the Grande Ronde basin in Union and Wallowa Counties. OWRD will operate gauges that document the effects of irrigation on stream reaches and provide numerous other benefits.	101,002	Wallowa
217-5052	Harney Watershed Council	Harney Valley Groundwater monitoring phase 2	This project in the Harney basin will help determine the cause for declining water levels by monitoring additional domestic wells in partnership with OWRD. Determining the availability of groundwater in the Harney Basin depends on acquiring accurate well data from a number of groundwater wells.	20,559	Harney
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**121,561**	
Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Requested**	**County**
NONE					
Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**1,266,608**	**14%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award				**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5025**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Klamath Road Water Quality Improvement		
Applicant:	Owyhee WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$53,648.00**	**Total Cost:**	$122,263.00
Proposed Match:	$68,615.00		

Application Description

The Klamath Road Water Quality project is located in the Twilight Water Quality Improvement Zone priority area approximately five miles northwest of Adrian. The project will install pivots and piping to connect to lateral 12.4, recently piped with the assistance of OWEB funding. A total of 72 acres will be converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Implementation will improve water quality by eliminating runoff of sediment, nutrients and bacterial transports into the Brewer Drain, Old Owyhee Canal and the Snake River. Project implementation addresses irrigation-induced erosion, inefficient irrigation, water loss through seepage and evaporation and will improve water quality.

The project will install 2,380 feet of 6-inch mainline, 3,380 feet of 4-inch mainline, 1,760 feet of electrical cable conduit and power from Klamath Road. In addition, a 627-foot pivot and a 579-foot pivot will be installed along with solid-set hand-line sprinklers in the corners. Implementation of an improved irrigation system will eliminate runoff. The sediment currently lost by erosion, estimated between 1,400 and 2,160 tons annually, will be eliminated.

Watermark™ soil moisture sensors will be used throughout the growing season to ensure efficient application of irrigation water depending on crop demand. Project implementation continues the ongoing effort between landowners, Owyhee Watershed Council and Owyhee Irrigation District. OWEB funds are requested for salaries, contracted services for materials and administration. The landowner will provide 128% of the OWEB-requested amount.

Implementation addresses water quality by reducing sediment and runoff. Proposed actions will implement recommentations in the *Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan*, which include practices that include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers, and the *Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL* that also addresses converting from furrow irrigation to sprinklers to reduce sediment, nutrient and phosphorous.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project addresses a significant water quality concern and the photos document the extent of the problem.
- The project is complementary to similar projects in the area and builds on previous efforts.
- Implementation addresses DEQ's priority objectives for the basin.

- Producers and irrigation districts in Malheur County are making significant strides in converting cropped acreage from flood irrigation to sprinklers.
- Water quality will improve as sediment and nutrient loads are eliminated.
- The application provided excellent detail on the budget, photos and maps which depicted the proximity of the project area to the Snake River.
- Including soil moisture monitoring by the landowner will help to demonstrate how effective the completed project will be in achieving its objectives. This will help achieve precision irrigation.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The Watermark sensors were not in the budget.
- The team questioned why two pivots were proposed in lieu of one which would eliminate some corners.

Concluding analysis:
Klamath Water quality project is in the Twilight Water Quality priority area, adjacent to the Fletcher Gulch Priority area. Implementation continues successful efforts by OWC, Owyhee Irrigation District and Malheur SWCD in this area. Eliminating runoff will reduce sediment and *E.coli* transport. Implementation will improve water quality, quantity and irrigation water management by controlling application rates. The team questioned why two pivots are proposed. Installing one wiper pivot would eliminate corners and reduce some installation costs. However, the design may have been proposed by NRCS. If NRCS funding is obtained, the original design would have to be followed. To be consistent with previously funded projects, the team recommends removing the riser assemblies from the OWEB requested amount. The review team agreed there is substantial ecological merit and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund reduced with conditions. Remove riser assemblies from OWEB request.

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$48,572.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund reduced with conditions. Remove riser assemblies from OWEB request.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 48,572.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5026**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Border Line Water Quality Improvement		
Applicant:	Owyhee WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:** Malheur	
OWEB Request:	**$27,853.00**	**Total Cost:** $93,136.00	
Proposed Match:	$65,283.00		

Application Description

Located five miles south of Adrian on the east side of Snake River, this project will treat runoff flowing directly into the river. The Border Line project is in the Big Bend area which encompasses approximately 7,200 acres of mostly furrow-irrigated farmland. A total of 57 acres will be converted from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Implementation will improve water quality by eliminating runoff of sediment, nutrients and bacteria. Project implementation will improve water quality.

The primary crop rotations in Big Bend are pasture, grazing and hay crops with few row-crop farms. The project will install 1,080 feet of 8-inch mainline; 1,380 feet of 6-inch pipe with risers; 1,180 feet of cable-con; 10 steel bridge structures and an 856-foot pivot. In addition, Watermark™ sensors will be installed to monitor the soil moisture content. The project addresses irrigation-induced erosion caused by excessive runoff, inefficient irrigation and water loss through seepage and evaporation.

The Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC), irrigation districts and landowners in Big Bend are beginning a new collaborative effort to address water quality issues. Black Canyon and Lower Boise are the local irrigation districts. OWEB funds are requested for salaries, contracted services for materials and administration. The landowner will provide 128% of the OWEB-requested amount.

Implementation addresses the *Owyhee Subbasin Plan* by reducing sediment and improving water quality; the *Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan* which suggests practices that include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers and it addresses the *Mid-Snake-Succor TMDL*.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Runoff from this property is deposited directly into the Snake River.
- Any reduction in sediment transport will be an immediate improvement to water quality.
- This is an excellent opportunity to be used as a pilot project in the Big Bend area to engage other landowners in future restoration efforts.
- Project can be implemented and begin right away. It is a relatively low-cost project.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- Property is currently leased and will require landowner agreements to ensure long-term maintenance of the project.

Concluding analysis:
The project is complementary to many projects sponsored by OWC. The council has worked successfully with other irrigation districts, NRCS and landowners to develop priority areas and implement successful projects. Implementation will have significant water quality benefits due to the project's location right on the Snake River. This project has high demonstration value to other landowners in the Big Bend area for future implementation projects. The team agreed that this project has significant water quality benefits and should be implemented in a timely manner. There is high ecological merit and the project is ready to fund this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
4 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 27,853.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 27,853.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5027**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Ellis Road Ditch Conversion		
Applicant:	Baker Valley SWCD		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:** Union	
OWEB Request:	**$238,431.00**	**Total Cost:** $323,031.00	
Proposed Match:	$84,600.00		

Application Description

This restoration project is located near North Powder west of I-84 in southern Union County. An open irrigation bypass ditch conveys water to two underground pipelines that convey water to wheel lines and pivots. To gain sufficient pressure to fill the pipeline, excess water needs to be diverted down the bypass ditch from the Coughanour Ditch. After the pipelines fill, excess water continues down the bypass ditch resulting in severe erosion and down-cutting. Sediment and debris are continually released downstream. Project implementation addresses water quality and water quantity.

Proposed actions will address infrastructure issues causing severe erosion and down-cutting that has existed in this system for many years. The applicant proposes to install 5,980 feet of 18-inch pipe and 3,100 feet of 15-inch pipe in the existing ditch. An installed headgate will enable the landowner to convey irrigation water when needed down the pipeline or to remain in the Coughanour Ditch when not needed. Final engineering designs will also be included. Converting the earthen ditch to pipeline will reduce seepage and evaporation and facilitate improved irrigation management. Down-cutting as much as 20 feet or more has occurred in this ditch with sediment transported into the North Powder.

Two adjacent landowners will be providing 34% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount in cash and in-kind labor. Project implementation addresses water quality, excessive erosion and water quantity.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The engineering firm RSI provided the preliminary designs. RSI has successfully implemented many projects in the region and eastern Oregon. The review team is familiar with their work and complimentary on past projects that were implemented.
- It was clear that the new landowners are doing their best to manage the system. They are doing everything feasible with this challenging system. However, the irrigation water conveyance needs to be modified and this is not a management issue. Some fields are already irrigated by pivots and wheel lines which create minimal runoff.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- While preliminary designs were submitted with the application, they were not adequate to provide a detailed budget. A more comprehensive design is needed to better evaluate both the project and the budget.
- It was unclear how much water would potentially be saved and what will actually happen to it once the project is completed. Will the "saved" water stay in the Pilcher Creek reservoir? If so, is there a potential to improve bull trout habitat or to increase the minimum pool?
- The team questioned where the sediment deposition end-point was. It was not clear if sediment went all the way to the North Powder or if it was deposited elsewhere before reaching the river.
- There is a significant amount of pipe to be installed. While the landowners are able to install the smaller-sized pipe, they will need to contract installation of the larger diameter pipe. However, it was unclear the length of the pipe that needs contractor installation as that was not a separate line item in the budget.
- Pipe installation cost per-foot seemed high.
- The actual amount of affected acres was confusing.

Concluding analysis:
The site visit verified the need for restoration of the ditch which is actively downcutting. New landowners are anxious to improve these fields and willing to provide significant in-kind labor. They are taking a pro-active approach to restoring this area. On-farm irrigation is by pivots, wheel lines and flood. The fields irrigated by the pivots and wheel lines are not contributing to sediment transport, but sediment from the bypass ditch is. When the landowner changes wheel lines, approximately 450 gallons per-minute (gpm) is lost during the changeover with no way to shut off the water. The excess diverted water rushing down the bypass ditch causes significant erosion.

The team expressed that the project has merit, but lacked essential design. More detail is needed regarding designs and budget. The team questioned how pipe costs were determined. Also, more explanation on the overall project would be beneficial. A future application needs a better description of the amount of saved water and happens to it; a more detailed budget and additional designs. It is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5028**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Lostine River/Tulley-Hill Fish Passage Improvement		
Applicant:	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$168,786.00**	**Total Cost:**	$342,683.00
Proposed Match:	$173,897.00		

Application Description

The Tulley-Hill irrigation diversion is a seasonal passage-barrier to ESA-listed spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout and other aquatic species. Located on the Lostine River near the town of Wallowa, this diversion will be replaced to provide adequate passage. The Tulley-Hill diversion is located 1.6 miles upstream of the confluence with the Wallowa River. The ditch supplies 119 acres of adjudicated 1879 water rights from May 1 through September 30. The Tulley-Hill diversion is a passage barrier especially in late, low-season flows. It does not meet fish passage criteria currently required by ODFW and NMFS. The structure is an upstream velocity barrier to all fish at high flows; juvenile upstream movement at low flows due to jump height; and adult Chinook at low flow during spawning. The structure mainly affects spring Chinook salmon and steelhead.

Spring Chinook migrate to their spawning areas from July and mid-September. Summer steelhead migrate up the Lostine in late winter and spring. Bull trout are sparse in the area and mainly forage in the area during winter and early spring. Project objectives are to restore fish passage, improve hydraulic complexity and enhance stream habitat characteristics with large woody debris (LWD). Components include installing 8 grade-control structures, an engineered riffle and 8 log-cross structures for LWD. The area will be cleared and grubbed prior to installation and disturbed ground seeded post-construction. The resulting meandering low-flow channel will provide additional habitat diversity and will reduce the grade by 2%.

OWEB funds are requested for contracted services and administration. The Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), Grande Ronde Model Watershed (GMW) and ODFW will contribute 103% of the OWEB-requested amount in both cash and in-kind cost-share. Implementation follows the *Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan* as well as the recently released *Snake River Spring/Summer Chinook Salmon and Steelhead Recovery Plan*. The project eliminates seasonal barriers for various aquatic organisms.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project will improve instream habitat, habitat diversity and open 29 miles of seasonal fish passage to ESA-listed spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead.
- GRMW and the NPT have a very positive track record for implementation projects. When completed, there will be opportunities for outreach and monitoring. Future monitoring will be useful for similar projects.

- The project is complementary to other diversions on the Lostine. Both the City of Lostine ditch and the recent OWEB-funded project on the Sheep Ridge ditch will all enhance Chinook and steelhead habitat.
- The project design creates minimal disturbance of existing vegetation. The applicant has incorporated lessons learned from previous efforts and adapted design that should prove more successful. These designs have longer footprints by installing roughened channels and over a longer length.
- The project was submitted to ODFW's fish passage team in Salem for review.
- The project will implement NOAA's recently released *Snake River Steelhead Recovery Plan.*

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- A concern was raised that if design changes are required by ODFW, there may be potential impacts to the budget.

Concluding analysis:
The application was well-written and thorough. The Tulley-Hill diversion was upgraded about 20 years ago. However, the footprint was too small and resulting velocities were higher than optimal. In addition, there was a lack of complex wood that did not provide sufficient habitat diversity. The diversion is a migration and spawning barrier. Modifications were needed to decrease velocity. Past monitoring projects funded by OWEB, which PIT-tagged spring Chinook in the Lostine, provided data to inform this project. A previous OWEB project funded the final engineering design. There was good detail regarding the background, coordination between partners, budget and final product. Implementation will provide passage to all aquatic organisms. Chinook populations are in peril here, therefore restoring connectivity is beneficial. The review team agreed that the project has significant ecological merit and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 168,786.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 168,786.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5029**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Thad Leep Diversion		
Applicant:	Eagle Valley SWCD		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:** Baker	
OWEB Request:	**$129,537.00**	**Total Cost:** $411,013.00	
Proposed Match:	$281,476.00		

Application Description

Eagle Valley SWCD and Idaho Power Company (IPC) are proposing to replace a gravel push-up dam with a diversion in Pine Creek near the town of Halfway. The Thad Leep diversion is a gravel push-up dam constructed annually during the late spring and removed in the fall. It dewaters approximately 700 feet of Pine Creek in the late summer and early fall. The adjudicated water right is 5 cfs and the ditch does not have a fish screen. The oldest water right on the ditch is 1876. Replacement of the pushl-up dam will improve habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. Recent population surveys conducted in 2014 found the largest bull trout populations in the upper Pine Creek sub-basin. Historically, these populations would have migrated out of the Pine Creek watershed to overwinter in the mainstem Snake River.

The new diversion was designed for a 100-year event. The design team included Eagle Valley SWCD, ODFW, USFWS, OWRD and IPC. The intake will be placed in an existing natural pool with a steel trash rack installed in front of the headgate to prevent large debris from entering the pipeline. A 36-foot concrete sill will be placed 50-feet downstream of the diversion intake. An ODFW-approved, rotary-drum fish screen and an OWRD-approved measuring device will also be installed.

Restoring fish passage within migratory corridors of the Pine Creek watershed is emphasized in the 2014 draft *Bull Trout Recovery Plan*. OWEB funds are requested for various contracted services and administration. Project partners including IPC, USFWS, Thad Leep Ditch Company, ODFW, OWRD and Eagle Valley SWCD will contribute cash and in-kind cost-share of 354% of the OWEB-request amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project implementation will provide fish passage and screening while improving ditch efficiency. The current push-up dam has a larger footprint than necessary. This new design allows for additional water to remain in Pine Creek.
- Installation of the measuring device will assist OWRD in tracking water use.
- The application provided significant detail. It was clear how OWEB funds would be used as well as the cost of specific project elements. In addition, the initial request was reduced substantially since IPC provided more cost-share.
- The project applies to a senior water right.

- The budget provides a high level of detail.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The contingency budget will need to be itemized.
- There were questions regarding monitoring of the diversion and clarified that ODFW has monthly visits. IPC will have someone inspect the screen weekly. They have also had five years of monitoring at this diversion.

Concluding analysis:
The application was well-written and provided a detailed budget. The Thad Leep diversion de-waters a large section of Pine Creek during the critical low-flow period in late summer and early fall. Removing the seasonal push-up dam will have positive results for the bull trout population in Pine Creek. Passage will be provided for all aquatic organisms. Implementation will assist with future landowner recruitment. The next diversion is two miles upstream and replacing non-fish friendly diversions will be a continuing effort in the Halfway area. Restoring connectivity is very beneficial. The review team agreed that the project has significant ecological merit and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
3 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 89,672.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment
The OWEB request was significantly reduced by the applicant prior to the review team meeting. After the meeting, a few design modifications were requested by ODFW, resulting in an increase to the revised budget.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 99,573.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5030**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Hereford Stockwater Project		
Applicant:	Burnt River SWCD		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:** Baker	
OWEB Request:	**$40,193.00**	**Total Cost:** $68,068.00	
Proposed Match:	$27,875.00		

Application Description

Located in Hereford this project will improve rangeland health by implementing improved grazing practices with the addition of reliable water sources for livestock and cross fencing. An upland watering system will be installed to improve distribution and perennial bunchgrass conditions. Past disturbances caused by overgrazing reduced the health of native bunchgrass which led to further annual grass invasion. The current grass stand is dominated by cheatgrass, bulbous bluegrass and medusahead. The area is also sage-grouse habitat. A dominant cover of annual grasses does not provide adequate nesting cover for sage-grouse or the appropriate food source for chicks. Portions of the property also have juniper which act as perch habitat for sage-grouse predators. Juniper currently is being removed by the landowner.

Project components include drilling a well at the south end of the property to provide water for the proposed stock water system. The well drilling will be part of the landowner's in-kind contribution. Other components include installing: 7,250 feet of 2-inch HDPE to convey water from the well to troughs; 4 rubber tire troughs at two locations, one on each side of the fence and equipped with wildlife escape ramps and 3,000 feet of wildlife friendly fence to create two pastures. The upper pasture will be 231 acres and the lower pasture 435 acres. A total of 716 upland acres are proposed for treatment.

Watershed benefits are improved water quality, improved upland vegetation and improved habitat for sage-grouse once the perennial bunchgrass is re-established. The landowner will provide 69% of the OWEB-requested funds in both cash and in-kind cost-share.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application is straightforward. The proposed project components and map were easy to follow.
- The proposed actions are the right components for livestock distribution.
- The landowner is very invested in the project and wants to improve rangeland quality. He is already removing juniper at his own cost on the upper end of the property.
- Power is available on the road nearby.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It was not clear if the landowner had researched the delivery system. Since a well needs to be drilled, have nearby well logs been investigated?
- The application lacked a grazing plan. The application stated that with reliable water sources a rest-rotation grazing plan could be implemented. However, there is no description of the plan.
- The proposal is to pump from the well up to the troughs. The site visit indicated that there is a significant amount of relief to reach those troughs. It was questioned if the pump would supply adequate pressure. Also, if power goes off, how would livestock get water? It was suggested to revise the design and pump to a cistern and then gravity feed to troughs below. There is more assurance then that livestock always have water.
- Would the well be powered by solar or grid power?
- Using the well for both domestic and livestock use could be problematic -- they will need to be sure that the flow is adequate for both uses.
- The project needs additional engineering.

Concluding analysis:

The project has merit since it has the potential to improve upland vegetation. However, there are several concerns which need to be addressed. The project needs additional engineering and design to investigate the possibility of using a cistern. Also, nearby well logs should be investigated to ascertain what the well might produce. It is positive that the landowner is doing a lot of juniper removal on his own. Also, a future application needs more detail on the sage-grouse habitat benefits. It was not stated if this is core or general habitat. While the proposal has merit, it is not ready to recommend for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5031**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Wallowa River- Baker Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Grande Ronde Model WS Program		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$126,170.00**	**Total Cost:**	$770,608.00
Proposed Match:	$644,438.00		

Application Description

The project is located approximately three miles northwest of Wallowa. Approximately 0.6 miles of an aggrading section of the Wallowa River is proposed for restoration of off-channel habitat and in-stream wood structures. This reach was historically a braided channel. However, the stream has been manipulated for agricultural practices, gravel extraction and road construction. Few pools are present and vertical, eroding banks limit floodplain interaction and hyporheic exchange. Spring Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, redband and lamprey use this reach for migration, spawning, summer rearing and over-winter rearing.

In 1997, stream barbs were installed which exacerbated localized scour and deposition and accelerated lateral migration. The landowner recently enrolled 30.2 acres into a 15-year conservation easement. The project was split into two phases with the first phase now funded by McNary Mitigation. In this phase, the floodplain will increase 11 acres and 32 pools will be created. In addition, 32 engineered wood-habitat structures will be installed to increase habitat complexity. Each structure will have 13 logs per structure. Log lengths will be 20 to 30 feet long and 18 to 24 inches in diameter at 4.5 feet. Off-channel, deep-pool habitat, 5 to 7 feet deep, will provide salmonid holding habitat, overhead cover, zero-velocity margin habitat for juvenile rearing and promote sediment sorting for improved spawning habitat. Three miles of fencing will be installed along the river and all three of the side channels contained within the exclusion fencing. Both leafy spurge and diffuse knapweed will be mechanically and chemically treated. Coyote willow, red-osier dogwood, black cottonwood and peachleaf willow will be planted. Both whips and vertical bundles will be planted. Yearly inspections of the planted materials will occur for the first five years.

Disturbed areas will be reseeded with a native mix and replanted with live stakes. Vertical, eroding banks along the Wallowa River will be regraded to increase floodplain connectivity and promote riparian development. Trees and woody materials will be added to increase roughness and reduce overland flow velocities to induce sediment deposition. The floodplain will be planted with native riparian vegetation to dissipate energy and develop a riparian forest buffer.

The project addresses improving floodplain connectivity, riparian vegetation, channel stability, water quality, reducing sediment and temperature. In addition, it will improve habitat for aquatic and terrestrial resources. OWEB funds are requested for rootwads, fencing, floodplain excavation and side channel C earthwork. Grande Ronde Model Watershed, ODFW, the Nez Perce Tribe, McNary Mitigation Fund and the landowner will contribute 511% of the OWEB-requested funds.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The landowners are willing participants and want to improve current conditions.
- Bids for the first phase were received and there is adequate funding to begin the project. Grande Ronde Model Watershed and the McNary Mitigation Fund are providing significant cost-share.
- The easement is secured.
- There is excellent riparian habitat on the opposite bank, owned by a different landowner. It is hoped that similar habitat can be replicated on this side of the river.
- The side channel habitat provides synergistic benefits.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The previous evaluation recommended completing Phase 1 first to see how the design functions before committing funds for additional channel excavation. This proposal is premature.
- The team questioned whether this is the appropriate site for this type of restoration effort. There appear to be reaches of the Wallowa River better suited for this type of habitat improvement; forcing a man-made channel may be inappropriate here. Excavation involves moving considerable amount of soil. The end-haul point was not outlined in the application.
- The side channel may become filled with sediment
- The river may not respond as intended, potentially resulting in additional lateral erosion and channel development.
- The construction observation listed in the budget was over $35,000 and included four personnel, which seemed very high.
- Water rights were not addressed; it appears that some water rights may be subject to forfeiture.

Concluding analysis:

The project has the potential to provide needed habitat lacking in this watershed and scarce winter-rearing habitat in this stretch of the Wallowa River. Previous concerns about where the substantial volume of spoils would be taken were not addressed in the application, but reviewers noted that there is now an end-haul site secured close to the project side that will keep the dump trucks off county roads. In a previous review, the team recommended that they would like to see the results of the first phase completed; however, the application was submitted prior to the beginning of the first phase. Given the uncertainty about river processes in this reach, the team would like to see the results of the ongoing project prior to recommending additional funding. The project is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5032**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control Phase II		
Applicant:	Tri-Cnty Coop Weed Mgmt Area		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Union
OWEB Request:	**$25,000.00**	**Total Cost:**	$34,500.00
Proposed Match:	$9,500.00		

Application Description

The Upper Grande Ronde Invasive Weed Control project targets a specific geographic area and focuses on the treatment of leafy spurge, spotted knapweed and meadow hawkweed along the Grande Ronde River above Hilgard State Park. The Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Areas (CWMA) proposes to treat these noxious weeds through various chemical methods. In Phase I the CWMA mapped and updated their database identifying the most current range of leafy spurge. Phase II will focus on areas identified in Phase I. Noxious weeds adversely affect watershed function, decrease wildlife habitat and displace native plant communities. In addition, leafy spurge and meadow hawkweed release alleopathic toxic chemicals.

Under Phase II, the primary target weed is leafy spurge, a long-lived plant that requires multiple treatments. A mix of Tordon™ and 2,4-D will be used in the uplands and Habitat™ used in the riparian area. Other species such as spotted knapweed and meadow hawkweed will be treated using Milestone™ and Transline™. The CWMA proposes to treat 130 acres along 26 stream miles of salmonid habitat in the upper Grande Ronde. Both the upper and middle reaches of the Grande Ronde are proposed for major re-channeling efforts by CTUIR, Union SWCD and the Grande Ronde Model Watershed. Since leafy spurge's taproot can easily reach 30 feet and when broken re-sprout, treatment along the Grande Ronde is critical to riparian health and ensurimg long-term success of future projects. Eliminating potential weed dispersal along the waterway is also beneficial.

Watershed benefits include improved riparian vegetation, water quality and wildlife habitat. Noxious weeds are very shallow-rooted and therefore lead to decreased soil stability. By treating non-native annual plants, native vegetation will be maintained to improve soil stability, interception and infiltration of precipitation. OWEB funds are requested for wages, contracted services and administration. Wallowa-Whitman National Forest will provide 38% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

The proposed project has a direct relationship with the *Oregon Conservation Strategy* (2006) as it lists the Upper Grande Ronde Weed Control Project's entire target weed list as invasive species currently considered to be the primary cause of species becoming threatened and endangered.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Some of the proposed treatments will occur on USFS ground where the herbicide ban was finally lifted. The project is trying to address these specific noxious weeds before they spread further in the riparian corridor.
- Using the data collected identifying weed locations in the Phase I project is positive and indicates the CWMA is implementing its project goals.
- This effort is complementary to other restoration projects nearby. As more streambank modifications and in-stream projects occur with increased ground disturbance, the probability also increases for future weed establishment. Therefore treating them before they reach those sites is important.
- This is a proactive approach to help contain infestations. It is providing a critical service in a difficult topography.
- This is a long-standing project with a modest funding request.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The success of prior treatments was not well-described in the application, and it is unclear how success of this work will be monitored. However, previous project completion reports did indicate positive results.

Concluding analysis:
Tri-County CWMA has previously received several OWEB grants. This application provided clear goals and is part of an ongoing programmatic effort. The request was modest. The review team recognizes the importance of treating noxious weeds. Treating noxious weeds is beneficial to wildlife, as it helps maintain habitat. Controlling weeds along the riparian areas of the upper Grande Ronde is positive from both wildlife and fisheries perspectives. It was also noted that while weeds are never eradicated, it is important to keep infestations in check. The ecological benefits of the project are to maintain native plant communities by preventing their being overtaken by invasive annuals. This is a positive partnership with the USFS, the project has significant ecological merit, and it is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 25,000.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 25,000.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5033**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Baker Sage Grouse Priority Habitat Restoration Phase I		
Applicant:	Tri-Cnty Coop Weed Mgmt Area		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Baker
OWEB Request:	$62,000	**Total Cost:**	$285,000.00
Proposed Match:	$223,000.00		

Application Description

The two areas for this project are in Virtue Flats east of Baker City and in the Medical Springs area south of the Union County line. The Baker BLM, USFWS and ODFW recently announced that the Baker PAC (Priority Area of Conservation) for sage-grouse tripped a population "hard trigger" based on the five-year population trend. This project will survey and treat medusahead and whitetop to improve sage-grouse habitat.

Numerous private landowners within the Baker PAC are currently under the CCAA (Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances) and are working under a cost-share agreement to restore sage-grouse habitat. Other landowners are not qualified or not currently enrolled for CCAA's, but want to improve sage-grouse habitat if technical and financial assistance is available. Annual grasses are a leading cause of sage-grouse population decline due to habitat being overtaken by medusahead, cheatgrass and other invasive annuals. Many areas developed into monocultures that provide virtually no benefit to sage-grouse. Crested wheatgrass stands, whether seeded post-cultivation or for grazing objectives, have the potential to successfully be converted to native bunchgrasses given the right steps and time.

Tri-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) is proposing to survey 2,133 acres of private property and 367 acres of BLM to assess the extent of medusahead spread. Survey work will be done on-the- ground and aerially using helicopters or drones. Mapping software will be used to analyze these triggers to provide data for sage-grouse management planning. Herbicides including glyphosate, imazapic (Plateau™) and aminopyralid (Transline™) will be applied to 150 acres of medusahead and whitetop and 272 acres will be seeded. Native seed mix will include crested wheatgrass, bluebunch wheatgrass, bottle brush squirreltail and Sandberg's bluegrass. USFWS partner funding will be used to install 11,200 feet of wildlife-safe fencing. Project partners including landowners, USFWS, BLM, ODFW and NRCS will contribute 360% of the OWEB-request amount as in-kind and cash match.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application provided good photos of the ongoing Phase I project and helpful maps.
- There are many project partners providing excellent cost-share. BLM still has another $200,000 to obligate to these areas. BLM is allocating $100,000 in chemical cost to the northern portion of project area #2. A BLM coordinator is also assisting with this effort.

- Fall and spring treatments are planned which should help to improve the effectiveness of the herbicide.
- USFWS will provide fencing for seeded areas with a two-year grazing rest planned.
- This effort is ready to implement actual on-the-round restoration in a designated priority area.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- Most of the proposed areas to treat are predominately medusahead; glyphosate is only effective if there is a low seedbank present.
- There is a high probability of failure with medusahead treatment. Many restoration efforts have targeted medusahead with few successes.
- Concerns were raised that transitioning sites from crested wheatgrass to natives such as bluebunch wheatgrass has a low success rate. If subsequent phases are not funded, the treatment is likely to fail without the resources required for seeding.
- No post-project monitoring was included in the application.
- Consider adding a shrub component to the proposed seed mix to benefit sage-grouse habitat.
- The application does not mention the status of the 2,100 acres currently being treated

Concluding analysis:
Tri-County CWMA, USFWS and local partners are working to address the significant decline in sage-grouse population trends due to cheatgrass and medusahead monocultures. This is a high priority area to address habitat needs. The project has many partners and excellent cost-share. However, the sequence and timing of restoration components was confusing. It was unclear if current efforts are effective or if glyphosate would be effective in treating the medusahead. While the goals of the project have high merit, it is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5034**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Tater Road Water Quality Improvement		
Applicant:	Owyhee WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$45,520.00**	**Total Cost:**	$101,928.00
Proposed Match:	$56,408.00		

Application Description

The Tater Road Water Quality Improvement project is located five miles south of Adrian in the Big Bend area east of the Snake River. Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC) proposes to address water quality concerns by converting 32 acres from furrow irrigation to sprinkler irrigation by installing a pivot. Currently, irrigation tailwater flows into the South Alkali drain directly into the Snake River which borders the project site. The primary crop rotations in Big Bend are pasture, grazing and hay crops with few row-crop farms. This area has a history of excessive erosion rates because of highly erodible soils. Based on the slopes of the fields, soil loss is estimated at approximately 20 to 30 tons per-acre per-year, or over 640 to 960 tons of sediment annually from this farm. Project implementation will address water quality.

Project components include installing: 2,200 feet of 6-inch pipe with risers to provide pressurized water to corners; 1,860 feet of 6-and 8-inch pipe; 1,200 feet of cable con and electrical; a 25 hp pump; 8-inch flowmeter and 646-foot pivot. In addition, 1,600 feet of 18-inch pipe will be installed from the take out to connect to another pipeline funded by an OWEB small grant. The 18-inch pipe will replace an existing ditch and allows for pivot travel across the lateral. Piping the ditch will eliminate sediment, erosion, water loss and chemicals from being transported down the ditch. It will also be used in future restoration projects. The landowner will provide 124% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

Implementation addresses the *Owyhee Subbasin Plan* and the *Mid-Snake-Succor Creek TMDL* by reducing sediment and improving water quality, and the *Owyhee Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan* which suggests practices that include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is complementary to a previous OWEB small grant, which initiated relationships among OWC and landowners.
- The soils in this area appear to be highly erodible. By installing a pivot and reducing excess watering, runoff and sediment transport into the Snake River will be eliminated.
- The project addresses a significant water quality concern and the photos and sediment estimates document the extent of the problem.
- The project is complementary to similar projects in the area and builds on previous efforts.

- Implementation addresses DEQ's priority objectives for the basin.
- Producers and irrigation districts in Malheur County are making significant strides in converting cropped acreage from flood irrigation to sprinklers.
- Water quality will improve as sediment and nutrient loads are eliminated.
- Application provided excellent detail on the budget, photos, and maps.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The need for the 18-inch pipe seemed unclear and would have benefited from more explanation. The application did state that it eliminates a ditch and associated run-off, allows for pivot travel, and will tie into an existing pipeline. By installing this pipe and connecting into the existing pipe, future restoration projects to the north can be implemented.
- The cost per acre was high. However, a high percentage of that cost was due to the 18-inch pipe which has significant additional benefits as described above.

Concluding analysis:

The project is complementary to many projects sponsored by OWC. The council has worked successfully with many local partners to develop priority areas and implement successful projects. Implementation will have significant water quality benefits due to the project's location right on the Snake River. This project has high demonstration value to other landowners in the Big Bend area for future implementation projects. The project will help OWC make Big Bend a future priority area for restoration activities. The team agreed the project should be implemented in a timely manner. There is high ecological merit and the project is ready to fund this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund reduced**.** Remove 3-inch riser assemblies from the budget.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 42,880.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund reduced**.** Remove 3-inch riser assemblies from the budget.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 42,880.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5035**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Cleaning Up Down by the Malheur River		
Applicant:	Malheur WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$67,513.00**	**Total Cost:**	$210,092.00
Proposed Match:	$142,579.00		

Application Description

This project is located two miles south of Vale adjacent to the Malheur River above the confluence with Bully Creek. Malheur Watershed Council (MWC) is working with three landowners to address water quality problems caused by flood irrigation on 116 total acres. All three properties border the river. The proposed actions will convert these fields from furrow to sprinkler irrigation or construct sediment retention ponds, reducing sediment input by 1,160 to 2,320 tons per year, along with associated phosphorus load.

The Malheur River is among the top three most polluted rivers in Oregon according to DEQ, making this location a high priority for restoration. Several project components are proposed for the three properties. The first 36-acre property will have a solid-set and small pivot installed on 9.5 acres. In addition, a sediment pond will be constructed to address runoff from a 26-acre field. The second 37-acre property will construct a sediment pond and replace earthen ditches with gated pipe. The sediment pond will collect silt and fertilizer to settle out before reaching the Malheur. A 1,960 feet 10-inch mainline will be installed from a pumping station to two bubblers, which will remove any debris before entering the gated-pipe. The third property will convert the irrigation system from flood to sprinkler by installing two, 3-tower pivots on 43 acres. A power pole, transformer and phase converter will be required to provide power to the pumping station. In addition, 1,760 of 6-inch and 8-inch pipe will be installed along with 1,850 feet of cable con. The three landowners will contribute 211% of the OWEB-request funds in both cash and in-kind cost-share.

Project implementation addresses water quality and will achieve high results since concerns addressed closest to rivers and creek yield the greatest benefit. Implementation addresses the *Malheur River Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan*, which suggests practices that include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers and the *Malheur River Basin TMDL* that also addresses converting from furrow irrigation to sprinklers to reduce sediment, nutrient and phosphorous.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project's location right on the Malheur River will greatly reduce the large amount of sediment currently being deposited. Implementing projects adjacent to rivers and streams will have the highest immediate impact on water quality.

- The landowners' cost-share is substantial and shows high likelihood of a successful outcome.
- The amount of tailwater flowing into the Malheur River will be greatly reduced.
- The team appreciated that there were separate maps, photos and summaries for each landowner which facilitated the review of a multi-landowner application.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The cost for the power pole seemed high.
- The watermaster should be consulted to determine whether a "place of use change" will be required.

Concluding analysis:

Project implementation has a very high likelihood of immediate success due to its location adjacent to the Malheur River. Both sediment input and tailwater flow will be greatly reduced. Also, treating three adjacent landowners is positive and has excellent outreach potential for future projects. The landowners also have significant cost-share. In addition to the fields where pivots will be installed, the project also treats acreage that may not convert to sprinklers by constructing sediment ponds. There are limitations to using sprinkler irrigation based on the types of crops, field configuration and other factors. By implementing constructed sediment ponds, water quality in Malheur River will be improved. The review team agreed there is excellent ecological merit and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 67,513.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 67,513.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5036**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Table Top Water Quality Improvement		
Applicant:	Malheur WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:** Malheur	
OWEB Request:	**$30,903.00**	**Total Cost:** $49,143.00	
Proposed Match:	$18,240.00		

Application Description

Table Top is located west of Vale and is adjacent to Bully Creek. Malheur Watershed Council (MWC) is working with a new landowner to address water quality problems caused by flood irrigation on 28 acres. The project will convert to sprinkler irrigation to stop irrigation-induced erosion on these fields. The previous owner used large amounts of water causing excessive erosion, which resulted in gullies on the 45% slopes below the field. The current landowner has moderated water use, but erosion is still occurring due to the nature of furrow irrigation. The estimated erosion rate on this property is between 10 to 20 tons per acre or 280 to 560 tons annually. The project will improve water quality and eliminate inputs from bacteria, nutrients, sediments and associated pollutants into Bully Creek.

Bully Creek is rated as one of the most impaired streams according to DEQ making this project a high priority for restoration. Project components include installing 1,060 feet of 6-inch pipe; 620 feet of 2-inch pipe; 22 risers; a 10-hp pump and screen. Two power poles and transformer will be required to provide power. The landowner will purchase and install wheel lines as the field configuration is not conducive to pivots. The landowner will contribute 59% of the OWEB-request funds in both cash and in-kind cost-share.

Project implementation addresses water quality and will achieve high results since concerns addressed closest to rivers and creek yield the greatest benefit. Implementation addresses the *Malheur River Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan,* which suggests practices that include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers and the *Malheur River Basin TMDL* that also addresses converting from furrow irrigation to sprinklers to reduce sediment, nutrient and phosphorous.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The site visit demonstrated the extent of erosion occurring.
- The topographic nature of the property makes soil retention challenging. The review team appreciated the 3-D and other photos of the property that showed the steep nature of the property.
- The application was straightforward and addresses a problem that needs remediation.
- Cost-share from the landowner is significant and indicates that he is highly invested in the project.

- Implementation addresses the two biggest concerns in this basin including improving water quality and reducing sediment deposition into the Malheur River.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The per-acre cost of $1,103 was high.
- The reason for the 2-inch pipe was not clear; however, it seemed that the pipe may be for the 22 risers which were not depicted on the map. The area where the risers would irrigate was also not clearly depicted.
- It appears that while the current irrigation method is better than that used by the previous landowner, additional irrigation management is needed.
- From the site visit, it was not clear how much water was actually going to Bully Creek.

Concluding analysis:

The project is complementary to many projects sponsored by MWC. The council has worked successfully with many local partners in the Bully Creek area with both large grants and small grants. Implementation will have water quality benefits to Bully Creek, but it is unclear just how much runoff actually reaches Bully Creek. Project components will improve irrigation management and reduce the gullying effect that field runoff currently has on the steep adjacent slopes. The team agreed while there are marginal water quality benefits to project implementation, the project is ready to fund this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 30,903.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5037**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Hurricane Pipeline		
Applicant:	Wallowa SWCD		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:** Wallowa	
OWEB Request:	**$459,043.00**	**Total Cost:** $1,511,387.00	
Proposed Match:	$1,052,344.00		

Application Description

The project will reduce erosion caused by irrigation on steeper slopes and decrease the amount of water diverted from Hurricane Creek. A pipeline will be installed to convey water from the takeout to the sprinklers on Alder Slope located west of Joseph and Enterprise. Significant elevation changes contribute to inconsistent pressure throughout the system, which is antiquated and leaking. Irrigation withdrawals, especially in late season, significantly reduce instream flow in Hurricane Creek which is detrimental to ESA-listed steelhead, Chinook salmon and bull trout.

The project is part of the "Alder Slope Cooperative Partnership" between NRCS, ODF and Wallowa SWCD. The Alder Slope Partnership addresses both overstocked forestlands and irrigation improvements. There are three main pipeline systems on Alder Slope: Ruby Peak, Hurricane and Alder Slope. The top end of these systems can have insufficient pressure to run sprinklers while the lower slopes can exceed 150-200 psi. Because of the high pressure, micro-hydro power units can be installed directly in the irrigation pipelines. After the pipeline is installed, NRCS will use EQIP to cost-share on-farm improvements. The Hurricane pipeline will provide improvements to 1,500 irrigated acres.

The project proposes to restructure and/or consolidate multiple pipelines. Once the pipelines are in place, on-farm irrigation systems improvements can be implemented. Project components include the following pipe lengths: 1,860 feet of 36-inch pipe; 5,850 feet of 30-inch pipe; 5,510 feet of 20-inch; 2,620 feet of 16-inch; 5,530 feet of 14-inch; 3,920 feet of 12-inch; 8.880 feet of 10-inch; 1,830 feet of 8-inch; 4,160 feet of 6-inch and 3,120 feet of 4-inch. In addition valves, concrete thrust blocks and sand filters will also be installed. Landowners, OWRD, Energy Trust and NRCS will provide 229% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project is part of the Alder slope Cooperative Partnership with NRCS and ODFW which treats both irrigated agriculture and overstocked private forest lands.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The project lacks sufficient planning and design detail. The application seems premature.
- It is unclear where water is being saved or conserved. Where is the water actually going?
- There does not appear to be sufficient landowner support at this point in the project.

- The project seemed to be more of an upgrade or maintenance of an existing pipeline. It is not clear how much is actually new pipe and whether it is replacing earthen ditches or other conveyance systems.
- It is unclear whether pipeline easements were obtained.
- There were no measuring devices in the budget.
- The ecological benefit is not clear.

Concluding analysis:
The project needs additional planning and design to fully understand the ecological benefit. The application overall lacked essential detail. It is not clear if Energy Trust is a partner and if so what role they will have. Perhaps most of the ecological benefit occurs after the on-farm improvements are implemented. While the project is part of a comprehensive effort from the Alder Slope Cooperative Partnership that will treat both forest fuels and irrigation inefficiency, it is not clear the ecological benefit that this pipeline will have. Further design, planning and landowner recruitment is needed to better ascertain how this pipeline will provide watershed benefits. It is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5038**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Beaver Tables Medusahead		
Applicant:	Harney Co Coop Weed Management		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:** Harney	
OWEB Request:	**$245,206.00**	**Total Cost:** $529,606.00	
Proposed Match:	$185,000.00		

Application Description

Located near Crane by the "Beaver Tables," this project is in sage-grouse preliminary general habitat (PGH) as identified by the BLM. This project area is north and southeast of preliminary primary habitat (PPH) or core habitat. Leks are located to the east. The primary objective is to restore critical sagebrush-steppe heavily impacted by medusahead rye by aerial application of herbicide and upland seeding. The CWMA and project partners are trying to keep the medusahead from spreading into the leks to the north in the Otis PAC (priority area of concern) east towards Crowley.

A second objective is to reduce spreading medusahead to non-invaded areas by treating major dispersal vectors including roads. Project locations were chosen using strategic boundaries such as the Crane-Venator Road and Highway 78. Medusahead infestation was expanded by the 2014 Buzzard Complex wildfire. Adjacent public lands were untreated for many years due to a court injunction that prevented the use of more appropriate herbicides. The BLM is now able to use herbicides that provide a more effective treatment for medusahead. Medusahead adversely affects perennial grasses, as well as sage-grouse forage and brood-rearing habitat. By displacing native perennial grasses and shrubs, important food sources and cover are eliminated or greatly reduced.

The Harney County Coordinated Weed Management Area (CWMA) proposes to treat 1,700 acres on eight separate private ownerships with Plateau™ (Imazapic) and a drift-reducing surfactant. Spraying will occur twice in concurrent years to improve effectiveness. In addition, 1,200 acres of the 1,700 treated acres will be seeded with crested or Siberian wheatgrass to curtail re-infestation of annual grasses. Grasses were suggested from OSU Extension and the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) in Burns. To better penetrate the heavy thatch layer, 5 to 10 gallons of water per-acre will be used along with the 6 to 8 ounces per-acre of Plateau and an adjuvant. In addition, DSL will aerially spray 350 acres sprayed twice over concurrent years. The BLM will also treat another 5,000 acres and NRCS will aerially treat 3,125 acres twice over a two-year period.

Project partners including the BLM, DSL, NRCS CWMA and landowners are providing 116% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Reviewers discussed helpful information provided at the site visit that was not included in the application. CWMA and partners are trying to clean up smaller patches of medusahead before they

expand to larger infestations. They are also successfully using late-fall/early-winter grazing to "soften-up" sites to enable more effective herbicide penetration to medusahead. The BLM has wildfire funding for herbicides, but they is not much core habitat in those areas. The Buzzard Complex was patchy and left a lot of intact sage-brush islands. Private ground seen during the site visit showed successful post-fire forage kochia planting. Also, while much private land was burned during the wildfires, fires in this area were less severe.

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The partners are working to keep medusahead out of core priority areas for sage-grouse.
- Having two aerial applications of herbicide is beneficial. It indicates that the CWMA acknowledges that one treatment is generally ineffective.
- Overall project costs including herbicide, seed and application rates are reasonable.
- This effort is the first phase of a larger project over the next five years which shows future planning and timelines involving multiple partners.
- By private landowner partnering with the agencies, the overall cost of the aerial application of both herbicide and seed is reduced. Mobilization costs for helicopters and other equipment is spread over an economy of scale.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It was unclear whether seeding through the thick layer of thatch will be effective.
- The application did not include grazing management strategies.

Concluding analysis:
Removal of the herbicide injunction enables the BLM to treat noxious weeds with more effective herbicides. Treating this area in a timely manner may decrease the opportunity for medusahead to spread to core habitat. The CWMA and partners are taking a pro-active approach to protect core sage-grouse habitat. There are numerous project partners treating this area in a landscape-level approach. The project has medium ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
12 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 245,206.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5039**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Parsnip #2		
Applicant:	Owyhee WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:** Malheur	
OWEB Request:	**$131,736.00**	**Total Cost:** $211,736.00	
Proposed Match:	$80,000.00		

Application Description

The Parsnip Peak Invasive Annuals project area encompasses 10,860 acres of state land (5,332 acres) and private land (5,528 acres) in the sagebrush-steppe rangeland eight miles south of Jordan Valley. It is in ODFW's core sage-grouse habitat with 12 active leks nearby. The project proposes to control medusahead using integrated pest management strategies, including chemical treatment, seeding and installation of cross-fencing. Medusahead and other invasive annuals are out-competing native plant communities key for wildlife habitat and economic productivity of resource lands. Project objectives are to help restore native plant communities and improve habitat, especially for sage-grouse.

Project components include chemically treating 2,000 acres of medusahead using Plateau™. To penetrate thick thatch layers, 6 ounces of Plateau will be applied with 20 gallons of water per acre. A bacterial amendment, *Pseudomonas*, will be added with the herbicide. Non-thatch areas will receive 10 gallons of water per acre. The seeding mix will follow NRCS specifications and include Siberian wheatgrass, tall wheatgrass, Great Basin wild rye, bluebunch wheatgrass, sheep fescue, Ladak alfalfa, sweet clover, Idaho fescue and crested wheatgrass. Seed will be applied using a rangeland drill or by broadcast. Broadcast seeding rates will be twice that of drilling rates. Reseeding will occur one year following chemical treatment and ideally after fall precipitation. The 15,000 feet of cross-fencing will be installed into existing fence lines to facilitate implementation of conservation management plans. Grazing utilization transects (GPS points) will be established in treatment and non-treatment areas prior to project implementation; utilization will be monitored at transect locations annually for 5 years.

The project is a continuation of a previous project which completed the survey of 10,000 acres last year. The working group is comprised of NRCS, USFWS, ODFW, Malheur SWCD, OSU Extension, Jordan Valley CWMA, Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC), DSL, BLM and USFWS. The Parsnip Peak area was selected due its significant sage-grouse habitat, critical mule deer and elk winter-range habitat and willing landowners. Watershed benefits are improved upland vegetation, wildlife habitat and decreased soil erosion. Cost-share partners including landowners, DSL, Jordan Valley CWMA and NRCS will provide 61% of the OWEB-requested amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The team appreciated the comprehensive nature of the project especially regarding future planning. The project is good follow-up to the survey and inventory funded by the previous project, 215-5060.
- The five-year grazing management plan is beneficial to ensure grass stand establishment.
- Many agencies and organizations are involved with the partnership and are providing substantial cost-share. NRCS recently awarded RCPP funds for the High Desert Drought Resilient Ranching partnership, which is complementary to the Parsnip Peak project. The RCPP will address invasive annual grasses and plant communities impacted by drought conditions across the Great Basin's northern range landscape.
- Seeding detail was well described with a diverse mix and appropriate application rates.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It was unclear if seeded areas would have follow-up treatment and whether the seeding success rate would be determined.
- Treatment of areas with greater than 50% medusahead without reseeding may be ineffective.

Concluding analysis:
The review team agreed that this application was well-written, providing excellent detail with good maps and photos. Excellent detail on the seed mix and application rates was also included. The project involves multiple landowners and agencies who are collaborating on this effort in a remote area. The team was impressed by the number of agencies and landowners participating in this effort. After the application was submitted, *Pseudomonas* was no longer available for purchase in Oregon. Therefore, that budget element needed to be removed.

The team was impressed by the number of acres affected. The completed inventory from the previous grant is beneficial to prioritize restoration efforts. Additional acres will be treated with future NRCS funding with the RCPP. Overall, the team agreed that this project has high ecological merit and implementation will improve sage-grouse habitat.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund reduced. Remove *Pseudomonas* from budget.

Regional Review Team Priority
5 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 113,736.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund reduced. Remove *Pseudomonas* from budget.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 113,736.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5040**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Boner Pivot		
Applicant:	Wallowa SWCD		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:** Wallowa	
OWEB Request:	**$51,393.00**	**Total Cost:** $118,081.00	
Proposed Match:	$66,689.00		

Application Description

This project is located approximately four miles southwest of Enterprise on Alder Slope. A 115-acre farm is currently irrigated by wheel lines. The project will upgrade the irrigation system to pivots to allow the landowner to provide more precision irrigation to meet the vegetative needs and increase water efficiency. It is anticipated that less water will be diverted if on-farm efficiency increases resulting in more water left in-stream. Steep slopes and uneven ground result in inefficient and over- application of irrigation water. Project implementation will result in improved water quality and quantity left in Hurricane Creek.

The project is part of the "Alder Slope Cooperative Partnership" between NRCS, ODF and Wallowa SWCD. The Alder Slope Partnership addresses overstocked forestlands and irrigation improvements. Improving irrigation efficiency will reduce the amount of water diverted from Hurricane Creek delivered to Alder Slope. Working with NRCS, the landowner will monitor water use by estimating crop water requirements and monitoring with flow meters. Project components include installing: 1,200 feet of 8-inch pipe; 8 pivot crossings over Spring Creek; a diversion box and pivot. The existing 6-inch line will remain in place since it serves an adjacent landowner. The landowner and NRCS will provide 130% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount. Watershed benefits include reducing erosion from irrigation on steeper slopes and improving water quantity by reducing the amount of water diverted from Hurricane Creek.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application is part of the Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) for Alder Slope consisting of forestry improvement and irrigation efficiencies. As such, it complements other previously funded OWEB projects that were incorporated into the partnership
- A flowmeter will measures the amount of irrigation water that is diverted to the site, which is a useful tool for the landowner to evaluate crop needs as part of an efficient irrigation system.
- The project is in a priority area location.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The application lacked essential detail. It was unclear if it connects into a piped lateral or where the take-out is. It also referred to the turn out as the point-of-diversion which was confusing.

- A concern was raised that due to the nature of the slope and location of the pivot point, a very large pivot pad will need to be constructed to keep the pivot in place. Also, the actual slope percentage was not provided.
- There are already wheel lines on the property. Converting to pivots will not greatly increase ecological merit. The amount of erosion currently coming off the property is slight.
- The applicant checked that the project will benefit salmon and steelhead, but those benefits were not articulated. It was unclear if there will be actual water savings and where those savings will be from.

Concluding analysis:
The project is part of the Alder Slope CIS partnership. Treating the irrigation and forest issues concerns on the slope enables the NRCS, ODF and Wallowa SWCD to take a landscape approach to watershed health issues. However, this project did not clearly articulate how it ties into the overall CIS. More detail regarding the CIS would also have been beneficial. It was unclear what the water savings in Hurricane Creek would be. The maps needed additional detail. While the project may have merit, without more clarifying information the team could not recommend it for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5041**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Birkmaier Flood to Sprinkler		
Applicant:	Wallowa SWCD		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:** Wallowa	
OWEB Request:	**$86,304.00**	**Total Cost:** $142,877.00	
Proposed Match:	$56,573.00		

Application Description

This project is located about 4 miles south of Enterprise and is situated between Highway 82 and the Wallowa River. The project will install a conveyance pipeline and sprinklers to replace flood irrigation. There are 52 flood-irrigated acres with a shallow draw running through it. During the irrigation season, uneven ground makes water application challenging. Runoff goes into the draw which flows into the nearby Wallowa River. Sprinkler irrigation will eliminate tailwater reaching the Wallowa and will supply even irrigation. In addition, the landowner is proposing to plant a cover crop to improve soil conditions and tilth. Current soil conditions are poor due to high amount of gravel present. Project implementation will improve water quality and soil health.

Project components include installing 4,600 of 10-inch pipe; 1,330 feet of 8-inch pipe; 1,230 of 6-inch pipe; a flow meter and wheel lines. Conveyance pipe is sized for future participation of downstream landowners. In addition, cover crops will be planted for one to two years to improve soil health. The landowners will work with NRCS to determine optimal irrigation scheduling based on vegetation requirements. They will also record water use and work with OWRD's local water master. Project implementation will eliminate irrigation tailwater, which may contain sediment and nutrients affecting the Wallowa. Instream flow may benefit as a result of a more efficient irrigation system. The landowners will contribute 66% of OWEB-request amount as cash and in-kind match.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Project implementation will convert from flood irrigation to sprinkler which has water quality benefits.
- The application had letters of support from OWRD's watermaster and the landowner. The watermaster indicated that increasing the efficiency of delivery benefits all patrons of the Granger Ditch. Pipe and sprinkler conversion helps ensure that a producer can be efficient with water application and stay within their late-season duty cap.
- The landowner cash match is significant and indicates that investment in the project, leading to long-term sustainability.
- Working with the local watermaster to reduce water use and NRCS to ascertain crop irrigation demand is beneficial to understanding the amount of water needed.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The application overstates the watershed benefits and does not include conserved water as a benefit.
- The current system seems to be poorly functioning, and may not be worth improving.
- Planting cover crops in a pasture seems unnecessary.
- The project is designed to reduce nutrient runoff, but it includes adding additional fertilizer.
- It was unclear whether tailwater is causing a water quality problem; additional flows during low-flow periods may be beneficial, especially for salmonids.
- The actual treated acreage is confusing. The application stated both 52 and 130.
- Participation from the other landowners is not addressed.

Concluding analysis:
The application lacks sufficient detail to better understand the actual ecological merit. It seemed that the project would improve the ease and functionality of irrigation, but the watershed benefit is not significant. There are water quality benefits but they are less than other irrigation projects. Water quantity benefits could have been more clearly articulated. The team did not think that this project was ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5042**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	West Zumwalt Prairie Weed Control		
Applicant:	Wallowa Resources		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:** Wallowa	
OWEB Request:	**$23,630.00**	**Total Cost:** $44,673.00	
Proposed Match:	$21,043.00		

Application Description

The Wallowa Canyonlands Partnership (WCP) of Wallowa Resources coordinates noxious weed management on nearly 1.6 million acres of public and private land in northeast Oregon including the Zumwalt Prairie. This proposed restoration action seeks to protect a portion of northwest Zumwalt Prairie treating populations of sulfur cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*), a noxious weed. Surveys in the summer of 2016 found large, previously unknown infestations on the western edge of the North Zumwalt in the Crow Creek Area. Since the population was recently identified, they have the opportunity for Early Detection-Rapid Response (EDRR) to reduce the spread of cinquefoil into the inner grasslands. Zumwalt Prairie is a conservation opportunity area with an intact native bunchgrass community.

The project will conduct ground surveys on 1,000 acres to determine the boundaries of sulfur cinquefoil and document other weeds present. In addition, 420 acres of a large infestation will be treated aerially with the appropriate herbicides. A smaller 35-acre site will be treated using spot or ATV applications of appropriate herbicides. Two photo points will be established per treatment site to assess vegetation change over time. Maintaining an intact native bunchgrass is an important objective of this project to protect this diverse and unique landscape. Cost-share partners including USFS and four landowners will contribute 89% of the OWEB-requested amount.

Implementation is consistent with the *Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan* (2004) that lists identifies noxious weeds as contributors to increased sedimentation as a high priority in the lower Grande Ronde watershed. The *Oregon invasive Species Action Plan* (2005) advocates education and cooperation as key components to an effective strategy to control invasive species.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The application provided historical background and was easy to follow.
- Zumwalt Prairie is a very important rangeland ecosystem in the Pacific Northwest. It is a unique area with an intact native bunchgrass plant community.
- The landowners have a financial investment in the project which indicates a high likelihood of long-term sustainability.
- Using early detection-raid response (EDRR) provides a high likelihood of success.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- Follow-up treatment, seeding, and the number of applications were not addressed. The herbicide was not listed. It was not clear what was to be applied, at what rate, by what method, and when. It was not clear whether an adjuvant will be needed.
- Project management costs seemed high. The total of wages, indirect and post grant exceeded contracted services.

Concluding analysis:
The team agrees that protecting the native bunchgrass community in Zumwalt from the threat of noxious weeds is very important. The use of EDRR is also positive. However, while the application provided good background detail, it lacked essential detail to recommend the project. Without knowing the type of herbicide or whether seeding is required, the likelihood of success could not be determined. Also, it was unclear how the budgeted amount for the herbicide could be determined without knowing what the selected herbicide is. Project management costs were also high. While the intent of the project is worthwhile, it is not recommended for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5043**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Lower Clear Creek Restoration (Phase 1)		
Applicant:	Powder Basin WC		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Baker
OWEB Request:	**$148,461.00**	**Total Cost:**	$188,573.00
Proposed Match:	$40,112.00		

Application Description

Clear Creek, a tributary of Pine Creek in the Brownlee Subbasin near Halfway, has critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout in the headwaters. Restoration will include fencing, in-stream structures and streambank protection. Sections of Clear Creek were artificially straightened and further compromised by 2007 and 2010 flood events. High flows from Pine Creek flowed into Clear Creek resulting in widespread bank failure, channel migration and loss of pasture along local streams and creeks. In addition, loss of riparian vegetation caused by improper livestock grazing led to most of the current degraded condition. This led to bank failure, channel migration and undesirable width-to-depth ratios.

Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) received a technical assistance grant to develop a comprehensive restoration plan to improve hydrologic function, increase fish habitat diversity, remove fish-passage barriers and meet landowner needs along a two-mile reach of Clear Creek. After collecting base-line data using drone-mounted LiDAR, ground-based surveys, computer modeling, stream gauge data and landowner interviews, 30% designs were developed.

Clear Creek has 7.3 miles of bull trout spawning and rearing habitat with less than 40% canopy cover. Restoring riparian conditions is essential to improve bull trout habitat. On the Gulick property, 3,200 feet of elk fencing is proposed to deter elk from excessive herbivory along Clear Creek. Also, brush fascines, flow deflectors, habitat structures and access ramps will be installed during the in-stream work window. On the Matile property, 1,400 feet of livestock fencing will be installed. In addition, 2.5 acres of woody riparian vegetation will be planted at 1,500 stems per-acre; 0.5 acres of emergent wetland will be planted at 6,000 stems per-acre and perennial grass seed planted on 3.2 acres at 80 pounds per acre.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, USFWS will provide 27% cash cost-share of the OWEB-request amount. Restoring habitat within migratory corridors of the Pine Creek watershed is emphasized in the 2014 draft *Bull Trout Recovery Plan*.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- This section of Clear Creek was adversely affected by the previous flood events. There is a demonstrated need for restoration efforts to improve riparian and fisheries habitat.

- The proposed design was based on a recent technical assistance grant that provided the 30% designs with bioengineered solutions.
- Proposed designs will stabilize the bank, lower stream temperatures and improve fish passage.
- Due to the large numbers of elk in this area, the elk fencing is a positive action to protect riparian vegetation.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The application was very confusing. It was difficult to determine which components were associated with which of two properties. It was not clear if the landowners are financially invested with the project which makes the potential for project sustainability uncertain.
- The elk fence cost seemed high.
- The planting plan was not clear. While the planting density seemed appropriate, there was a lack of detail. Plant establishment, including watering and weed abatement, needed more explanation.
- Application rate for grass seed was 80 pounds per acre where a typical rate is 15 pounds per acre.

Concluding analysis:

Clear Creek is an important bull trout stream and will benefit greatly from restoration efforts. Having willing landowners ready to participate is also positive. However, the application lacked essential detail and was not clear. It did not seem that the landowners were willing to commit any resources to the project, which could impact long-term success. The proposed activities are important to implement. A future application should provide a clear description of proposed actions for each property. While future implementation has potential for high ecological merit, the application is not ready to be recommended this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5044**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Getting the Power Outta the Way		
Applicant:	Malheur WC		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:** Malheur	
OWEB Request:	**$19,300.00**	**Total Cost:** $93,359.00	
Proposed Match:	$74,059.00		

Application Description

Located near Willow Creek approximately 8 miles north of Vale, this project will complete a previous effort begun by the landowner by converting flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation on the remaining 16 acres to improve water quality. A pivot was previously installed on 37 acres to address flood irrigation on farm ground with highly erodible soils on slopes varying from 1% to 8%. The previous project was not completed due to the presence of a power line which was planned to be buried. Burying the power line at the time the pivot was installed proved to be cost-prohibitive. Currently the pivot irrigates 21 acres. The remaining 16 acres are flood-irrigated due to the power line blocking the pivot path. Tailwater from furrow-irrigated field flows into Willow Creek approximately one mile away.

Project components include burying 1,250 feet of power line. Project components for the pivot were all previously installed. Landowner contribution will be 384% of the OWEB-requested amount including cash and in-kind.

Implementation of efficient irrigation systems will minimize erosion, reduce transport of farm chemicals into Willow Creek and ultimately the Malheur and Snake Rivers. The project will improve water quality and address limited water availability. The project addresses irrigation-induced erosion caused by flood irrigation. This project will help reduce runoff and pollutants by reducing excess sediment, phosphorus, nitrate and *E. coli* deposition in Willow Creek and ultimately the Malheur and Snake Rivers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Implementation will complete a previous project in Willow Creek where numerous water quality improvements were made to the irrigation systems. That project was not an OWEB-funded project but financed by the landowner.
- The project connects to a piped lateral previously funded by OWEB.
- There are direct water quality benefits to Willow Creek.
- This project is complementary to the numerous other flood-to-sprinkler irrigation systems in the Willow Creek drainage.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It was unclear if the powerline services more than just the landowner.

- The cost per acre is high when considering the 16 acres affected by this project; however, if the entire 37 acres is considered, the cost per acre is reasonable and compares well with other similar projects.

Concluding analysis:
The project is complementary to other water quality improvement efforts in this basin and completes a project previously funded by the landowner who had a high amount of financial contribution to the project. The team agreed that the project addresses water quality and should be implemented to complete the previous effort. The project is a fairly simple solution. The team agrees that the water quality benefits are high since flood irrigation will be converted to sprinkler, and that the project is ready to fund this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
10 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 19,300.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 19,300.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5045**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Vista View Pipeline		
Applicant:	Malheur SWCD		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:** Malheur	
OWEB Request:	**$323,812.00**	**Total Cost:** $857,321.00	
Proposed Match:	$533,510.00		

Application Description

The Vista View Pipeline project is located six miles west of Ontario. Owyhee Irrigation District's (OID) earthen lateral 38.7 currently supplies 16 cfs of irrigation water to 640 contiguous acres of highly erodible soils. This project will replace the earthen ditch with pressurized pipe to allow the landowners to convert from flood irrigation to sprinkler or drip. Once the pipeline is installed, NRCS will provide cost-share for on-farm irrigation efficiencies. The current irrigation is furrow-flood utilizing open-earthen and concrete delivery systems. Erosion rates are 10 to 14 tons per-acre (TPA) or 6,400 to 8,960 total annual tons. Heavy enriched sediment is transported to the Shoe String Canal and is either delivered to landowners in the Shoe String or return flowed to the Malheur River. Primary crop rotation consists of grain, alfalfa, corn, beans, onions, potatoes, sugar beets and pasture.

The project will install 10,500 feet of pipe in 12-inch, 21-inch and 24-inch diameters; 7 turnouts and 7 flowmeters into the existing earthen canal. Project implementation addresses irrigation-induced erosion, sediment and nutrient loading, inefficient irrigation and water loss through seepage and evaporation. Project partners include Owyhee Irrigation District, NRCS and landowners will contribute 165% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

Implementation addresses the *Malheur Subbasin Plan* (2004) by reducing sediment and improving water quality; the *Malheur Agricultural Water Quality Management Plan* which suggests practices include irrigation water management and conversion from furrow irrigation to sprinklers and the *Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL* also recommends converting from furrow irrigation to sprinklers to reduce sediment, nutrient and phosphorous.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project has good planning with landowners enrolled with NRCS. It is a comprehensive approach that includes on-farm improvements.
- This is a new priority area for NRCS. They are making significant improvement in irrigation water management throughout Malheur County.
- The pipeline will also convey water to the Malheur Experiment Station, providing outreach opportunities in the future.

- The growers on this pipeline are highly motivated to utilize this system to make on-farm improvements.
- Water quality benefits for implementing the TMDL are very high.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- None

The application provided good detail and background. The application was easy to read and comprehend. Installing pressurized pipe in an earthen lateral has very significant water quality benefits to 640 acres. Implementation will significantly reduce sediment loading, seepage and evaporation. Most of the OWEB funds (96%) are for materials. Cost-share from NRCS and OID is significant and water quality benefits are substantial. Implementation of the Visa View pipeline meets OWEB's mission of restoring healthy watersheds that support thriving communities and strong economies. The project has high ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 323,812.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 323,812.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5046**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Juntura Riparian Restoration and Pumpback Irrigation System		
Applicant:	Malheur SWCD		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:**	Malheur
OWEB Request:	**$165,248.00**	**Total Cost:**	$223,994.00
Proposed Match:	$58,746.00		

Application Description

The project is located on the South Fork of the Malheur River near its confluence with the North Fork of the Malheur River east of Juntura. To improve riparian vegetation and reduce sediment transport, the applicant is proposing to install a pumpback irrigation system and plant the riparian area. Streambank conditions are adversely affected by Highway 20, a bridge and an abandoned railroad grade. Much of the river was straightened and vegetation removed in the early 1960's. Beulah Reservoir is 14 miles upstream and dam operations affect stream hydrology. Additionally, Highway 20 restricts the river and constricts the flow to under the bridge. The railroad constricts the river's movement within the floodplain. This has changed sediment deposition and transport, bank stability and the vegetative community. In 2010, high flows and ice jams caused severe bank erosion along this portion of the SF Malheur River, adding to the problem. The riparian area lacks tall vertical structure. The Malheur River is listed as impaired for sediment, nutrients, bacteria and phosphorous.

The pumpback will treat 100% of the tailwater in the field drain before entering the Malheur River. Project components include installing 5,140 feet of 14-inch pipe; 34 alfalfa (cap) valves and a sediment pond. The pipe will replace the south ditch. A pump installed in the sediment pond will convey irrigation water to the fields. Tailwater will flow back into the pond and recycled water will be used again. The pumpback will treat 110 acres.

Riparian vegetation treatments include planting 480 willow posts along one mile of the SF Malheur; site preparation on 1.5 acres to eliminate reed canary grass, install 80 cages and weed mats. Aluminum foil will be wrapped around the base of each cutting to deter rodents. The cages will deter elk browsing. A total of 15 acres of riparian area will be treated.

Watershed benefits include decreased bank erosion, improved riparian vegetation and improved aquatic habitat. The landowner and Idaho Power will provide 35% cash and in-kind cost-share. Implementation follows the *Malheur River Basin Agricultural Water Quality Plan* as it addresses riparian area management to restore vegetation and improved streambank stability.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review:*

- The planting plan was designed well. It was important to take elk herbivory into consideration when designing the project. Adding foil to the cuttings, while labor intensive

and increasing the cost, should greatly improve survival rates. This is a good site to plant willows.
- The plan for reed canarygrass control was also well designed. Eliminating the canarygrass will also improve survival rates.
- Piping the drainage ditch will help to reduce runoff, improve water quality and help to stabilize the banks.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*
- The team was confused by the need for the pumpback system. Also, Clemons filters should not be needed.
- The pumpback and excavation should be taken out of the budget. The excavation cost per yard was very high.

Concluding analysis:
The team agreed that the riparian aspect of the project and piping the ditch had high ecological merit. The pumpback will not improve the ecological outcomes of the project and should not be included. The planting plan was described thoroughly. Primary ecological benefits would be improved water quality, reduced temperature, improved bank storage and reduced sediment. Riparian vegetation and condition will be improved. The project is located in a highly visible area along Highway 20 and therefore has excellent outreach potential. Overall, the team agrees there is high ecological merit to warrant funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund reduced with conditions. Remove the cost of the pumpback.

Regional Review Team Priority
9 of 13

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 105,208.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund reduced with conditions. Remove the cost of the pumpback.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 105,208.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5047**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Hoodoo Restoration		
Applicant:	Malheur SWCD		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:** Malheur	
OWEB Request:	**$287,194.00**	**Total Cost:** $359,031.00	
Proposed Match:	$71,837.00		

Application Description

Hoodoo Restoration is located approximately 50 miles west of Ontario on 160 acres of private land and 3,152 of State lands. The applicant proposes to develop one-half of Hoodoo Spring which flows at 6 gallons per-minute (gpm) and install a six-panel, solar-pumping system. The other half of the spring will flow into a trough at the spring site with the overflow conveyed into the nearby streambed. Fencing will be installed to protect the riparian area around the spring site. Medusahead sites will be aerially sprayed and seeded.

Currently, a lack of upland water for livestock and wildlife leads to a higher concentration around the spring site. This higher concentration leads to areas of over-utilization of upland vegetation and under-utilization in other sites due to distance from the spring site. Over-utilization creates runoff and impaired water quality. Under-grazed areas lead to decadent, wolfy plants, resulting in less robust vegetation and increasing the risk of carrying a wildfire. The remote nature of the site and poor ingress limits the ability to make improvements. Areas around the spring create forage opportunities for brood-rearing sage-grouse. The project area is located in PGH (preliminary general habitat).

Project components include: spring development with solar-powered system; installation of 1.6 miles of 3-inch pipe; installation of three 12-foot, 300-gallon, dispersed tire troughs and aerial seeding bluebunch wheatgrass, sheep fescue, thickspike wheatgrass, Ladak alfalfa, Lewis' flax seed, Thurber's needlegrass and bottlebrush squirreltail. One mile of 4-strand smooth wire fencing will be installed to protect 22 acres around the riparian site. Approximately 755 acres will be sprayed with chemical and biological treatment and then seeded.

Watershed benefits include improved water quality, upland vegetation and ancillary benefits to sage-grouse habitat. By providing a consistent and dependable water source for livestock and wildlife, upland vegetation can be improved by better distribution. DSL and the landowner/permittee will cost-share 25% of the OWEB-requested amount. Implementation addresses the *Malheur Subbasin Plan* (2004) by reducing sediment and improving water quality and upland vegetation.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- During the site visit it was recommended to provide fencing to protect the riparian area to provide benefit to amphibians, brood-rearing sage-grouse or other small animals

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- Pipeline installation costs seem too low.
- The cost for the solar-powered electrical system was high. It appears to be double-counted.
- The proposal seemed rush with numerous errors. There is not a clear picture of the outcomes or what the applicant is actually proposing to do.
- There is no monitoring plan or a plan to maintain the fencing. The actual type of fencing needs to be clarified. It was stated as both 4-strand hot wire and 4-strand smooth wire. Will the fencing be temporary or is it permanent?
- No detail was provided on the spraying schedule, application rate or timing.
- There is no grazing plan for the area sprayed for medusahead, and it is unclear whether there will be a rest period after seeding.

Concluding analysis:

The application was previously submitted but fell below the funding line. This applicant changed some of the project components and the end result was very confusing. There were many errors in the application. The OWEB-requested amount increased significantly due to the addition of spraying of medusahead and seeding. However, very little detail describing those actions was included. It seemed that the cost for the solar-powered system was double-counted as the total seemed incorrect. The fencing was stated as both "four-strand smooth wire" and "four-strand hot wire"; however, the fencing was not included in the budget. A grazing plan and a monitoring plan are needed for the area where spraying and seeding occur.

Future implementation will provide a consistent, dependable water source for livestock and wildlife during critical times. The project is in a remote location where access is challenging.

Implementation will have benefits to wildlife in a high desert environment where water is scarce. The wet meadow area should stay moist around the spring site in late summer and provide needed habitat for brood-rearing sage-grouse. While there is potential ecological merit in improving upland vegetation for both livestock and wildlife, the application had too many unanswered questions to warrant recommendation this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5048**	**Project Type:** Technical Assistance	
Project Name:	Camp Creek Weed Survey		
Applicant:	Burnt River SWCD		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:** Baker	
OWEB Request:	**$14,447.00**	**Total Cost:** $27,787.00	
Proposed Match:	$13,340.00		

Application Description

The Upper Burnt River Weed Control District (UBRWCD) has identified Scotch thistle, medusahead, perennial pepperweed, white top, and spotted, diffuse and Russian knapweeds as problem weeds in the Burnt River watershed near Unity. This technical assistance application will inventory 2,000 acres of riparian habitat and compile treatment plans for individual landowners that include maps, vegetation tables, soils and treatment recommendation. The proximity of these weeds to streams allows seed dispersal via waterways, traveling much farther and faster than other means of dispersal. The riparian areas of West Camp Creek, East Camp Creek and Camp creek have not yet reached a degraded condition. The Camp Creek sub-watershed was chosen as a focus area due to its high potential for restoration projects and projects already implemented.
An intern will be hired to complete the treatment plans. Tasks include identifying dominant vegetation, extent of the weed infestation, dominant land-use, and native versus non-native vegetation. Several maps will be created. Landowners will be provided the information required to treat the weeds.

USFS and BLM are cost-share partner providing 92% of the OWEB-requested funds in cash and in-kind. Landowners signed a commitment to participate. USFS also provided a letter of support.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The inventory per acre cost of $14 per acre seems reasonable.
- Landowners are already on-board with the project; a significant amount of planning has been completed.
- Surveys will take place on streams with good riparian condition. It is positive to protect what is already functioning well so that it stays in that condition.
- The project is building relationships with landowners and getting on top of the weed issue.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The project should coordinate with other entities. Input from the Baker County Weed Department may help the intern and be a good source of knowledge.

Concluding analysis:

The project will assist landowners by providing valuable information on the presence of weeds on their property and describe the most effective treatment. Keeping weed seed dispersal out of the

stream will further help landowners downstream and will keep intact riparian areas weed-free. The Camp Creek sub-watershed has been an area of several OWEB-funded projects and this effort is complementary. The OWEB request is modest. The team agreed the project has the potential to provide important information for landowners. It is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with conditions. Contact the Baker County Weed Department for advice and suggestions.

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 14,447.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with conditions. Contact the Baker County Weed Department for advice and suggestions.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 14,447.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5049**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Upper Pine Creek Flood Restoration Design		
Applicant:	Powder Basin WC		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Baker
OWEB Request:	**$47,355.00**	**Total Cost:**	$61,015.00
Proposed Match:	$13,660.00		

Application Description

Pine Creek near Halfway is a high velocity, high sediment deposition stream with excessive bedload. Powder Basin Watershed Council (PBWC) is proposing to develop engineering designs to address improving hydrologic function within the system. Design objectives are 30 to 85% design-level drawings so landowners can conceptualize future improvements and allow for ODFW to review for fish passage on the diversions. The headwaters of Pine Creek are in the Eagle Cap wilderness. In 2010, Pine Creek experienced a 30-year flood event that washed out the Holbrook Bridge in the upper reach and caused the main channel to migrate laterally up to 50 feet in some places, endangering property and structures. Channel instability can be attributed to a lack of riparian vegetation as well as sediment deposition that deflects flow towards banks resulting in excessive bank scouring. Nine landowners along a 0.8 mile stretch of upper Pine Creek have expressed interest in improving conditions to prevent future flood damage. Pine Creek is critical habitat to ESA-listed bull trout and an important migration corridor.

The area below the Holbrook Bridge site is proposed for design and analysis. This section of Pine Creek has 40 to 70% canopy cover. Upper reaches of Pine Creek are 303-(d) listed by DEQ for water temperature. USFWS and ODFW will review the designs. Approximately 8.5 acres of habitat will be affected by these designs. The Collins and Burning Foundations will provide 29% cash match of the OWEB-requested amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The cost seems to be appropriate.
- Bank stabilization is a good idea but needs to be incorporated more in the plan. Bank stabilization is needed for diversion structures to meet current standards. Positive project for bull trout once the restoration phase is implemented.
- Pine Creek is a high-risk creek for diversion structures due to the high velocities and sediment transport issues. This is a good place to start.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- PBWC should use a competitive process to solicit engineering bids.
- There needs to be a check-in at the 30% design with ODFW, USFWS, Idaho Power and other relevant agencies. Alternative analysis needs to be included.

- The engineering budget was lump-sum and should have been broken down into separate budget components to facilitate review and ensure that needed components were included.
- The schedule for design seems excessive. The bedload and debris analysis should be completed in a year.

Concluding analysis:
The project will provide needed designs for this section of Pine Creek. The flooding events of 2007 and 2010 highlight the importance of addressing bank stabilization and improving riparian vegetation. This is a targeted area to restore bull trout and a good location to start the effort. The overall process through implementation will take many years. This design is needed. The team agreed that the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with conditions. The 30% design and alternatives analysis shall be reviewed by the OWEB project manager, ODFW, USFWS, and Idaho Power prior to proceeding with further design.

Regional Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 47,355.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund with conditions. The 30% design and alternatives analysis shall be reviewed by the OWEB project manager, ODFW, USFWS, and Idaho Power prior to proceeding with further design.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ $47,355.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5050**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Lower Clear Creek Restoration Plan (Phase 2)		
Applicant:	Powder Basin WC		
Basin:	POWDER	**County:**	Baker
OWEB Request:	**$48,626.00**	**Total Cost:**	$62,951.00
Proposed Match:	$14,325.00		

Application Description

Clear Creek, a tributary of Pine Creek in the Brownlee Subbasin near Halfway, has critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. In order to improve fish passage, PBWC proposes to advance the conceptual design for three diversion upgrades to the 60% design level so these designs can be evaluated by ODFW. Sections of Clear Creek were artificially straightened and also experienced extreme high-flow events in 2007 and 2010. These events resulted in widespread bank failure, channel migration and wider channels with areas lacking in adequate riparian vegetation. Powder Basin Watershed council (PBWC) received a technical assistance grant to develop a restoration plan to improve hydrologic function, increase fish habitat diversity, remove fish-passage barriers and meet landowner needs along a two-mile reach of Clear Creek. The previous technical assistance grant provided for the collection of baseline date, landowner interviews, hydraulic modeling and development of alternatives presented to landowners. That technical assistance grant resulted in 30% conceptual designs.

Clear Creek has 7.3 miles of bull trout spawning and rearing habitat with less than 40% canopy cover. Restoring riparian conditions is essential to improve bull trout habitat. Three irrigation diversions are recommended to be upgraded and each will have to comply with fish passage and screening requirements. The Peer Diversion consists of rock, logs and tarps with a four-foot drop across the channel restricting fish passage. The Pollock Diversion is a gravel push-dam and is not a fish passage barrier. However, the Pollock Diversion requires annual maintenance that adversely affects water quality. The Wilmarth Diversion is a gravel push-up dam supplemented with rock and restricts fish passage during low flow. That diversion was heavily damaged during the 2010 flood and moved downstream which increased its head requirement for water delivery.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation will provide 29% cash cost-share of the OWEB request amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- Clear Creek is critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. Improving riparian conditions, bank stability and fish passage will be beneficial.
- This section of Clear Creek is in great need of improvement.
- The initial contact with the landowners is a positive start.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It is unclear whether the 30% project design was successful; it lacks essential details and does not appear to have been evaluated by ODFW. Trying to address several landowners and three diversions in the same project will be challenging and time-consuming.
- The proposed FCA screens are applicable higher in the basin but not in this location. Fish passage seems to be problematic and it was unclear whether bedload was considered.
- The budget lacked specificity and had numerous lump sums.

Concluding analysis

The application lacked essential detail and was confusing. Trying to address three separate diversions simultaneously seemed to be overly ambitious. PBWC should review the alternatives analysis and review each diversion separately. A more detailed budget needs to be crafted. It was suggested that each diversion should have a separate design. Also, providing input from ODFW would be beneficial. While this section of Clear Creek will greatly benefit from future restoration work, the team agreed that this project did not provide the detail necessary to recommend funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5051**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Grande Ronde Basin Stream Flow Gauging Stations Operation – Water Years 2017 & 2018		
Applicant:	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$101,002.00**	**Total Cost:**	$313,982.00
Proposed Match:	$212,980.00		

Application Description

This monitoring project continues the operation, maintenance and record production of stream gauges in the Grande Ronde basin. The partnership between Grande Ronde Model Watershed Program (GRMW) and Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) will continue to operate streamflow gauges in Union and Wallowa Counties. Gauges are strategically placed to document the effect of irrigation on stream reaches.

GRMW will continue monitoring 12 streamflow gauges. The five gauges in Wallowa County are located on Bear Creek near Wallowa, with two on the Lostine River and two on the Wallowa River near Enterprise and below Water Canyon where flows exit the system. Monitoring the Water Canyon gauge helps to understand irrigation withdrawal on the entire Wallowa sub-basin. Two Union County gauges bracket irrigation withdrawal above Union. The Perry site documents flow leaving the upper Grande Ronde. Other gauges provide flow monitoring data at Imnaha, Minam, Lookingglass, Troy and Catherine Creek sites. In addition, U.S. Forest Service (USFS) gauges characterize hydrographs for long-term monitoring of management activities on streamflow and currently provide essential data in the portion of the basin on USFS land.

Flow data assists irrigation water management. Local tribes, ODFW, SWCDs and others also use that dataset. Flow data informs basin-wide management plans to help determine the cumulative effects of conservation relative to TMDLs, forest plans, the Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan and agency action plans. Data assists ODFW, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the Nez Perce Tribes (NPT) in operating trap-and-haul, screw traps, weirs and hatcheries. Entities requesting data can readily find data on the web. Project staff presents data at irrigation district and agency meetings, conferences or project development discussions.

Quality assurance/quality control (QA/QC) includes duplicate flow measurements; peer review of provisional flows records and final records; duplicate electronic and paper copies of raw and final data and periodic survey of known elevation control points correlated with stage-measuring device. OWRD hydrographics staff conducts all data collection and QA/QC.

OWEB funds are requested for contracted services and administration. Cost-share partners include Bonneville Power Administration, GRMW and OWRD, and will contribute 211% of the OWEB-requested amount.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The monitoring actions have a clear connection to the short- medium- and long-term objectives proposed in the application.
- The application provides a good description and assurances that all USGS protocols and standards will be followed.
- The applicant has a great track record of succeeding in performing the same monitoring actions in previous years.
- There is a diverse array of benefits to the data and the application did a good job describing how other groups use the data.

Concerns:

- The application describes that a cumulative response analysis will be performed, but does not provide enough detail to understand how it will be done.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)
Certainty of Success: High (100%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- There is a clear connection to short, medium and long-term objectives.
- USGS standards and protocols are followed.
- GRMW and OWRD have a positive track record for implementing this project.
- Collected data assists with OWRD's water regulatory mandates.
- Application was well-written and the need described.
- Data collected used by many entities and agencies including USFS, BLM, tribal, sport fishermen and many other groups.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- None.

Concluding analysis:

This monitoring project has been ongoing since 1997 through OWEB (then GWEB) and continues the maintenance, review and operations of the 12 streamflow gauging stations. There is a long-term need for the collected data that is critical to designing future restoration projects. Gauges are located strategically throughout the Grande Ronde basin. Locations help to document the effects of irrigation withdrawal.

The information provides an important data set used by OWRD, local river guides, and others as a management tool. There is substantial ecological benefit in maintaining gauges for consistent data. USGS protocols are followed and the applicant has an excellent track record collecting high quality data. The quality of data collected at these sites continues to increase with new technology and continuing years of record establishes excellent history for each site. Data collected is used by various fisheries managers as well as OWRD for irrigation management. Benchmark gauges have recorded data since 1910, having the longest term dataset value. The team agreed that this long-term project provides valuable data and should continue to be funded by OWEB**.**

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 101,002.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 101,002.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5052**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Harney Valley Groundwater Monitoring Phase 2		
Applicant:	Harney Watershed Council		
Basin:	LAKES	**County:**	Harney
OWEB Request:	**$20,559.00**	**Total Cost:**	$34,249.00
Proposed Match:	$13,510.00		

Application Description

This groundwater monitoring project is located in the Harney basin of southeastern Oregon. The goal is to help determine the cause for declining water levels by monitoring domestic wells. Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) began a groundwater study in the Harney basin. The basin may be over-allocated and applications for groundwater permits have increased. OWRD is beginning a five-year study partnering with U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to ascertain why water levels are declining in portions of the basin. Determining the availability of groundwater in the Harney Basin is dependent on acquiring accurate well data from a number of groundwater wells.

Currently, OWRD is monitoring 152 wells four times annually. Harney County Watershed Council (HCWC) through an existing monitoring grant is also monitoring 30 wells. Well measurements occur in January during winter months; April-before irrigation season begins; July-during irrigation season and late October-after irrigation season ends. Monitoring objectives are to collect status-and-trend monitoring to determine water-level over time. HCWC and OWRD want to increase the number of wells monitored by 30 to add to the data set. Cost-share partners include OWRD and Harney County Court will contribute 67% of the OWEB-requested amount. OWEB funds are requested for wages, contracted services, materials and administration.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This application is a great example of an applicant pursuing state funding to address a concern that was identified by a local community coming together.
- This application proposes to collect data to contribute to a larger effort initiated by OWRD's on-going Place-Based Planning project, as well as a groundwater study being implemented by OWRD and USGS.
- The applicant has strong engagement with the community and results of this study could help guide what the future looks like regarding groundwater management.
- The application states that OWRD will help develop a QA Plan and an electronic storage structure to facilitate data management and sharing.
- The quarterly seasonal sampling would give a good range of measurements to understand how groundwater levels fluctuate over the course of a year.

Concerns:

- The application did not contain any letters of support.
- The application proposes to collect groundwater levels on additional wells, but did not provide enough detail on the process to determine where these would be located.
- The application lacked details on the methods they would follow to collect the data, specifically in wells that contain pumps and those that are in close relation to pumps.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (40%), Medium (40%), Low (20%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (60%), Low (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The team expressed that this is a positive example of state funding with benefits to both landowners and governmental entities wanting to collect valuable information.
- Collected data will help build a watershed model to provide data in determining groundwater levels. Information also assists efforts with OWRD's Community-based Planning project that is ongoing with HCWC and local partners.
- There is an existing monitoring project and adding additional wells to the data set will better inform partners and assist achieving the goal of monitoring 200 wells.
- Using local contractors in lieu of agency personnel to monitor wells will encourage more landowners to participate in the project. Landowners are more comfortable sharing data with local contractors.
- The project will help to build trust with landowners who also benefit from having their well water tested at no charge.
- There were positive remarks about the selected contractor and enthusiasm for the project. USGS is also working with the contractor for the study they are also conducting.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- The need for the 30 additional wells was not articulated clearly. The location of the wells was not noted and it was unclear if they were outside the area of groundwater decline.

Concluding analysis:

Harney County Watershed Council (HCWC) previously engaged in technical assistance projects to better understand groundwater issues. This project continues to strengthen data currently being collected in cooperation with OWRD's focus areas. Wells will be monitored before pumping season starts, mid-summer, after irrigation season ends in the fall and in the winter. Status-and-trend data will determine water-level trends over time; determine groundwater/surface water interactions and ascertain how subsurface water flows into the basin. A quality groundwater study will help answer these questions and provide for better management decisions. Knowing what the resource can support and the groundwater influences on the basin will help understand the amount of groundwater and surface water flow and the rate of recharge and recovery. This project will lead to better understanding of valley flow, identify shortages, and help understand the influence of groundwater to surface water flow. The groundwater information will help determine water availability. The team agreed that this project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 20,559.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 20,559.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5053**	**Project Type:** Outreach	
Project Name:	2017 Natural Resource Camp		
Applicant:	Grant County 4-H Association		
Basin:	OWYHEE-MALHEUR	**County:** Grant	
OWEB Request:	**$20,284.00**	**Total Cost:** $107,884.00	
Proposed Match:	$87,600.00		

Application Description

The 2017 Natural Resource Camp targets students in grades 7 through 9. Space is limited to 40 campers at the Lake Creek Youth Camp located in Logan Valley in the upper Malheur watershed. Camper selection is based on regional representation from locales throughout the Northwest. Special recruitment efforts will be made to reach youth from disadvantaged areas such as reservations, inner city and rural Oregon. Natural Resource Camp is designed to offer young people the opportunity to learn the importance of natural resource management while partaking in restoration activities. The main goal is to introduce youth to activities that generate interests in conservation and restoration. Professionals from various natural resource fields and organizations in Grant County teach courses at the camp including fisheries, wildlife biology, fire and fuels, forestry in hands-on activity-based learning. Additional classes such as botany, silviculture and entomology are included to insure that youth understand the importance of these sciences and their role in restoration. Various planned activities are proposed during the sessions.

Youth participate in exploration and discovery activities related to the specific learning topic. This includes actual hands-on experiences and interactive learning. Participation has an emphasis on watershed management. There is a clear need for students to have additional skills and a better understanding of watershed and forest management systems. By introducing students to a variety of management subjects, they will have a better understanding of multiple watershed management disciplines. OWEB funds will be used to rent and operate Lake Creek Youth Camp for 2017 and 208. OWEB funds are requested for contracted services and administration. Numerous cost-share partners are providing 431% cash or in-kind cost-share of the OWEB-requested amounts. Project partners include Grant County 4-H, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (CTWS), Community Counselling Solutions, OSU Extension, USFS, NRCS, Grant SWCD, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, North Fork John Day WC, BPA and Bank of Eastern Oregon and many others.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- The project has numerous partners and broad community involvement. This is a positive effort especially for disadvantaged youth. The number of sponsors is very impressive.
- Lake Creek Youth Camp in Logan Valley is a valuable resource in this remote area. Activities planned will increase natural resource awareness.

- Having students participate and learn valuable natural resource disciplines at the camp provides the opportunity for dialogue with parents and other family members. This will help to build trust and open doors with private landowners for potential future restoration efforts. That was shown to happen in other areas where youth are engaged early-on.

*Application **concerns** identified during review:*

- It was questioned if this type of activity can now be covered under the recently passed ballot measure for Outdoor School and if OWEB can continue to fund projects such as this.
- Reviewers questioned the high overhead cost since campers were a1ready paying $120. However, OWEB funds are requested for the camp rental and do not include other costs such as meals, supplies, transportation and wages for non-volunteers,

Concluding analysis:

The team agreed that this is a very positive effort for students in a low-population density area. Grant County has many highly skilled natural resource professionals from the watershed councils, Grant SWCD, NRCS, OSU Extension, USFS, ODFW, CTWS and others who annually participate in this event. The local sponsorship is very impressive. This project is similar to other educational efforts that target middle school students and seems to be the right age to begin to engage students in active hands-on learning. The Lake Creek Camp is close to several OWEB-funded restoration projects and site visits to those projects could be a possibility for students to see on-going restoration. The team agreed that the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

2 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 20,284.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 20,284.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Eastern Oregon Review Team (Region 5)

Application No.:	**217-5054**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Wallowa Resources' Watershed Evaluation Teams (WET)		
Applicant:	Wallowa Resources		
Basin:	GRANDE RONDE	**County:**	Wallowa
OWEB Request:	**$20,728.00**	**Total Cost:**	$45,035.00
Proposed Match:	$24,308.00		

Application Description

Wallowa Resources (WR), based in Enterprise, initiated a watershed evaluation team (WET) program designed to provide hands-on experience that builds environmental awareness for students. The WET Program reaches approximately 150 students and 8 teachers in Wallowa County. This program targets 6th, 10th and 11th grade students in Wallowa County. All county schools - Enterprise, Wallowa, Joseph, Imnaha, alternative school and Troy – are included in this effort. Students are introduced to watershed health in hopes of influencing their personal practices. The WET program utilizes classroom and field time to increase awareness of watershed stewardship through participation in real-life watershed activities. Goals are to increase students' understanding of watershed science and how science is used for management.

WET utilizes the watersheds of Wallowa County as the outdoor classroom. Students collect data and analyze conditions. Students field-monitor river conditions for spring Chinook salmon and steelhead. Sampling locations include Prairie Creek, Bear Creek, Lostine, Wallowa River, Camp Creek and the Imnaha River. The high school students teach and mentor the sixth graders. The WET program is focused around multiple class and field days in the fall for each school. The field component includes measuring or discussing water chemistry, dissolved oxygen, pH, nitrates, phosphorous, turbidity and macroinvertebrates, physical conditions, substrate and riparian conditions. Fisheries metrics include presence/absence, age, length and weight of the various species measured.

Students are divided into four field teams and each team performs one of the sampling categories, guided by a natural resource professional and/or Wallowa Resources educator. Following the field session, students analyze data back in the classroom using StreamWeb website and with the guidance of Wallowa Resources' educator. Students present this data and analysis to their peers. In addition, a research component allows 10th and 11th graders to delve more deeply into their data collection. The WET program addresses a variety of learning styles by providing multiple delivery mechanisms. Students also work at the confluence of the Lostine and Wallowa rivers in restoration activities to re-establish riparian vegetation. Field activities help the student better understand the needs for desirable salmonid habitat.

OWEB funds are requested for wages, supplies, travel and administration. Project partners including USFWS, the Nez Perce Tribe (NPT), ODFW, Wallowa SWCD, OWRD watermaster, Wallowa County schools and landowners will contribute 117% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount. Several positive letters of support were provided.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

*Application **strengths** identified during review include:*

- WET works closely with the schools and students are building relationships with landowners.
- Wallowa County has low-population density and this effort provides diversity in the education.
- WET has a very good track record. The project has been on-going for many years and is well-received by the community.

*Application **concerns** identified during review include:*

- The cost per student is $300 which seems high. However, there is a lot of potential future benefit should students enter a natural resources field or positively influence a future restoration project.

Concluding Analysis:

The Wallowa County school systems have integrated portions of the WET program into their curriculum. The high school students know and understand terminology when they are out in the field having gained that knowledge as a 6th grader participating in WET. Information is presented to these kids in an entertaining way, as opposed to a classroom setting. WET has had a very positive effect on local youth. Sampling sites are close to the participating schools. It is an excellent way for students to have hands-on learning with various watershed and environmental topics.

Involving children early has many positive future results. The application was very thorough and very well-done with good letters of support. The program is excellent. The team agreed that this worthwhile project should continue to be funded due to its positive influence on local youth. It is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 20,728.00

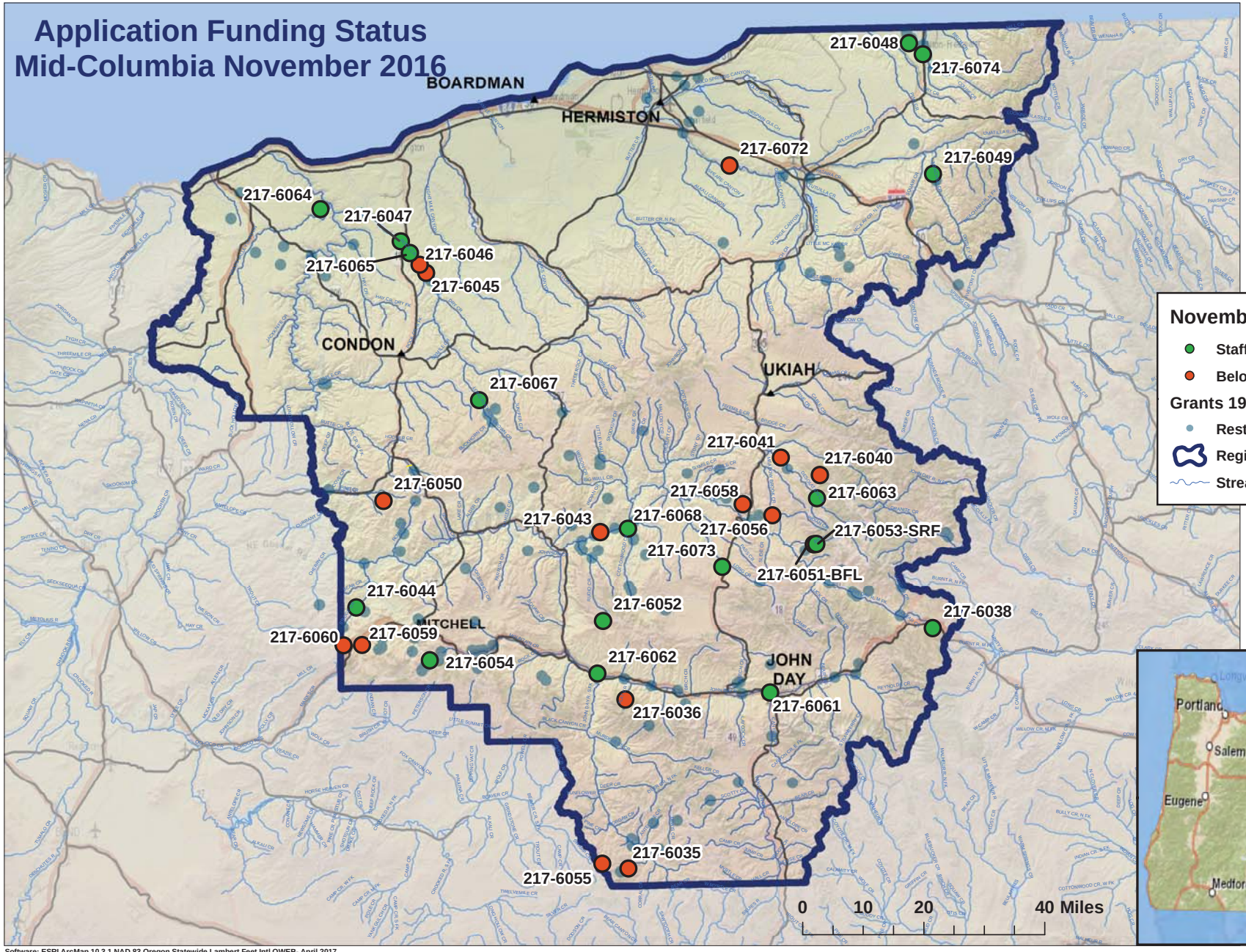
Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$20,738.00

Application Funding Status
Mid-Columbia November 2016



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November 2016 Applications

- Staff Recommended for Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding Line (BFL)

Grants 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Region6
- Streams

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Software: ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1 NAD 83 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- April 2017

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Region 6 - Mid-Columbia

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-6052	Grant SWCD	2017 John Day Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement Program	This restoration proposal is a continuation of the ODFW riparian fencing program initiated in 1984. Proposed exclusion fencing will protect 127.4 riparian acres along Desolation, Lemons, Hinton Creeks and the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County; and Badger and Pine Hollow Creeks in Wheeler County.	151,909	Grant
217-6049	Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation	Meacham Creek Bonifer Reach Floodplain Restoration and In-Stream Habitat Enhancement Program	The project site, located on Meacham Creek in Umatilla County east of Pendleton, will enhance three miles of instream habitat for ESA listed and resident fis, by excavating levees and spur dikes to floodplain elevation; reconnecting primary and secondary historic channels for increased spawning and rearing habitat; incorporating large wood structures; revegetating disturbed soil; and installing bioengineering techniques to provide bank protection for the railroad right of way.	376,030	Umatilla
217-6053	Grant SWCD	Big Creek Reach Four Floodplain Connectivity Project	The project site is located in the Big Creek watershed in Grant County. Designed to breach levees and remove mining tailings, create a half-mile new side-channel; construct a high-flow relief channel and install a bottomless pipe arch culvert integrated above the road; and install log jams and wood structures for added complexity.	216,030	Grant
217-6044	Wheeler SWCD	Middle Bear Creek BDA Restoration Project	This restoration proposal, located on Bear Creek in SW Wheeler County, will install 21 beaver dam analogs (BDA) along a 532 meter reach of Bear Creek that is subject to low flow during late summer/early fall, a period critical to the survival of juvenile steelhead. Bear Creek is the largest spawning tributary to Bridge Creek.	26,959	Wheeler
217-6047	Gilliam SWCD	Olex Diversion Fish Passage Improvement	This restoration proposal is located on Rock Creek, the first fish-bearing tributary entering the Lower John Day River in Gilliam County. This project follows a technical assistance grant that provided funds for design and will reconstruct the fish barrier at Olex diversion so all life stages of steelhead and other aquatic species can easily migrate upstream to critical habitat.	62,013	Gilliam

217-6038	Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	Wiwaanyatt Creek and Meadow Restoration Phase III	The project, located on Wiwaanyatt Creek, a headwater tributary of the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County, will replace fish passage barrier culverts; remove or correct passage on weirs; install a fish screen at an unscreened POD; connect the main channel to floodplain by removing berms; fill incised channels and direct flow back into historic channels; place large wood, both tipped and felled trees, into the channel or on the floodplain; and restore native plant community. Additionally, large or coarse woody debris and beaver dam analogues (BDAs) will be installed to increase aggradation of the stream channel and provide anchor points for resident beaver communities.	132,408	Grant
217-6054	Wheeler SWCD	Badger Creek Diversion #6	This restoration proposal, located on Badger Creek in southeast Wheeler County, will replace a fish barrier irrigation diversion; install irrigation flow measuring devices for the two water users on this system; convert open irrigation ditch to dual buried pipelines; replace a failing and undersized bridge; construct a series of engineered riffles and large wood structures; and exclusion fence and plant the area directly around the diversion and downstream to the neighboring fence line through the CREP program.	93,774	Wheeler
217-6048	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Walla Walla Managed Aquifer Recharge for Instream Flow	This restoration proposal is located in the floodplains of the Walla Walla River in Umatilla County. This project would design and construct five aquifer recharge sites; submit to OWRD applications for limited licenses; and work with OWRD and DEQ to update existing monitoring plan to include the new sites. Recharge sites have been selected to provide maximum groundwater and surface water benefits.	346,746	Umatilla
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**1,405,869**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-6059	Wheeler SWCD	Circle Bar Ranch Restoration Project	65,359	Wheeler
217-6045	Gilliam SWCD	Harper Diversion Removal and Habitat Enhancement	41,457	Gilliam
217-6046	Gilliam SWCD	Hewes Diversion Removal And Channel Restoration	116,724	Gilliam
217-6036	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Flat Creek Juniper Removal	60,429	Grant
217-6043	Monument SWCD	Smith POD Transfer and Riparian Restoration	51,540	Grant
217-6055	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Kee Property Restoration	27,373	Grant
217-6060	Wheeler SWCD	Heflin Creek Restoration	66,787	Wheeler
217-6041	North Fork John Day WC	Desolation Creek Wet Meadow Restoration - Phase II	77,627	Grant
217-6051	North Fork John Day	Big Mosquito Restoration Phase II	106,079	Grant
217-6050	Bridge Creek WC	Pine Creek Upland Improvement 2	59,528	Wheeler
217-6056	North Fork John Day	RLMT Granite Creek Restoration: Burnette	48,556	Grant
217-6035	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Izee Allotment Improvements - 2017	39,214	Grant
217-6058	North Fork John Day	RLMT Granite Creek Restoration: Walton	48,406	Grant
217-6040	North Fork John Day WC	Kelsay Creek Culvert Replacement	67,076	Grant
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**2,282,024**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount**	**County**
217-6037	North Fork John Day	Phipps Meadow Rehabilitation Project	59,812	Grant
217-6039	North Fork John Day WC	Livingston Springs 2016	18,627	Grant
217-6042	North Fork John Day WC	Boundary Creek Fish Passage Enhancement	237,298	Grant
217-6057	North Fork John Day WC	Rice Creek Spring Protection	15,040	Grant

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
217-6061	Blue Mountain Land Trust	Habitat Conservation Outreach - John Day Basin	This landowner recruitment TA will fund a full-time Conservation Officer whose role would be to identify and develop opportunities for conservation easements and other conservation projects within the John Day Basin, leading to increased conservation and enhancement of critical fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. Objectives include evaluating an estimated 20-30 identified potential easement sites; reaching out to an additional 200 landowners with information about conservation easements and other habitat protection tools; and connecting interested landowners with a land trust capable of completing and holding a conservation easement.	50,000	Grant
217-6063	North Fork John Day WC	Junken's Creek Culvert TA	This technical assistance application for design will result in a design set for a UTV bridge and stream bed restoration on Junken's Creek, a tributary of Desolation Creek in Grant County. $100,000 has been secured for implementation in 2018, once designs have been approved. Junken's Creek is identified as spawning and rearing habitat for ESA listed steelhead and is listed as a high priority for the Umatilla National Forest.	28,196	Grant
217-6062	Cascade Pacific RC&D	South Fork John Day Coordinated Resource Management Planning	This technical assistance application for planning will re-initiate the South Fork John Day River Coordinated Resource Management Planning (CRMP) group that includes the SFJDWC, the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Wildlife, USFS, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Grant SWCD, private landowners and the Dayville Grazing Association. Deliverables would include a five-year scope of work plan of restoration projects.	12,337	Grant

217-6065	Gilliam SWCD	Rock Creek Summer Streamflow	This technical assistance application for planning will survey 34.5 miles of Rock Creek, first fish-bearing tributary on the lower John Day River. Summer flows; water quantity, temperature, summer steelhead abundance, and riparian habitat including large woody debris, riparian cross-sections, vegetation extent and shade in these wetted reaches will be inventoried and mapped. The data collected will guide the direction of planned future flow and habitat restoration efforts in Rock Creek, as well as identifying sites for future long-term monitoring.	27,692	Gilliam
217-6064	Sherman County Area WC	Lower Grass Valley Canyon Weed Management	This technical assistance application for planning will occur in the Lower Grass Valley drainage in Sherman County. The proposal would survey, treat and document Class A & B invasive and noxious weeds on 9,370 acres of private property. Terrain is steep so all survey will be done on foot.	45,760	Sherman
Total TA Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**163,985**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
NONE				

Outreach Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Recommended	County
217-6074	Walla Walla Basin Wastershed Foundation	STELLAR Watershed Education and Community Outreach	This outreach proposal targets 100+ adults and 800+ youth from the Milton Freewater area in NE Umatilla County. Project components impact both adult and youth include presenting to various citizen groups, hosting booths at community events, hosting project tours and public restoration activities. For the youth portion of the program, about 800 fourth through 12th grade students will participate in field trips and hands-on activities demonstrating the uniqueness and value of the watershed they live in, including six different student activities: Fish Eggs to Fry, Watershed Field Days, Wildlife Habitat Field Day, Hydromania Summer Day Camp, Leidall Outdoor Lab and Wonderful World of the Watershed.	28,231	Umatilla
217-6073	North Fork John Day WC	Grant County Youth in Restoration Phase III	This outreach proposal, implemented all across Grant County, will incorporate a two-part program: one is held during the school year and provides students with outdoor classroom activities related to restoration and natural resource subjects; and the second subsidizes the Oregon Youth Conservation Corp (OYCC) summer program providing youth of Grant County employment in restoration related projects and educational opportunities related to those projects. Target audiences for the school year program include 50 junior and senior high school students from five schools across Grant County. For the summer program, the goal is to engage more than last year's 60 member youth crews. Restoration work covers a broad range of activities.	28,000	Grant
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**56,231**	

Outreach Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
217-6072	Umatilla Basin WC	Umatilla County Online Rural Living Handbook	11,924	Umatilla
Total Outreach Projects Recommended for funding by RRT			**68,155**	

Outreach Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Requested	County
NONE				

Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
217-6068	Monument SWCD	Cottonwood Creek Steelhead and Stream Temperature Monitoring	This status and trend monitoring proposal, located in Cottonwood Creek near the town of Monument in Grant County, will provide baseline data on juvenile steelhead, stream temperatures and stream discharge in Lower Cottonwood Creek. The data gathered will be used to develop a stream temperature forecasting model; and assess the success of future restorations actions within the watershed. The intent is that successful implementation of this monitoring effort will lead to a *Cottonwood Action to Stabilize Temperature* (CAST) project, similar to the successful model FAST, used on Fifteenmile Creek in Wasco County.	139,324	Grant
217-6067	Gilliam SWCD	Lonerock Effectiveness Monitoring	This effectiveness monitoring of a restoration project, located in Lonerock Creek in SE Gilliam County, would include habitat, stream and vegetation surveys; juvenile fish abundance surveys; and surface monitoring of flow, temperature and sediment. One year of baseline data will be gathered prior to a large-scale prescribed burn removing encroaching juniper, followed-up with several years of data to help quantify benefits from this type of landscape scale restoration project.	75,224	Gilliam
Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**214,548**	

Monitoring Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by the RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Requested	County
217-6066	North Fork John Day	North Fork John Day Bull/Brook Trout eDNA Collection and Analysis	7,286	Grant
217-6069	North Fork John Day WC	Upper Middle Fork Allotment Monitoring	84,496	Grant
217-6070	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Upper Walla Walla Watershed Hydrology Assessment	58,469	Umatilla
217-6071	Confederated Tribes Warm Springs	Long-term Ecological Effects of Passive vs. Active Restoration in the MF John Day	193,203	Grant

Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,840,633**	**20%**
Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**9,315,062**	

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6035**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Izee Allotment Improvements - 2017		
Applicant:	Cascade Pacific RC&D		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$39,214.00**	**Total Cost:**	$58,844.00
Proposed Match:	$22,041.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located in the Malheur National Forest Emigrant Creek Ranger District south of the town of Izee in Grant County, will exclusion fence Latigo Creek, and construct a water lot around Duncan pond to provide livestock and wildlife an alternative water source for two pasture units. Project components include installing wildlife friendly "lay-down" fencing on the ridge along Latigo Creek to exclude livestock, installing cattle guards across USFS roads, and building a water lot around Duncan pond as an alternative water source to two pastures. Ecological benefits realized from removing livestock access to Latigo Creek include re-establishment of riparian vegetation, reduced sedimentation and improved water quality.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good redband trout habitat.
- Well-written application that provided detailed explanations and data justification.
- A priority project identified in the Izee Allotment Management Plan Environmental Analysis.
- The project will result in improvements in water quality of this perennial stream, including reductions in sediment, bacteria and temperature.
- NEPA is complete; implementation timing is critical.
- Permittee is fully supportive of the project.
- The grazing use for this allotment and the project site were clearly explained.

Concerns:

- Latigo Creek is not used by anadromous fish.
- The overall conservation benefit compared to the cost appeared to be low.

Concluding Analysis:

This was a well-written application with good detail on the problem statement and proposed solution. There was some discussion on the level of overall ecological benefit since Latigo Creek does not provide habitat for any listed species. The project will enhance water quality and riparian vegetation and was identified as a priority project in the Emigrant Ranger District 5-year restoration plan.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 39,214.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6036**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Flat Creek Juniper Removal		
Applicant:	Cascade Pacific RC&D		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:** Grant	
OWEB Request:	**$60,429.00**	**Total Cost:** $85,329.00	
Proposed Match:	$28,680.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located along Flat Creek, a tributary to the John Day River and within the Murderer's Creek Mule Deer Initiative Focus Area in Grant County. Encroachment of juniper and invasive annual grass species has been exacerbated by fire suppression and historic grazing management, leading to a loss of shrub and forb components. This project would protect, enhance and restore critical winter habitat for mule deer and increase water quality by removing juniper on both sides of Flat Creek, a stream listed as critical habitat for steelhead.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good track record of successfully removing juniper.
- The application provided a long-term juniper management plan and grazing strategy.
- Builds on other resource management activities on the property.
- Active land managers who successfully address resource challenges in multiple ecosystems.
- Complements the strategic plan to restore the Flat Creek watershed.
- Good example of grazing and wildlife successfully co-existing on healthy landscape.

Concerns:

- The application and maps were a little confusing, it wasn't clear if some components were a part of this proposal or planned for future restoration.
- Because Flat Creek is a fish-bearing stream, ODF must be consulted on plans and permits.
- To provide added channel complexity, it was suggested that dropping some of the juniper instream would help hold back sediment, improve gravel sorting, and disperse energy in this high gradient system.

Concluding Analysis:

This proposal is one of many efforts to improve habitat on both riparian and upland sites on wildlife management areas. For many years, ODFW has worked to reduce juniper and annual grass encroachment, enhance mule deer habitat and improve water quality and forest health. If resubmitted, the review team would like more detail on juniper treatments along the riparian corridor and encourage consideration to strategically drop some cut juniper instream.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

12 of 22

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 60,429.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6037**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Phipps Meadow Rehabilitation Project		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$59,812.00**	**Total Cost:**	$74,935.00
Proposed Match:	$15,123.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located at the headwaters of the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County, will install beaver dam analogs to trap sediment and aggrade the stream channel, reconnect the floodplain, and encourage neighboring beaver colonies to re-establish in this high-meadow system. Phipps Meadow is two-thirds private land, and is overseen by a single land manager. The fenced riparian corridor has excluded livestock for thirty years. Fish utilizing this high elevation meadow include Chinook and steelhead. In addition to the beaver dam analogs, existing willow clumps will be protected by caging.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good steelhead and Chinook habitat, with a lot of potential for juvenile rearing.
- This reach contains a major spring source of cool flows to the headwaters of the Middle Fork John Day River.
- The application provided good photos that clearly showed the site condition.
- This reach is highly degraded and disconnected from the floodplain.
- The project complements other work being done in this area of the upper Middle Fork JDR.
- Located on a property that previously was not interested in restoration.

Concerns:

- More thought and actual survey data needs to be considered to locate structure sites. The conceptual design provided with the application incorporated several different types of channel structures, such as constructed riffles to add instream complexity, deal with channel elevations, and reconnect to the floodplain. This proposal substituted beaver dam analogs at each structure location, which may or may not be appropriate depending on further analysis.
- The budget was confusing. OYCC crew costs seem high and it was questioned whether this project would be more cost-effective using a contractor.
- Work is being done on the upstream neighboring USFS property; it may be beneficial to explore collaboration on similar components such as willow caging and supplemental planting.

Concluding Analysis:

With restoration, this site has high aquatic habitat potential. There is an amazing spring source of cool water in the middle of the meadow. The goal of aggrading the stream channel using structures and reconnecting to the floodplain is appropriate; however, more thought needs to be put into the

number of structures, the goal of each structure type, and the location and elevations of the beaver dam analogs. The review team is supportive of using OYCC on appropriate projects; however, in some cases they may significantly increase the costs of restoration implementation. The review team would like to see this project resubmitted with 1) a more detailed explanation on each BDA structure objectives and location siting; 2) collaboration on planting and caging with upstream USFS; and 3) clear justification of using OYCC crews, specifically what they would be doing, and a breakout of hours required by task.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6038**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Wiwaanyatt Creek and Meadow Restoration Phase III		
Applicant:	Confed Tribes Warm Springs		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$132,408.00**	**Total Cost:**	$347,376.00
Proposed Match:	$241,049.00		

Application Description

The project site is located on Wiwaanyatt Creek (formally known as Squaw Creek) a headwater tributary of the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. The goals for Wiwaanyatt Creek restoration are to improve floodplain connectivity and steelhead habitat by replacing fish passage barrier culverts; removing or correcting passage on weirs; installing a fish screen at a point of diversion to prevent fish entrapment; connecting the main channel to floodplain by removing berms; filling incised channels and directing flow back into historic channels; placing large wood, both tipped and felled trees, into the channel or on the floodplain; and restoring native plant community. Riparian grazing will be excluded on this allotment for the next 20 years as it has been for the past ten years. Additionally, large or coarse woody debris and beaver dam analogues (BDAs) will be installed to increase aggradation of the stream channel and provide anchor points for resident beaver communities.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good steelhead habitat. With improvements, there is a potential to get Chinook as well.
- Headwater tributary of the Middle Fork John Day River. Meadow restoration has the potential to add flows to the Middle Fork in a more sustained timeframe.
- Restoration is needed, and builds on prior restoration projects.
- Opening up fish passage and increasing floodplain connectivity will reap high ecological benefits.
- There is a good slate of partners on the project.

Concerns:

- There was some confusion because the budget did not include culverts as a line item.
- The beaver dam analogs in the photos appeared to be too tall; it was unclear from the photo if they were in the middle of installation or if that was the finished height, which should be 6 to 12 inches above the water surface.

Concluding Analysis:

This project, by increasing flow, removing fish barriers and reconnecting to floodplains all along the reach, will add significant ecological value to prior restoration done in the headwater meadows of this creek system.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Regional Review Team Priority
6 of 22

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 132,408.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment: Staff will confirm with grantee that BDAs will be installed at the appropriate height, and clarify that the two culverts are a project component and how their purchase will be funded.

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 132,408.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6039**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Livingston Springs 2016		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$18,627.00**	**Total Cost:**	$23,592.00
Proposed Match:	$4,965.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on two different sites near the town of Long Creek in Grant County. Three upland springs will be developed as a water source for both livestock and wildlife. Sensitive wetland seeps around spring sources will be exclusion fenced, and troughs installed with overflow returned to the wetland or adjacent drainage. A shut-off valve will be installed at the head of each system to assure that only needed water is diverted. By developing these upland water sources, livestock will better distribute across the landscape; wetland areas will be protected from hoof trampling; and water quality will be enhanced.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The concept of the shut-off valve that will keep water in the wetland is sound, but is reliant upon good management of the system.
- The project includes significant buffer exclusion fences around the wetland seeps.
- There was good landowner match.

Concerns:

- The application was poorly written, left out a component line item in the budget, lacked critical information and didn't concisely explain what was planned or the ecological or species benefit.
- Without some level of design, it was difficult to assess the likelihood of success.
- The application would have been stronger with better maps showing pasture fences in relation to the spring/trough locations and any downslope or adjacent live streams.
- There was no grazing management strategy explained to help show how the investment in the ecological benefit would be protected.

Concluding Analysis:

Spring developments can result in good ecological benefit, but applications need to provide enough detail and relative information to make that clear determination. If resubmitted, the review team would want to see 1) more detailed site information such as elevations from source to trough and estimated flow; 2) conceptual designs relative to the specific site; 3) maps that show pasture fences, adjacent live streams and locations of both spring source and trough placement; and 4) a grazing

management strategy that explains the investment in the spring developments will result in improved distribution and an upward trend in healthy grass stands.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6040**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Kelsay Creek Culvert Replacement		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:** Grant	
OWEB Request:	**$67,076.00**	**Total Cost:** $167,348.00	
Proposed Match:	$100,272.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Kelsay Creek, a tributary of Desolation Creek and the North Fork John Day River in Grant County. Kelsay Creek is a perennial, fish-bearing stream that could provide 9.1 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead, redband and bull trout. An undersized culvert now inhibits passage to this critical upstream habitat because of velocity issues during high flows. The proposed solution is to replace the undersized culvert with a 14' channel-width aluminum box culvert with natural stream channel simulated throughout.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The review team liked the open bottom approach to culvert design with dimensions allowing for annual high stream flows and improved alignment.
- Good habitat above the culvert.
- The review team appreciated having complete designs submitted with the application.
- Upstream and downstream have been fenced to exclude livestock.

Concerns:

- The role of watershed council project management on public land projects is unclear; staff costs seemed high.
- The culvert is a partial barrier affecting juveniles, is not a high ODFW priority, and is not critical to address at this time.
- It was unclear whether there are additional barriers upstream. If so, the statement about 9.1 miles being opened up was thought to be somewhat misleading.
- The application would have been stronger if it had included some discussion about any alternatives considered.
- There was no good explanation of why effectiveness monitoring would be useful.
- The budget did not include costs for footings or other materials necessary for streambed simulation.

Concluding Analysis:

This project appeared to be shovel-ready, except for the lack of funding for culvert purchase and pending ODFW funding for installation. By request post-submission, NFJDWC staff provided an

engineer's estimate for culvert installation; however, it still wasn't clear that materials were included. More detail in the budget would have been helpful. It would be welcomed back as a resubmit with: 1) more detail in the discussion of alternatives considered; 2) verification that no other fish passage barriers are within the 9.1 mile upstream reach; 3) a clear explanation of watershed council roles in the implementation process; and 4) what monitoring questions or gaps the effectiveness monitoring would address.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Reduce budget by $1,500 and delete effectiveness monitoring from scope of services.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 67,076.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6041**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Desolation Creek Wet Meadow Restoration- Phase II		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$77,627.00**	**Total Cost:**	$140,250.00
Proposed Match:	$62,624.00		

Application Description

Located in northern Grant County, this project seeks to increase the input of cold, high-quality water to Desolation Creek during low and base-flow seasons by exclusion fencing four high-elevation wet meadows. Desolation Creek provides important habitat to both steelhead and Chinook salmon. This project builds on a prior funded and completed OWEB project (Desolation Creek Phase I), to improve the hydrologic processes of wet meadow uplands and increase connectivity to downslope streams.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Protecting wet meadows will result in clear and valuable ecological benefits.
- This builds on other restoration being done in this watershed.
- Costs are reasonable.
- Desolation Creek is important Chinook and steelhead habitat.

Concerns:

- The application would have been easier to read if it was more concise and to the point.
- It would be helpful to provide the Desolation Creek comprehensive grazing management plan that is currently under development; or, at a minimum, some information describing grazing use on this property.
- Once completed, it would also be good to include the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Desolation Creek Assessment to help illustrate restoration priorities and long-term planning.
- The application did not provide enough detailed information on the monitoring component.
- Without clear protocols it was difficult to determine if piezometers and instantaneous moisture monitoring would be effective in documenting meadow changes.
- It was suggested that in meadow gullies, small branches and woody debris be placed to help arrest further erosional forces.
- There was a lack of coordination related to the ODFW fencing match.

Concluding Analysis:

This is the second phase of wet meadow protection and restoration in the Desolation Creek watershed. The previous project was successful and well-done. It would have been helpful to include photos of the prior phase showing success of this type of restoration and any upward trends in the landscape. The issue with ODFW match was resolved prior to review, by substituting

another pending fund source. A future application would be expected to have verification of partners' match prior to application submission.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Reduce budget by $2,200 and delete effectiveness monitoring from scope of services.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 75,627.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6042**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Boundary Creek Fish Passage Enhancement		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$237,298.00**	**Total Cost:**	$451,050.00
Proposed Match:	$213,752.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Boundary Creek and Corral Creek, tributaries to Bull Run and Granite Creeks and the headwaters of the North Fork John Day River in Grant County. Three undersized culverts were identified as priorities and build on other restoration work completed that was identified in the 2012 Wallowa-Whitman National Forest *Bull Run Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan* (WRAP). This proposal would correct two undersized culverts on Lower and East Fork Boundary Creek and one undersized culvert on Corral Creek by installing open bottom arch culverts that incorporate natural streambed configuation. Combined, 9.2 miles of high-elevation steelhead and bull trout habitat would be opened up.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- These streams provide excellent habitat for steelhead, bull trout and possibly juvenile Chinook.
- The photos submitted with the application gave a good view of the culverts.
- There is good secured match.
- Permitting is in place except for DSL and ACOE.
- Good letters of support.
- Appropriate designs by USFS engineers.
- Projects are identified and prioritized in the WRAP – and are some of the last high-priority projects to be completed. Would complement previously completed projects.

Concerns:

- The watershed staff salaries seemed excessive; the application did not provide enough detail to gauge what those hours were being used for.
- It was unclear what time of year and for how long velocity is an issue on these tributaries; it would be helpful to see velocity modeling.
- The application would have been stronger if there had been more discussion about the ecological need balanced with the large investment. More information about fish use above the culvert would have been useful.
- The application would have been stronger if it had demonstrated a clear need for the effectiveness monitoring and what protocols would be followed.

Concluding Analysis:
The review team liked the project but there were enough questions about the cost/benefit of the project that they recommended it as a do not fund for this cycle. If resubmitted reviewers would like to see: 1) some analysis of the velocity issue; 2) flow data; 3) more detail on the watershed council tasks; and 4) more information on the protocols used in the effectiveness monitoring component.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6043**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Smith POD Transfer and Riparian Restoration		
Applicant:	Monument SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$51,540.00**	**Total Cost:**	$64,416.00
Proposed Match:	$12,876.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located along 1.2 miles of the North Fork John Day River, would transfer an existing POD downstream to a permanent scour pool; install a pumping station, fish screen and flow measuring device; bring power to the new site; and link existing irrigation infrastructure to the new pumping system. These actions will eliminate the current need for heavy equipment in the riparian area to maintain the legal push-up dam and reduce impaired riparian vegetation and channel form. Additional restoration actions include weed treatment focusing on leafy spurge funded by a pending OSWB grant. This reach of the North Fork John Day River provides critical migrating habitat for spring Chinook, steelhead, and bull trout.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Straight-forward well-written application.
- Good to keep heavy equipment out of the main river and reduce disturbance.
- Water quality will benefit by eliminating excessive sediment and allowing riparian vegetation to establish.
- Riparian area is already fenced to exclude livestock use.
- The current POD would be abandoned.
- New POD site is located in a natural and historically stable scour hole.

Concerns:

- Some budget line items appeared to be high, especially installation and water rights transfer costs.
- The variable frequency drive appeared to be more of a landowner benefit and it was suggested items related to that component be removed.

Concluding Analysis:

This project will result in an increase in riparian vegetation, improved water quality and channel stability along this reach of the North Fork John Day River.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Exclude installation of the variable frequency drive and reduce amount by $10,164.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 41,376.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6044**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Middle Bear Creek BDA Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Wheeler SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Wheeler
OWEB Request:	**$26,959.00**	**Total Cost:**	$38,124.00
Proposed Match:	$11,165.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located on Bear Creek in SW Wheeler County, will install beaver dam analogs (BDA) along a 532-meter reach of Bear Creek that is subject to low and often intermittent surface flow during late summer/early fall, a period critical to the survival of juvenile steelhead. Bear Creek is the largest spawning tributary to Bridge Creek. Wheeler SWCD staff is partnering with NOAA beaver analog experts on the design and monitoring.

Project components include installing beaver dam analogs; providing a hands-on workshop for local restoration and contractor implementers; monitoring water quality, quantity and fish presence; producing a manual for restoration practitioners documenting lessons learned during design and implementation; and a summary of monitoring information.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This project complements other restoration and protection work being done in this watershed and on this property.
- Well-written application with excellent maps and detailed attachments.
- The table providing design specifications for each BDA structure is excellent– this made review easier with detail on expected outcomes relative to design and placement at each structure site.
- Bear Creek is a high priority stream for steelhead recovery.
- The project has the right partners and there is a good deal of confidence the project will be successful.
- Connecting this dry reach with up- and downstream perennial flow and holding back sediment will result in high ecological benefits of surface-flow connectivity and increased shade from enhanced riparian vegetation.
- Producing a manual for local landowners contemplating this restoration concept and workshops for local restoration practitioners taught by qualified professionals with expertise in beaver dam analog design will provide additional benefits throughout the region.

Concerns:

- Because flow goes subsurface for part of the year, clear benefits may not happen quickly.

Concluding Analysis:
This was a very well-written application. The project is designed on private land where quite a bit of restoration has already been done. There is confidence this project will be done well and the resulting document and workshop will assist in replicating this concept in other stream systems. There is a high level of confidence because of the track record of the applicant as well as partners from NOAA who have been doing beaver dam analog research for over ten years.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 26,959.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 26,959.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6045**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Harper Diversion Removal and Habitat Enhancement		
Applicant:	Gilliam SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Gilliam
OWEB Request:	**$41,457.00**	**Total Cost:**	$120,876.00
Proposed Match:	$79,420.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Middle Rock Creek, a tributary of the Lower John Day River in Gilliam County. An abandoned concrete diversion structure poses a threat by entrapping migrating and rearing steelhead and other resident fish species when flows recede. This proposal would completely remove the existing concrete structure and enhance the side channel and backwater habitat area for juvenile and holding steelhead. This project builds on prior restoration projects on Rock Creek to remove all fish passage impediments and, with the other two Rock Creek projects being reviewed this cycle, will open up over 137 miles of good steelhead habitat.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Rock Creek is an important lower John Day River basin steelhead stream.
- This project builds on other restoration projects on this stream system.
- Good to eliminate the potential for fish entrapment and death.
- The restoration proposal followed a technical assistance for design.
- Has good match.

Concerns:

- Excavation costs seem high; fill removal calculated by the hour instead of by volume (cy) made review difficult.
- There were questions about why a portion of the concrete would be left on the off-side of the stream and where the berm removal was proposed. There was no clear explanation in the narrative or the designs.
- The application referred to multiple log and boulder structures but such structures were not included in the designs.
- There was no clear explanation of the goal of the effectiveness monitoring request.

Concluding Analysis:

This resubmitted application builds on numerous fish passage barriers on this significant steelhead stream in the lower John Day basin. The last submittal did not include designs because of a delay in BPA review. This time there were questions related to the design and planting plan that were not explained well in the application. If resubmitted, the application should include: 1) more detail and explanation of the structures proposed and have them identified in the designs; and 2) a clear explanation of the expectations of the effectiveness monitoring component.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce award amount by $3,450 and eliminate effectiveness monitoring from the scope of work.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 38,007.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6046**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Hewes Diversion Removal And Channel Restoration		
Applicant:	Gilliam SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Gilliam
OWEB Request:	**$116,724.00**	**Total Cost:**	$206,903.00
Proposed Match:	$90,179.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Middle Rock Creek, a tributary of the Lower John Day River in Gilliam County. This proposal will completely remove the concrete diversion structure; enhance side channel habitat by placing large wood structures, boulder clusters and regrade the disturbed channel to natural stream form. Banks will be sloped back, seeded and planted. Historic flood events resulted in the main channel bypassing a concrete-chamber irrigation diversion now abandoned in a side-channel. During high flows, steelhead become trapped in the chambers as flows recede. High sediment loading to the stream occur when flows strike the concrete structure and careen into the eastern streambank. Rock Creek is an important lower basin steelhead spawning and rearing stream and abundance and productivity is limited when vital gravel substrate is buried by sediment.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Rock Creek is an important lower John Day River basin steelhead stream.
- This project builds on other restoration projects on this stream system.
- Eliminates the potential for fish entrapment and death.
- Permits are in process.
- Good planting plan and detailed designs.
- The restoration proposal followed a technical assistance project for design.
- Has good secured match.

Concerns:

- The construction engineering and administration line item was unclear; administration is not an eligible direct cost. Also there was no clear explanation of the CTWS grant administration line item as match.
- Excavation costs were hard to evaluate, since line items were calculated by the hour instead of by volume (cy.)
- There was some confusion about the designs of the side channels; they appeared to dead end at the streambank. A similar question came up relating to the main channel as it appeared to hit the bank perpendicularly.
- The narrative left questions about the status of the water rights. Would a point of diversion be rebuilt on this site for future use or would the water right be leased instream?

- It was unclear whether this reach has live flow all year or what the actual timing of fish use was. How close is this site to the next wetted section?
- There was no clear explanation of the goal of the effectiveness monitoring request.

Concluding Analysis:
This resubmitted application builds on numerous fish passage restoration projects on this significant steelhead stream in the lower John Day basin. Removing an entrapment issue is always a strong benefit. However, there were several questions relating to the design of the side channels and wood placement. Knowing the timing of flow, hydrology of this system, and timing of fish use would help reviewers to more fully evaluate the investment. The cost of this project went up significantly from the last submission and the application did not provide an explanation.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Reduce by $3,450.00 and eliminate effectiveness monitoring from scope of work.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 113,274.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6047**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Olex Diversion Fish Passage Improvement		
Applicant:	Gilliam SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Gilliam
OWEB Request:	**$65,463.00**	**Total Cost:**	$158,792.00
Proposed Match:	$93,329.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Rock Creek, the first fish-bearing tributary entering the Lower John Day River in Gilliam County. The proposal will reconstruct the fish barrier at Olex diversion so all life stages of steelhead and other aquatic species can easily migrate 144 miles upstream to critical habitat. The project follows a technical assistance grant that provided funds for design and builds on successful efforts by Gilliam SWCD and the Gilliam East John Day Watershed Council to remove all known fish passage barriers on this lower basin steelhead stream. It will improve connectivity for juvenile steelhead to cool water upstream habitat during periods when lower reaches of Rock Creek dry up.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Rock Creek is an important lower John Day River basin steelhead stream.
- This project corrects a significant fish passage barrier and builds on other restoration projects on this stream system.
- The restoration proposal followed a technical assistance project for design.
- Has good secured match.
- Designs are well done and easy to understand.

Concerns:

- The area that was included for seeding in the planting plan is part of a pasture. The application would have been stronger if there had been a grazing management strategy included and some explanation on how that strategy would protect the investment of the seeding component.
- There was no clear explanation of the goal of the effectiveness monitoring request.

Concluding Analysis:

This application was resubmitted after a do not fund last cycle because of a lack of designs. This submission provided clear designs that had been vetted by BPA's engineers. This is a site that previously has not been available for restoration. It is also one of the last known juvenile barriers on this important lower basin tributary.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce by $3,450 and remove effectiveness monitoring component from the scope of work.

Regional Review Team Priority
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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 62,013.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce by $3,450 and remove effectiveness monitoring component from the scope of work

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 62,013.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6048**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Walla Walla Managed Aquifer Recharge for Instream Flow		
Applicant:	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation		
Basin:	UMATILLA	**County:**	Umatilla
OWEB Request:	**$346,746.00**	**Total Cost:**	$623,874.00
Proposed Match:	$277,129.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located along the Walla Walla River and the town of Milton Freewater in Umatilla County. This project will design and construct five aquifer recharge sites; submit OWRD limited license – a short-term permit for use of winter/spring water in the aquifer recharge program; and work with OWRD and DEQ to update existing monitoring plans to include the new sites. Recharge sites have been selected to provide maximum groundwater and surface water benefits. The project sites will result in an instream benefit of ~4.2 cfs from July to October, bringing the total to 15 cfs for all phases to date. The long-term goal is an increase of 25 cfs instream.

Through the process of agricultural and urban development and a seven-mile long levee system, the hydrology of the Walla Walla Basin has been altered from a system that previously spread out into a distributary network that delivered winter and spring flows out across the valley floor. This distributary system not only provide off-channel habitat for fish and wildlife; it also allowed for natural aquifer recharge into the valley's alluvial system. This is the fifth phase of aquifer recharge projects in this area; the first OWEB funded project was initiated in 2003.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Benefits the Walla Walla River, important habitat for steelhead, Chinook and bull trout.
- The applicant has over ten years of experience implementing successful aquifer recharge.
- Demonstrated technology and modeling is used to identify future recharge sites with the potential for highest ecological benefit.
- Already have limited licenses for four of the five sites.
- The instream flow model shows recharge potentially increasing flow by 4.2 cfs in the Walla Walla River from July to October.
- Increases connectivity of tributaries and mainstem Walla Walla River for fish habitat.
- The applicant works with DEQ and OWRD on monitoring plan development.
- The right partners are involved on the project. Strong landowner support as well.
- There is a high level of monitoring and science-based aquifer recharge.
- Serves as an example of groundwater recharge solutions for other basins dealing with declining aquifers.

Concerns:

- The application lacked a description of current fish use and probable fish use with increased cfs in the lower tributaries to the Walla Walla River.
- On future applications, the review team would appreciate executive summaries and a link instead of uploading entire lengthy documents.

Concluding Analysis:
This applicant has a long history of implementing science-based aquifer recharge. They are well known in the field and have on staff a respected team with aquifer recharge expertise. BPA is a significant partner on these projects and helps offset the cost of implementation and monitoring. OWRD and DEQ have been involved since the beginning, assuring quality control on water injected into the ground and legal water diverted for the use of groundwater recharge. The project makes significant progress toward the ultimate goal of the council to protect 25 cfs instream.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 346,746.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 346,746.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6049**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Meacham Creek Bonifer Reach Floodplain Restoration and In-stream Habitat Enhancement Project		
Applicant:	Confederated Tribes Umatilla Indian Reservation		
Basin:	UMATILLA	**County:**	Umatilla
OWEB Request:	**$493,950.00**	**Total Cost:**	$1,735,420.00
Proposed Match:	$125,000.00		

Application Description

The project site is located on Meacham Creek, a tributary of the Umatilla River in Umatilla County east of Pendleton. This landscape scale project builds on prior funded and completed OWEB restoration and monitoring projects to improve an additional three miles of instream habitat for ESA listed and resident fish, improve channel morphology, restore instream and floodplain processes and maintain protection of the Union Pacific Railroad right-of-way.

Project components of this phase include excavating levees and spur dikes to floodplain elevation; excavating and reconnecting primary and secondary historic channels for increased spawning and rearing habitat; incorporating large wood structures; revegetating disturbed soil; and implementing bioengineering techniques to provide a less intrusive method of bank protection for the railroad.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Important habitat for Chinook, steelhead and lamprey.
- Landscape-scale project with high ecological benefits.
- Well-written application with excellent maps and designs.
- Substantial match.
- Addresses identified limiting factors.
- Builds on similar, completed restoration on contingent sites and incorporates lessons learned from previous projects.
- Native vegetation has quickly reestablished on prior restoration. This site also has potential for a rapid response post-construction.

Concerns:

- The review team had questions about the cost of hauling rock offsite all the way to Milton Freewater and asked whether there are pit or crusher operations closer to the site where the angular rock could be dropped or sold to offset hauling charges.

Concluding Analysis:

Meacham Creek is a priority stream for the Umatilla tribes and integral in their First Foods policy for natural resources. It is important critical habitat for ESA-listed and resident fish. Investments in restoration on this stream will remain protected because of tribal and USFS ownership. The CTUIR team working on this project has the depth of knowledge and a solid track record of successful

implementation. The review team recommended funding at a reduced rate, dropping the costs of hauling the angular rock offsite.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce award by $117,920.00 that would have paid for hauling rock offsite.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 376,030.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce award by $117,920.00 that would have paid for hauling rock offsite.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 376,030.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6050**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Pine Creek Upland Improvement 2		
Applicant:	Bridge Creek WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:** Wheeler	
OWEB Request:	**$59,528.00**	**Total Cost:** $78,367.00	
Proposed Match:	$18,840.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located in the uplands above Pine Creek in Wheeler County, will build on actions of a prior OWEB-funded project by removing more juniper, building cross fence, installing additional livestock water sources, and treating and reseeding a field of medusahead. These conservation practices will contribute to an additional 8.3 million gallons of precipitation reaching the ground instead of being intercepted by juniper cover. The springs, cross fencing, weed treatment and reseeding will enable the landowner to better manage future livestock grazing on the property and better distribute grazing pressure. Increased grass cover will limit overland runoff and improve infiltration which will improve water quality in Pine Creek.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The land manager has a good track record of successful restoration implementation.
- Weed treatment is included in the proposal.
- Large property kept mainly for wildlife habitat.
- Deferred grazing for 2-5 years on treated sites; then minimal grazing (30 pair) would occur.
- A long-term juniper management plan and grazing management strategy was included with the application.

Concerns:

- Crested wheat grass is proposed rather than seeding native perennials.
- Spring source fencing should encompass more area to protect natural seeps and any native vegetation around the spring site.
- The application would have been stronger if it had included conceptual designs for each spring site, including detail on spring collection type, piping, spring source protective fencing, troughs, and amount of elevation drop from source to trough.
- It was noted that ODF notification of operations permit would be required.

Concluding Analysis:

This property sits adjacent to the large Pine Creek Conservation Area, has Pine Creek running through the northern side, and provides high value habitat for numerous wildlife species. The landowner has shown commitment to restoring the property by implementing various restoration actions, many at his own expense. This project builds on those actions by improving the upland grasslands, improving management capacity by cross fencing into smaller pasture units, and developing numerous water sources in higher pastures that will benefit both wildlife and livestock.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 59,528.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6051**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Big Mosquito Restoration Phase II		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$106,079.00**	**Total Cost:**	$147,490.00
Proposed Match:	$41,412.00		

Application Description

The goals of this restoration proposal, located in the Big Creek sub-watershed of the Middle Fork John Day River, are to increase wet meadow water storage capacity, reduce sedimentation and head cutting in tributaries feeding into key salmon and bull trout spawning and rearing habitat, and improve the productivity of meadows for wildlife. The project builds on a prior funded and completed OWEB project (Big Mosquito Phase I.) This phase will include thinning encroaching lodgepole pine; stockpiling and processing appropriate sized lodgepole logs for use in aspen protection fences on various sites around the Middle Fork John Day watershed; moving downed large trees to gullies; and hand-piling and burning some slash while placing other slash within meadow gullies.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Big Mosquito is important habitat for steelhead and bull trout.
- Addresses process and function in high wet meadows. The review team liked the techniques used to hold back water in these high meadows.
- Good to engage local youth through OYCC.
- Phase one has been completed and results are encouraging.
- Builds on other restoration occurring in this basin.
- Good mitigation for future climate changes by providing more storage for water.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger with maps that clearly showed what had been done in phase one, what was proposed in phase two, and a third map of other restoration work being done in the basin. The map provided was inadequate and confusing.
- It would have been helpful to reviewers to have the previous phase's completion report available.
- The application would have been stronger if a grazing management strategy or plan had been included.
- The OYCC costs in the budget seemed very high and the application indicated that in many instances, the OYCC crews were limited in what they could accomplish and how fast.
- Effectiveness monitoring was requested but it wasn't clear what and where the monitoring would occur and what questions monitoring would answer.

Concluding Analysis:
This project comes on the heels of a completed phase one project and expands with similar objectives on some of the same meadows. This added some confusion to the review and without having a completion report from phase one, or even good maps, it was difficult to distinguish the overlap. There was also concern that the high cost of using OYCC youth may have inflated the restoration costs on this project. There is support for using OYCC crews in restoration, but appropriate tasks need to be identified so the work is done within a reasonable timeframe and cost. The review team likes to see restoration in these high meadow systems and would suggest this be resubmitted with: 1) better maps showing work that has been done, work proposed for the new application, and other restoration work being done in the watershed; 2) breakout of OYCC tasks and related budget line items; 3) the grazing plan for this allotment; and 4) if effectiveness monitoring is requested, more detail on what monitoring will be done, where and why.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced with Conditions. Reduce by $3,300.00 and eliminate effectiveness monitoring from scope of work.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 102,079.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6052**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	2017 John Day Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement Program		
Applicant:	Grant SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$151,909.00**	**Total Cost:**	$525,265.00
Proposed Match:	$373,356.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is a continuation of the ODFW riparian fencing program started in 1984. Proposed exclusion fencing will protect stream miles along Desolation, Lemons, and Hinton Creeks and the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County; and Badger and Pine Hollow Creeks in Wheeler County. The success of this project outcome is assured through 15-year exclusion contracts through a long running, established program which has protected over 219 miles of riparian areas. The proposed riparian fencing will enhance riparian conditions of summer steelhead and Chinook habitat on six waterways protecting at least 127.4 acres.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Strong partners supporting the program.
- Good secured match.
- Successful, long-term program with good track record of implementation.
- This application is protecting some important streams and rivers that provide critical steelhead, Chinook and sometimes bull trout habitat.
- High water quality benefits, including shade and reduced sediment and bacteria.
- Builds on prior fencing projects.
- One site is located where landowner has previously been resistant to riparian fencing. Good opportunity to protect a critical reach of the Middle Fork John Day River.
- Application was well-written and provided clear detail, good maps and photos.

Concerns:

- There were questions about the benefit of the cattle guards but it was explained the riparian fencing crossed USFS land in two places. USFS is providing the cattle guards; grant funds will help cover installation costs.
- On the Badger Creek site, reach E, there were concerns that planned channel work and instream restoration has yet to occur. It would have been good to know whether the timing of the instream restoration correlated with the timing of the fence installation.

Concluding Analysis:

This long-time, successful program has done so much good work and has a stellar reputation for quality fence installations in the John Day Basin. They partner with a multitude of restoration practitioners, sharing their expertise in riparian fencing and providing 15-year exclusion contracts

that also cover fence maintenance during that time. OWEB funds are used for new fence installation and not maintenance costs. The streams selected are high-priority for listed species and will also result in improved water quality. Matching funds from BPA significantly extend the reach of this program.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 22

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 151,909.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment: OWEB staff will check that the fencing contract for Badger Creek considers the timing of the fence and the OWEB-funded restoration project located in same reach.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 151,909.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6053**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	Big Creek Reach Four Floodplain Connectivity Project		
Applicant:	Grant SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$217,154.00**	**Total Cost:**	$285,726.00
Proposed Match:	$68,573.00		

Application Description

The project site is located in the Big Creek watershed, which drains into the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. This project is designed to restore geomorphic processes to provide for biotic and hydrologic functions by: breaching legacy levees and removing mining materials, creating a half-mile new side channel; constructing a high-flow relief channel integrated into the network above the road; installing a bottomless pipe arch culvert to extend the side channel beyond USFS road 4560; installing log jam and wood structures; and installing a debris catcher just upstream of the existing bridge to minimize potential structure damage during high flows. The project will result in increased spawning and juvenile rearing for steelhead, bull trout, and Chinook salmon; increased duration and frequency of floodplain inundation; and increased amount and diversity of instream and floodplain wood supply. Post-construction, the project area will be replanted, reseeded and follow-up treatment applied to emerging weeds.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Well-written application. Mining impacts were clearly described.
- Clear and detailed designs were provided with the application.
- This is an important steelhead, bull trout and juvenile Chinook stream.
- Will provide high water quality benefits.
- Accomplishes floodplain reconnection by removing historic mining levees and ponds.
- Cultural resource assessments have already been completed.
- Applicant has a good reputation for sound engineering on similar projects.
- This reach is highly degraded and needs active restoration.
- Builds on other restoration being done in this watershed.

Concerns:

- Errors in the engineer and engineer tech rates in the budget were identified and will be corrected, lowering the requested ask.
- It would have been helpful to reviewers to have included a map showing how this project fits in with other restoration activities being done in this watershed.

Concluding Analysis:

This location is highly degraded from legacy mining impacts. The active restoration design will help the stream, which provides critical cold water habitat to multiple ESA-listed and resident fish

species, reconnect to the floodplain, restore depositional processes for stream channels, increase channel complexity, and add side channel habitat. This is an important project that adds to overall restoration activities occurring in the Big Mosquito watershed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund Reduced. Reduce award to correct budget error.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 216,030.00

Staff Follow-up to Review Team Comment

OWEB staff will work with grantee to correct budget error; the scope of work stays the same.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund Reduced. Reduce award to correct budget error.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 216,030.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6054**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Badger Creek Diversion #6		
Applicant:	Wheeler SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:** Wheeler	
OWEB Request:	**$93,774.00**	**Total Cost:** $195,516.00	
Proposed Match:	$101,742.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Badger Creek, a tributary of Mountain Creek and the John Day River in southeast Wheeler County. This proposal will replace a fish barrier irrigation diversion opening up an additional 7.3 miles of habitat; install irrigation flow measuring devices for the two water users on this system; convert open irrigation ditch to dual buried pipelines; replace a failing and undersized bridge; construct a series of engineered riffles and large wood structures; and exclusion fence and plant the area directly around the diversion and downstream to the neighboring fence line through the CREP program.

The upper section of Badger Creek is a highly productive system providing cool water refugia with consistent flows throughout the year. It provides some of the best spawning and rearing steelhead habitat within the watershed. This project will return this reach of Badger Creek to properly functioning condition and builds on enhancements in the Badger Creek and Mountain Creek drainage to improve fish passage, stream and upland habitat.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Corrects a full fish passage barrier so all life stages of steelhead can access upstream cold water refugia.
- This multi-component restoration project is located on Badger Creek, a priority steelhead stream.
- Complements other restoration done on Badger Creek.
- Result of prioritization from the Wheeler SWCD Mountain Creek Reach Assessment.
- Landowner was previously hesitant to participate in restoration on her land; neighbor's projects completed upstream have made a positive difference in her willingness to allow enhancements.
- Includes installation of flow measuring devices on both pipes so landowners and watermaster can control and manage water use.
- Enrolls a portion of the creek in CREP; could result in even more acres enrolled.
- Comprehensive designs were included with the application. The team also liked the addition of small overflow culverts on the roadway to allow high-flows to access historic side channels.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if there had been more landowner match for bridge installation expense.

Concluding Analysis:
This is a restoration project following an OWEB technical assistance grant for design. Badger Creek has had a lot of restoration work done both up- and downstream. Steelhead that reach Badger Creek will be able to access cool water and good spawning grounds once this project is complete. The applicant addressed all prior evaluation comments. This is a good project with high-likelihood of success.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 93,774.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 93,774.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6055**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Kee Property Restoration		
Applicant:	Cascade Pacific RC&D		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:** Grant	
OWEB Request:	**$27,373.00**	**Total Cost:** $36,023.00	
Proposed Match:	$10,320.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal, located in the Flat Creek drainage south of Izee in the Upper South Fork John Day River watershed, will enhance biodiversity and restore resiliency for four valuable habitat types on the Kee property: aspen stands, wet meadows, bitterbrush shrubland and old growth forests. An additional element of the project is a pilot to determine the economics and efficacy of juniper extraction to incentivize biomass salvage and minimize slash burning. Multiple restoration components include: thinning encroaching junipers and conifers to open up aspen colonies; protecting aspen stands to allow regeneration of a multi-age class stand; removing encroaching conifers and juniper on wet meadows and riparian zones; removing encroaching juniper from upland bitterbrush communities; enhancing stands of replacement old growth ponderosa pine; and designating upland juniper removal test sites to assess economic viability of juniper extraction and transport.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The appropriate locations were selected for restoration – these are very productive sites.
- The applicant demonstrated good pre-project planning; the project is an innovative approach to scope the economics of juniper removal and marketing, which, if successful, could be replicated on other sites to offset juniper removal costs.
- This is a unique large, high meadow site adjacent to old growth roadless area and BLM land.
- The property is used only for recreation and wildlife habitat, and includes a large resident elk population.
- The site includes multiple aspen clones with some of the largest trees in the region.
- Evaluation comments from a previous submittal were satisfactorily addressed.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if it had included a comprehensive long-term juniper management plan.
- There was some concern about the likelihood of follow-up maintenance.

Concluding Analysis:
This is a resubmit from the previous cycle and the applicant addressed all review team concerns noted in the evaluation. This unique ecosystem is adjacent to Snow Mountain and provides important habitat for a multitude of wildlife species. On previous site visits, there was evidence of beaver colonies and the landowner is excited to see beaver make a comeback. Reducing the encroaching juniper will help increase wet meadow storage and increase re-establishment of appropriate tree and shrub species.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. A long-term juniper management plan must be submitted prior to or with the first payment request.

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 27,373.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6056**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	RLMT Granite Creek Restoration: Burnette		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$48,556.00**	**Total Cost:**	$61,714.00
Proposed Match:	$13,158.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located along Lick Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. Lick Creek is a perennial stream that provides 2.7 miles of spawning and rearing steelhead habitat and historically provided the majority of livestock water on the ranch. The landowner has been actively working to fence off Lick Creek and provide alternative upland water sources for livestock. This project builds on those efforts by fencing riparian areas on both upper and lower Lick Creek; construct rocked road crossings; install a culvert; and develop springs to provide upland water sources for livestock.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This is a highly motivated landowner involved with the Ritter Land Management Team.
- Lick Creek is identified as steelhead spawning and rearing habitat.
- Grazing management strategies were included with the application.
- Good match from landowner. Builds on prior restoration work accomplished on his lands.
- One of two highest priority watersheds in the RLMT action plan.
- The project could result in additional riparian fencing on upper Lick Creek.
- The highest ecological benefit is realized by fencing lower Lick Creek.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if it had included a broad explanation of all planned future projects and completed restoration work on this property, including the overall expected ecological benefits.
- The construction components lacked sufficient detail on what would be done.
- Fencing for spring sources was not included in the budget.
- No letter of support from the Ritter Land Management Team.
- Application refers to "Discovery Tool" used by the RLMT. Information relating to how this tool is used would have been helpful to include in the application.

Concluding Analysis:

The landowner on this property has a reputation for being a good manager of the land. He has participated in multiple restoration projects, all successfully completed. Protecting Lick Creek is being accomplished in phases – this project would make progress toward that goal. The application would have been stronger if it had included designs or better explanations of construction elements.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 48,556.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6057**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Rice Creek Spring Protection		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:** Grant	
OWEB Request:	**$15,040.00**	**Total Cost:** $19,039.00	
Proposed Match:	$3,999.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on uplands near Rice Creek, a tributary to Slide Creek and ultimately the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. Currently livestock water out of a draw above Rice Creek, trampling wet zones and degrading surface water. The proposal would develop a spring halfway up the drainage and then exclusion fence both sides of the draw to help enhance riparian vegetation and filter any surface flows.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Fencing riparian area and protecting a spring source is beneficial.

Concerns:

- The application didn't explain if live flow from this drainage is directly connected to Rice Creek. It didn't appear to from maps provided nor from the site visit.
- The application was poorly written and didn't clearly explain resulting ecological benefits.
- There were no designs or conceptual detail on spring development, associated piping and trough system.
- The spring source was located in a steep drainage, which could be a difficult site to develop.
- On the site visit, the landowner didn't appear to know what the plan was for the project.

Concluding Analysis:

This landowner is new to restoration and this project could result in future restoration on the property. Perhaps an OWEB small grant would be a better way to introduce enhancement benefits. The applicant will need to clearly describe the ecological benefits of the project, whether applying through open solicitation or the small grant program.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6058**	**Project Type:**	Restoration
Project Name:	RLMT Granite Creek Restoration: Walton		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$48,406.00**	**Total Cost:**	$60,928.00
Proposed Match:	$12,523.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located along Granite Creek, a tributary to the Middle Fork John Day River in Grant County. The landowners have undertaken many conservation efforts, some including OWEB-funded riparian fencing, feed bunk relocation, and off-channel water developments to improve Granite Creek. This proposal builds on those efforts by exclusion fencing along additional reaches of Granite Creek; developing upland spring sites to provide water for livestock in pastures now excluded from the creek; and constructing hardened rock crossings across Granite Creek for reduced sediment inputs when moving livestock or equipment. Eliminating livestock access to Granite Creek will result in increased vegetation health, vigor, diversity, and density; and will mitigate sediment inputs and livestock waste inputs to the creek.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Ritter Land Management Team (RLMT) priority in Granite Creek watershed, identified by their landowner discovery tool and Action Plan.
- Reducing livestock use of Granite Creek would have high ecological benefit.
- Site is very visible alongside Hwy 395.
- Detailed landowner letter of support.
- Would add 1.85 miles of protected steelhead habitat on Granite Creek.
- Builds on previous restoration on Granite Creek and helps the momentum of the RLMT restoration planning.

Concerns:

- The application lacked critical information related to construction elements.
- Rocked crossing would require ODFW fish passage approval.
- Application described riparian fence buffer of 30-foot width, which is below most buffer requirements.
- Photos submitted with application did not adequately portray the site conditions, especially the crossings.
- The map would have been more helpful if it had provided more detail.
- There appeared to be a lack of coordination with the RLMT, with no letter of support included with the application.
- The discovery tool for this property mentioned weeds as a priority issue but the application didn't include any weed treatment.

Concluding Analysis:
This project would build on previous riparian fencing completed upstream and would improve the condition of Granite Creek by removing livestock access. However, there were too many questions left unanswered relating to the project designs, especially the spring developments and the rock crossings. The project does have merit and if resubmitted, the review team would request the application include: 1) conceptual designs for spring sites, with enough detail to adequately describe what would be done; 2) designs or at minimum, specifications on the rocked crossings (consultation with ODFW fish biologist on design in advance would be beneficial); 3) letter of support from the Ritter Land Management Team; 4) better photos that accurately show site conditions; 5) a map with more detail, including proposed project components and past restoration actions such as riparian fencing, feed lot relocation, etc.; and 6) riparian buffer width be designed at a minimum of 35 feet from the ordinary high water level or vegetation green line.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 48,406.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6059**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Circle Bar Ranch Restoration Project		
Applicant:	Wheeler SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:** Wheeler	
OWEB Request:	**$65,359.00**	**Total Cost:** $237,240.00	
Proposed Match:	$171,881.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located along the West Branch of Bridge Creek, a tributary to the John Day River in Wheeler County. West Branch provides productive steelhead spawning and rearing habitat. This multi-component restoration project seeks to improve riparian and upland health by removing encroaching juniper from select rangelands and in proximity to aspen communities; treating invasive annual grasses in pastures and along roads; installing exclusion fencing/individual cages around three aspen stands; developing upland water sources to disperse livestock and provide for both livestock and wildlife; and enrolling riparian areas into CREP with enhanced planting and exclusion fencing. Historic fire suppression and grazing practices have degraded the landscape; however, the present landowner has been working since he purchased the property to restore the landscape's health and resiliency. Watershed benefits include improved health and vigor of riparian vegetation, improved grasslands ability to capture, store and release precipitation to increase groundwater and reduce sedimentation to downslope streams, and improved habitat for both fish and wildlife species in riparian, upland and aspen communities.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Well-written application for an outstanding project with diverse components.
- The applicant has a good reputation for successful projects; likelihood of success is high.
- Great match through NRCS RCPP funds.
- Landowners are very motivated and are engaging the second generation to be responsible land managers and continue restoration on the ranch.
- High ecological benefits from a mosaic of projects.
- The follow-up juniper maintenance plan and the comprehensive weed management plan were submitted with the application.
- The NRCS comprehensive grazing management plan and spring development design packet were helpful in the review and left team members feeling confident implementation would be done well.
- This is the first restoration project on West Branch Bridge Creek in many years; it could lead to additional work in the watershed.
- On the site visit, healthy pastures and native grass stands were evident.

Concerns:

- There was some concern about what would happen to the juniper once cut. Would it be left where it was felled or piled and burned?
- The team would like to see the juniper, once felled or pulled in the riparian areas, be placed back in the stream channel to add complexity.

Concluding Analysis:
This is a very aggressive, expansive project for relatively little cost. West Branch Bridge Creek has not had restoration opportunities for quite a long time. This is the first landowner to enroll in CREP on this stream system, which may provide motivation for neighbors to inquire about the program. After the site visit, the applicant provided a concise summary of the grazing that was extremely helpful. Overall, this is a well-planned project that will result in high ecological benefits.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 65,359.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6060**	**Project Type:** Restoration	
Project Name:	Heflin Creek Restoration		
Applicant:	Wheeler SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:** Wheeler	
OWEB Request:	**$66,787.00**	**Total Cost:** $173,736.00	
Proposed Match:	$106,949.00		

Application Description

This restoration proposal is located on Heflin Creek, a headwater tributary of Bear Creek in southwest Wheeler County. It is a spring fed system that maintains cold water flow even during late summer months. This proposal will consolidate three PODs to one location downstream; install a fish-friendly irrigation diversion, fish screen and flow measuring device; restore streamflow to the natural channel and install an appropriate sized open bottom arch culvert; convert open ditches to buried pipe with risers; install vertical post structures (VPS) to catch debris and sediment to help reconnect the floodplain; and strategically place logs in the stream channel and floodplain for additional complexity and cover. Currently, existing push-up dams are used as irrigation diversions on the property; the first diversion directs the entire flow of Heflin Creek out of its natural channel into an irrigation ditch. An undersized culvert with a large downstream jump is located in the historic channel and poses a compete barrier to fish, including potential steelhead habitat. After flowing a short distance in the artificial channel, some of the water re-enters the natural channel and is diverted twice more to irrigate adjacent fields. All three existing diversions do not allow for fish passage and are not screened to protect fish from entrapment or measured to accurately manage the water right. Past the diversions, Heflin Creek begins extensive down cutting and floodplain disconnect.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- As a resubmit, the applicant addressed all concerns noted on prior evaluation.
- High likelihood of success.
- Landowner contributing in-kind labor, materials and cash.
- Good match from NRCS RCPP funds.
- ODFW is looking at potential solutions to the downstream barrier on Dodd's Creek.
- The review team liked the concept of a willow whip threaded through the lower end of the VPS structures before installation.
- Consolidating three PODs into one, and screening and installing a flow measurement device add high value to the project.
- Keeping flow in a natural channel and removing fish passage barriers are good objectives.

Concerns:

- More details are needed about the VPS installation.
- The application may have overstated steelhead use; the fish present are more likely resident redband populations.
- The culvert component only had conceptual designs provided.

Concluding Analysis:
This application is a resubmit from a prior cycle. Heflin Creek has the potential to provide great habitat once downstream barriers are corrected. And, by reconnecting to the floodplain, there is also potential to increase flows. The project is sound; however, Heflin Creek is not considered as high a priority as other streams in the basin.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 66,787.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6061**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Habitat Conservation Outreach - John Day Basin		
Applicant:	Blue Mountain Land Trust		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$50,000.00**	**Total Cost:**	$119,035.00
Proposed Match:	$12,500.00		

Application Description

This landowner recruitment TA will identify and develop opportunities for conservation easements and other conservation projects within the John Day Basin, leading to increased conservation and enhancement of critical fish and wildlife habitat on private lands. Using secured match, this proposal would fund a full-time Conservation Officer, working with partners in the John Day Basin. Guidance for the Conservation Officer would come from a Project Oversite Committee made up of partner agencies, local residents, and staff and board from the Blue Mountain Land Trust. Objectives include evaluating an estimated 20-30 identified potential easement sites; reaching out to an additional 200 landowners with information about conservation easements and other habitat protection tools; and connecting interested landowners with a land trust capable of completing and holding a conservation easement. Results will demonstrate the demand for land trust services and community support for conservation necessary to maintain the Conservation Officer as a permanent staff position.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application demonstrates a clear need in the John Day Basin for having someone within the basin dedicated to the position and with technical expertise in easements and acquisitions.
- The application was well-written and showed that a lot of thought went into defining the needs of this position.
- The right partners are involved and show strong commitment in both time and resources.

Concerns:

- The continuity of the position is unclear after the two-year funding period.

Concluding Analysis:

The time is right for establishing a collaborative position in the John Day Basin to help facilitate easements and acquisitions. A large number of landowners have expressed interest but at this time there is no local land trust or personnel with the technical level of knowledge available. Partners formed a working group that has been active for over a year planning how to resolve the issue.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 50,000.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 50,000.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6062**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	South Fork John Day Coordinated Resource Management Planning		
Applicant:	Cascade Pacific RC&D		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$12,337.00**	**Total Cost:**	$18,097.00
Proposed Match:	$6,538.00		

Application Description

This technical assistance application for planning will re-initiate the South Fork John Day River *Coordinated Resource Management Planning* (CRMP) group that formally existed from 1980 to 1992. The formal partnership would include the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Wildlife, USFS, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, the Grant SWCD, private landowners and the Dayville Grazing Association. The South Fork John Day Watershed Council recently expanded their boundaries to the lower half of the South Fork drainage and propose to reactivate and staff the CRMP to increase collaboration and restoration activities in the entire South Fork John Day Basin. Deliverables would include a five-year scope of work plan of restoration projects. This planning will encourage more collaboration and landscape scale watershed restoration projects; better represent all interests in the entire watershed, and form a realistic 5-year plan for prioritization of needed restoration actions.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Focuses on an area that has many natural resource issues that need to be addressed.
- Have strong partners involved.
- Cost-effective; builds on existing plan framework.
- Resulting 5-year plan could help bring in additional funding from non-traditional sources.
- Will help future restoration efforts and pull in an entirely new landowner base in the lower basin.

Concerns:

- NRCS was missing as a partner. Usually that agency plays a large role in CRMP development and implementation.

Concluding Analysis:

The South Fork John Day River Watershed Council is the right organization to pull this together. They have been actively partnering with all agencies originally involved in this CRMP plan. This planning process will also help them with landowner outreach in the lower portion of South Fork John Day River drainage. The state and federal agencies involved have expressed an interest but they do not have staff available for the organizational capacity, although NRCS should be included as a partner.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 12,337.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 12,337.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6063**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Junken's Creek Culvert TA		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$28,196.00**	**Total Cost:**	$38,177.00
Proposed Match:	$9,982.00		

Application Description

This technical assistance application for design will result in a 100% design set for a UTV bridge and stream bed restoration on Junken's Creek, a tributary of Desolation Creek in Grant County. $100,000 has been secured for implementation in 2018, once designs have been approved. Junken's Creek is identified as spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed steelhead and is listed as a high priority for the Umatilla National Forest.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good project to restore passage to both steelhead and bull trout.
- There is guaranteed funding for implementation up to 2018.
- Permitting (ARBO) is complete.
- This stream is in good condition and provides critical habitat during summer flows.

Concerns:

- It is only about one mile to the next culvert that is also a barrier to fish passage.
- Photos submitted with the application were not adequate to demonstrate project need.
- Council staff time seems high for the amount of work proposed.
- The application did not clearly justify the need for a 50' span and did not include a good discussion on alternatives considered.
- The application would have been stronger if it had included information on the timing and use of UTVs on this trail, as well as an analysis of a bridge vs. a rocked ford.
- Currently, the culvert is more of a partial barrier during low-flows; fish are getting above it.

Concluding Analysis:

Removing barriers on steelhead and bull trout streams to access habitat is valuable work. For this project, having secured funding for implementation within a specific timeframe was also a strong consideration. The benefit will be maximized if the upstream barrier is also corrected in the near future. While the photos were not helpful in illustrating the problem, reviewers familiar with the site were able to affirm the need for the project.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Prior to beginning work on the design, a progress report shall be provided to the OWEB project manager with a comprehensive assessment of whether a ford is more appropriate for this site.

Regional Review Team Priority:

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 28,196.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board:

Fund with Conditions. Prior to beginning work on the design, a progress report shall be provided to the OWEB project manager with a comprehensive assessment of whether a ford is more appropriate for this site.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 28,196.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6064**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Lower Grass Valley Canyon Weed Management		
Applicant:	Sherman County Area WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Sherman
OWEB Request:	**$45,760.00**	**Total Cost:**	$59,738.00
Proposed Match:	$13,978.00		

Application Description

This technical assistance application for planning will occur in the Lower Grass Valley drainage in Sherman County. The proposal would survey, treat and document Class A & B invasive and noxious weeds on 9,370 acres of private property. Terrain is steep so all survey will be done on foot. Data collected will include infestation size and species focusing on rangeland in the uplands of the Lower Grass Valley Canyon. CRP, CREP and cropland acres are excluded from proposed acres due to existing weed treatment requirements. The applicant will contract with the Sherman County Weed District to do the field work. Data will be transferred from field GPS units to the SWCD office computers, then analyzed and mapped, noting whether the weeds were treated or not.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The strategic approach to mapping before large-scale treatments was appreciated, as well as the plan to treat isolated sites during inventory with a backpack sprayer.
- Submitting landowner agreements along with the application was helpful.
- There is a definite need to treat weeds in this drainage and it is good that they are working in the Sherman County ODA Focus area.
- The Sherman County Weed District has the knowledge and the equipment so success is likely.

Concerns:

- There was no landowner match for the inventory work, which may affect long-term effectiveness.
- Because it is so low in the watershed, there is less ecological benefit.
- The budget could have used more detail and should not include lump sums.
- It would have been helpful to know what future phases of restoration are planned in this watershed.

Concluding Analysis:

This is a very remote and steep drainage with no lack of invasive weeds. The cropland, CREP and CRP fields are already addressing weed issues, but that leaves a large amount of range and upland untreated. Funding for weed treatments on these sites is hard to acquire, especially if the weeds are not a targeted species. Having this data in an electronic format will help obtain future funding for implementation, as well as inform future restoration projects.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

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Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 45,760.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 45,760.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6065**	**Project Type:**	Technical Assistance
Project Name:	Rock Creek Summer Streamflow		
Applicant:	Gilliam SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Gilliam
OWEB Request:	**$27,692.00**	**Total Cost:**	$45,581.00
Proposed Match:	$17,890.00		

Application Description

This technical assistance application for planning will survey 34.5 miles of Rock Creek, the first fish-bearing tributary on the lower John Day River. Summer flows, water quantity, temperature, summer steelhead abundance, and riparian habitat, including large woody debris, riparian cross-sections, vegetation extent and shade in the wetted reaches, will be inventoried and mapped. The data collected will guide the direction of planned future flow and habitat restoration efforts in Rock Creek, as well as identifying sites for future long-term monitoring.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This proposal was generated from prior review team comments about identifying wetted reaches of Rock Creek relative to proposed restoration activities.
- Rock Creek is an important lower basin John Day steelhead tributary. There is good restoration momentum with all fish passage barriers addressed; now the focus is on enhancing habitat.
- The partners on this project are appropriate.
- The proposal was low-cost and incorporated robust tools and technical aspects that can be replicated on other sites.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if it had provided more detail on monitoring, inventory, and mapping protocols.
- Two years of data may not accurately portray enough information to be useful in the long term, but will help identify future long-term monitoring sites.

Concluding Analysis:

This inventory and baseline gathering of data on wetted reaches of Rock Creek will not only provide locations for continued monitoring, but also serve as a tool for prioritizing habitat enhancement project sites and baselines for effectiveness monitoring after restoration is completed.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

4 of 5

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 27,692.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 27,692.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6066**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	North Fork John Day Bull/Brook Trout eDNA Collection and Analysis		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$7,286.00**	**Total Cost:**	$9,314.00
Proposed Match:	$2,029.00		

Application Description

This rapid bioassessment monitoring proposal is focused on headwater tributaries of the North Fork John Day River in Grant County. Utilizing relatively new technology, known as Environmental DNA or eDNA, the protocol involves collecting and testing water samples for Bull and Brook Trout DNA. The goal of the proposal is to develop or add to the current data set of bull trout and brook trout distribution in the North Fork John Day River basin, while progressively informing watershed management decisions in order to strive for the most efficient conservation practices. Monitoring activities will include recording the presence, absence and distribution of both juvenile and adult species of both Bull and Brook Trout. This proposal would pay for the analysis on samples taken at 39 sites.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- eDNA to determine Bull Trout and Brook Trout distribution is a reasonable use of this technology.
- The applicant is helping the Forest Service collect the data (all sampling sites are on USFS lands) and a reputable Forest Service lab is being used to analyze the water samples.
- The applicant proposes to provide updates on this project on their website as it evolves and to present information at a local workshop once the project is completed.
- The application has a clear objective and reasonable timeline to complete it.

Concerns:

- The application was brief and provided minimal information; the attachments give a better understanding of the project.
- The application referenced both distribution and density. This data will provide fish distribution information, but density is much harder to determine without incorporating a lot of other pieces of information that are not proposed to be collected.
- It wasn't clear if the information collected is going to be used to verify a distribution model or inform model development.
- The application references a range-wide bull trout eDNA project, but it wasn't clear how this proposal would contribute to it.
- There is a local Bull Trout monitoring effort that has been underway for some time and the applicant does not appear to be working with ODFW on this project.

Recommendations:
If funded, the applicant should take the necessary steps to better coordinate this work with ODFW.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (60%), High (40%)

Certainty of Success: Medium (60%), High (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The request of funding was modest.
- This is a great use of new technology.

Concerns:

- The application was unclear on how the 39 locations were chosen for testing and what methodology was used in that selection process.
- The map showed many more sites than the 39 mentioned in the application.
- There was no collaboration on monitoring sites with the local Bull Trout Working Group.
- There was no discussion of coordination with ODFW eDNA monitoring being done around the state.

Concluding Analysis:
Although it was a modest request for funds, there were enough questions related to site selection, the potential duplication of monitoring already being done on bull trout in this area, and the lack of coordination with both the local Bull Trout Working Group and ODFW statewide eDNA efforts that the review team recommended a do not fund.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6067**	**Project Type:** Monitoring	
Project Name:	Lonerock Effectiveness Monitoring		
Applicant:	Gilliam SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:** Gilliam	
OWEB Request:	**$75,224.00**	**Total Cost:** $112,409.00	
Proposed Match:	$37,185.00		

Application Description

This effectiveness monitoring of a restoration project would include habitat, stream and vegetation surveys; juvenile fish abundance surveys; and surface monitoring of flow, temperature and sediment along a reach of Lonerock Creek in SE Gilliam County. One year of baseline data will be gathered prior to the implementation of a large-scale prescribed burn to remove encroaching juniper along Lonerock Creek, followed-up with several years of data to help quantify benefits from this type of landscape scale restoration project.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application had a good explanation of what ODFW would work on and the OPMT has confidence this portion of the project would be successful.
- This is an important restoration action to monitor given the quantity of juniper removal projects considered by OWEB.

Concerns:

- Fish monitoring methods were explained well, but the other monitoring actions did not have a similar level of explanation to understand exactly what they were going to do.
- The grass monitoring that was proposed only included measuring height and did not include species.
- The application did not describe any support from OWRD or DEQ and there was no letter of support from ODFW.
- The requested funding seems low for the amount of work needed to be done to be successful.
- Monitoring design narrative and budget didn't seem to line up with the number of sites they were proposing to monitor.
- It is unclear if the applicant has the experience to collect, manage and summarize all of the data to be collected over a four-year period and synthesized into a meaningful final report.
- The application did not mention monitoring precipitation, which is needed to fully understand the surface and groundwater dynamics.
- One year of pre-project data collection is not enough information to establish baseline hydrologic conditions to evaluate the effects of the restoration actions that are scheduled to be implemented in Fall 2017.

Recommendations:
If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator for technical assistance on water temperature monitoring. ODEQ may be able to provide water temperature loggers for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Medium (100 %)

Certainty of Success: Low (80%), Medium (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This data would help fill a gap on the knowledge of impacts of landscape-scale prescribed burns to reduce and/or control juniper infestation.
- Recording new flow data and compiling the 15 years of historic flow data for this stream would be beneficial even beyond this monitoring project.
- Prescribed burning as an economical control and maintenance of juniper encroachment are becoming more acceptable.
- The fish monitoring protocols were clearly explained.

Concerns:

- There was some concern about only having one year of pre-treatment data; however, the review team concluded that this type of differential model of monitoring mitigates the concern about short-term data sets.
- There was concern that the data would not factor in wet/dry years.
- The application did not clearly explain how precipitation data would be integrated into monitoring analysis; a precipitation gauge should be installed at the control site.
- The application alluded to how juniper removal affects juvenile steelhead abundance numbers, but did not provide reference or citations to any such studies.
- It wasn't clear if the methodology would be able to be replicated in other prescribed burn project areas or how the resulting information would be shared.

Concluding Analysis:
This data would be helpful since prescribed burns are becoming more frequent in controlling juniper encroachment and there is a dearth of available information related to impacts on adjacent streams. There was high confidence in ODFW's fish monitoring protocols but the review team wanted assurance that the grantee will seek appropriate expertise in implementing other monitoring protocols related to flow, temperature and precipitation.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff:

Fund with Conditions. To facilitate transferability of the data, the final report shall include a white paper summarizing the results; the white paper shall be distributed to OSU Extension, the Juniper Alliance, the John Day Basin Partnership, and at the BPA Coordination Meeting.

Regional Review Team Priority:

2 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 75,224.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund with Conditions. To facilitate transferability of the data, the final report shall include a white paper summarizing the results; the white paper shall be distributed to OSU Extension, the Juniper Alliance, the John Day Basin Partnership, and at the BPA Coordination Meeting. The grantee shall coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator for technical assistance on water temperature monitoring protocols.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 75,224.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6068**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Cottonwood Creek Steelhead and Stream Temperature Monitoring		
Applicant:	Monument SWCD		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$139,324.00**	**Total Cost:**	$198,794.00
Proposed Match:	$57,910.00		

Application Description

This status and trend monitoring proposal will collect baseline physical and biological data currently lacking in Cottonwood Creek, a significant tributary of the North Fork John Day River near the town of Monument in Grant County. This project will provide baseline data on juvenile steelhead, stream temperatures and stream discharge in Lower Cottonwood Creek. The initial monitoring results will identify current abundance, survival, and growth rates of juvenile steelhead, and provide baseline data on stream temperature and discharge. The data gathered will be used to develop a stream temperature forecasting model and assess the success of future restorations actions within the watershed. The intent is that successful implementation of this monitoring effort will lead to a *Cottonwood Action to Stabilize Temperature* (CAST) project, similar to the successful model FAST, used on Fifteenmile Creek in Wasco County.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The OPMT liked that the applicant is following a similar approach that has had success and is applying it to another basin that has a similar need.
- The applicant is working with relevant partners including ODFW, The Freshwater Trust (TFT) and Sustainable Northwest (SNW) to receive support and perform the monitoring.
- The OPMT liked that the applicant is taking a proactive approach to addressing competing needs for streamflow during low-flow periods.
- The model that is being developed will allow the stakeholders to balance irrigation needs and provide instream flows for fish.
- The OPMT liked that the applicant will submit a TA application next grant cycle to engage landowners in preparation for monitoring and implementing conservation actions.

Concerns:

- Due to the current lack of buy-in by some landowners, it is unclear if landowners will be receptive to curtailing water use after the model is developed.
- There were no letters of support from ODFW, TFT or SNW.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)

Certainty of Success: High (80%), Medium (20%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This monitoring project will result in the design of a program that will help assure sufficient flow during critical times for steelhead.
- Cottonwood is important habitat for steelhead spawning and rearing.
- The project is based on a successful model and could be replicated on other John Day Basin streams.
- Proactively addressing the issue was a noted strength, rather than waiting for regulatory reaction to a fish kill.
- Appropriate and strong partnerships were involved.
- The project includes installing a fixed-flow gauge..
- Good to begin acquiring fish data on this tributary, filling a noted gap in the data.

Concerns:

- There was some concern about the number of willing landowners to participate in the resulting program.
- The application would have been stronger with letters of support from partners and landowners associated with monitoring sites.

Concluding Analysis:
Cottonwood Creek is an important tributary of the North Fork John Day River but has little fish and water quality data. This monitoring will not only begin to fill that data gap but will also provide the necessary information for developing a stream temperature forecasting model to be used to balance irrigation needs and flows for fish.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 2

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 139,324.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board:

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 139,324.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6069**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Upper Middle Fork Allotment Monitoring		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$84,496.00**	**Total Cost:**	$157,228.00
Proposed Match:	$72,733.00		

Application Description

This status and trend monitoring proposal would produce real-time data to help inform grazing management decisions for three Malheur National Forest permittees on allotments on the upper Middle Fork John Day Basin using Land EKG™ software. Sampling data would be entered on a field computer and include 100' and 200' line-transacts, forage hoop measurements, photo points, and narrative detailing conditions. Parameters assessed during transect measurements and plot visits include: surface cover percentages, plant/organism inventories, ecosystem process indicators, precipitation tracking, grazing tracking, and forage production. Data would be uploaded to the Land EKG website and made available to land managers.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This monitoring will provide additional information to the permitee on the condition of the allotment after the grazing is completed.
- Information will be uploaded to a website and available to the permitee and public.
- The permitee(s) appear to be supportive and receptive to additional information to contribute to adaptive management of their grazing on public lands.

Concerns:

- There are no letters of support or in-kind match from the Forest Service, and it is unclear how much the applicant has coordinated with them prior to submitting this application.
- This application seems to seek funding to gather information to respond to regulation and/or litigation, rather than focusing on providing information about how the grazing impacts are affecting riparian areas adjacent to sensitive fish species habitat.
- The proposed project will only pay for one year of monitoring and will include training that takes place in Wyoming.
- There appears to be little/no engagement by the full suite of parties involved in grazing issues, which may limit the project's ability to contribute to the dialogue on this important issue.
- The monitoring schedule will provide information on grazing impacts after summer grazing is complete and during the fall, after recovery begins. However, seasonality may result in recovery not occurring in the fall and, thus, may not be a good comparison.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: Low (100%)

Certainty of Success: Low (75%), Medium (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Understanding how uplands are impacted by grazing is important information to have both from the agency and permittee perspective.
- The EKG software appeared to be a strong tool for the permitee to manage forage resources.

Concerns:

- The requested amount for one-year monitoring seemed high; one year of data wouldn't provide much information; and the application didn't explain how future monitoring would be funded.
- The number of acres to be monitored seems exaggerated and there was some confusion between the timeline mentioned in the narrative and the project schedule and budget.
- There was no letter of support from the Malheur National Forest and there were concerns there had not been enough coordination with the appropriate USFS department.
- The application did not identify the proposed monitoring sites.
- The resulting data may not be made readily available to the public.
- The application alluded to this data being important for ongoing defense of public lands grazing.
- The application mentioned monitoring being done in riparian areas, but the EKG model seems to focus entirely on the uplands.

Concluding Analysis:

Monitoring on public lands is valuable, but it must be done in conjunction with the USFS. The application would have been stronger with more detail on monitoring sites, coordination with existing monitoring done by the USFS, and some information on how this program will continue into the future.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6070**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Upper Walla Walla Watershed Hydrology Assessment		
Applicant:	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation		
Basin:	UMATILLA	**County:**	Umatilla
OWEB Request:	**$58,469.00**	**Total Cost:**	$98,764.00
Proposed Match:	$40,296.00		

Application Description

This status and trend monitoring project will collect and analyze data on water quantity, temperature and pH of both surface and ground water in the upper South Fork of the Walla Walla River in Umatilla County near the town of Milton Freewater. The data will establish baseline conditions for the location and flow of spring inputs to better understand the upper watershed's hydrology. The assessment will also investigate the correlation between precipitation and spring flows; potential climate change impacts; and current forest management practices in the surrounding headwater timberland. Data will be cataloged, mapped and reside in a geodatabase to be shared with monitoring partners and management agencies, resulting in better and adaptive management of the upper watershed to preserve and/or improve critical cold water spring flows to the Walla Walla River.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- The application proposes to collect data on declining stream flows in a tributary to the Middle Columbia River, which is timely given recent drought conditions.
- The applicant has a lot of experience with installing gages, collecting streamflow data and analyzing it.
- The applicant has the necessary software to manage the time-series data they propose to collect (i.e., water temperature and stage height).

Concerns:

- The applicant did not describe how gaging the South Fork Walla Walla River and its tributaries will identify and characterize the flow of springs in the SF Walla Walla River basin. Are these large springs or small springs spread across the watershed? Do they plan to perform walking surveys to identify springs that are contributing flow?
- The application did not describe participation with state agencies or local organizations, and there were no letters of support.
- The rationale for the project was not clear, and does not appear to be part of an existing strategic plan.
- The objective to evaluate past forest management actions using the data they want to collect over two years does not seem reasonable.
- The application does not describe the methods to collect the data.

Recommendations:
If funded, coordinate with ODEQ's Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Coordinator on technical assistance with water temperature monitoring, and OWRD for streamflow monitoring to develop a Sampling and Analysis Plan. ODEQ may be able to provide water temperature loggers for this project.

Benefit to Oregon Plan*:* Medium (75%), High (25%)
Certainty of Success: Medium (75%), Low (25%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good to have hydrology information from the headwaters of this watershed.
- Successful team with monitoring expertise on staff.
- Identifies a major data gap in the South Fork Walla Walla River.
- Having long-term relational data sets of spring flows and precipitation could be useful in climate change modeling.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if the hypothesis of the correlation between forest practices, flows and precipitation had been better described, as well as a better explanation of how this information would be used.
- More information on scale, location and type of proposed timber management activities in the headwaters occurring during the life of this project would have been helpful.
- There was concern a two-year study would not provide enough data.
- The application would have been stronger with letters of support from state/federal agencies or other entities interested in this information.

Concluding Analysis:
This watershed council has an exemplary record for monitoring both surface and ground water and has been doing aquifer recharge in the Walla Walla basin for almost 20 years; however, the application left too many unanswered questions to recommend funding at this time.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to the Board
Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6071**	**Project Type:**	Monitoring
Project Name:	Long-term Ecological Effects of Passive vs. Active Restoration in the MF John Day		
Applicant:	Confed Tribes Warm Springs		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$193,203.00**	**Total Cost:**	$266,040.00
Proposed Match:	**$117,429.00**		

Application Description

This landscape scale effectiveness monitoring proposal is located on the Middle Fork of the John Day River in Grant County. The goal of this proposal is to provide a long-term assessment of stream and riparian response to passive and combination (passive + active) restoration strategies. Utilizing 1995-2000 baseline data, sites will be replicated for vegetation surveys done on both floodplain and riparian zones and include data acquisition of canopy cover, percent cover, percent shade, stem density and species diversity, as well as stream surveys noting channel longitudinal profile surveys, bed material sampling, and habitat unit mapping. This project will produce a user-friendly database/geodatabase containing past datasets from MFJDR, modernized and digitized as necessary and organized using best data management practices, ready for use in analysis. In addition, a data dictionary will be created, listing and briefly describing datasets. The 57-kilometer reach of the Middle Fork John Day River identified as the monitored reach has had and continues to have extensive active and passive restoration, since the initial datasets were created.

REVIEW PROCESS

Oregon Plan Monitoring Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This project will repeat monitoring that occurred in the 1990s to evaluate the impacts of active vs. passive vegetation.
- The applicant is coordinating with the universities and professors that did the initial monitoring.
- The OPMT believes the information this project would produce is very important given the amount of restoration actions that have been implemented in this basin.
- The methods were well described, and the approach to meet the proposed objectives is solid.
- The application was well written and there is sufficient amount of match being contributed to this project.

Concerns:

- It was not clear how the project would tease out the difference of the active and passive restoration actions, given that they have occurred at different periods of time and the planting projects are not mature.
- The budget includes time to write a peer-reviewed journal article, yet there is uncertainty if that will actually happen after the monitoring is completed.
- The budget and administrative costs are high.

- There is too much variability in the temporal, spatial and condition of restoration activities to get a clear signal. There will be differences in every stream and every site and every time.
- Not sure the outcomes will be transportable to other locations or situations.

Benefit to Oregon Plan: High (100%)

Certainty of Success: High (60%), Medium (40%)

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Good information to have with a long-term data set. It is rare to have that much historic and repeatable data and known sites.
- It was a well-written application.
- The right parties were involved.

Concerns:

- The application would have been stronger if it had provided better defined study objectives.
- There were concerns on the stated goal of comparing passive vs active restoration techniques without more detail on how that would be done.
- The varying timeframes of passive and active restoration actions at different locations could be a confounding factor.
- A lot of the active restoration has not had enough time to show results.

Concluding Analysis:

Overall the team liked this proposal and saw this as a unique opportunity to integrate monitoring with available long-term data sets. However, enough concerns and questions about comparing active to passive restoration were expressed that the review team recommended it as a do not fund. The review team would welcome the proposal as a resubmit; but suggested using a simpler concept of comparing two data sets and not attempt any inferences about the type or technique that were done. Passive and active techniques are often done in different locations with different needs, objectives and constraints. Often, both techniques are used on the same site, so teasing them apart and making comparisons would seem to be problematic.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation to Board

Do Not Fund

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6072**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Umatilla County Online Rural Living Handbook		
Applicant:	Umatilla Basin WC		
Basin:	UMATILLA	**County:**	Umatilla
OWEB Request:	**$11,924.00**	**Total Cost:**	$17,774.00
Proposed Match:	$5,850.00		

Application Description

The components of this Umatilla County community outreach proposal serve to engage residents in activities and opportunities to protect, restore or monitor native fish or wildlife habitats and improve water quality or stream flow by increasing awareness of local technical expertise, vital natural resource concerns and problems they may face living in a rural residential area through an online *Rural Living Handbook*, to be accessible on the existing Umatilla Basin Watershed Council website. Information will be available in both English and Spanish to serve populations in Umatilla County. The website would be annually updated and locally advertised to maximize exposure and usage. Hardcopies of the handbook will be made available upon request and in local libraries, SWCD, OSU extension and the watershed council office.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- Great idea – would like to see this replicated in other counties.
- The table of contents page example was well thought out and a comprehensive collection of good information and contacts.
- Would be a good resource for new residents.
- Liked having it bilingual to serve the Hispanic population.
- Marketing strategy seemed strong.

Concerns:

- Having minimal printed copies available was a concern. Not all residents are comfortable with electronic media and having printed copies for those populations would be a good idea.

Concluding Analysis:

The review team liked this concept and their only real concern was that there wasn't enough money in the budget for printed copies. After some discussion, it was recommended to increase by $1,000 to provide additional funding to resolve that concern.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions. Increase budget by $1,000 to increase number of printed copies.

Regional Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 12,924.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line.

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 0.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6073**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	Grant County Youth in Restoration Phase III		
Applicant:	North Fork John Day WC		
Basin:	JOHN DAY	**County:**	Grant
OWEB Request:	**$28,000.00**	**Total Cost:**	$79,071.00
Proposed Match:	$27,471.00		

Application Description

This outreach proposal will be implemented across Grant County and incorporates a two-part program: one is held during the school year and provides students with outdoor classroom activities related to restoration and natural resource subjects, and the second subsidizes the Oregon Youth Conservation Corp (OYCC) summer program providing youth of Grant County employment in restoration related projects and educational opportunities related to those projects. Target audiences for the school year program include 50 junior and senior high school students from five schools across Grant County. For the summer program, the goal is to engage more students than last year's 60-member youth crews. Restoration work covers a broad range of activities.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This is a continuing and successful program in Grant County.
- Important to employ rural youth, especially in the natural resource and conservation fields.
- Crew leaders play a big role in the level of crew productivity.
- Can lead to more rural students following a natural resource career path.

Concerns:

- Limitations to what the crews can do; younger ages are limited by skill and focus.
- Given the lower quality and amount of work completed, it can increase the cost of restoration projects.
- It was challenging to the weigh the cost/benefit of the project in terms of balancing increased costs vs. experience for rural youth.
- The application would have been stronger with more explanation in the budget related to crew time, how kids cycle through, etc.

Concluding Analysis:

There was consensus that introducing rural youth to conservation work will reap huge benefits on a social level. Reviewers knew natural resource professionals that began their career path when they were in similar programs. While the level of competency of the crews on restoration projects can sometimes increase costs of implementation and effect project success, the team recommended it for funding due to the long-term benefits gained from rural youth actively participating in watershed restoration.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

2 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 28,000.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 28,000.00

November 1, 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Mid Columbia Review Team (Region 6)

Application No.:	**217-6074**	**Project Type:**	Outreach
Project Name:	STELLAR Watershed Education and Community Outreach		
Applicant:	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation		
Basin:	UMATILLA	**County:**	Umatilla
OWEB Request:	**$28,231.00**	**Total Cost:**	$57,843.00
Proposed Match:	$29,613.00		

Application Description

This outreach proposal targets 100+ adults and 800+ youth from the Milton Freewater area in NE Umatilla County. The long-established STELLAR program continues to instill a growing awareness within the community of local water conservation improvements, watershed restoration projects, fish passage and flood control projects, and the impact of those projects on local landowners and the public. Project components that impact both adult and youth include submitting newspaper articles, utilizing social media, presenting to various citizen groups, hosting booths at community events, hosting project tours and a public restoration activity. For the youth portion of the program, about 800 4th through 12th grade students will participate in enhanced classroom learning on important concepts of watershed composition and management through field trips and hands-on activities demonstrating the uniqueness and value of the watershed they live in, including six different student activities: Fish Eggs to Fry, Watershed Field Days, Wildlife Habitat Field Day, Hydromania Summer Day Camp, Leidall Outdoor Lab and Wonderful World of the Watershed. A majority of the school population is Latino and many parents affirmed that the watershed knowledge children gain is also shared with other family members, helping to spread restoration outreach across the community.

REVIEW PROCESS

Regional Review Team Evaluation

Strengths:

- This is a solid, on-going program with 20 years of proven track record and trust in the community.
- Good match, solid partners and reaches a diverse population.
- Broad base of programs focused on watershed issues.
- Has expanded their partners and funding base for program sustainability.

Concerns:

- There were no concerns.

Concluding Analysis:

This program has been continuously running for the last 20 years and has developed an effective program of both adult and youth outreach. STELLAR's multiple programs are kept running with a relatively low budget, a lot of volunteers and without impairing the quality of their outreach.

Regional Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Regional Review Team Priority

1 of 3

Distribution of Recommended Award Amounts

Recommended Amount
$ 28,231.00

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Fund

Staff Recommended Award

Recommended Amount
$ 28,231.00

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Hulst, Acquisitions Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P– October 2016 Land Acquisition Grant Cycle Awards
April 25-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the October 18, 2016 land acquisition grant cycle and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards for the cycle.

II. Land Acquisitions – October 2016 Cycle Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The October 2016 grant cycle is the second of two annual land acquisition grant cycles for the 2015-2017 biennium. Approximately $4.3 million of the land and water acquisition budget is available for land acquisitions for this grant cycle.

Four land acquisition grant applications were received this grant cycle, requesting approximately $1.5 million. The applications are summarized in Attachment A. Information contained in the attachment is further described in Section II.B of this staff report and in the application evaluations that are included as Attachment B.

Applications 217-9901, 217-9902, and 217-9903 are recommended for funding with conditions. Application 217-9904 is not recommended for funding.

B. Review Process

The land acquisition applications were reviewed in accordance with the process adopted by the board at its January 2013 meeting and refined by the board in 2015. The process evaluates ecological outcomes, project soundness, organizational capacity, and community benefits and impacts. It also includes submission of public comment by interested parties.

Site visits were conducted by staff and teams of ecological reviewers consisting of subject matter experts selected by the applicant and chosen by staff from Regional Review Teams. Each ecological reviewer completed a project evaluation form, and the input of all ecological reviewers was summarized by staff.

Project soundness reviews were conducted by a team consisting of staff, the land acquisition program's due-diligence technical assistance contractor, and the Oregon Department of Justice. The reviews included identifying project soundness concerns, which were described in terms of yellow and red flags. A yellow-flag concern is a matter that reviewers think is likely resolvable in the 18-month timeframe allowed for closing transactions after the board awards funding. A red-flag concern is a matter that reviewers think is insurmountable in the granting timeframe.

Staff and the due-diligence contractor reviewed organizational capacity and community benefits and impacts. Public comment was solicited through notices and a public hearing held by staff for each of the applications received this cycle.

Staff summarized the review outcomes, including yellow and red flags, and scores for each project, calculated from specific sections of the grant application. The process by which projects were scored was described in advance to applicants. After evaluations were completed, they were provided to the applicants.

Using the revised review process approved by the board in 2015, the board Land Acquisition Subcommittee met with staff during the evaluation process for the October 2016 applications. The purpose of the meeting was for subcommittee members to understand the content of the applications and the information used for evaluation that was gathered up to the time of the meeting, and to ask for additional information to help the Board make sound funding decisions.

III. Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend the board award funding for land acquisition grants as specified in Attachment A, with the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C. The grant requests total $1,021,720.

Attachments

Attachment A: Summary of Land Acquisition Applications and Recommended Awards, October 2016 Grant Cycle
Attachment B: Land Acquisition Project Evaluations
Attachment C: Project-specific Conditions (to be provided at the April Board meeting)

ATTACHMENT A

Land Acquisition Applications
October 18, 2016 Grant Cycle

Staff Do-Fund Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray						
Application #	**Region**	**Project Name**	**Total OWEB Request**	**Total Amount Recommended**	**Score***	**Flags°**
217-9901	1	Botts Marsh^	161,685	181,685	55	yellow
217-9902	1	Ecola Creek Wetlands^	189,240	189,240	51	yellow
217-9903	6	Canyon Creek Ranch Conservation Easement^	600,795	650,795	42	yellow-red
217-9904	1	North Fork Siuslaw	500,675		29	yellow
Total Land Acquisition Applications Submitted in the October 2016 Cycle for OWEB Funding			**$1,452,395**			
Total OWEB Funding Recommended				**$1,021,720**		

* 60 Possible Points

° Flags Are Explained in the Project Evaluation:
Yellow: concerning but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe
Red: insurmountable in OWEB's granting timeframe

^ Fund as Specified in the Project Evaluation

October 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Land Acquisition Application

Application No.:	217-9903		
Project Name:	Canyon Creek Ranch Conservation Easement		
Applicant:	Northwest Rangeland Trust	**Region:**	Mid-Columbia
Basin:	John Day	**County:**	Wheeler
OWEB Request:	**$**600,795.00	**Total Cost:**	**$2,246,826.00**

Application Description

Northwest Rangeland Trust (NWRT) is requesting funds for the purchase of a working lands conservation easement on a 6,785-acre ranch property in Wheeler County, near Mitchell. The property includes stream, riparian, floodplain, and upland areas. The property's streams are tributaries of the John Day River. The application states that the property has been the subject of restoration work for 15 years, and that the conservation easement will protect the restoration efforts for the benefit of steelhead, a conservation priority. The application is a revised resubmission of Application No. 216-9902 submitted by Blue Mountains Conservancy in October 2015.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that significant progress appears to have been made on certain due diligence items that raised concerns during the evaluation of the previous application. The current application indicates that the project partners have completed a phase 1 environmental site assessment, obtained an updated title report, completed an appraisal, addressed mineral rights issues, and clarified the relationship between the life estate and remainder estate owners of the property.

Reviewers were pleased to see that the previously identified mineral rights issue appears to have been resolved through the ORS 517.180 extinguishment process, although the results of the effort must be verified by the title company's willingness to remove the mineral rights exceptions from the preliminary title report for the property.

Reviewers previously raised concerns about the lack of confirmed project coordination between the seller of the conservation easement (a life tenant on the property) and the holder of the vested remainder interest, both of whom must sign the conservation easement. The life tenant and holder of the vested remainder interest now appear to have reached an agreement on working together on the project, and both also appear to be satisfied with the results of an appraisal that was completed for the conservation easement. Given the timeframe for completion of the project and the appraisal requirements of other funding partners, OWEB will review an updated appraisal rather than the appraisal that was submitted with the application, if the Board awards funds for the project.

Reviewers noted that title work remains to be done for the property, including confirming that the property's access is sufficient for future restoration and monitoring and enforcing the conservation easement, including ecological monitoring that is necessary to track the property's conservation values and inform management of the property over time. Reviewers also noted that the title includes exceptions related to timber cutting rights, water rights matters, various easements and

interests, and trust deeds which require examination as part of due diligence. The exceptions may potentially require removal from the title if they are determined to pose a risk to the project's intended conservation outcomes.

Reviewers also noted that the transaction, as described, will result in a conservation easement that protects resources that appear to be currently protected in some fashion by the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP). The interplay between the CREP program's requirements and protections and the conservation easement's terms and conditions would need to be examined and clarified, and addressed as appropriate.

Reviewers noted that although the language in the current draft conservation easement is much clearer than the language in the conservation easement submitted with the previous application, the current easement emphasizes agricultural uses over protection of the property's conservation values, despite the life tenant's and funding partners' apparent desire to protect the property's restored conditions from the potential effects of agricultural use. Revisions would be needed in the conservation easement to: (i) ensure that the easement's primary purpose is protection of the property's conservation values; (ii) clearly define the conservation value zones depicted on the Land Use Protection Map submitted with the application, with the zones derived from GIS-based boundaries included in a baseline report; (iii) clearly define uses that are allowed or prohibited in the zones; (iv) describe the ecological performance goals associated with the zones; and (v) incorporate standard OWEB-required easement provisions. The conservation easement would also need to be revised to include language that specifically addresses the relationship between the life estate, remainder estate, and conservation easement over time. The easement would need to state that the holder of the vested remainder interest will be the fully vested owner of the property at some future date and intends to sell the property subject to strict compliance with the terms and conditions of the conservation easement. OWEB would complete an exhaustive review of the conservation easement if the Board opts to award funds for the project, with such review possibly identifying additional items for revision.

Reviewers stated the property's yearly grazing lease should be reviewed by OWEB before being renewed, and should contain specific mention of the life tenant's plans to encumber the property with a conservation easement and that all grazing will be required to be consistent with the conservation easement.

Lastly, reviewers felt that the soundness of the project is in question due to capacity concerns regarding NWRT (see Organizational Capacity, below). Capacity issues could present challenges in completing the transaction in OWEB's 18-month granting timeframe, particularly in coordinating the seven parties that are anticipated to play roles in approving the easement. The Board should consider providing financial assistance to NWRT for hiring one or two independent contractors to complete the conservation easement and associated management plan, and other due diligence required for a successful transaction. NWRT's capacity issues also present risks to the long-term outcomes of the project, including the effectiveness of long-term monitoring and enforcement of the conservation easement.

Ecological Outcomes

The application states that the project will permanently protect habitat for fish and wildlife, including 3.1 miles of habitat for ESA-listed summer steelhead, and guide management of the property to improve ecological processes and function for range, riparian, and stream systems. The application also states that the project will protect landscape connectivity and a large, intact area.

The application states that the two most significant threats facing the property are subdivision and degradation of recent ecological improvements. Although the application states that protection of the property's uplands will benefit terrestrial species, no OWEB priority upland species are cited in the application.

The current life tenant bought the property in 2000, stopped grazing which had badly damaged the property, and began working with Wheeler County Soil and Water Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) to restore the property's degraded ecological systems. Since 2000, the project partners have enrolled all of the property's eligible streams in CREP, addressed fish passage and fish-friendly water diversions, removed juniper and managed weeds in upland areas, and recently introduced light upland grazing for rangeland health.

Reviewers noted that the Bridge Creek Watershed, in which the property is located, is ranked high for protection and restoration activities in the Mid-Columbia River Steelhead Recovery Plan. The reviewers stated that the application presents an opportunity to demonstrate a working lands easement on a large, relatively intact property, and that without the conservation easement, the ecological investments made by the life tenant and funding partners could be threatened.

The reviewers agreed that the property has been well stewarded under the current life tenant and there have been significant investments in restoration activities on the property to date. Reviewers noted that additional work, including improving in-stream structure and floodplain connectivity and natural fluvial processes, and combatting juniper encroachment and weeds in the uplands, is needed in order for the property to more fully recover from the previous ecological degradation. Reviewers noted that in order to have successful project outcomes, it is critically important that grazing and invasive species are addressed and managed appropriately.

Reviewers felt that the draft management plan submitted with the application is an improvement over the plan submitted with the previous application. Although the management plan includes substantive information, it will need additional revisions to meet OWEB guidelines for management plans and ensure that the goals of the project are met. Examples of revisions include but aren't limited to developing ecological performance goals; developing grazing, restoration, and monitoring plans with actions that specifically relate to achieving and tracking the ecological performance goals; clearly referencing maps within the text; and including actions for analyzing monitoring data and incorporating it into management plan updates. Further, the baseline information in the management plan will be relatively old by the time of any easement purchase, and will need to be updated. Finally, reviewers stated that the final management plan should specify the Mid-Columbia River Steelhead Action Plan tasks (by identification number) that have been addressed by previous restoration efforts and those that will be addressed by the actions contained in the management plan.

Reviewers noted that the application does not state, but should be clear, that NWRT will be responsible for management plan updates, including interpretation and incorporation of monitoring data to inform adaptive management. Further, reviewers felt that ecological monitoring is needed for the property's uplands, in addition to the riparian areas, to ensure that ecological performance goals are being met. Finally, reviewers stated that the conservation easement requires revisions to protect the property's ecological improvements as the life tenant and funding partners intend.

- Needs and opportunities: 13 points awarded out of 15 possible points

- Results and Benefits: 18 points awarded out of 25 possible points
- Conditions and Function: 7 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application states that the project will demonstrate sustainable land management practices to the community. The property will continue to be privately owned and on the Wheeler County tax roll. The application also states that the project will provide jobs to local contractors that will be hired for restoration work on the property, and that the project's beneficial effects on the property's creeks will result in healthier steelhead populations and improved recreational opportunities in the John Day River watershed. The application also states that outdoor educational opportunities will be available to the local school district for annual fieldtrips. Finally, the application states that the project is part of a regional conservation project to improve water quantity and quality in the John Day River watershed, and that the regional effort is expected to result in an economic stimulus of approximately $2.7 million. It is not clear how much of the economic stimulus would be attributable to the conservation easement project.

Organizational Capacity

Reviewers felt that although NWRT's mission is well matched with preventing the property from being subdivided or converted to other uses, it is unclear how the application's stated ecological outcomes align with NWRT's mission, expertise, draft conservation easement, and project selection and prioritization process.

Reviewers noted that it appears NWRT is a very small organization with limited in-house capacity and financial resources, and one part-time staff person, the executive director. NWRT does not appear to follow financial policies and procedures recommended for land trusts, such as external audits of financial records, and it does not appear that NWRT has assets invested for generating stewardship funds. Further, it does not appear that NWRT regularly receives operating grants or other financial assistance, and it appears that significant reliance will be placed on NWRT's volunteer board members, as well as staff from partner organizations, such as CTWS and NRCS. Given its limited capacity, it is unclear how NWRT will pay for the project's necessary ecological monitoring, or enforcement actions if they become necessary. The Board should consider requiring NWRT to purchase conservation land defense insurance to ensure that NWRT has resources to address any enforcement matters that arise before NWRT receives funds from a sale of the property as described in the application.

In OWEB's experience, working lands conservation easements designed to protect specific conservation values are complex projects that require significant and sustained ecological and real property expertise and organizational capacity for successful implementation. A key short-term component of this project would be agreement among seven parties on the final form of the conservation easement. The draft easement, while clearer than the version submitted with the previous application, does not adequately address OWEB conservation easement requirements and does not align with the landowner's stated desire to protect the restoration outcomes achieved on the property to date. The application implies that final easement negotiations will be left to an unknown negotiation contractor.

Reviewers felt that although the project's apparent team approach has strengths, it is important to consider whether or not NWRT has the base capacity to monitor and enforce the conservation easement and coordinate management plan implementation without the assistance of others, because such work cannot reasonably be expected to be performed by NRCS or other funding

entities in perpetuity. Based on information in the application, it appears that NWRT does not have the capacity necessary for OWEB to be reasonably confident of successful long-term project outcomes. In light of this, reviewers suggested that if the project is a funding priority for the OWEB Board, then staff should include specific language in the conservation easement that allows for a subsequent transfer of the easement to another qualified conservation organization, although there is not currently an organization qualified and ready to accept the conservation easement. Reviewers also suggested that a memorandum of understanding among the project partners could be helpful in establishing roles, documenting commitments of assistance, and coordinating partner efforts for at least the short-term, if the Board opts to fund the project.

- 4 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Public Review

No members of the public attended the hearing OWEB staff held for the proposed acquisition on January 20, 2017 at the City of Mitchell Community Hall. Had the public attended, the hearing would have focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project.

Summary

Total Score: 42 points awarded out of 60 possible points. While reviewers appreciated that good efforts have been made on various due diligence items since the previous application, reviewers felt that NWRT did not demonstrate the organizational capacity, including staffing and financial resources and technical expertise, necessary to appropriately administer public funds to established standards, effectively monitor and enforce the working lands easement the partners intend, and effectively partner on property stewardship and management activities in the long-term. Reviewers did not feel that NWRT's mission, expertise, and capacity are consistent with the expert, high-functioning organizational structure and resources that OWEB has found are necessary for working lands conservation easement projects to succeed in meeting the purpose and goals of OWEB's land acquisition program over time. Reviewers felt that NWRT's capacity issues would make it difficult for NWRT to lead in meeting OWEB's requirements in the grant period, including complex easement negotiations and coordination of the project partners, and could present a significant risk to the success of an OWEB investment in the long-term.

Reviewers determined that the purpose and form of NWRT's easement and its inconsistencies with the application's stated goals and the purpose and goals of OWEB's land acquisition program is a yellow flag (concerning, but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe) bordering on a red flag (insurmountable in OWEB's granting timeframe).

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award NWRT $600,795 plus $50,000 for project-specific capacity assistance, for a total grant of $650,795, in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with NWRT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2017 meeting.

October 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Land Acquisition Application

Application No.:	217-9902		
Project Name:	Ecola Creek Wetlands		
Applicant:	City of Cannon Beach	**Region:**	North Coast
Basin:	North Coast	**County:**	Clatsop
OWEB Request:	**$**189,240.00	**Total Cost:**	**$371,929.00***

*Match funds requested from U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Coastal Wetlands Program

Application Description

The City of Cannon Beach (the City) is requesting funds for the purchase of a 28-acre property in Clatsop County's Ecola Creek watershed. The property is adjacent to the City's existing 1,040-acre Ecola Creek Forest Reserve (ECFR). The application states that the property contains forested wetlands and approximately 3,000 linear feet of streams. The application also states that the property's wetlands are part of a 278-acre palustrine wetland, of which 185 acres are already protected within the ECFR. The City proposes permanent protection of the property to preclude future development, restore hydrologic connectivity throughout the wetlands, and accelerate future large woody debris recruitment to streams. Upon acquisition of the property, the City intends to remove the remains of a derelict culvert and portions of a remnant logging road, and plant trees. The application states that protection of the property will benefit OWEB priority species such as coho salmon and steelhead.

The City intends to match the requested Lottery funds with a grant OWEB requested from the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant program (Coastal Wetlands), which is administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). OWEB applied for the Coastal Wetlands funds specifically for the City's use. OWEB staff were notified by USFWS that OWEB will receive a federal award letter for the funds after OWEB and the City complete certain paperwork necessary to receive the letter. Using the newly established process for Coastal Wetland grants, the Coastal Wetlands funds will be accepted only if the Board formally approves the project and accepts receipt of the funds.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that although the proposed transaction appears to be relatively straightforward, the City has not initiated actions that demonstrate the likelihood of acquisition success. Specifically, the City has not established an agreed-upon purchase price with the seller, or legal and sufficient access. The lack of a negotiated purchase price is potentially significant because the City has to date relied on the Clatsop County Assessor's estimate of the property's value in communications with the seller. County Assessor estimates of property value are typically not a reliable indicator of fair market value. In addition, the City's lack of a formal agreement with the neighboring landowner for access implies that the restoration outcomes cannot be assured for this project at this time.

Reviewers recommended that if the Board opts to award funds for the project, the City prioritize the execution of a binding purchase and sale agreement and demonstration of legal and sufficient access to the property. Reviewers also noted that the City would need to ensure that the property's vesting is clear, and that items related to a deed of trust are removed from the title upon purchase of the property by the City.

Reviewers noted that environmental contamination may also impact the soundness of the project. Although historic uses of the property are not likely to have resulted in contamination of the property, nearby waste water treatment ponds appear to have impacted other lands in the vicinity, and may have affected the property. The City has budgeted for phase 1 and 2 environmental site assessments to address this possibility. The environmental site assessment contractor should be instructed to give careful consideration to contamination issues, known and unknown, associated with the treatment ponds.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers expressed mixed opinions about the ecological merits of the project. Overall, positive opinions outweighed negative opinions.

Reviewers who were supportive of the project stated that: (i) the project is a good opportunity to protect ecological connectivity between the property's forested wetlands and the wetlands on the adjacent ECFR; (ii) the project moves the Ecola Creek watershed toward whole-watershed protection, which is rare on the north coast; (iii) acquisition of the property will protect its mature trees, which are at risk of being harvested if the property is not conserved; (iv) the property is located in an important transition zone between tidal wetlands and the ECFR, and that such transition zones afford valuable habitat to salmon; and (v) acquisition of the property is necessary for addressing the logging road spur and culvert debris on the property, thereby enhancing habitat for fish.

On the other hand, reviewers stated that: (i) the impacts of the road spur and culvert debris are minimal and therefore the proposed restoration is not likely to have significant benefits; (ii) the City will need to maintain the trees it intends to plant, including clearing competing vegetation from around the new plantings for up to three years; (iii) given the small relative size of the Ecola Creek watershed and the fact that its coho population is a dependent population, the project is unlikely to contribute significantly to coho recovery; (iv) regulatory protections already prevent the property from being developed or harmed by land uses: and (v) the project does not address the biggest challenge for salmonid production in this part of the Ecola Creek watershed: the City's municipal water withdrawals and their impact on fish at various times of the year.

- Needs and opportunities: 13 points awarded out of 15 possible points
- Results and Benefits: 21 points awarded out of 25 possible points
- Conditions and Function: 9 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application states that the City will incorporate the property into the ECFR. The primary goals of the ECFR are to restore the ecological integrity of the forest ecosystem and its aquatic and riparian habitats, and to preserve and enhance municipal water quality. The goals are intended to benefit the community of Cannon Beach and the surrounding areas.

The application states that access to the property is limited and therefore it's unlikely that recreational opportunities will be provided by the project, but nonetheless, the project will benefit the community by providing ecosystem services.

The application states that the property will become part of the ECFR, and that the City does not pay taxes on land in the ECFR. The amount of property tax levied on the property is approximately $980.00.

Organizational Capacity

Reviewers felt that the City is a logical owner for the property, because the property is adjacent to the City-owned ECFR. Reviewers noted that the City appears to have staff members who have acquired other properties that have been added to the ECFR. Further, given the relatively uncomplicated circumstances associated with the proposed purchase, the City staff is likely to successfully complete the transaction. However, reviewers noted that the City does not have an extensive history of working with OWEB, and that it is important that the City be prepared to respond to OWEB's information requests in a timely manner and seek review of project documents before executing them, to ensure that the transaction proceeds smoothly.

Reviewers noted that the City manages the ECFR in accordance with a management plan completed with the help of an interdisciplinary consultant team and a citizen's advisory council. Such assistance should be used to incorporate management actions for the property into the ECFR plan, while ensuring that long-term management of the property is consistent with protection of the property's conservation values including retention of the property's trees.

Reviewers stated that the City needs to ensure full implementation of the management plan. It appears that management funds would be available for the Property as part of the $13.5 million City operating budget. However, government agency budgets are subject to periodic shortfalls, which could challenge the City's capacity to manage the property for conservation purposes during those periods of time. It is important that implementation of the management plan remain a priority despite budget fluctuations.

- 8 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Public Review

OWEB staff conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed acquisition on January 6, 2016 at the Cannon Beach City Hall. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Project Benefits

- Protection of the property is good environmental conservation, and will: (i) be permanent and consistent with local plans and studies; (ii) prevent development; (iii) lead to habitat restoration on the property; (iv) benefit the watershed; and (v) create a connection to previously conserved land (the ECFR).
- Management of the property will be integrated with the ECFR, and could include recreational possibilities such as trail connections (although the application states that recreational use will be limited by the property's access constraints).
- The property affords numerous fish benefits, marbled murrelet habitat, and beaver habitat.
- The property is a good source of oxygen, contains some large trees, and is visible from the City.

- The watershed council has supported conservation of the property for 18 years.
- The anticipated transaction will be equitable for the seller.

Project Questions or Concerns
No questions or concerns were raised at the hearing.

Summary
Total Score: 51 points awarded out of 60 possible points. The proposed project presents a good opportunity to add additional land to a previously protected area, thereby increasing wetland conservation outcomes in the Ecola Creek watershed. Although the project is not especially complicated from a transactional standpoint, yellow flags (concerning, but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe) include the need for the City to: (i) clarify the property's vesting; (ii) obtain a binding purchase and sale agreement; (iii) demonstrate legal and sufficient access to the property; (iv) assess whether the property has been impacted by nearby contamination; and (v) address deed of trust-related items on the property's title.

Staff Recommendation
Staff recommends the Board award the City $189,240 in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with the City to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2017 meeting.

October 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Land Acquisition Application

Application No.:	217-9901		
Project Name:	Botts Marsh		
Applicant:	Lower Nehalem Community Trust	**Region:**	North Coast
Basin:	North Coast	**County:**	Tillamook
OWEB Request:	**$**161,685.00	**Total Cost:**	**$254,469.00**

Application Description

Lower Nehalem Community Trust (LNCT) is requesting funds for the purchase of approximately 33 acres on the edge of Nehalem Bay, just outside the City of Wheeler, in Tillamook County. The acreage (referred to as "the property" in this evaluation) is part of a larger ownership and consists mostly of estuarine marsh and tidal channels, but also has mudflats and forested areas. The property is directly connected to Nehalem Bay, with approximately 1,500 feet of bay frontage. The property is zoned for water-related development, and has been the subject of numerous development plans for approximately 30 years. A recent change in ownership of the property has given LNCT an opportunity to purchase the property to ensure its permanent protection. Protecting the property will conserve habitat and wetland functions for a variety of OWEB-priority species.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that the project, while not unsound, is complicated for a small-scale acquisition of this nature, with key issues being: (i) confirmation of property ownership and an understanding of the membership that controls the LLC that is the stated owner of the property; (ii) County land use approvals that are necessary to make the property a legally conveyable parcel; (iii) unpaid property taxes that pose a risk of loss of the property to Tillamook County; (iv) uncertain effects of an intended recreational trail reservation; (v) the presence of possible contamination on adjacent property; (vi) the seller's apparent intention to condition sale of the property on the seller's receipt of County approval of a zoning change for adjacent property; and (vii) the Department of State Lands' (DSL) requirement that it receive payment for the release of its interest in the property and its apparent intention to reserve mineral rights that might affect the property.

The matters above may take significant time and expertise to resolve. In addition, standard due diligence actions will be necessary, including but not limited to, evaluating the compatibility of the property's title encumbrances relative to the ecological goals of the project. The encumbrances include a large number of easements relative to the property's size, with the majority of the easements apparently related to the railroad on the eastern boundary of the property.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers felt the property's estuarine marsh provides clear and significant ecosystem benefits, such as: (i) intact transitional habitat for salmon moving from freshwater to saltwater; (ii) cold water refugia that is particularly important in Nehalem Bay, which is water-quality limited for temperature; (iii) natural sediment transport; and (iv) high-quality habitat for a variety of sensitive species, such as coho salmon, chum salmon, green sturgeon, great-blue heron, and Townsend's big-

eared bat. If the most recent development proposal, which was for a marina, had been approved, construction of the facility would have destroyed habitat, degraded water quality, and disrupted wetland functions. Reviewers felt that the threat of development is ongoing for the property. Reviewers stated that the most recent development proposal was denied partly because of a lack of access to suitable mitigation sites by the developer, and that there are mitigation sites in the vicinity that could be secured by a different developer in the future.

The application states that protection of the property will complement a strong network of protected lands in Nehalem Bay, including four areas owned and protected by LNCT. It also states that the property's location, just outside the City of Wheeler, is a transition area, and that protecting the property will provide a buffer between development and Nehalem Bay.

Reviewers noted that the application states that LNCT might remove remnants of a derelict dike on the property. Reviewers appreciated LNCT's willingness to investigate removal of the dike, but stated that the property's wetlands are functioning very well in their current condition and there would problably be only minimal gains from any active removal of the dike.

- Needs and opportunities: 15 points awarded out of 15 possible points
- Results and Benefits: 23 points awarded out of 25 possible points
- Conditions and Function: 9 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application states that the City of Wheeler's vision includes protecting wetlands and natural drainage areas from development, and therefore, the proposed project is consistent with the City's vision. The application also states that the City previously submitted a grant application to Oregon Parks and Recreation Department to purchase an upland portion of the larger ownership, for a city park, although the application was not funded. The City appears to remain supportive of LNCT's intention to purchase the wetland portion of the larger ownership for conservation.

The application states that LNCT will not pay property taxes on the property because, as a 501(c)(3) organization, the IRS has exempted LNCT from paying property taxes. LNCT does not currently have a policy to pay taxes on conserved land. The amount of tax levied on the property and the larger ownership, is approximately $430.00. The amount of tax LNCT would forgo paying on the property would be less than $430.00, due to the proposed partitioning of the property, although the exact amount isn't known.

Organizational Capacity

The application states that LNCT's executive director will play a significant role in overseeing the project. However, LNCT's executive director left the organization in December 2016. LNCT's timeline for rehiring an executive director is unclear. A volunteer Board member, with a limited amount of help from a contract attorney, intends to fill the role originally intended for the executive director. Reviewers felt that the executive director's departure may place unintended burdens on the volunteer board member, and that the burdens could hamper resolution of the project's soundness issues within OWEB's granting timeframe. Reviewers suggested that if the project is a funding priority from an ecological standpoint, the Board consider providing financial assistance to LNCT for hiring a qualified contractor to coordinate due diligence efforts. Such an approach was successfully used for two acquisition projects recently completed by OWEB grantees.

The application states that property stewardship will be directed by LNCT's land steward, with help from LNCT's dedicated volunteer base. Reviewers felt that LNCT has sufficient capacity for ensuring the project's long-term outcomes, particularly because the property is likely to require monitoring and attentive weed management, but not any significant restoration work.

- 8 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Public Review

OWEB staff conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed acquisition on December 6, 2016 at the Wheeler City Hall. The hearing was well-attended, and focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Project Benefits

- The property is the most beloved piece of land adjacent to the City of Wheeler, and is visually accessible. Conserving the property is consistent with the Wheeler Comprehensive Plan, and would realize a vision that the City and the greater Nehalem Bay community have had for three generations.
- The value humans place on the property springs from ecological values.
- The property is a rare, remnant ecosystem that aids in carbon sequestration and provides habitat for young fish of various species in the saltwater-freshwater transition zone. Approximately 90 percent of such wetlands have been converted to other uses.
- The property presents a good opportunity for intergenerational education about the benefits of conserving salt marshes low in the estuary, with such conservation being a priority for the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council and other organizations.
- The property is located near other conserved properties, such as Cape Falcon Cove Marine Reserve.
- Conserving the property would help with flood reduction, which is consistent with the goal of the Governor's Regional Solutions process for Tillamook County.
- The property presents great opportunities for water recreation such as kayaking, and is located on the Tillamook County Water Trail, a national recreational trail designated by the National Park Service. The property is accessible from the public boat launch in the City of Wheeler.
- There are economic benefits of conserving wetlands.
- LNCT is a well-respected, capable organization.

Project Questions or Concerns

- The seller of the property intends to develop adjacent land. It is uncertain what will be built on the adjacent land and how it might affect the property.

Summary

Total Score: 55 points awarded out of 60 possible points. The proposed project presents an excellent opportunity to achieve significant ecological outcomes. The project is complicated from a transactional standpoint, with yellow flags (concerning, but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe) that include the need for land use approvals, release of a state claim to the property, payment of overdue taxes, assessment of numerous title exceptions and an intended trail reservation, establishments of access, and assessment of possible contamination on adjacent land. Reviewers suggested that OWEB provide financial assistance to LNCT to ensure that these matters

are addressed to OWEB's satisfaction within the granting timeframe, thereby conserving an ecologically valuable property that has been at risk of development for several decades.

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends the Board award LNCT $161,685 plus $20,000 for project-specific capacity assistance, for a total grant of $181,685, in accordance with OWEB's standard grant agreement for land acquisition, including project-specific conditions specified in the grant agreement. Staff will consult with LNCT to finalize project-specific conditions. The conditions will be provided to the Board at its April 2017 meeting.

October 2016 OWEB Grant Cycle
Land Acquisition Application

Application No.:	217-9904		
Project Name:	North Fork Siuslaw		
Applicant:	McKenzie River Trust	**Region:**	North Coast
Basin:	North Coast	**County:**	Lane
OWEB Request:	**$**500,675.00	**Total Cost:**	**$667,928.00**

Application Description

McKenzie River Trust (MRT) is requesting funds for the purchase of a 250-acre diked agricultural property on the North Fork Siuslaw River, near the City of Florence, in Lane County. The application states that MRT wishes to buy the property in order to preserve the opportunity to restore the property to tidal wetlands. The application states that restoring the property to tidal wetlands would benefit OWEB priority species such as Chinook and coho salmon.

REVIEW

Project Soundness

Reviewers felt that overall, the acquisition component of the project appears to be relatively straightforward and is a good match for MRT, which is an accredited land trust with a staff that is experienced in acquiring properties for conservation. The application states that the property is near land already protected by MRT, and that acquisition of the property is consistent with MRT's strategic conservation plan for the Siuslaw Basin.

Reviewers noted that MRT has a signed option agreement that terminates in December 2018, and that the option provides MRT with adequate time to complete due diligence for the acquisition. In addition to typical due diligence necessary for any sound acquisition, MRT would need to address: (i) potential boundary line uncertainties stemming from the movement of waterways on and adjacent to the property; (ii) the property's derelict mobile home, removal of which is necessary and may raise asbestos, and septic and other utility-related concerns; (iii) powerlines and associated easements which could hamper later tidal wetland restoration; (iv) maintenance obligations and costs associated with the bridge and the road and levee that serve the property and two adjacent properties; and (v) a deed of trust which must be removed from the property's title upon purchase of the property by MRT.

Although MRT's ability to complete acquisition of the property appears good, the long-term soundness of the project caused significant concerns for reviewers. Reviewers felt that based on an October 3, 2016 memo from MRT regarding MRT's perspectives on organizational liability, it's reasonable to conclude that MRT is generally uncomfortable assuming risks associated with tidal wetland restoration. Nonetheless, the property requires tidal wetland restoration to restore its former function and benefit OWEB priority ecosystems, species, and plant communities. MRT has not collected sufficient data about the property's restoration potential to understand the specific restoration risks associated with the property and assure reviewers that it will proceed with the restoration in a certain timeframe. Risks include but aren't limited to neighbors objecting to increased flooding on or adjacent to their properties, community opposition to the project, and

permanent and potentially significant maintenance costs associated with surrounding infrastructure including that which provides access to the property and the neighboring properties. Similar risks have resulted in MRT delaying and canceling other projects, including the Waite Ranch project (Grant No. 211-102), which MRT committed to restore to tidal wetlands.

In light of these circumstances, reviewers felt the only sound outcome of the project at this time is land banking the property for future restoration initiatives. Reviewers noted that given MRT's long option period, MRT may have time to withdraw the application and gather data necessary to assure reviewers that the property will be restored to certain conditions in a definitive and reasonable timeframe, thereby meeting OWEB's acquisition principle of investing in naturally functioning ecosystems.

Ecological Outcomes

Reviewers thought that restoration of the property could result in valuable improvements in fish and wildlife habitat and water quality in an estuarine area that has a significant network of protected lands. They noted that the current condition of the property is poor and that, without restoration, acquisition of the property will not meaningfully advance OWEB's land acquisition principles and priorities, such as protecting large, intact properties and exceptional biodiversity. Reviewers disagreed with the application's statement that the project will stabilize an area on the brink of unrecoverable ecological degradation, and noted that many other factors are likely to influence ecological outcomes in the Siuslaw River estuary.

Reviewers noted that the application does not clearly state which OWEB priority terrestrial species will benefit if the property is restored. Reviewers also stated that very young coho tend to prefer habitats with limited tidal exchange, and therefore the property might currently be used to a small extent by the youngest coho, and restoration of the property might reduce such use. Reviewers also pointed out that the application states that restoration of the property will result in tidal marsh, but that in light of the property's obvious subsidence, a significant portion of the property could be tidal mud flat upon restoration. Reviewers stated that consistent terminology is important with regard to the expectations of project funders as well as to adjacent property owners, some of which have expressed reservations about restoration of the property and how it might change the landscape and hydrology.

Reviewers felt that the need to maintain the access road, and therefore the levee on which the road is built, could present potential challenges for full tidal wetland restoration of the property. Reviewers stated that as much dike as possible needs to be removed for the sake of ecological benefits, and that a reduced ecological effect may result if dike removal is limited, although it's hard to know without adequate data for the property. Reviewers noted that the application summarizes the potential for multiple restoration actions which will require technical assessments, but does not suggest relative costs, or clear funding sources or timeframes for the suite of assessment actions that will likely be required. Costs of such assessments can be high, as MRT has experienced with regard to its Waite Ranch property.

- Needs and opportunities: 10 points awarded out of 15 possible points
- Results and Benefits: 10 points awarded out of 25 possible points
- Conditions and Function: 3 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Community Benefits and Impacts

The application states that the property will be an integral part of the existing network of conservation lands in the lower Siuslaw River estuary, which provides significant scenic and recreational resources to the population of the City of Florence and surrounding communities. The application states that the property will be managed for, among other things, water quality protection, scenic viewshed protection, and compatible recreational values. The application does not elaborate on compatible recreation, or whether the property will be open to the public. The application does state, however, that the property is on the Siuslaw River water trail and in a stretch of the river that is popular with recreational boaters and anglers. The application also states that over time, economic activity will be generated in the form of contracts for work on the property.

The application indicates that MRT pays taxes on all of the land it owns. Taxes for the property are approximately $2,480.00 per year.

Organizational Capacity

MRT is an accredited Land Trust and has the demonstrated qualifications to acquire the property. However, one of MRT's key transaction negotiators is leaving the organization for a new job.

A portion of the organizational capacity analysis is the organization's demonstrated track record and history with projects. In this case, MRT has a project that is nearly identical to the one being proposed. As noted above, significant questions exist regarding MRT's capacity and commitment to proceed with restoring the property to tidal wetlands. As with Waite Ranch, restoration of the property is necessary in order to benefit OWEB priority ecosystems, species, and plant communities. And like Waite Ranch, MRT did not establish a solid understanding of the risks and expense of restoring the property before proposing to purchase it.

A $50,000 technical assistance grant from OWEB, which MRT has signaled it will apply for in order to assess the property's potential for restoration, is unlikely to provide adequate funds for the work that is needed. MRT has spent much more than $50,000 in an effort to develop a design for restoring Waite Ranch. MRT has also signaled that it wishes for OWEB to apply to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for a Coastal Wetlands grant for eventual restoration of the property. However, it is uncertain whether OWEB would feel comfortable doing this, or USFWS would fund another grant for use by MRT, in light of MRT having cancelled a recent Coastal Wetlands grant in reaction to community concerns about a tidal wetland conservation project, and having not restored Waite Ranch which is also the subject of a Coastal Wetlands grant. Further, MRT has not calculated, and demonstrated the ability to afford, the potentially expensive infrastructure upkeep costs associated with the property.

Lastly, in light of MRT having unmet obligations for restoring Waite Ranch, it would be prudent and reasonable for OWEB to require MRT to make significant progress toward tidal wetland restoration on Waite Ranch, and thereby gain valuable experience, before granting MRT more funds for the purchase of property that could pose the same challenges as Waite Ranch.

- 6 points awarded out of 10 possible points

Public Review

OWEB staff conducted a public hearing regarding the proposed acquisition on December 21, 2016 at the Florence City Hall. The hearing focused on the public's view of the project's benefits, and questions and concerns about the project, summarized as follows:

Project Benefits

- The property is located in an area with other conservation lands, including a nearby Wetland Reserve Enhancement Program parcel which has been the subject of passive restoration.
- The property is rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids.
- The property's return to tidal wetlands is inevitable because the dikes are old and expensive to fix, and therefore, it would be challenging to find someone who wants to try maintaining the property as a farm.
- It is important to purchase the property before the opportunity is lost.
- The project will result in good recreational and economic benefits, and will help with floodwater retention.
- Stopping grazing on the property will eliminate a source of manure and carcasses to the water.
- The property's varied elevation provides opportunities to restore several wetland types.

Project Questions or Concerns

- Access needs to be maintained in good condition for any vehicle, for the benefit of neighboring properties. The access easement indicates a "reasonable road."
- The dike that the access road is built on will need shoring up.
- Some attendees indicated that there should be the possibility of public access and hunting on the property because there are fewer places to hunt now. Conversely, the neighbor would prefer that the property not be publicly accessible, in part because access would entail use of a privately maintained road.
- There is a need to inform the public, and neighbors, about the relationship between restoration, climate change and sea level rise.
- The change in hydrology on, and appearance (view) of, the property and neighboring properties could be difficult to accept.
- There is a change happening, from a farming mentality to an environmental mentality.

Summary

Total Score: 29 points awarded out of 60 possible points. Reviewers felt that while the proposed project could lead to later restoring the property to tidal wetlands, MRT has not committed to restoration, and without restoration, acquisition of the property will not meaningfully advance OWEB's land acquisition principles and priorities. Reviewers noted that MRT has not collected sufficient data about the property's restoration potential to understand the specific restoration risks and costs associated with the property and assure OWEB that it will proceed with the restoration in a certain timeframe. The risks likely to be posed by restoring the property are similar to risks that have resulted in MRT delaying and canceling other projects. Reviewers felt that until MRT succeeds in finding a path to restoring Waite Ranch, MRT does not have the demonstrated track record of success in tidal wetland restoration. Reviewers also noted that MRT has not calculated, and demonstrated the ability to afford, the potentially expensive infrastructure upkeep costs associated with the property.

Reviewers felt that from a transactional standpoint, acquisition of the property would pose several yellow flags (concerning, but likely resolvable in OWEB's granting timeframe) identified as: (i) title exceptions, including power lines that could later complicate any restoration efforts, costs and obligations of maintaining access to the property and neighboring properties, and costs of removing

the mobile home and any related infrastructure; and (ii) boundary uncertainties that would need to be resolved with a survey.

Staff encourage MRT to continue working to achieve the Waite Ranch restoration goals, and use the lessons learned there to assure the Board that if it funds the North Fork Siuslaw project in a future grant cycle, MRT would restore the property to tidal wetlands in a certain timeframe. Staff also encourage MRT to conduct planning and design work for the North Fork Siuslaw project before resubmitting any application for acquisition funds for the property, to ensure that challenges such as those MRT encountered at Waite Ranch do not prevent MRT from restoring the North Fork Siuslaw property to tidal wetlands.

Staff Recommendation

Based on the evaluation above, staff do not recommend the Board award funding for the North Fork Siuslaw project.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Salem, OR 97301-1290
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director
SUBJECT: Agenda Item Q – Strategic Plan
April 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB's strategic planning facilitator, Dialogues In Action, will join the board to facilitate a strategic planning discussion building on the January board meeting planning session, board interviews, and listening sessions that were held around the state in March. The board will receive an update on listening sessions and stakeholder surveys. The discussion will focus on early refinements to the "Who We Are" portion of the plan and outline common themes from the interviews that were completed in January and February.

II. Background

OWEB approved its last strategic plan in 2010, during a time when the agency and its associated funding were set to sunset in 2015. However, at the same time, a campaign had begun to make the agency's funding permanent through Constitutional Ballot Measure 76. After the strategic plan was completed, Oregon voters overwhelmingly approved Ballot Measure 76.

As a result of the approval of permanent funding, the board then undertook an effort in 2012-13 to develop a Long-Term Investment Strategy (LTIS) for granting. This extensive process engaged stakeholders from across Oregon to set a vision for how the agency's strategic plan would be "operationalized" through its granting investments. The LTIS was approved by the board in 2013 and has become the framing through which the board develops and approves its two-year spending plan in support of the strategic plan.

It has now been seven years since the board approved its last strategic plan and 2018 will be five years after board approval of the LTIS.

III. Board Meeting, Interviews, Listening Sessions and Survey

Who We Are: In January 2017, the board formally initiated its strategic planning process. Under the guidance of Steve Patty, the facilitator with Dialogues In Action, both the board and OWEB staff began developing the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic plan. This includes work on the agency's Ultimate Aims, Premises, Intended Impact, and Best Means.

Interviews: Also in January, the board began the process of interviewing a range of OWEB stakeholders about their experiences and work with OWEB. Each board member interviewed at least one stakeholder. Staff have established a "Staff Process Team" to coordinate with the board throughout the planning process. Those team members also interviewed stakeholders, resulting in over 30 interviews with individuals across Oregon.

Listening Sessions: In March 2017, OWEB staff traveled with Steve Patty to six locations across Oregon to hold strategic planning listening sessions. These face-to-face meetings were held in Pendleton, Ontario, Bend, Medford, Clackamas and Newport, in addition to one virtual listening session webinar. In total, approximately 80 individuals attended, including grantees, regional review team members and other agency partners, among others. The listening sessions followed a format similar to the January board and staff meeting, focusing on the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic plan.

In addition, participants were asked to begin identifying innovative actions the board may want to consider over the next ten years, and the challenges OWEB will face. That information will be used later in the planning process after the board determines its strategic direction.

Stakeholder Surveys: At writing of this report, surveys will be sent out broadly in early April for stakeholders and partners to identify what is working well in their interactions with OWEB, as well as areas for improvement. That information will be finalized for board review at their June strategic plan meeting.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

July 24-26, 2017
Board Meeting

Boardman, Oregon

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
July 24-26

Monday, July 24, 2017

Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center
Riverfront Room
2 Marine Drive
Boardman, OR 97818
Directions: http://www.portofmorrow.com/general/custom-contact-page/port-morrow-contact-information

Business Meeting – 4:00 p.m.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items A, E, F, G, I, J and K), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after July 20th, 2017 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Update (4:00 p.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment at 4:00 p.m.

This agenda item will begin with time for public comment on the strategic plan, followed by time for comments from the statewide conservation partnership on the plan as well. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Principal Consultant Steve Patty and Associate Consultant Jessamyn Luiz with Dialogues in Action will engage in a discussion with the board on recent developments to the strategic planning process. As a part of this discussion, the board will be asked to ratify the "Who We Are" section of the draft strategic plan. *Action item*.

Tuesday, July 25, 2017

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items A, E, F, G, I, J and K), anyone wishing to speak to the Board is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the Board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the Board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the Board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The Board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after July 20th, 2017 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

B. Board Member Comments (8:00 a.m.)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This is also an opportunity for public and tribal board members to report on their recent activities and share information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item*.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes (8:30 a.m.)

The minutes of the April 24-26, 2017 meeting in Salem will be presented for approval. *Action item*.

D. Board Subcommittees Updates (8:35 a.m.)

Representatives from the Executive, Focused Investments, Monitoring, Open Solicitation, and Operating Capacity subcommittees will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item*.

E. Public Comment (9:00 a.m.)

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the board.

F. 2017-2019 OWEB Spending Plan (9:15 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Following an introduction by Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden on the proposed OWEB spending plan for the 2017-2019 biennium, the board will hear public comment on the spending plan. After hearing public comment, the board will hear presentations on spending plan items from Oregon Department of Forestry Partnership and Planning Program Director Chad Davis on forest collaboratives, and Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership Executive Director Debrah Marriott on the work of the organization. After the presentations, Director Loftsgaarden will lead a discussion with the board on the proposed spending plan before the board deliberates and adopts for the 2017-2019 biennium. *Action item*.

G. 2017-2019 Council Capacity Grants (11:45 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment following lunch at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Capacity Grants Coordinator Courtney Shaff will provide the board an update on the 2017-2019 Council Capacity eligibility and merit review process. The board will then hear public comment on the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant awards. Following public comment, Council Capacity funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the board. *Action item.*

H. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update – Partnership Learning Project (1:55 p.m.)

Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff and consultant Jennifer Arnold will provide an update on the Partnership Learning Project that is being led by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. The update will focus on the lessons learned from evaluation of the eight Capacity Building FIPs. *Information item.*

Tour – 3:20 p.m.

The board and OWEB staff will conduct a field tour of the Dillon Dam site on the Umatilla River that is slated for removal this summer. Any person wishing to join the tour should have their own transportation.

Informal Reception – 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The public is invited to join the OWEB Board and staff at a reception sponsored by local partners and stakeholders.

Location:
Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center
Riverfront Room
2 Marine Drive
Boardman, OR 97818

Wednesday, July 26, 2017

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items A, E, F, G, I, J and K), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*.** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after July 20th, 2017 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

I. Public Comment (8:00 a.m.)

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the board.

J. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update – Implementation (8:15 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Bonneville Environmental Foundation Model Watershed Program Director Robert Warren, and Upper Deschutes Watershed Council Executive Director Ryan Houston will update the board on monitoring efforts associated with the six Implementation FIPs. *Information item.*

K. Outreach/Stakeholder Engagement Administrative Rules (9:00 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 9:10 a.m.

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will brief the board on rulemaking associated with Stakeholder Engagement (formerly Education and Outreach) grants. Public comment associated with this item will be heard. However, because this item has already been the subject of formal public hearings and a comment period, further public testimony may not be taken except upon changes made to the item since the original public comment period, or upon the direct request of the board members in order to obtain additional information or to address changes made to proposed rules following a public hearing. Following public comment, the board will be asked to approve the proposed administrative rules. *Action item.*

L. OWEB Technical Assistance and Focused Investment Partnership Rulemaking (10:05 a.m.)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will request the board authorize rulemaking for Technical Assistance grants and the Focused Investment Partnership program. *Action item.*

M. Conservation Effectiveness Partnership Update (10:20 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch will update on the board on the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, which brings

together multiple state and federal agencies to evaluate the effects of conservation and restoration investments on water quality and watershed condition. *Information item*.

N. Collaborative Voluntary Measures on Forestlands (10:50 a.m.)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch, and Oregon Department of Forestry Deputy Chief of Private Forests Program Kyle Abraham will present to the board voluntary actions forest landowners are taking that benefit salmon and watersheds. *Information item*.

O. Executive Director's Update (11:20 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item*.

P. Other Business (11:50 a.m.)

This item is reserved for other matters that may come before the board.

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

Generally, agenda items will be taken in the order shown. However, in certain circumstances, the board may elect to take an item out of order. To accommodate the scheduling needs of interested parties and the public, the board may also designate a specific time at which an item will be heard. Any such times are indicated on the agenda.

Please be aware that topics not listed on the agenda may be introduced during the Board Comment period, the Executive Director's Update, the Public Comment period, under Other Business, or at other times during the meeting.

Oregon's Public Meetings Law requires disclosure that board members may meet for meals on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 17 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and six are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into two categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business

A general business quorum is **six voting members**. General business requires a majority of **all** voting members to pass a resolution (not just those present), so general business resolutions require affirmative votes of **at least six voting members**. Typical resolutions include adopting, amending, or appealing a rule, providing staff direction, etc. These resolutions cannot include a funding decision.

Action on Grant Awards

Per ORS 541.360(4), special requirements apply when OWEB considers action on grant awards. This includes a special **quorum of at least eight voting members** present to take action on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, **if three or more voting members** object to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

Public Testimony

The board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

General public comment periods will be held on *Monday, July 24 at 4:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 25 at 9:00 a.m.* and *Wednesday, July 26 at 8:00 a.m*. for any matter before the board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). *The board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*. Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after July 20th, 2017 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Tour

The board may tour local watershed restoration project sites. The public is invited to attend, however transportation may be limited to board members and OWEB staff. Any person wishing to join the tour should have their own transportation.

Executive Session
The board may also convene in a confidential executive session where, by law, only press members and OWEB staff may attend. Others will be asked to leave the room during these discussions, which usually deal with current or potential litigation. Before convening such a session, the presiding board member will make a public announcement and explain necessary procedures.

More Information
If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call Darika Barnes, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes (503-986-0181) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Laura Masterson, *Board of Agriculture*
Ed Armstrong, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bob Webber, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
John Roberts, W*ater Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Dan Thorndike, *Public*
Karl Wenner, *Public*

Non-voting Members

Rosemary Furfey, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Debbie Hollen, *U.S. Forest Service*
Kathy Stangl, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. National Resource Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Contact Information

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OWEB Executive Director – Meta Loftsgaarden
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OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – Darika Barnes
darika.barnes@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2017 Board Meeting Schedule
January 24-25 in Madras
April 24-26 in Salem
July 24-26 in Boardman
October 24-25 in Lebanon

2018 Board Meeting Schedule
January 30-31, in Florence
April 24-25, location TBD
July 24-25, location TBD
October 30-31, location TBD

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our web site: www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

OWEB Strategic Direction and Principles

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

Goals

Goals from OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan

In 2010, the OWEB Board approved a strategic plan with five goals. With the passage of Constitutional Measure 76 and permanent Lottery funding, the Board continues to operate under the strategy.

Goal 1: Adaptive Investment
Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through program and project investments that enhance watershed and ecosystem functions and processes and support community needs.

Goal 2: Local Infrastructure Development
Support an enduring, high capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 3: Public Awareness and Involvement
Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds.

Goal 4: Partnership Development
Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 5: Efficient and Accountable Administration
Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments.

Long-Term Investment Strategy

OWEB's Framework for Grant Investments

In 2013, the Board adopted a Long-Term Investment Strategy that guides its investments of Lottery, federal and salmon plate funding. All of OWEB's investments in ecological outcomes also help build communities and support the local economy. The Board also approved a direction for the investments outlined below. They will continue operating capacity and open solicitation grants and continue focused investments with a gradual increase over time.

Operating Capacity
Operating Capacity Investments support the operating costs of effective watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. Councils and districts are specifically identified in OWEB's statutes.

Open Solicitation
OWEB offers responsive grants across the state for competitive proposals based on local ecological priorities.

Focused Investments
OWEB helps landscape-scale collaborative partnerships achieve collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes.

Effectiveness Monitoring
OWEB evaluates and reports on the progress and outcomes of watershed work it supports.

OWEB

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

As the Board developed the Investment Strategy, they did so under established principles for how any changes in OWEB's programs would operate.

Build on accomplishments. The commitment and work of our local partners have resulted in a nationally and internationally recognized approach with unmatched environmental accomplishments. OWEB will build on this foundation.

Effective communication. OWEB is committed to active, two-way communication of ideas, priorities, and results with its staff, partners, potential partners, and the public as a means for developing and maintaining a strong investment strategy and successful cooperative conservation.

Transparency. OWEB values transparency and develops its Long-Term Investment Strategy through an open, transparent process that involves input and dialogue with stakeholders and staff.

Maximize service, minimize disruption. The Board considers how OWEB's grant portfolio impacts partner organizations and staff resources to maximize effectiveness without adversely affecting service delivery.

Responsive. The Long-Term Investment Strategy will adjust to changes in revenue and be responsive to changes in ecological priorities from the Governor, Legislature, the Board, and local partners.

Adapt based on monitoring and evaluation. OWEB's staff and Board monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of the Long-Term Investment Strategy. The Board shall adapt and modify the strategy as needed to meet its desired goals and outcomes and to improve overall investment success.

Phase-in Change. OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy will guide future efforts, is designed to accommodate changes and adjustments made by stakeholders and OWEB staff, and will be periodically revisited.

Operating Principles

Operating Principles to Enhance OWEB Team Work

We will do all we can, individually and as a group, to:

- **Use Good communication--at all levels and in all directions;**
- **Operate with a Team approach;**
- **Follow through on conversations in order to build and maintain needed trust;**
- **Empower staff wherever it is appropriate to do so; and**
- **Have fun while doing important work!**

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item A – Strategic Plan
July 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB's strategic planning facilitator, Dialogues In Action, will join the board to facilitate a strategic planning discussion building on the April and June board strategic plan discussions, along with board interviews, March listening sessions, and April survey. The board will review the latest draft of the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic plan (Attachment A) and provide direction to proceed with next steps to staff and the facilitators regarding synthesis of information from the June board strategic plan discussion.

II. Background

OWEB approved its last strategic plan in 2010, during a time when the agency and its associated funding were set to sunset in 2015. However, at the same time, a campaign had begun to make the agency's funding permanent through Constitutional Ballot Measure 76. After the strategic plan was completed, Oregon voters overwhelmingly approved Ballot Measure 76.

As a result of the approval of permanent funding, the board then undertook an effort in 2012-13 to develop a Long-Term Investment Strategy (LTIS) for granting. This extensive process engaged stakeholders from across Oregon to set a vision for how the agency's strategic plan would be "operationalized" through its granting investments. The LTIS was approved by the board in 2013 and has become the framing through which the board develops and approves its two-year spending plan in support of the strategic plan.

It has now been seven years since the board approved its last strategic plan and 2018 will be five years after board approval of the LTIS.

III. Board Meeting, Interviews, Listening Sessions and Survey

Who We Are: In January 2017, the board formally initiated its strategic planning process. Under the guidance of Steve Patty, the facilitator with Dialogues In Action, both the board and OWEB staff began developing the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic

plan. This includes work on the agency's Ultimate Aims, Premises, Intended Impact, and Best Means.

Interviews: Also in January, the board began the process of interviewing a range of OWEB stakeholders about their experiences and work with OWEB. Each board member interviewed at least one stakeholder. Staff have established a "Staff Process Team" to coordinate with the board throughout the planning process. Those team members also interviewed stakeholders, resulting in over 30 interviews with individuals across Oregon.

Listening Sessions: In March 2017, OWEB staff traveled with Steve Patty to six locations across Oregon to hold strategic planning listening sessions. These face-to-face meetings were held in Pendleton, Ontario, Bend, Medford, Clackamas and Newport, in addition to one virtual listening session webinar. In total, approximately 80 individuals attended, including grantees, regional review team members and other agency partners, among others.

In addition to working on the "Who We Are" portion of the document, participants were asked to begin identifying innovative actions the board may want to consider over the next ten years, and the challenges OWEB will face. That information will be used later in the planning process after the board determines its strategic direction.

Stakeholder Surveys: In April, surveys were sent broadly stakeholders and partners to identify what is working well in their interactions with OWEB, as well as areas for improvement. That information was finalized for board review at their June strategic plan meeting.

External Advisory Group: In May, the board's established External Advisory Group met to synthesize and expand on information from interviews, listening sessions, and stakeholder surveys for the board to review at its June strategic plan discussion. The External Advisory Group is made up of stakeholders established to provide the board insights and perspectives on the strategic plan. The External Advisory Group membership is found in Attachment B.

Board Strategic Plan Discussion: In June, the board met to vet the ideas proposed through the many processes identified above, developing board-level proposals for the "Who We Are" portion of the plan, as well as to begin developing an overall frame for the plan itself (Attachment C).

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic plan.

Attachments

A. Most recent version of "Who We Are"
B. External Advisory Group Member List
C. Strategic Priorities for Impact

OWEB
Who We Are

Draft 6/27/2017

Box A: Ultimate Aims (How we show up)

This section is about your ethos and attitude. This is your ethic. It's how you show up in every situation and with any person or partner. It's the "soft stuff" about how people experience you. To do this box well, we need to think about just a few ideas (3-5). It needs to be the ideas that are not necessarily easy for you, but that make you "lean in" in ways that are difficult, challenging, or counter-intuitive. These should have some consequence and not just be platitudes. These are some options that emerge from the listening sessions and board retreat.

In all things, we will…

Be bold

We believe in pursuing the greatest potential, not the easiest path. To *be bold* means to go be unafraid to listen to and explore new ideas even if they run counter to established processes. It means that we will focus on opportunities and strive to overcome the barriers we face. We will encourage each other and stakeholders as we go through the growing pains of improvement.

Be open and transparent

Being open and transparent means being committed to active, two-way communication internally and externally as a means for developing and maintaining strong partnerships. We will ensure that all decisions are transparently made and their reasoning is clearly communicated. We will consistently check in with partners to make sure they understand what we've communicated.

Consider future Oregonians

Everything we do now will impact the Oregonians of the *future*. We will be thoughtful about helping stakeholders develop sustainable watersheds. We will be informed by Oregon's legacy of watershed restoration and cooperative conservation while developing a vision for cooperative conservation in the *future* that is equitable and inclusive.

Be curious

Being *curious* means not just accepting the status quo but asking "why," "how," and "what if?" We will approach all situations with curiosity, encouraging staff and stakeholders to ask questions as they think about our watersheds and our practices. We will seek to listen, learn, and think about watershed health and cooperative conservation in new ways and through fresh perspectives.

Box B: Premises (What we believe in)

This section should provide the rationale for your work. It should make people sit up and nod in agreement that what you are doing and how you are doing it is critical. The best ideas, if you remember, keep you from responding to the "siren's song," the temptation to take the easy route, change course, follow an ineffective course, cut corners, and miss the kind of impact you could have. These ideas should cost you something to believe. They make you better. They connect with the public. They are provocative and memorable. These are options emerging from the listening session and the board retreat:

Dedicated to the idea that…

Healthy watersheds sustain healthy communities.
The well-being of all Oregonians depends on the health of our watersheds. Communities are nourished and supported by the watershed in which they live, work, and play. The ability to recreate, meditate in quiet next to the water, drink clean water, and swim and fish in those same waters is essential to a vibrant community. We believe Oregonians derive economic, social, and spiritual benefit from our watersheds. People and communities are an integral part of their watershed, just like fish and wildlife. A community's economic and social health comes from the health of the lands that surround them and the ability to draw enjoyment from clean water, open spaces, and natural habitats.

Every Oregonian plays a role in the health of our watersheds.
We are committed to being profoundly inclusive because we believe every person of every background – whether urban or rural, rich or poor; regardless of age, ethnicity, education, beliefs, or politics – has something valuable to contribute to a healthy watershed. When people connect with their watershed, they will care for their watershed. The roles in each watershed are many and overlapping: planner, funder, doer, enjoyer, and communicator, among others. We encourage every citizen, staff, and stakeholder to find their niche and to help others find theirs.

It takes broad partnership to support resilient watersheds.
The Oregon way is unique. In Oregon, no individual landowner or community needs to grapple with watershed challenges alone. Cooperative conservation is built from broad, diverse partnerships that collaborate to develop and implement enduring watershed solutions. It is the Oregon way to invest in the restoring and sustaining healthy, resilient watershed. Public investment in watersheds is a value and commitment of Oregonians.

Future generations need whole and healthy watersheds.
To tackle watershed restoration projects without adopting long-term sustainable practices is short-sighted. We believe that future Oregonians have the right to enjoy the benefits of healthy watersheds without having to start from scratch. Watershed scale change, especially change that addresses the root causes of watershed problems, takes time and crosses generational boundaries. We are engaging in work we might not see the end of; it requires patience, persistence, discipline, and a vision for the future that embraces the long view.

Box C: Intended Impacts (What change we want to achieve)

This is a section that defines the kind of impact and influence OWEB should have in Oregon. In this section, we are trying to define the "buckets" of impact or the areas of influence that you should seek to achieve. As a result of OWEB, these are the changes that should be realized. These are the categories of ideas that emerged from the listening sessions and the board retreat. (Note: The bullet points are taken directly from the listening session and board retreat.)

1. **Healthy, resilient watersheds (Ecological)**

   What we mean: A healthy, resilient watershed provides clean water and a vibrant place to live for people, fish and wildlife, now and in the future. OWEB's investments will result in measurable improvements that lead to healthier streams and upland habitat, while ensuring that the work of our grantees is resilient to long-term impacts to the environment.

   - Plentiful, clean water for all
   - Enhancing, protecting, and restoring watershed process and functions
   - Healthy watersheds that sustain the health of people and their communities
   - Protection and restoration of healthy watersheds and natural habitats
   - Biological – Fish, wildlife, and native plant recovery; biodiversity
   - Strengthened natural ecosystems
   - Greater sustainability of water resources and improved water quality throughout Oregon
   - Measurable improvement toward ecological outcomes

2. **Broad care and stewardship of watersheds by Oregonians (Social)**

   What we mean: Broad care and stewardship of Oregon's natural places can come about only by greater understanding, awareness, and appreciation by each Oregonian of the impact of their everyday actions on the health of their watersheds. Working with partners, OWEB will make special effort to meaningfully engage each Oregonian, based on their unique connection with the land – whether cultural, spiritual, economic or recreational.

   - Greater understanding and awareness of, and appreciation for watersheds
   - People are meaningfully connected to their watersheds
   - Engagement of underserved and under-represented populations around the state
   - Tribal involvement, contribution, and leadership for watershed health
   - People believe in the abundance possible through watershed stewardship
   - Oregonians consider the impact of their everyday actions on watersheds
   - Awareness of watershed issues to become more mainstream
   - Involvement of the next generation in the conservation effort

3. **Adaptive capacity of communities to support resilient watersheds (Community)**

   What we mean: OWEB seeks to ensure all communities are empowered to engage diverse stakeholders to design, implement, and evaluate collaborative conservation actions. Engaged community members are better able to adapt to new ideas, address new challenges and design new approaches to improve their watershed. When landowners, land managers and local citizens are actively involved in shared learning and leadership within local organizations, the capacity of communities to improve the health of their watersheds is expanded.

- Monitoring, evaluation, and learning embedded in watershed work throughout Oregon
- Engaged communities in conservation efforts
- Engaged landowners and land managers
- Greater empowerment of local residents to action
- Farmers and ranchers better able to achieve conservation goals
- Local leaders who endeavor to improve the health of their watershed and communities
- Building social capital in communities around the state (i.e., building blocks for participatory engagement around a shared community vision)
- Empowered communities through partnership and shared knowledge

4. **Strengthened economies emerge from healthy watersheds (Economic)**

   What we mean: Oregon's natural resource industries – agriculture, forestry, fishing, recreation – are dependent on healthy watersheds to be sustainable. The work of restoring natural areas creates jobs in communities, and the impact of a healthy watershed extends to all segments of Oregon's economy and is essential for the economic vitality of the State. When communities understand the link between healthy watersheds and a strong economy, they are more likely to invest in improving both. OWEB will support the capacity of local organizations to engage their community in cooperative conservation while benefiting Oregon's diverse economies.

   - Enhanced benefits for a sustainable economy built on natural resources, restoration, ecosystems, and the broader economies throughout Oregon
   - Healthier, more sustainable opportunities to live off the land
   - People see that watershed health and economies are in alignment
   - Fostering and growing economic opportunities in voluntary restoration
   - Engage communities in a restoration economy
   - Organizational capacity to advance conservation missions
   - Direct benefit to citizens from municipal watersheds that supply drinking water

5. **Strong and diverse partnerships that promote and sustain healthy watersheds (Sectoral)**

   What we mean: Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities. Collaboration allows the opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas, cross-boundary work, adaptive learning, and heightened fidelity to science. OWEB will encourage partners to develop a common vision and objectives to improve their watershed.

   - United conservation efforts throughout Oregon
   - Common vision and objectives shared by stakeholders
   - Cross-sector action to improve watersheds
   - Interconnectivity among watershed enhancement agencies
   - Integrated, interagency efforts
   - Cross-boundary work to maximize the benefits of conservation investments

- More collaboration and cross-pollination of ideas among natural resource agencies
- Advancement of watershed science and practice
- Progress and learning around watershed management practices
- Evidence/science-based practices utilized
- Promotion and education of best practices in watershed management
- Increased knowledge in the field
- Heightened fidelity to science throughout those interacting with watersheds

Box D: Best Means (The approach we take)

This set of ideas is about your principles of change, what you believe should characterize your approach. Remember, this set of ideas is finishing the statement, "Whatever we do will not have the impact we intend unless it (or until it)…." Each of the ideas in this section should inform and characterize the way you go about your work. These should be critical features of your approach.

Whatever we do will not have the impact we intend unless it is (or until it is)...

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

- Involving the whole community
- Promoting community ownership of the project
- Collaborating and authentically communicating
- Bringing together diverse interests
- Building and mobilizing partnerships

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

- Basing approaches on the best available science
- Advancing efficient, science driven operations
- Addressing root sources and causes
- Incorporating local knowledge, experience, and culture
- Catalyzing local energy and investment

Investing with long-term outcomes in mind

- Maintaining progress into the future
- Stewarding for the long term
- Taking the long view on projects and interventions

Demonstrating impact through meaningful measurement

- Providing evidence of watershed change
- Measuring and communicating community impact
- Increasing appropriate accountability

Reaching and involving underserved populations

- Seeking to include the voice and perspectives that are not typically at the table
- Involving the underrepresented
- Specific, targeted engagement
- Doing what we can to make information available to everyone

OWEB Strategic Plan External Advisory Group

Jason Kesling	**Natural Resource Director, Burns Paiute Tribe**
Bruce Taylor	Pacific Birds / Intermountain West Joint Venture
Mark Trenholm	Wild Salmon Center
Cathy McDonald	The Nature Conservancy
Doug Krahmer	Landowner and Former Board Member
Todd Reeve	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Kelly Timchak	Lower Rogue Watershed Council
Shilah Olson	Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District
Brad Chalfant	Deschutes Land Trust
Jeff Oveson	Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Doug Decker	PSU Executive Seminar Program and Dept. of Forestry Director
Karl Morgenstern	Eugene Water and Electric Board
Eric Quaempts	Former Board member and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

OWEB
Strategic Priorities for Impact
Draft 7/10/17

1. Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

What we mean
OWEB will develop greater capacity throughout the system of watershed stakeholders to monitor progress, learn from projects, track effectiveness, gather data, respond to data, and advance the cause of healthy, resilient watersheds through the practice of monitoring and evaluation. OWEB will work with partners to ensure frameworks for information receiving and sharing exist that take advantage of the best scientific thinking and latest methods and technology in and outside the restoration community. OWEB and partners will develop monitoring 'networks' to which organizations in all parts of the state can contribute.

Characteristics of the future
- Seamless interaction of data and learning among broader audiences and agencies
- Information and learning is current, meaningful, accessible, and available
- Loops of learning become habitual throughout the sector
- Understanding of science and science-based practice continues and is elevated
- Insights derived from data and results drive decision making at all levels
- Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly
- Impact on multiple factors—including ecological, economic and social—are considered

2. Strategic partnerships to achieve healthy watersheds

What we mean
OWEB will be a statewide champion for partnerships in watershed health. OWEB will help develop the environment and provide guidance that will allow strong and effective partnerships to grow and flourish. Partnerships that are more inclusive, equitable, effective, consistent, reliable, purposeful, and innovative will amplify the impact of watershed work and develop resilience and capacity in the organizations seeking to improve and sustain healthy watersheds.

Characteristics of the future
- Consistency in the practice of partnership formation and governance, while recognizing that every partnership should be a reflection of its community
- Resource sharing among and between partners for a common goal
- Leveraging of resources in regions for the benefit of all organizations
- Increase of effective and strategic partnerships throughout the State
- Diversity, equity and inclusion in partnerships
- Coordination among partners to achieve measurable outcomes

3. Increase citizen awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

What we mean
OWEB will catalyze the influence of partners to carry messages about the importance of watersheds to the health and vitality of all Oregonians. This will include the development of story-telling and community engagement as an intervention with dual goals. First, to help Oregonians recognize their role in the health of their watershed and second, to increase awareness of the role watersheds play in improving the well-being of the people who reside in

them and contributing to economic activities within them. This will result in a growing care and stewardship of local watersheds and a deeper commitment to watershed work throughout the State.

Characteristics of the future

- Populations not typically involved in the care of watersheds become interested and active
- Increase in appreciation throughout the State for the importance of watersheds to all Oregonians results in shared care and concern among Oregonians for their watersheds
- Broad-based understanding of the plight of watersheds
- Recognition that the current investment Oregonians make in the health of their watersheds pays dividends in their community and local economy
- Awareness of OWEB as the steward of measure 76 fund investments in their watersheds

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

What we mean

OWEB will catalyze, support and encourage the design and implementation of watershed restoration innovations by grant applicants. These innovations can reach beyond project implementation to touch all areas of OWEB's granting that support restoration – from capacity and partnership development to technical assistance and monitoring. OWEB will continually weigh the agency's investment risk to encourage design and experimentation in watershed work while ensuring public benefits from our investments.

Characteristics of the future

- Risk of innovation is shared among diverse partners
- OWEB has an established process for gauging the risk and weighing it against the potential gain of proposed innovative restoration work.
- OWEB has an established process for evaluating the benefit of implemented innovative practices so as to inform decisions about future proposed innovations
- OWEB has increased nimbleness and adaptability as grantees propose and do adaptive restoration work

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

What we mean

OWEB will develop strategies to engage broader participation among those who own and manage working lands. This will include working with partners in both agriculture and conservation communities to develop intentional approaches that fully embrace the value of well-managed working lands to habitat, water quality, and local economies.

Characteristics of the future

- Farmers, ranchers and forestland owners are fully engaged in decisions about the health of their watersheds
- Owners and managers of working lands understand the value of conservation; communities understand the value of working lands
- Working landowners continue to build a culture of conservation
- Landowner involvement includes and extends beyond the agriculture and forestry communities to rural and other landowners
- Oregon has a diverse cohort of engaged working lands opinion-leaders and proven methods to reduce mixed use conflicts

- Funders offer more meaningful incentives to involve broader, more diverse landowner participation

6. Community capacity is enhanced to support resilience in watersheds

What we mean

OWEB will work with partners at all levels to design resources and deploy tools to enhance the capacity of communities to participate in cooperative conservation. As a result of this partnership effort, conservation leaders at all levels will design and implement strategies for broad citizen engagement in watershed health. Local partnerships will have the support they need to develop and implement strategic, science-based approaches to improve watershed health.

Characteristics of the future

- Greater investment in high-performing partnerships of all types
- Shared learning and resources exist for partnerships to assess and improve their effectiveness
- Funding and other technical support is available for planning and implementation of watershed health strategies
- Effective networks exist among local conservation organizations and between those organizations and other community groups for information sharing and awareness
- Communities have the skills needed to adapt and respond the challenges of a changing environment

7. Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

What we mean

OWEB will seek to develop strong and diverse partnerships with traditional (agency/foundation) and non-traditional funding sources. These partnerships will support watershed organizations at all levels in pursuit of a statewide restoration network that is resilient, sustainable, and achieves ecological outcomes. At the same time, OWEB and partners will work to empower grantees to strengthen their capacity to seek and secure more diverse funding sources. This two-pronged approach will provide communities the resources to create more durable conservation and restoration organizations at all levels, allowing them to act more boldly and strategically.

Characteristics of the future

- Locally supported organizations will have access to more diverse funding sources
- Stable, resilient funding for restoration through OWEB, other funders and local watershed practitioners
- Strong local organizations are better resourced to accomplish their mission

8. Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregon

What we mean

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to involve all Oregonians in improving the health of our watersheds. In its own practice, OWEB will actively seek out and develop leaders that reflect the diversity of Oregon to engage them in the rewarding work of watershed restoration. OWEB will strive to serve Oregon's diverse population by adopting practices that support diversity and encourage equity in our grant-making in partnership with our stakeholders. This will shape the culture of the watershed work over time, developing a restoration system that is diverse and inclusive.

Characteristics of the future

- Healthy watersheds are supported by partnerships that reflect the diversity of their communities
- Greater diversity of involvement in all aspects of watershed work
- New, diverse individuals and partnerships elicit more out-of-box thinking
- Increased opportunities exist for all Oregonian's to engage with and contribute to watershed work Better insight for watershed strategy resulting from diverse perspectives representing all aspects of Oregon population and culture

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
April 24, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Chemeketa Eola Northwest Viticulture Center
215 Doaks Ferry Road NW
Salem, OR 97304

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording https://youtu.be/CyOXJcuSgnA)

OWEB Members Present	OWEB Staff Present	Others Present
Armstrong, Ed	Barnes, Darika	Klock, Clair
Brandt, Stephen	Davis, Renee	Larson, Kristen
Furfey, Rosemary	Fetcho, Ken	Morford, Shawn
Henning, Alan	Hartstein, Eric	
Labbe, Randy	Loftsgaarden, Meta	
Marshall, Gary	Redon, Liz	
Masterson, Laura	Shaff, Courtney	
Neuhauser, Will	Williams, Eric	
Roberts, John		
Robison, Jason		
Stangl, Kathy		
Thorndike, Dan		

The meeting was called to order at 3:00 p.m. by Co-Chair Dan Thorndike.

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:00:00)
Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from the state and federal natural resource agencies they represent.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:35:03)
Minutes of the January 24-26, 2017 board meeting in Madras were presented to the board for approval. It was noted that the meeting minutes should include Karl Wenner as present. Executive Director Loftsgaarden announced that future meeting minutes will be in an audio format with a printed summary to note time stamps for agenda items.

> *Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the minutes from the January 24-26, 2017 meeting in Madras. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. Laura Masterson abstained because she was not present at the January meeting. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:35:37 – 0:36:00)*

C. Co-Chair Election (Audio = 0:36:10)
Co-Chair Randy Labbe provided background on OWEB's process for electing co-chairs to two-year alternating terms.

> *Bob Webber moved the board elect Will Neuhauser to serve as OWEB Board Co-Chair for a two-year term. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:37:38 – 0:38:45)*

D. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:40:15)
Representatives from the Focused Investments, Monitoring, and Open Solicitation subcommittees provided updates to the full board on subcommittee topics and activities.

E. Public Comment (Audio = 0:48:10)
There was no public comment.

F. Outreach Rulemaking Update (Audio = 0:48:37)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on the outreach grant rulemaking and application revision process, including the progress made by the rules advisory committee.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 1:04:00)
Clair Klock from Klock Farm and Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District addressed the board to offer his perspective on conservation education and support for outreach.

K-1. Executive Director Update: Budget and Legislative (Audio = 1:07:00)
Deputy Director Renee Davis presented an update to the board on the 2017 legislative session with information about the status of OWEB's 2017-2019 budget. Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein discussed the progress of policy bills that are relevant to the agency.

K-2. Executive Director Update: Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Monitoring (Audio = 1:25:15)
Deputy Director Renee Davis and Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff provided a report to the board on FIP Monitoring activities, including development of a progress monitoring framework for the Implementation FIPs.

R-1. Other Business- Revised Coquille Valley Wetlands Protection and Restoration Project (Audio =1:38:19)
Grant Program Manger Eric Williams provided a history of OWEB board actions taken on the Coquille Valley Wetlands Protection and Restoration Project. He requested the board authorize adjustments to existing grant agreements, as outlined in the staff report.

> *Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board authorize the executive director to amend or consolidate grant scopes and funding amounts for the Coquille Valley Wetlands Protection and Restoration Project, including project numbers 211-115, 215-2000, and 215-8006, as needed by the project partners and as authorized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service, with an effective date of April 28, 2015. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:47:10 – 1:48:06)*

R-2. Other Business – Conservation Reserve and Enhancement Program (CREP) Cost Share (Audio = 1:48:20)
Eric Williams presented an overview of CREP, and requested additional funds to comply with the terms of state cost-share agreements associated with the program.

> *Dan Thorndike moved the board add $200,000 of recaptured funds to the CREP line item of the 2015-2017 Spending Plan, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of July 1, 2015. The motion was seconded by Will Neuhauser. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:53:15 – 1:54:00)*

The meeting was adjourned for the day by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 4:55 p.m.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
April 25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Chemeketa Eola Northwest Viticulture Center
215 Doaks Ferry Road NW
Salem, OR 97304

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording https://youtu.be/9e83SwpKEVw. Please keep in mind that sometimes agenda items are discussed out of order.)

OWEB Members Present	OWEB Staff Present	Others Present
Armstrong, Ed	Barnes, Darika	Aunan, Lauri
Brandt, Stephen	Ciannella, Greg	Beamer, Kelley
Furfey, Rosemary	Davis, Renee	Berg, Tristen
Henning, Alan	Dutterer, Andrew	Bierly, Ken
Labbe, Randy	Duzik, Katie	Butler, Tim
Marshall, Gary	Fetcho, Ken	Faucera, Jason
Masterson, Laura	Hartstein, Eric	Houston, Ryan
Neuhauser, Will	Hatch, Audrey	Larson, Kristen
Roberts, John	Hulst, Miriam	McGinnis, Cheryl
Robison, Jason	Leiendecker, Karen	Morford, Shawn
Stangl, Kathy	Leopold, Kathy	Nicolescu, Jerry
Thorndike, Dan	Loftsgaarden, Meta	Nash, Mary Anne
Wenner, Karl	McCarthy, Jillian	Nye, Brad
	Redon, Liz	
	Shaff, Courtney	
	Williams, Eric	

The meeting was called to reconvene by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser at 8:00 a.m.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided follow-up to topics of discussion from April 24, 2017, and logistics information for the day. (Audio = 0:00:00)

G. Spending Plan Discussion (Audio = 0:02:10)
Following an introduction by Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, the board heard staff presentations on items in the OWEB spending plan. Presentations featured a brief history of each item, the demand and future need for the item, and recent highlights and accomplishments with each line item.

1. Open Solicitation – Restoration (0:20:05)
2. Open Solicitation – Technical Assistance (0:26:35)
3. Open Solicitation – Outreach (0:38:05)
4. Open Solicitation – Monitoring Grants (0:42:15)
5. Open Solicitation – Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring (0:55:05)
6. Open Solicitation – Land and Water Acquisitions (1:21:10)
7. Open Solicitation – Oregon Department of Agriculture Weed Grant Program (1:45:12)
8. Open Solicitation – Oregon Plan Governor's Priorities (2:08:48)

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 2:20:13)
The board heard public comment from Jerry Nicolescu from the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Kelley Beamer from the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Jason Faucera from the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network, and Shawn Morford from the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, all of which were representing the Conservation Partnership .

9. Focused Investments – Implementation FIPs (2:31:00)
10. Focused Investments – Capacity-Building FIPs (2:51:53)
11. Focused Investments – FI Effectiveness Monitoring (3:04:58)

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 3:40:58)
The board heard public comment from Clair Klock representing the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District and Mary Anne Nash representing the Oregon Farm Bureau.

12. Operating Capacity – District Capacity Grants (3:58:18)
13. Operating Capacity – Statewide Organizational Partnership Support (4:12:48)
14. Operating Capacity – Building Capacity/Organization Collaboration Grants (4:27:18)
15. Special – CREP Technical Assistance/CREP Cost-Shares (4:38:33)
16. Special – Strategic Implementation Areas (4:50:03)
17. Special – Small Grants (5:05:28)

Board discussion of Spending Plan line items (Audio = 6:35:12)

H. Public Comment (Audio = 5:23:13)
The board heard public comment from Kristen Larson representing the Luckiamute Watershed Council, who expressed concern about certain restrictions within the small grant program.

I. CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Update (Audio = 5:48:20**)**
Deputy Director Renee Davis and Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho presented to the board the final CREP Effectiveness Monitoring Report.

J. OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grant Rule Amendments (Audio = 3:23:48 and (5:24:46)
Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided the board an update on the rulemaking process for amending the OWEB Grant Program and Restoration Grant rules, and requested board approval of the amendments.

> *Dan Thorndike moved the board approve the amendments to the Division 5 OWEB Grant Program administrative rules as specified in Attachment C to the staff report including appropriate renumbering. Will Neuhauser seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:40:03 – 3:40:53)*
>
> *Dan Thorndike moved the board approve the amendments to the Division 10 Restoration Grants administrative rules as specified in Attachment C to the staff report including appropriate renumbering and the discussed modifications to the language of 695-010-0060. The motion was seconded by Randy Labbe. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:47:06 – 5:47:50)*

The meeting was adjourned for the day by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser at 4:42 p.m. (Audio = 7:10:40)

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
April 26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Chemeketa Eola Northwest Viticulture Center
215 Doaks Ferry Road NW
Salem, OR 97304

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording https://youtu.be/TsjDveQN8JQ)

OWEB Members Present	OWEB Staff Present	Others Present
Armstrong, Ed	Barnes, Darika	Barnes, Mark
Brandt, Stephen	Chandler, Heather	Bierly, Ken
Furfey, Rosemary	Ciannella, Greg	Bonson, Steph
Henning, Alan	Davis, Rene	Charette, Amy
Labbe, Randy	Dutterer, Andrew	Chase, Nancy
Marshall, Gary	Duzik, Katie	Carleton, Alexa
Masterson, Laura	Fetcho, Ken	Gardner, Nadia
Neuhauser, Will	Greer, Sue	Kee, Jeffrey
Roberts, John	Grenbemer, Mark	Lambert, Chrysten
Robison, Jason	Gunville, Katy	Lofman, Denise
Stangl, Kathy	Hartstein, Eric	Luiz, Jessamyn
Thorndike, Dan	Hulst, Miriam	Moll, Joe
Wenner, Karl	Hungate, Cammi	Patty, Steve
	Kirchner, Gretchen	Roix, Dan
	Leiendecker, Karen	Winters, Herb
	Loftsgaarden, Meta	
	McCarthy, Jillian	
	Redon, Liz	
	Williams, Eric	

The meeting was called to reconvene by Co-Chair Will Neuhauser at 8:00 a.m.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden provided follow-up to topics of discussion from April 24 and 25, 2017 regarding lottery projections. (Audio = 0:00:00)

L. Public Comment (Audio = 0:02:37)
Jeffrey Kee urged the board to require projects that seek to conserve water to use the Oregon Department of Water Resource's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. Ken Bierly, representing the Glenn-Gibson Creek Watershed Council, welcomed the board to the mid-Willamette Valley watershed. Amy Charette, representing the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, offered an invitation to the board to attend a May 11 celebration at the Oxbow Conservation Area on the Middle Fork of the John Day River.

M. Water Acquisition Grant Awards (Audio = 0:13:05)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy provided a briefing and requested board action on water acquisition grant applications that were received

during the December 2016 grant cycle. Scott McCullough, Program Director for the Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), provided additional detail on NFWF's role in the program.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 0:34:00)

Chrysten Lambert from Trout Unlimited addressed the board to offer support for the Water Acquisitions program.

Dan Thorndike moved the board award funding for water acquisition grants as specified in Table 1 of the Water Acquisition Grant Awards staff report. The motion was seconded by Ed Armstrong. The motion passed unanimously. (0:44:20 – 0:44:45)

N. Coastal Wetlands Grants- Permission to Apply for 2018 Federal Grants
(Audio = 0:44:52)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy requested the board approve receipt of one grant award from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program, and also requested board approval to submit applications to the grant program on behalf of local partners for funding in 2018.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 1:09:15)

The board heard public comment from Nadia Gardner and Dan Roix representing the Columbia Land Trust and Denise Lofman representing the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce who offered support for the South Tongue Point Conservation Project.

Will Neuhauser moved the board approve receipt of funding in the amount of $161,681 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service under the 2016 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program and delegate authority to the Executive Director to distribute funds through the appropriate agreements in support of the Ecola Creek Wetlands Protection and Restoration Project, contingent on the successful award of OWEB state match. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio corrupt from 1:30:10)

Bob Webber moved the board approve the submission of applications for the Tillamook River Wetland Project, South Tongue Point Conservation Project, and Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration Project-Phase II, to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 2018 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. The applications for federal funds are contingent on approval by the Legislature. The motion was seconded by John Roberts. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio corrupt from 1:30:10)

O. November 2016 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle (Audio = 1:30:30)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams requested the Board approve the 2017-2019 Open Solicitation grant schedule.

Randy Labbe moved the board adopt the 2017-2019 schedule of grant application deadlines and board meeting dates, as shown in Attachment A to the staff report. This schedule may be subject to change based on pending and future PCSRF awards. The motion was seconded by Ed Armstrong. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 1:32:43 – 1:33:23*)*

Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives provided presentations on the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle.

The board considered grant applications submitted in the November 2016 Open Solicitation grant cycle for restoration, technical assistance, monitoring, and outreach grants.

Region 1: Katie Duzik, Regional Program Representative for the North Coast Basin, presented projects from Region 1 with a focus on projects identified in plans. (Audio = 1:41:05)

Region 2: Mark Grenbemer, Regional Program Representative for Southwest Oregon, presented projects from Region 2 with a focus on project readiness. (Audio = 1:52:10)

Region 3: Liz Redon, Regional Program Representative for the Willamette Basin, presented projects from Region 3 with a focus on habitat connectivity and on the role of facilitation in the review team process. (Audio = 2:09:45)

Region 4: Greg Ciannella, Regional Program Representative for Central Oregon, presented Region 4 projects with a focus on technical soundness around five themes. (Audio = 2:22:15)

Region 5: Karen Leiendecker, Regional Program Representative for Eastern Oregon, presented projects from Region 5 with a focus on cost-benefit and leverage. (Audio = 2:34:40)

Region 6: Sue Greer, Regional Program Representative for the Mid-Columba Basin, presented projects from Region 6 with a focus on the value of partnerships. (Audio = 2:55:20)

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 3:13:20)
Steph Bonson from Harney County Weed Management Area addressed the board to offer support for Beaver Tables Medusahead project #217-5038.

Alexa Carleton addressed the board to offer support for Coos Watershed Youth-Led Community Stewardship Program project #217-2061, requesting transition funding until they can locate another funding source.

Herb Winters from Wheeler County SWCD addressed the board to offer support for Circle Bar Ranch Restoration project #217-6059.

There was board discussion and deliberation about projects (Audio = 3:45:25).

> *John Roberts moved the board fund each of the outreach applications for youth education projects below the staff-recommended funding line that have received prior OWEB grants for a total of $290,421. The motion failed for lack of a second. (Audio = 7:20:20 – 7:20:02)*
>
> *Bob Webber moved the board decrease the spending plan line item for land and water acquisitions by $825,000 and increase the restoration line item by $775,000 and the outreach line item by $50,000. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 7:21:41 – 7:22:37)*
>
> *Randy Labbe moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as shown in Attachment D to the November 2016 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle staff report. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 4:39:49 – 4:41:00)*

P. Land Acquisition Grant Awards (Audio = 4:43:35)
Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Hulst requested board action on land acquisition grant applications that were received during the October 2016 grant cycle. The board heard public comment on land acquisition applications.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 4:55:55)
Ken Bierly and Nancy Chase from Lower Nehalem Community Trust addressed the board to offer support for Botts Marsh Acquisition project #217-9901.

Mark Barnes, City Planner from the City of Cannon Beach, addressed the board to offer support for Ecola Creek Wetlands project #217-9902.

Amy Charette from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Herb Winters from Wheeler County SWCD addressed the board to offer support for Canyon Creek Ranch Conservation Easement project #217-9903.

Joe Moll from the McKenzie River Trust addressed the board to offer support for North Fork Siuslaw project #217-9904.

Will Neuhauser moved the board award funding for land acquisition grants as specified in Attachment A to the Land Acquisition staff report, with the project-specific conditions detailed in Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 5:51:50 – 5:52:24)

Laura Masterson moved the board approve funding for Project #217-9904 in Attachment A to the Land Acquisition staff report. The motion was seconded by Gary Marshall. There was board discussion. The motion failed. (Audio = 5:55:06 – 6:13:00)

Q. OWEB Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 6:13:51)
Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Principal Consultant Steve Patty and Associate Consultant Jessamyn Luiz with Dialogues in Action engaged in a discussion with the board on recent developments to the strategic planning process.

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 5:30 p.m. (Audio = 7:23:35)

July 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

Background

The Focused Investment Subcommittee is tracking progress of the initial Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) capacity building and implementation grants. The subcommittee met June 9 to discuss FIP capacity building partnership evaluations and FIP implementation partnership progress and anticipated biennium 2 investments.

Summary of Open Solicitation Subcommittee Work this Quarter

Subcommittee Chair

Since past FI Subcommittee Chair Will Neuhauser was elected Co-Chair of the OWEB Board at the April meeting he is no longer a member of the Focused Investment Subcommittee. The subcommittee selected Gary Marshall as Chair.

Implementation FIP Carry-forward

Anticipated carry-forward amounts are similar to what was reported at the April board meeting. The requested amounts are included within the spending plan staff report and are similar to staff expectations for each FIP.

Implementation FIP Solicitation

The next solicitation for Implementation FIPs will be released in January 2018, with applications due June 30, 2018. Similar to last time, consultations will be required prior to application submittal, and the subcommittee will interview applicants to negotiate budgets and develop funding recommendations for board consideration in January 2019. To help prepare, the solicitation staff will convene a FIP Work Group for feedback as well as to serve as the Rulemaking Advisory Committee for development of FIP rules.

Partnership Learning Project

The subcommittee reviewed a draft report on the Partnership Learning Project, which will be presented to the board at the July meeting.

To Be Presented at the July 2017 Board Meeting by:

Gary Marshall, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047.

July 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee is tracking ongoing work associated with both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and FIP monitoring. They also are overseeing the process to develop improved guidance for applicants submitting monitoring grant applications. Finally, the subcommittee is discussing potential areas of focus for EM investments in the 2017-19 biennium.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on April 4, 2017 and discussed:

1) Status update about the process to develop monitoring application guidance;
2) Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF)'s work on the progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs; and
3) Review of monitoring line items in the board's 2017-2019 spending plan in preparation for the 2017-2019 spending plan discussion at the April 2017 board meeting.

The subcommittee met again on June 6, 2017 and received updates about several topics, including #1 and #2 above. Below are short descriptions of the topics discussed:

1) Status update about monitoring application guidance development process – Monitoring staff worked with OWEB grant program staff to complete and discuss results of a survey about monitoring applications. Insights from this discussion are being used to refine surveys and plan small-group discussions with two other groups: a) review team members and, b) monitoring grantees, during summer of 2017.
2) Status update about BEF's Implementation FIP monitoring to complete the FIP progress monitoring framework, which will be presented at the July board meeting.
3) Status updates about ongoing programmatic EM – Staff provided brief updates about ongoing efforts focused on tidegate restoration, livestock exclusion, and the Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW).
4) Brief update about next steps from CREP EM study.
5) Discussion about potential areas of focus for programmatic EM funding in 2017-19 – The subcommittee had a thoughtful discussion of priority topics for which these funds may be used. Ideas raised include:
    - Focus monitoring to address specific questions about "Has x restoration action improved y parameter (e.g., water temperature, amount of spawning gravel, etc.)?"
    - Use this funding to answer "Did OWEB's investment result in effective changes to the ecosystem?" (e.g., similar to the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership work).
    - Tell the story of restoration effects/outcomes in geographically focused locations (i.e., instead of project-level EM, scale up the monitoring to larger geographies).

- Look at areas of significant investment in individual restoration action types in each of the six OWEB regions to help narrow the focus of monitoring.
    - Is there the potential to utilize existing data to compile and analyze these to help tell the story?

Overall, there was strong support for the aforementioned ideas. The subcommittee acknowledged that these concepts need to be better defined (e.g., determine appropriate scale, get clear on if this is implementation monitoring or effectiveness monitoring, articulate the question to be answered with such monitoring investments). As next steps, staff will research largest investment areas by region and begin fleshing out these concepts. The subcommittee will meet again on August 1, 2017.

To Be Presented at the July 2017 Board Meeting by:

Rosemary Furfey, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Renee Davis, Deputy Director
renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203

July 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Open Solicitation Subcommittee Update

Background

The Open Solicitation Subcommittee is currently addressing its top four priority topics: 1) small grant program evaluation; 2) outreach application revisions; 3) funding line process; and 4) review team composition and process. Since the last board meeting, the subcommittee met on May 31 to continue its work.

Summary of Open Solicitation Subcommittee Work this Quarter

Small Grant Program Evaluation

Having previously determined that the program successfully achieves its goals, the subcommittee discussed two proposed policy changes: 1) the project cap; and 2) reallocation of unspent funds. Staff provided an analysis that found that 64% of projects funded in the current biennium were at or near the $10,000 project cap, and that since July 2013 the average cost per project, including cash match, is $22,189. Based on this analysis, the board will review a proposal to increase the OWEB project cap to $15,000 in the next biennium.

The subcommittee asked staff for recommendations on a reallocation methodology for unspent funds. Staff noted that, during the current biennium, 9 of 28 teams had awarded more than 90% of their funds by January 2017, or ¾ of the way through the biennium. If more funds were made available to these teams, more projects could likely be implemented, particularly with advance notice that a reallocation of funds was possible. The subcommittee discussed bringing to the board a reallocation process where the previous biennium's unspent funds, up to $500,000, would be made available in the subsequent biennium to small grant teams who have allocated 90% of their funds on a "first-come, first-served" basis beginning at the mid-point of the biennium. A monetary amendment would add up to an additional $45,000 to those project teams, which would fund three or more additional projects based on the new project cap.

Outreach Application Revisions

The former outreach offering will be renamed "stakeholder engagement" for the fall solicitation, and will solicit projects that more closely match the Measure 76 language that more narrowly defines eligible outreach projects and precludes funding education programs. The public comment period for the revised rules closed on June 30.

Funding Line Process

The subcommittee reviewed the funding line process from the April board meeting, where staff proposed funding two additional projects using unspent funds from other spending plan line items. Both projects provided exceptional ecological benefits. The subcommittee was generally comfortable with the process, but had concerns about transparency, given that applicants are not aware of the possibility of additional funds. The subcommittee discussed having an additional pot of funds for the board to select below-the-line projects and concluded that an additional pot is not preferred because it triggers emotional appeals made by applicants, which could result in rewarding those who show up. Staff will analyze recapture funds and present information to the subcommittee about the predictability and typical amount of recapture funds.

May Applications
Staff described the reorganized restoration evaluation criteria that the board adopted in April and how they will be emphasized during regional review team meetings this summer. All board members were encouraged to attend a review team meeting.

To Be Presented at the July 2017 Board Meeting by:
Bob Webber, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

July 24-26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Operating Capacity Subcommittee Update

Background

The Operating Capacity Subcommittee focuses on issues related to watershed council and soil and water conservation district operating capacity grants, monitoring of capacity investments, support for the statewide partnership organizations and organizational restructuring grants.

Summary of Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met via phone on June 7 and discussed 2017-2019 Council Capacity grants (agenda item G) and the FIP Partnership Learning Project (agenda item H).

The subcommittee discussed the council capacity evaluation process and the merit criteria and provided feedback to staff in preparation for the July board meeting funding decision. Jennifer Arnold, Reciprocity Consulting and Robert Warren, Bonneville Environmental Foundation also joined the call and provided an overview of the Partnership Learning Project report. The subcommittee discussed the report and provided feedback to staff and the project partners.

To Be Presented at the July 2017 Board Meeting by:

Debbie Hollen, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:

Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator
courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0046

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
(503) 986-0178
FAX (503) 986-0199
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F-Spending Plan
July 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides the 2017-19 Spending Plan for board review and approval based on both feedback from the April board meeting and using the May revenue forecast for the Oregon Lottery.

II. Background

After the Oregon Legislature approves OWEB's budget at the beginning of each biennium, the board considers and approves a spending plan for the distribution of grant funding. The OWEB Spending Plan guides the agency's grant investments for the biennium. Available funding for the board to distribute includes Measure 76 Lottery, federal, and salmon license plates. The bulk of OWEB's funding comes from two major sources: Measure 76 Lottery and the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF).

III. 2017-2019 Spending Plan Development

Based on the May 2017 revenue forecast, it is estimated that a total combined $88 million will be available for grant distribution through Measure 76 Lottery Funds and PCSRF funding over the course of the biennium. For Lottery funding, this amount is dependent on revenues received. For PCSRF funding, Oregon was successful in receiving a 2017 grant similar to the amount received in 2016. Additions to the spending plan in 2018 will be dependent on OWEB's successful receipt of 2018 PCSRF funding through their competitive grant process.

In October 2016, the board was updated on the process and timeline for approving the 2017-2019 Spending Plan. In January 2017, the board discussed spending plan categories and provided feedback on the proposed percentages allotted to each category. In April 2017, the board received a presentation and had the opportunity to provide feedback on all spending plan line items except those that are directly awarded to other agencies and organizations. An update on those items will be provided at the July 2017 board meeting, along with staff-proposed changes to the spending plan between April and July.

IV. Spending Plan 'Other Distributed Funds'

The spending plan contains a range of items, many of which were presented to the board at the April 2017 meeting. Others, listed under the 'Other Distributed Funds' category in the spending plan, will be presented at the July 2017 board meeting. These include:

Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership (LCEP) - LCEP is a two-state, public-private National Estuary Program (NEP) created by the Governors of Oregon and Washington and the Environmental Protection Agency in 1995 to focus on the 146 miles of the lower Columbia River. LCEP needs state matching funds to complement federal funding received through the NEP. OWEB funds will support riparian and habitat restoration in the lower Columbia River watershed.

Forest Collaboratives - Forest Collaborative technical assistance grants fund local forest collaboratives to increase restoration efforts on federal forests statewide. 2017-2019 will be the third biennium in which OWEB has implemented the Forest Collaborative technical assistance grant program on behalf of Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). OWEB staff work collaboratively with ODF staff to set grant offerings, develop application materials, and review grant applications.

Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) - The Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW is designed to evaluate the implementation of watershed restoration projects over a large geography and extended period of time to describe the collective benefits provided to salmon and steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. Funders include NOAA Fisheries, via the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission (PSMFC), and OWEB. Partners in the IMW have conducted work in a coordinated fashion to evaluate and document watershed restoration actions and ecological conditions since 2008. The IMW partners currently are analyzing and compiling their research results into a comprehensive synthesis report that describes the findings of 10 years of monitoring, lessons learned from the restoration and monitoring, and future monitoring needs in the IMW.

Implementation of New Habitat Assessment Tools for Oregon Coast Coho – A new and late-breaking opportunity exists to receive federal funding from NOAA Fisheries, via PSMFC, that would support work by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) related to coast Coho salmon. First, state and federal fisheries agencies, along with the Wild Salmon Center, will coordinate to convene a workshop in fall of 2017. This workshop will bring together fish experts to address the question, 'How can we best measure all coho salmon habitat (i.e., tributaries, main stem, floodplain, and estuarine environments) in order to understand how it correlates and predicts coho salmon population viability over space (at multiple scales) and time in order to support management decisions by NOAA Fisheries, ODFW, OWEB and others?' Results of this workshop will influence how ODFW monitors ESA-listed coho salmon habitat into the future. Potential methods that will be considered include aerial and satellite photo interpretation, LiDAR, hyperspectral imaging, and software to interpret remotely gathered information.

The funding will be used to support an ODFW employee to work with NOAA Fisheries to implement recommendations from the workshop.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) - A portion of the PCSRF funds are legislatively directed to be transferred to ODFW. The amount of funding transferred depends on the State of Oregon's successful receipt of PCSRF funding through NOAA's competitive grant process. Eligible uses of PCSRF funds based on NOAA recovery priorities include restoration, technical assistance, and monitoring. For the 2017-2019 biennium, the following ODFW programs are proposed to receive PCSRF funding: Fish Screening and Passage Program, Lower Columbia River Harvest Management Program, Conservation and Recovery Plan Implementation and Technical Support Program, Chum Reintroduction Program, and the Oregon Plan Fish and Habitat Monitoring Program.

V. Follow-Up from April Board Meeting

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) **Strategic Implementation Areas** – At the April board meeting, board members asked for clarification on two items related to SIA funding: 1) ways to ensure that this is different from base capacity funding for districts and councils, and 2) assurance that funding would be of a limited duration for a specific district or council.

OWEB staff have been working with ODA staff to adjust the Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) grant program from a restoration to a technical assistance (TA) grant program. The program will be structured to allow six SIA's to apply for TA grants in year one of the biennium and six to apply in year two of the biennium. Each SIA will be able to apply for one TA grant for up to $100,000 over four years. An organization can only apply for a new SIA TA grant if they have successfully completed the first TA grant and are working within a completely new area. The TA funds will be eligible for the following uses: developing an implementation strategy, designing projects, recruiting landowners, monitoring, and other coordination activities. Projects developed as a result of these TA grants may apply for funding through OWEB's small grant and open solicitation grant programs. Grantees will report on accomplishments quarterly when submitting payment requests.

Small Grant Program – At the April board meeting, staff and board discussed increasing the cap for the small grant program and determining a method to redistribute funds remaining in the current biennium to high performing small grant teams. Based on analysis conducted by staff and the open solicitation subcommittee, it is recommended that 1) the small grant program cap be increased to $15,000, and 2) up to $500,000 in any biennium may be allocated to small grant teams that have utilized 95% of their allocated funding after the first year of the biennium.

VI. Spending Plan Changes

Changes to the spending plan are outlined in Attachments A-C. Attachment A is the proposed spending plan with increases identified in specific program areas based

on the increased Lottery revenue forecast, as well as an increase in recaptured funds from previously awarded grants. Attachment B describes those increases. Attachment C contains a number of policy changes, as well as requests to delegate authority for distribution of certain funding to the executive director. All attachments will be reviewed with the board during the spending plan presentation.

VII. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve requests outlined in the 'Carry forward' and '2017 Spending Plan Requests' columns of Attachment A: Proposed OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan.

Staff recommend the board approve tables 1-3 of Attachment C to the staff report regarding spending plan policy decisions, carry forward, and delegation authorities for the spending plan.

Attachments

A. Draft 2017-2019 Spending Plan
B. Summary of Increases Proposed from April 2017 Spending Plan Draft
C. 2017-19 Spending Plan Policy, Carry-Forward, and Delegation Recommendations

Proposed OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan

OWEB SPENDING PLAN	Oct 2016 Spending Plan		Carry Forward	Proposed 2017 Spending Plan	Proposed 2018 Spending Plan	Difference from 2016
Open Solicitation:						
Restoration	25.207			28.550	32.000	6.793
Technical Assistance						
Restoration TA	3.060			3.600	4.000	0.940
CREP TA*	1.050			1.125	1.125	0.075
Stakeholder Engagement	0.600			0.700	0.700	0.100
Monitoring grants	2.120			2.500	2.750	0.630
Land and Water Acquisition						
Acquisition Projects	7.500			6.200	6.900	-0.600
Acquisition Technical Assistance				0.300	0.600	0.600
Weed Grants	2.500			3.000	3.000	0.500
Small Grants **	2.800		0.500	2.800	2.800	0.500
Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring	0.500		0.287	1.300	1.300	1.087
TOTAL	**45.337**			**50.075**	**55.175**	**10.625**
% of assumed Total Budget	**59.16%**			**59.36%**	**61.65%**	

**NRCS to provide up to $250,000 to support CREP-TA (see other distributed funds)*

Focused Investments:						
Implementation FIPs **	14.058		2.556	15.527	15.527	1.469
Capacity-Building FIPs	1.039			1.150	1.150	0.111
FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.500		0.300	0.450	0.450	0.250
TOTAL	**15.597**			**17.127**	**17.127**	**1.830**
% of assumed Total Budget	**20.35%**			**20.30%**	**19.14%**	

***Amounts for this item carryforward column were previously awarded by the board.*

Operating Capacity:						
Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	12.500			13.500	13.500	1.000
Statewide org. partnership support	0.300			0.450	0.500	0.200
Organizational Collaboration Grants	0.400			0.400	0.400	0.000
TOTAL	**13.200**			**14.350**	**14.400**	**1.200**
% of assumed Total Budget	**17.22%**			**17.01%**	**16.09%**	

Other:						
CREP	0.500			0.600	0.600	0.100
Governor Priorities	1.000			1.000	1.000	0.000
Strategic Implementation Areas	1.000			1.200	1.200	0.200
TOTAL	**2.500**			**2.800**	**2.800**	**0.300**
% of assumed Total Budget	**3.26%**			**3.32%**	**3.13%**	

TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	**76.634**			**84.352**	**89.502**	**13.955**

OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION						
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF	9.512			10.450	10.450	
Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF	0.660			0.750	0.750	
Rangeland Fire Protection Assoc from ODF	1.200			0.000	0.000	
PSMFC-IMW	0.591			0.438	0.438	
PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools	0.000			0.166	0.166	
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.300			0.309	0.309	
Natural Resources Conservation Service - CREP TA	0.300			0.250	0.250	
ODOT	0.250			0.000	0.000	
TOTAL	**12.813**			**12.363**	**12.363**	**0.000**

TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds	**89.447**			**96.715**	**101.865**	**13.955**

Summary of Increases Proposed from April 2017 Spending Plan Draft

Restoration grants	Increase from $26.8m to $28.55m (+$1.75 million)	Additional funding to meet program demand
Technical Assistance Grants	Increase from $3.25m to $3.6m (+$350k)	Additional funding to meet program demand
CREP Technical Assistance	Increase from $925k to $1.125m (+$200k)	Provide $200,000 of funding to local CREP implementers to complete cultural resource review backlog and reviews for future projects; In addition, under 'other distributed funds' add $250,000 from NRCS for CREP-TA grants and training.
Outreach/ Stakeholder Engagement	Increase from $600k to $700k (+$100k)	Add $100,000 to stakeholder engagement based on analysis of previously funded landowner outreach projects that would now be funded under this category.
Open Solicitation Effectiveness Monitoring	Increase from $500k to $1.3m (+$800k)	Total request includes funding for several potential projects, including pilot projects for 'telling the story with monitoring'; IMW; piloting an approach to have CREP techs assist with CREP monitoring; next steps for tidegate monitoring; SIA monitoring and capacity monitoring.
Focused Investment Implementation	Increase from $15.512m to $15.527m (+$15k)	Technical adjustment to match budgets
Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring	Increase from $500k to $750k (+$250k)	Assumes additional monitoring needs for each FIP, as well as additional funding for continued partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Strategic Implementation Areas	Increase from $1m to $1.2m (+$200k)	Provides up to $100,000 each for 12 four-year grants to local implementers to assist in implementation of Coordinated Streamside Management work in priority areas (Strategic Implementation Areas)
Total increase:	**$3.665 million**	

2017-19 Spending Plan Policy, Carry-Forward and Delegation Recommendations

Table 1. Carry Forward

Carry forward amounts as indicated through June 30, 2019

Program	Carry Forward Amount	Explanation
Small Grants	Carry forward up to $500,000	Using new reallocation methodology, funds will be redistributed to qualified small grant teams in 2018
Focused Investment Implementation	Carry forward a total of not-to-exceed $2,470,928 in the following grant numbers and not-to-exceed amounts: • Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative, 216-8202-12636, $407,384 • Sage Grouse, 216-8203-12637, $95,510 • Willamette, 216-8201-12635, $1,037,724 • Deschutes (FIP), 216-8200-12634, $52,206 • Deschutes (SIP), 214-4999-10631, $878,104	Based on analysis of first-biennium budgets and grants still to be allocated from that funding.
Open Solicitation Effectiveness Monitoring	Carry forward $287,000	Total request includes funding for several potential projects, including pilot projects for 'telling the story with monitoring'; Intensively Monitored Watersheds; piloting an approach to have CREP techs assist with CREP monitoring; next steps with tidegate monitoring, and capacity monitoring.
Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring	Carry forward $300,000	Assumes additional monitoring needs for each FIP, as well as additional funding for continued partnership with Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Total carry forward:	**$3,557,928**	

Table 2. Spending Plan Associated Board Approval Requests

Approve policy recommendations and receipt of funds from other sources as outlined.

Program	Policy or Funding Approval Request	Background
Small Grant Program	Increase cap to $15,000 from $10,000 for grants through the small grant program.	Based on staff analysis reviewed through open solicitation subcommittee
Small Grant Program	Authorize staff to carry forward up to $500,000 in any biennium of funds left in the small grant program line item of the spending plan to use as described in Section V of staff report for redistribution to small qualifying small grant teams.	Based on staff and open solicitation subcommittee analysis, this will allow staff to shift remaining funds in one biennium to small grant teams who have utilized 95% of their allocated funding after the first year of the biennium
Technical Assistance Grant Program	Increase cap to $75,000 from $50,000 for grants provided through the open solicitation grant cycle for technical assistance grants.	Based on project analysis developed by staff at request of board and open solicitation subcommittee
Outreach Grant program	Change name from Outreach to Stakeholder Engagement	Reflects changes in rules to be approved by OWEB board at July meeting.
Intensively Monitored Watershed	Accept up to $438,000 of other funding to support the Intensively Monitored Watershed Program	Reflects maximum amount that could be received from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Service in support of the Upper Middle Fork John Day IMW
Implementation of New Habitat Assessment Tools for Oregon Coast Coho	Accept up to $166,000 of other funding to support work by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to implement new habitat assessment tools for Oregon coast coho	Reflects maximum amount that could be received from Pacific States Marine Fisheries Service in support of the implementation of coast coho habitat assessment tools
CREP-TA	Accept up to $250,000 of federal funding to support the CREP Technical Assistance program	Reflects funding made available from the Natural Resources Conservation Service in support of technical assistance for this program.
Acquisition Technical Assistance Grant Program	Authorize pilot for technical assistance grants necessary for acquisition projects in tidal wetlands.	Based on staff and acquisition subcommittee recognition of need for quantifying complex technical issues to help stakeholders better understand the implications of restoration on proposed acquisition projects.

Table 3. Delegation of Authority

Delegate authority to the Director to enter into agreements for the following spending plan line items with award dates as identified. Amounts are as identified on spending plan unless otherwise noted below.

Spending Plan Line Item	Award Date	Background/Description
Small grants	July 1, 2017	Delegation increases timeliness of program implementation. Funds are allocated to small grant teams ($100,000 per team plus additional funding based on new reallocation process) so they can quickly approve and request OWEB funding for small grants.
Soil and Water Conservation District capacity grants	July 1, 2017	Delegation allows for a one-time distribution of funds based on process developed by Oregon Department of Agriculture for implementation of local area plans under the state's agriculture water quality program, including focused implementation in identified areas. Delegation allows for a one-time distribution of funds for the biennium.
FIP Implementation grants	July 1, 2017	The board has already approved the overall funding for each FIP-implementation area. Delegation of funds allows staff to work with grantees on agreed-to timelines, reviewing and approving grants as they are ready within overall budget.
FIP Capacity Building Grants	July 25, 2017	**Staff request the Board approve use of up to $120,000 of the 2017-2019 Capacity Building FIP funds to support development of financial plans by the 2015-2017 Capacity Building FIPs.** Through the Partnership Learning Project, described in agenda item F, OWEB staff have had the opportunity to explore lessons learned from the first biennium of this program. One lesson had been related to the need and value of the partnerships developing fundraising strategies that support and align with the prioritized list of projects developed as part of their plan. Each current grantee will be able to apply for up to $15,000 additional funds, which would be added to the current grant agreement, to develop a financial plan.
Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP)	July 1, 2017	CREP contracts are directly with landowners and can arrive at any time in the biennium. CREP contracts are fully reviewed by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and plans approved by the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).
CREP-technical assistance	July 25, 2017	Grants are approved once per biennium with a technical review completed by all CREP partners: NRCS, FSA, Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), OWEB and associated statewide organizations.
Statewide Organization Partnership grant	July 25, 2017	The board approves overall funding for this partnership for the biennium; subsequent annual agreements and performance requirements are overseen by the director.
Organizational Collaboration grants	July 25, 2017	**Staff request the board approve delegated funds for $200,000 of the $400,000 spending plan line item to fund continued implementation of the Rogue River Watershed Council (RRWC) Merger Implementation.** This is the final biennium of funding that will be provided for the RRWC program. Additional grants in the spending plan will be brought to the board for approval after submission and review.

Forest Collaboratives	July 25, 2017	These funds are transferred from ODF and are managed on their behalf. Through a partnership with ODF, OWEB manages a review team process to ensure high quality projects are approved.
Strategic Implementation Areas	July 25, 2017	These funds are utilized in support of Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) agriculture water quality program. Grants are reviewed by a technical team that includes OWEB and ODA staff to ensure compliance with statute and quality of proposals. The state's team also includes Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).
Weed grants	July 25, 2017	OWEB administers these funds on behalf of ODA and the State Weed Board. ODA staff complete a review process for these grants and approval comes through the State Weed Board.
Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	July 1, 2017	Oregon and Washington both provide funding in support of the cross-state Estuary Partnership. The Governor's office has selected OWEB to be the funding source from which these funds are provided to the program. These funds are then administered as a grant from OWEB.
Governor's Priorities	July 1, 2017	**Staff request $300,000 in delegated funds for tide gate work and $550,000 in delegated funds for the state Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership.** The board receives reports from the Governor's office on overall program priorities. For 2017-19, these include tide gates and sage grouse conservation. Additional priorities proposed by the Governor's office will be vetted with the board prior to funding. Staff then complete the grant application and agreement process with appropriate entities for the selected programs.
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)	July 1, 2017	Based on the grant submitted by the State of Oregon through OWEB, ODFW receives a specific funding distribution from PCSRF from the approved grant.
PSMFC-Upper Middle Fork John Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW)	July 25, 2017	The IMW is designed to evaluate the implementation of watershed restoration projects over a large geography and extended period of time to describe the collective benefits provided to salmon and steelhead populations, habitat, and water quality. Funders include NOAA Fisheries, via the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and OWEB.
PSMFC- Implementation of New Habitat Assessment Tools for Oregon Coast Coho	July 25, 2017	This new and late-breaking opportunity provides funding from NOAA Fisheries, via PSMFC, to support work by ODFW related to coast coho salmon. Experts will be convened to answer questions about how best to measure coho habitat to predict the viability of coho populations over space and time, in order to inform management decisions. Recommendations for refining monitoring approaches will then be implemented by ODFW.

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Council Capacity Grant Awards
July 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2017-2019 Council Capacity Grant Cycle process and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards. Staff recommend funding 58 watershed councils (councils) for $6.75 million. Two councils are not recommended for funding.

II. Background

For more than 15 years, OWEB has provided capacity grants to councils, which are shown in Attachment A. In July 2014, the Board adopted administrative rules and Guidance for Council Capacity grants, which help support the operating capacity of effective councils. The Council Capacity grant process includes both an eligibility determination and initial and secondary merit review.

III. Eligibility Determination

Eligibility criteria define how OWEB will determine whether a council is eligible to apply for a Council Capacity grant. Councils can operate outside of OWEB funding and eligibility criteria. Neither OWEB nor its funding limit or control the existence or creation of councils.

Sixty councils submitted materials for the Eligibility Review. OWEB staff reviewed the materials for "presence/absence," not for quality. After review one watershed council, Powder Basin WC, was determined to be ineligible. That council appealed and was determined to be eligible based on additional information received within the established process.

IV. Merit Review

All 60 eligible councils submitted Council Capacity grant applications and work plans. Merit criteria (Attachment B) evaluate councils for performance and progress including how the council addresses challenges.

A. **Initial Merit Review.** The initial review panel consisted of OWEB staff. Staff reviewed application materials and considered their knowledge of each council's history when making the initial merit determination. Forty-nine councils met all merit criteria and are recommended for full funding. Eleven councils did not meet all criteria and were referred to the secondary review and interview process.

B. **Secondary Review and Interview.** The secondary review panel consisted of OWEB staff and external reviewers. The secondary reviewers considered: 1) information in the application materials and any supplemental materials provided by the council; 2) reviewers' knowledge of the council; 3) OWEB staff input; and 4) an interview with council staff and board members.

V. Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff funding recommendations are based on the merit evaluation and available funding. Staff recommend three funding levels described in Attachment C: "Full Funding" for councils that meet all merit criteria, "Reduced Funding" for councils that do not meet all merit criteria, and "Do Not Fund" for inadequate performance.

Individual council evaluations of all councils that participated in the secondary review process can be found in Attachment D. All evaluations can be found at http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/GRANTS/pages/council_capacity_apps.aspx. Staff recommend "Full Funding" for 53 councils at $118,425, "Reduced Funding" for five councils at $94,695, and "Do Not Fund" for two councils.

OWEB staff recommend two councils for the Do Not Fund category, the Seven Basins and Lower Columbia councils. OWEB staff recognize the significance of this recommendation and do not make it lightly. Evaluation summaries are provided for both as attachments to this staff report.

Next Steps. It is important to note that the Do Not Fund recommendation is not permanent, and each council may submit Council Capacity grant eligibility determination documents in future cycles.

VI. Recommendation

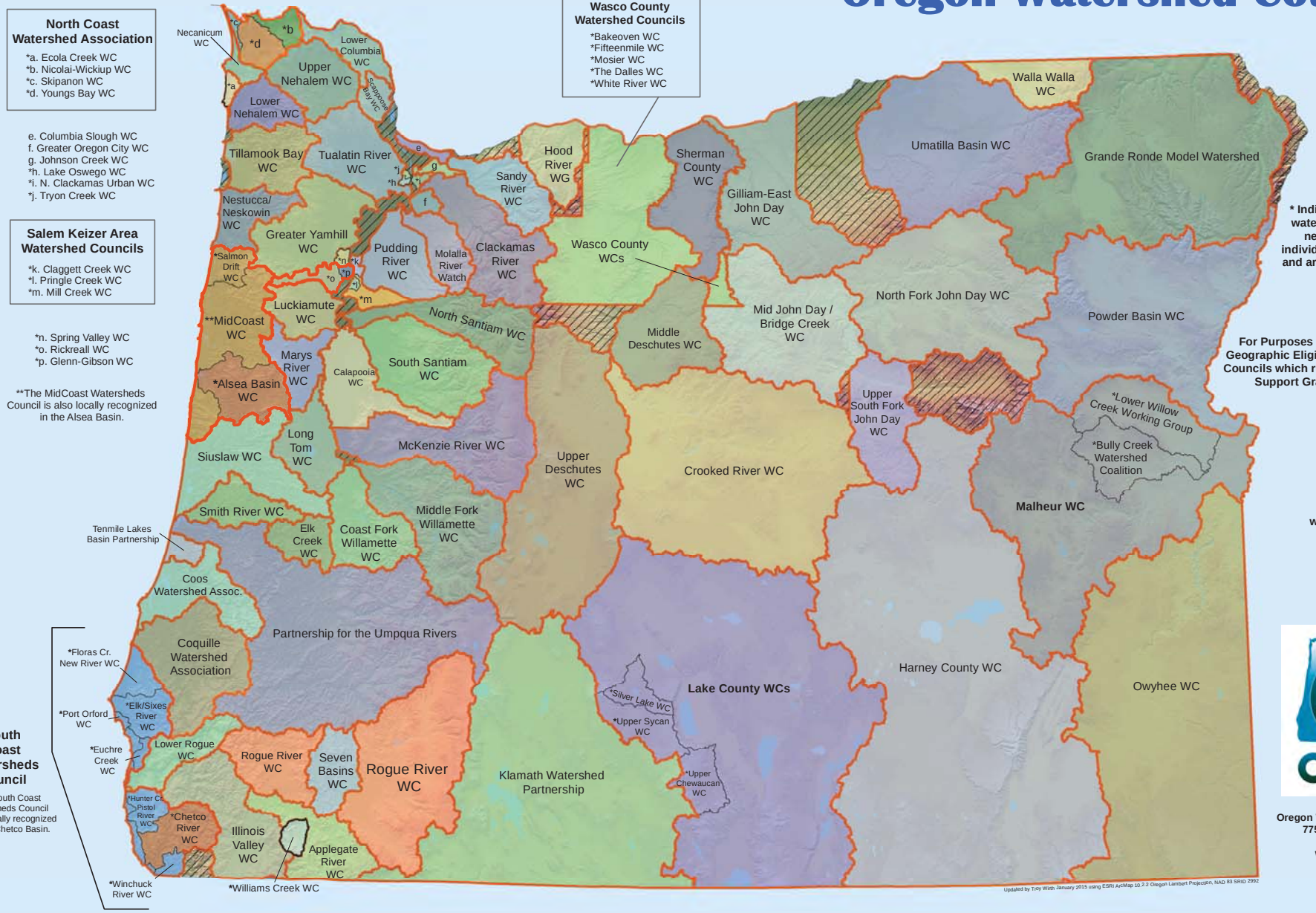
Staff recommend the board award Council Capacity grants as described in Attachment C.

Attachments

A. Map of Locally Recognized Watershed Councils
B. Merit Criteria Overview
C. Staff Funding Recommendations
D. Council Capacity Evaluations for all councils that participated in the secondary review process

Attachment A

Oregon Watershed Councils



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Council Capacity Merit Criteria Overview

The goals of the merit review are to:

1. Ensure strategic and accountable investment of public funds;
2. Encourage continuous improvement in watershed councils' organizational management, operating structure, and functions, and the planning and implementation of on-the-ground watershed protection, restoration, enhancement, and community engagement activities; and
3. Ensure watershed councils are working toward strengthening their role in watersheds through activities focusing on council resilience, leadership, collaboration, and representing a balance of interested and affected persons within the watershed as required by ORS 541.910(2).

Merit Criteria

Merit Criteria	Review for performance
Effective Governance	The council: • Has effective bylaws/charter and policies/ procedures, and follows them. • Includes a balance of interested and affected persons on its governing body. • Regularly evaluates and takes action to improve its organization.
Effective Management	The council's governing body acts to: • Ensure the council meets legal obligations and requirements. • Support successful achievement of the council's goals. • Create a structure, policies, and procedures to support good governance. • Provide effective oversight of staff and contractors. • Continuously improve its business practices.
Progress in planning	The council: • Uses planning documents to identify and implement restoration and community engagement projects. • Regularly evaluates and updates its action plan and work plans. • Engages a mix of stakeholders in its planning.
Progress in On-the-Ground Restoration	The council's actions result in progress in completing priority on-the-ground watershed restoration work tied to council-identified watershed limiting factors.
Progress in Community Engagement	The council makes progress in achieving community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the council's 2-year work plan.

2017-2019 COUNCIL CAPACITY STAFF FUNDING RECOMMENDATION

Applicants are listed by merit category and application number					
Staff Recommended Funding Level	**Part of Secondary Review**	**App#**	**Watershed Council**	**17-19 Awards**	**15-17 award**
Full Funding		218-001	North Coast WS Assn	$118,425	$123,508
Full Funding	Y	218-003	MidCoast WC	$118,425	$123,508
Full Funding		218-004	Upper Nehalem WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-005	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-006	Siuslaw WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-008	Applegate Partnership & WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-010	Coos Watershed Association	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-011	Coquille Watershed Association	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-012	Illinois Valley WC	$118,425	$88,275
Full Funding		218-014	Lower Rogue WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-017	Tenmile Lakes Partnership	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding	Y	218-018	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	$118,425	$116,892
Full Funding		218-019	Rogue River WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-021	Elk Creek WC	$118,425	$88,275
Full Funding		218-022	Calapooia WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-023	Clackamas River Basin Council	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-024	Coast Fork Willamette WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding	Y	218-025	Columbia Slough WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-026	Johnson Creek WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-027	Long Tom WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-028	Marys River WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-029	Middle Fork Willamette WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-030	North Santiam Watershed Council	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-034	Sandy River Basin WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-035	Scappoose Bay WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-036	South Santiam WC	$118,425	$88,275
Full Funding		218-037	Tualatin River WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-038	McKenzie WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-040	Klamath Watershed Partnership	$118,425	$116,892
Full Funding		218-041	Crooked River WC	$118,425	$116,892
Full Funding		218-042	Gilliam East John Day WC	$118,425	$116,892
Full Funding		218-043	Hood River Working Group	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-044	Middle Deschutes WC	$118,425	$88,275
Full Funding		218-045	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	$118,425	$126,816
Full Funding		218-046	Sherman Area WC	$118,425	$88,275
Full Funding		218-047	Upper Deschutes WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-048	Wasco Area WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-049	Grande Ronde Model WS Program	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-050	Harney Watershed Council	$118,425	$88,275
Full Funding		218-051	Malheur WC	$118,425	$88,275
Full Funding	Y	218-052	North Fork John Day WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-053	Umatilla Basin WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-054	Walla Walla Basin WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-055	Mid John Day-Bridge Creek WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-056	Owyhee WC	$118,425	$116,892
Full Funding		218-057	Powder Basin WC	$118,425	$116,892
Full Funding		218-058	Luckiamute WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-059	Greater Oregon City WC	$118,425	$88,275
Full Funding		218-060	Smith River WC	$118,425	$88,275
Full Funding		218-061	Lower Nehalem WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-062	Necanicum WC	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-063	Upper South Fork John Day Watershed Council	$118,425	$110,275
Full Funding		218-064	Molalla River Watch Inc	$118,425	$88,275
Reduced Funding	Y	218-007	Tillamook Bay WC	$94,695	$110,275
Reduced Funding	Y	218-016	South Coast WC	$94,695	$123,508
Reduced Funding	Y	218-031	Pudding River WC	$94,695	$0
Reduced Funding	Y	218-032	Rickreall & Glenn-Gibson WCs	$94,695	$88,275
Reduced Funding	Y	218-039	Greater Yamhill Watershed Council	$94,695	$110,275
Do Not Fund	Y	218-002	Lower Columbia River WC	$0	$110,275
Do Not Fund	Y	218-020	Seven Basins WC	$0	$0
Total				**$6,750,000**	

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2017-2019 Council Capacity Grant
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Application No.: 218-002 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**

Project Name: Lower Columbia River Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective governance. Lack of effective governance was demonstrated through:

- The council did not demonstrate it is using or has in place effective board governance procedures separate and distinct from the SWCD, the council's fiscal sponsor.
- During the secondary review and interview the council did not demonstrate any awareness of the value of taking organizational improvement and development actions and had no plans to work in these areas during the 2017-2019 biennium.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective management. Lack of effective management was demonstrated through:

- The council did not demonstrate effective management of the organization or of the council coordinator. It is unclear how the council board provides feedback to the SWCD on coordinator activities and performance or managing or allocating the time of the council coordinator.
- The council board appointed the new council coordinator, who was a current SWCD employee at the time of appointment. During the secondary review and interview the council indicated the decision was based on the SWCD staff resource and not based on the council's organizational needs and priorities.
- The council did not demonstrate it is tracking the work and accomplishments of the council coordinator's work for the council separate from the work for the SWCD.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in planning. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The council did not demonstrate it used a planning process, such as engaging watershed stakeholders to plan and prioritize the work of the council separate from the work of the SWCD.
- The council did not demonstrate it has a clear and separate niche within the watershed separate and distinct from the role of the SWCD. The work plan and work priorities of the council are the same as the work priorities of the SWCD.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The council 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 work plans did not demonstrate the council, separate from the SWCD, works to actively engage its watershed stakeholders for watershed restoration purposes. The council's proposed and accomplished work plan tasks were the same as the work plan tasks proposed and accomplished by the SWCD during the same time period.
- The council did not demonstrate it has a clear niche within the watershed separate and distinct form the SWCD in relation to on-the-ground restoration work.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The council 2015-2017 and 2017-2019 work plans did not demonstrate the council, separate from the SWCD, works toward community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. The council's proposed and accomplished work plan tasks were the same as the work plan tasks proposed and accomplished by the SWCD during the same time period.
- The council did not demonstrate it has a clear niche within the watershed separate and distinct form the SWCD in relation to community engagement for the purposes of on-the-ground restoration work.

Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Questions and concerns were raised and the council might not meet all merit criteria.

Secondary Review Panel Recommendation

Agrees with the Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Award

$0.00

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application No.: 218-020 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**

Project Name: Seven Basins Watershed Council

Applicant: Seven Basins Watershed Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Seven Basins Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective governance. Lack of effective governance was demonstrated through:

- The council did not demonstrate it has made progress to develop an effective governance framework between the council officers and the contracted council coordinator. It remains unclear who drives the work of the council and how decisions are made.
- The council did not demonstrate it has made progress to recruit and maintain a mix of interested and affected persons on the board.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective management. Lack of effective management was demonstrated through:

- The council did not demonstrate effective management of the contracted council coordinator. Project completion reports continue to be late and the council coordinator continues to be slow to respond to OWEB communication.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in planning. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The council did not demonstrate it used a planning process that includes the engagement of watershed stakeholders to plan and prioritize the work of the council.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The council work plans, application questions, and interview did not demonstrate the council either implements or partners to implement on-the-ground watershed restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate some progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. Evidence demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing specific community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the 2-year work plan.

Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Questions and concerns were raised and the council might not meet all merit criteria.

Secondary Review Panel Recommendation

Agrees with the Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Award

$0.00

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application No.: 218-003 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**

Project Name: MidCoast Watershed Council Capacity

Applicant: MidCoast Watersheds Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the MidCoast Watersheds Council including the Yaquina Group and the Siletz Watershed Council, which are Basin Planning Teams, and the Salmon-Drift Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective governance. Lack of effective governance was demonstrated through:

- The council work plan and application materials did not demonstrate the council was successfully engaging a balance of interests on the board.

However, during the Secondary Review, OWEB staff found that the council demonstrated effective governance and that it is effectively working to engage a balance of interest on the board and within the watershed.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective management. Lack of effective management was demonstrated through:

- The council work plan and application materials did not demonstrate how the council staff positions interacted with the council board and how the board provided staff management, supervision, and oversight.

However, during the Secondary Review, OWEB staff found the council demonstrated effective management of the council staff through clear job descriptions and interactions with the board.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in planning. Evidence is demonstrated through the council using its planning documents, such as the action plan, strategic plan, and other relevant documents, to identify and implement on-the-ground watershed restoration and community engagement projects. The council regularly evaluates its work plan, action plan, and/or strategic plan and makes adjustments to respond to challenges and opportunities.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. Evidence of progress is demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing priority on-the-ground watershed restoration work tied to council-identified watershed limiting factors.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. Evidence demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing specific community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the 2-year work plan.

Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Questions and concerns were raised and the council might not meet all merit criteria.

Secondary Review Panel Recommendation

Does not agree with the Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

$118,425.00

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2017-2019 Council Capacity Grant
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Application No.: 218-007 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**

Project Name: Tillamook Bay Watershed Council

Applicant: Tillamook Bay Watershed Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Tillamook Bay Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, physical habitat quality - altered quailty of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective governance. Lack of effective governance was demonstrated through:

- The council did not demonstrate it was taking actions to improve the effectiveness of the board and council governance.

However, during the Secondary Review, OWEB staff found that the council has implemented appropriate measures to improve council governance.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective management. Lack of effective management was demonstrated through:

- The council capacity application was submitted after the deadline.
- The council work plan, application materials, and OWEB's knowledge of the council did not demonstrate the council was effectively managing the council's financial resources.

During the Secondary Review, OWEB staff found that the council has implemented some measures to improve the management of the council's coordinator and financial resources. Some steps included holding additional meetings between the coordinator and council board chair and additional programs to help with deadline and project management. However, due to the lateness of submittal of documents to OWEB, staff feels the council is still not meeting this merit criterion.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in planning. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The council's work plan did not demonstrate progress in planning due to a lack of a clear council process for reviewing and adopting the work plan and seeking stakeholder engagement in planning the work of the council.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. Evidence of progress is demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing priority on-the-ground watershed restoration work.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. Evidence demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing specific community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the 2-year work plan.

Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Questions and concerns were raised and the council might not meet all merit criteria.

Secondary Review Panel Recommendation

Agrees with the Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Reduced base funding

Staff Recommended Award

$94,695.00

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Secondary Review Evaluations for March 6, 2017 Applications

Application No.: 218-016 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**

Project Name: South Coast Coordinating Watershed Council

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Application Description

This project seeks to fund the South Coast Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access, hydrograph/water quantity, lack of information, physical habitat quality, and water quality.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective governance. Lack of effective governance was demonstrated through:

- The council work plan and application materials did not demonstrate the governing body meets at least four times a year and keeps adequate meeting minutes and agendas on file.

However, during the secondary review, the council demonstrated they have begun meeting on a regular basis, as evidenced through meeting minutes and agendas. In addition, the council clearly recognized the challenge and is fully committed to continuing work on board governance and management.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective management. Lack of effective management was demonstrated through:

- The council did not effectively manage the contracted council coordinator during the 2015-2017 biennium. This was demonstrated by the council board not appropriately supervising the contractor, ensuring completion of contract deliverables including ensuring council management and governance responsibilities were fulfilled.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in planning. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The council did not demonstrate it used a planning process that includes the engagement of watershed stakeholders to plan and prioritize the work of the council.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in completing on-the-ground watershed restoration. Evidence of progress is demonstrated through information provided in the council's work plan, which demonstrates the council is working on multiple restoration projects and making progress on the proposed deliverables of those projects.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The council's work plan did not demonstrate the council works to actively engage its watershed stakeholders for watershed restoration purposes.

However, during the secondary review, the council demonstrated they have made some progress in community engagement by working with local partners to engage local stakeholders.

Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Questions and concerns were raised and the council might not meet all merit criteria.

Secondary Review Panel Recommendation

Agrees with the Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Reduced base funding with conditions. Based on the items described above OWEB will require that the following are completed by June 30, 2018, or the council capacity grant will be terminated and the remaining unspent funds will be recaptured.

1. The council must complete the development of the job description for the new employee council coordinator.
2. The council must begin recruitment for a new council coordinator.
3. The council board and contracted council coordinator must meet with OWEB staff to discuss progress and challenges.

Staff Recommended Award

$94,695.00

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2017-2019 Council Capacity Grant
Secondary Review Evaluations for March 6, 2017 Applications

Application No.: 218-018 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**

Project Name: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers Watershed Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, physical habitat quality - altered quailty of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective governance. Lack of effective governance was demonstrated through:

- The application materials and work plan did not demonstrate the board had effective procedures in place to manage board decision making and management.

However, during the Secondary Review, OWEB staff found the board to have implemented many measures to improve board governance and the board decision making process.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate effective management. Evidence is demonstrated through the council having and following council governing body and officer roles and responsibilities. The council having on file a position description executive director and having and following personnel policies.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in planning. Evidence is demonstrated through the council using its planning documents, such as the action plan, strategic plan, and other relevant documents, to identify and implement on-the-ground watershed restoration and community engagement projects. The council regularly evaluates its work plan, action plan, and/or strategic plan and makes adjustments to respond to challenges and opportunities.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. Evidence of progress is demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing priority on-the-ground watershed restoration work tied to council-identified watershed limiting factors.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. Evidence demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing specific community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the 2-year work plan.

Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Questions and concerns were raised and the council might not meet all merit criteria.

Secondary Review Panel Recommendation

Does not agree with the Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

$118,425.00

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
2017-2019 Council Capacity Grant
Secondary Review Evaluations for March 6, 2017 Applications

Application No.: 218-025 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**

Project Name: Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Applicant: Columbia Slough Watershed Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate effective governance. Evidence is demonstrated through the council having effective bylaws or charter and policies and procedures, and following them. The council includes a balance of interested and affected persons from the watershed on its governing body, meets at least four times a year and takes action to improve its organization including operations and policies.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate effective management. Evidence is demonstrated through the council having and following council governing body and officer roles and responsibilities. The council having on file a position description for the council's executive director and having and following personnel policies.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in planning. Evidence is demonstrated through the council using its planning documents, such as the action plan, strategic plan, and other relevant documents, to identify and implement on-the-ground watershed restoration and community engagement projects. The council regularly evaluates its work plan, action plan, and/or strategic plan and makes adjustments to respond to challenges and opportunities.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The council's work plans did not demonstrate the council either implements or partners to implement on-the-ground watershed restoration projects.

However, during the Secondary Review, OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate it is making progress in on-the-ground restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. Evidence demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing specific community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the 2-year work plan.

Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Questions and concerns were raised and the council might not meet all merit criteria.

Secondary Review Panel Recommendation

Does not agree with the Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

$118,425.00

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application No.: 218-031 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**

Project Name: Pudding River Watershed Council

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Application Description

This project will enable the council to continue partnership support to various state and federal agencies currently relying on the Council for their role in organizing the grassroots in an otherwise difficult to access demographic area. Limiting factors include high stream temperatures due to a lack of riparian vegetation, over-appropriation of stream flow in the summer, numerous fish passage barriers, erosion and sedimentation, invasive plant species, wetland degradation, lack of floodplain connectivity and low public engagement. The Council's 2016 Strategic Action Plan focuses on habitat and water quality assessment, riparian restoration and furthering its organizational capacity.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective governance. Lack of effective governance was demonstrated through:

- The application materials and work plan did not demonstrate the council has made progress to recruit and maintain a mix of interested and affected persons on the board.

However, during the Secondary Review, OWEB staff found the council has developed a diverse board that includes a mix of affected persons in the watershed.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate effective management. Evidence is demonstrated through the council having and following council governing body and officer roles and responsibilities. The council having on file, through its fiscal sponsor, a position description for the council's coordinator and having and following personnel policies.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in planning. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The application materials and work plan did not demonstrate the council is working with stakeholders to prioritize the work of the council.

However, during the Secondary Review, OWEB staff found the council is moving from opportunistic to strategic implementation of projects.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The council work plans, answers to application questions, and interview did not demonstrate the council currently implements or partners to implement on-the-ground watershed restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. Evidence demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing specific community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the 2-year work plan.

Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Questions and concerns were raised and the council might not meet all merit criteria.

Secondary Review Panel Recommendation

Agrees with the Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Reduced base funding

Staff Recommended Award

$94,695.00

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Application No.: 218-032 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**

Project Name: Rickreall & Glenn-Gibson Watershed Councils

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Application Description

This project seeks to fund Watershed Council Coordinators for the Rickreall and Glenn-Gibson watershed councils. The collective council identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance

OWEB staff found that neither council demonstrated effective governance. Lack of effective governance was demonstrated through:

- Both councils demonstrated minimal progress to either recruit or elect new officers.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

OWEB staff found that neither council demonstrated effective management. Lack of effective management was demonstrated through:

- Both councils continue to struggle with the development of an effective and efficient system to manage the shared staff and fiscal resources. As an example the councils continue to use two different fiscal agents and split the reduced funding resources for one staff person between two separate councils.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found that neither council demonstrated progress in planning. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- Both councils did not demonstrate they used a planning process that includes the engagement of watershed stakeholders to plan and prioritize the work of the councils.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

OWEB staff found that both councils demonstrated some progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. Evidence of progress is demonstrated through each councils' work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing priority on-the-ground watershed restoration work tied to council-identified watershed limiting factors.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found that both councils demonstrated progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. Evidence demonstrated through the each councils' work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing specific community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the 2-year work plan.

Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Questions and concerns were raised and the council might not meet all merit criteria.

Secondary Review Panel Recommendation

Agrees with the Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Reduced base funding with conditions.

This is the second biennium in a row the councils have been placed in the reduced funding category. If the councils fall in this category again next biennium they will be automatically placed in the "do not fund" category (page 18 Guidance Document). The following is a condition of funding to ensure the councils work with OWEB staff during the biennium to address concerns raised in the merit review.

Condition: The shared council coordinator and both council boards must meet with the OWEB Capacity Programs Coordinator and the Regional Program Representative by June 30, 2018 to discuss steps the councils are taking to address the council capacity merit review concerns.

Staff Recommended Award
$94,695.00

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Secondary Review Evaluations for March 6, 2017 Applications

Application No.: 218-039 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**

Project Name: Greater Yamhill Watershed Council

Applicant: Greater Yamhill Watershed Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the Greater Yamhill Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors includehabitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrologyknowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quailty of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate effective governance. Evidence is demonstrated through the council having effective bylaws or charter and policies and procedures, and following them. The council includes a balance of interested and affected persons from the watershed on its governing body, meets at least four times a year and takes action to improve its organization including operations and policies.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective management. Lack of effective management was demonstrated through:

- The council continues to struggle with effective management of staff leading to continued missed deadlines which impacts the council's ability to effectively plan and make progress toward implementation of on-the-ground restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in planning. Evidence is demonstrated through the council using its planning documents, such as the action plan, strategic plan, and other relevant documents, to identify and implement on-the-ground watershed restoration and community engagement projects. The council regularly evaluates its work plan, action plan, and/or strategic plan and makes adjustments to respond to challenges and opportunities.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. Lack of progress was demonstrated through:

- The council's work plans did not demonstrate effective management of the work load of council staff to identify the council's restoration niche and make progress toward the implement of on-the-ground watershed restoration projects.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. Evidence demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing specific community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the 2-year work plan.

Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Questions and concerns were raised and the council might not meet all merit criteria.

Secondary Review Panel Recommendation

Agrees with the Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Reduced base funding

Staff Recommended Award

$94,695.00

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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Secondary Review Evaluations for March 6, 2017 Applications

Application No.: 218-052 **Project Type: Operating Capacity**

Project Name: North Fork John Day Watershed Council

Applicant: North Fork John Day Watershed Council

Application Description

This project seeks to fund a Watershed Council Coordinator for the North Fork John Day Watershed Council. Council-identified watershed limiting factors include habitat access - impaired access to habitat, hydrograph/water quantity - altered hydrology, knowledge gaps - lack of information, physical habitat quality - altered quality of physical habitat, water quality -altered physical, chemical, or biological water characteristics.

REVIEW PROCESS

Evaluation

Merit Criteria #1: Effective Governance

OWEB staff found the council did not demonstrate effective governance. Lack of effective governance was demonstrated through:

- The council's work plan did not contain any Organizational Development and Management items so OWEB staff were not able to evaluate the council's progress toward effective governance and management.

However, during the Secondary Review, OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate it is effectively working towards improved and effective organizational development and management.

Merit Criterion #2: Effective Management

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate effective management. Evidence is demonstrated through the council having and following council governing body and officer roles and responsibilities. The council having on file a position description for the council's executive director and having and following personnel policies.

Merit Criterion #3: Progress in Planning

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in planning. Evidence is demonstrated through the council using its planning documents, such as the action plan, strategic plan, and other relevant documents, to identify and implement on-the-ground watershed restoration and community engagement projects. The council regularly evaluates its work plan, action plan, and/or strategic plan and makes adjustments to respond to challenges and opportunities.

Merit Criterion #4: Progress in On-the-Ground Watershed Restoration

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in on-the-ground watershed restoration. Evidence of progress is demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing priority on-the-ground watershed restoration work tied to council-identified watershed limiting factors.

Merit Criterion #5: Progress in Community Engagement for Watershed Restoration Purposes

OWEB staff found the council to demonstrate progress in community engagement for watershed restoration purposes. Evidence demonstrated through the council's work plans demonstrating its actions result in progress in completing specific community engagement objectives that address limiting factors identified in the 2-year work plan.

Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation

Questions and concerns were raised and the council might not meet all merit criteria.

Secondary Review Panel Recommendation

Does not agree with the Initial Merit Evaluation Panel Recommendation.

Staff Recommendation to the Board

Full base funding: meet all merit criteria

Staff Recommended Award

$118,425.00

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Monitoring Update – Partnership Learning Project
July 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report introduces the Partnership Learning Project. The full report is available as Attachment A to the staff report.

II. Background

OWEB's FIP program was initiated in the 2015-2017 biennium to invest in a partnership approach that strategically prioritizes activities at a large scale to accelerate progress toward restoration of priority species and habitats. In January 2016, the board awarded $13.7 million for both Implementation and Capacity Building FIPs. Eight partnerships were awarded two-year Capacity Building FIP grants to build resilient, sustainable partnerships capable of implementing effective restoration programs. Six partnerships were awarded Implementation FIP grants to support large-scale on-the-ground restoration for up to six years. The board awarded funds to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation for FIP effectiveness monitoring, including the Partnership Learning Project at the April 2016 Board meeting.

III. Partnership Learning Project

The purpose of the Partnership Learning Project is to better understand what partnerships need to be resilient and maintain a high level of performance, and how OWEB can improve the FIP program to support these partnerships to achieve desired ecological outcomes. The attached report represents findings from part one of the evaluation project involving the eight partnerships that received Capacity Building grants.

The information in the report is rolled up as to prevent linking comments or findings directly to any one Capacity Building grantee. Information was collected through the consultant, Jennifer Arnold of Reciprocity Consulting, while attending meetings of all eight Capacity Building partnerships, conducting in-depth interviews with 17 partners,

and evaluating survey responses from 80 partners. Starting in fall 2017, the same methods will be used to encourage reflection among the six partnerships that received Implementation FIP grants, and those findings will be presented to the board in April, 2018.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only. OWEB staff and project partners will be at the July board meeting to present the report and answer questions about the Partnership Learning Project.

Attachments

A. Partnership Learning Project Report

Partnership Learning Project

Part 1 – Findings from the Capacity Building Partnerships

A Report for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

In collaboration with Bonneville Environmental Foundation

Prepared by Jennifer S. Arnold, Ph.D., Reciprocity Consulting, LLC

July 2017

Robert Warren, Crooked River

Jennifer S. Arnold, Ph.D.
Reciprocity Consulting LLC
Tacoma, WA | Reciprocityconsulting.com

Acknowledgments

This project was funded by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board in coordination with Bonneville Environmental Foundation. The findings presented here were made possible through the generous and thoughtful reflections of participating partners. Thank you to all who shared your experiences and insights. It is our hope that this report will support your continued success.

About Reciprocity Consulting, LLC

Reciprocity Consulting, LLC is a women-owned small business based in Tacoma, Washington that provides customized support to build partnerships and engage diverse stakeholders.

Owner **Jennifer S. Arnold, Ph.D.** has 15 years of experience in research, facilitation, and training focused on collaborative approaches to conservation and community development. She specializes in launching new collaborative efforts, growing existing partnerships, managing conflicts productively, and effectively engaging diverse stakeholders to have a lasting positive impact in our communities and our environment.

Common Terms

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands and natural areas. OWEB grants are funded from the Oregon Lottery, federal dollars, and salmon license plate revenue. The agency is led by a 17 member citizen board drawn from the public at large, tribes, and federal and state natural resource agency boards and commissions.

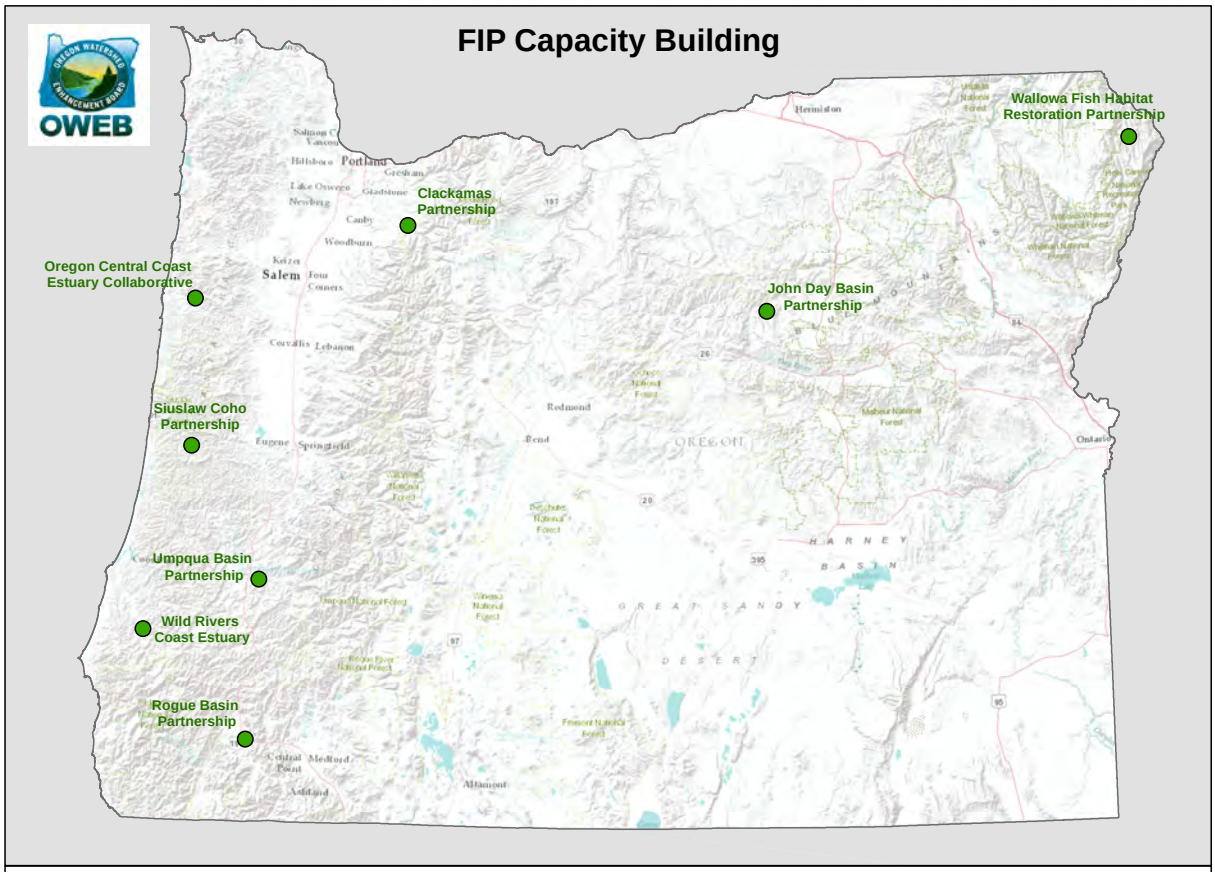
Focused Investment Partnership (FIP)
A Focused Investment Partnership is an OWEB investment that:

- addresses a Board-identified priority of significance to the state;
- achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes;
- uses integrated, results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan; and
- is implemented by a high-performing partnership.

Capacity Building FIP Grant
Two-year grants, which are part of OWEB's Focus Investment Partnership Program, that are awarded to partnerships to develop a strategic action plan and build capacity to perform at a higher level.

Implementation FIP Grant
Six-year grants, which are part of OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership Program, that are awarded to high performing partnerships to implement on-the-ground restoration projects.

Map of Partnerships



Funded Capacity Building Applications 2016

Executive Summary

OWEB, South Coast Region, Sweet Ranch

Executive Summary

OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program was initiated in the 2015-2016 biennium to make multi-year investments in partnerships, which demonstrated strong potential to accelerate the restoration of priority species and habitats. In January 2016, the OWEB Board awarded $13.7 million to fourteen partnerships – eight received two-year Capacity Building FIP grants to support the continued growth and development of their partnerships and six received six-year Implementation FIP grants to support large-scale on-the-ground restoration.

By encouraging reflection among grantees, this Partnership Learning Project aims to better understand:

> **1) What do partnerships need to be resilient and maintain a high level of performance?** and
>
> **2) How can OWEB improve and innovate the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program to support high performing, resilient partnerships that can make progress toward desired ecological outcomes?**

This report presents findings from the eight partnerships that received Capacity Building grants – **Clackamas Basin Partnership, John Day Basin Partnership, Oregon Central Coast Estuaries, Rogue Basin Partnership, Siuslaw Coho Partnership, Umpqua Basin Partnership, Wallowa Habitat Restoration Partnership**, and the **Wild Rivers Estuary Partnership**. These findings were produced from attending meetings of all eight Capacity Building partnerships from October 2016 to April 2017, in-depth interviews with 17 partners, and online survey responses from 80 partners across the partnerships.

Starting in Fall 2017, the same methods will be used to encourage reflection among the six partnerships that received Implementation FIP grants. Those findings will be presented in a separate report anticipated in Spring 2018.

Understanding the Value Proposition of a Partnership

Drawing from the public administration literature, it is helpful to think about partnerships on a continuum from **more autonomous partnerships**, where partners are loosely linked and periodically come together for information sharing or project-based collaboration, to **more collaborative partnerships**, where partners are committed to collective goals, complementary roles, and an integrated work plan.

Continuum of Partnerships

More collaborative partnerships require greater investments in planning, governance, conflict management, and communications, but the promise is that this increased investment will strategically leverage the strengths of diverse partners to tackle more complex restoration goals more effectively (Arnold and Bartels 2014, Warren, Reeve and Arnold 2016). When organizations align and focus their efforts, they also tend to be more attractive to funders, which has been prominent in partners' motivation for participating in the Capacity Building FIP grant.

> *"A big part of the motivation was working together in a more strategic way so that we could attract larger funding into the basin. The message was loud and clear that funders didn't want to fund single entities focused on single actions. If we wanted to get the work done that we wanted, then we had to work in a different way."*

What do partnerships need to be resilient, high performers?

Most partnerships in this study have been collaborating on specific projects for many years. Through OWEB's Capacity Building FIP grant, they have had the opportunity to build on that foundation through the development of 1) a strategic action plan that includes a prioritization framework for restoration activities, 2) governance documents that describe how partners will work together, and 3) an outreach plan that describes coordinated outreach to new partners and external stakeholders.

Reflecting on their history and how far they have come, many partners realized that one to three years of relationship building and internal organizational development were needed to solidify commitment to a collaborative effort before technical planning even began. Those groups that began strategic planning before talking about how partners would work together seemed to experience more internal skepticism and challenging group dynamics.

Throughout this early phase and even beyond, most partnerships experienced a cyclical process of addressing doubts and fears and reassuring partners of the value of working

together. Leaders who practiced good listening skills, diplomacy, and patience were able to effectively address doubts and keep the partnership unified. Partners felt stretched both within their own organization and by the partnership itself to understand how their internal goals aligned (or not) with the emerging focus, goals, geography, and funding opportunities of the larger partnership. Organizations that had recently gone through strategic planning found it easier to demonstrate overlapping interests and alignment with the broader partnership and justify their participation, for some a leadership role.

Tribal Engagement

Tribes played an important role in most partnerships – taking on various roles from leaders to core partners to promising new partners. Non-tribal partners described the learning curve of understanding the complexities of tribal interests, geography, internal organization, etc. Although non-tribal partners often assumed tribes had substantial capacity to participate, the geographic scale and breadth of tribal interests were significantly greater than most partners. With a little extra support, tribes with limited capacity could more fully participate, for example commenting on planning documents, participating in joint fundraising, or getting technical training to more fully participate in project implementation. Also, the complexities of intertribal relations were difficult for non-tribal partners to understand. Developing governance documents, such as an MOU, was seen as a valuable opportunity to respectfully learn about and address partner needs, including tribal perspectives.

Capacity to Partner

A common theme among small groups, such as watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land owner associations, and in some cases tribes, was limited capacity to participate. These groups expressed sincere appreciation for the capacity support provided by OWEB, while acknowledging that the collaborative work has taken more time than anticipated. If more capacity support were available, these small groups could more fully engage in the partnership's work.

Stakeholder Engagement

In general, it was difficult for partnerships to involve land owners, agricultural interests, and industrial forest interests at least during development of the strategic action plan. In a few cases, this was possible where well-organized land owner associations existed or where ranchers or farmers participated directly, for example as soil and water conservation district board members. In other cases, core partners worked diligently to reach out through personal networks to get some level of input from these interest groups. Most partnerships anticipated more success with engaging these interest groups once the plan was completed and the work shifted toward implementation.

Centralized Resources

GIS and IT are critical technical resources, most importantly for data analysis and planning, for example to integrate climate scenarios into prioritization frameworks, but also creating maps for outreach. GIS services are difficult for small organizations and even some partnerships to provide, and consultants are expensive. Some partnerships have had success with fee-for-service agreements, where the services of a GIS specialist could be shared among partners. Others relied on federal agency partners to provide GIS services. A few partners suggested that it would be extremely valuable if OWEB could provide GIS services at a regional level that could be broadly accessed.

Transitioning from Planning to Implementation

As partnerships anticipated the transition from planning to implementation, partners described feeling nervous, awkward, and excited. A common sentiment was expressed that if planning moves too slowly or if implementation funding lags too much after the plan is complete, partners may stop showing up, and the collective effort may lose momentum. Part of the awkwardness of transitioning to implementation is that partners are expected to "put their project ideas in the hopper" and accept that the list of prioritized projects may not include their own at the top of the list.

> *"Once we start having implementation money and ranking projects, it will take a different tone for the partnership. That will be challenging as the partnership changes."*

Many people felt this shift toward broad-scale collaboration wouldn't have been possible without funding for facilitators who can encourage a diversity of partners to feel comfortable participating, especially smaller organizations and younger professionals who at times have felt overpowered by well-funded organizations and senior professionals. Some partnerships selected internal facilitators, while others hired external facilitators – benefits and risks to both approaches were discussed.

Partners also found themselves caught in the transition between planning and implementation and faced with new decisions that represented uncharted territory, for example hiring a partnership coordinator or launching a partnership website before long-term funding was secured. A modest funding commitment could go far to bridge the gap between an intensive planning effort that creates the scaffolding for collaboration and the ability to attract long-term implementation funding to build out the partnership in earnest.

Diversified Fundraising

Diversifying fundraising strategies was highlighted as a critical path to get more capacity for continued partnership coordination and also larger grants to more effectively advance restoration at a large scale. Strategies to diversify funding were discussed by some

partnerships, but many smaller organizations haven't had the capacity to explore other options or invest in fundraising beyond what they already do. The promise of a collaborative model of watershed restoration is that there would be centralized leadership and resources to do fundraising on behalf of the whole to distribute to partners. However, partners expressed uncertainties, concerns, and fears about how this would affect individual fundraising and how funds might be distributed. Concerns were also expressed that there are only so many potential funding opportunities for this type of work, and over time, more funding may be concentrated in partnerships and high capacity organizations.

How can OWEB improve and innovate the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program to support high performing, resilient partnerships?

Funders have played a prominent role in how these partnerships have come together, including the focus and scope of the partnership. In many cases, partners cited the Capacity Building FIP grants, which supported facilitators, staff capacity, and consultants, as the tipping point that made the shift toward collaboration possible. In other cases, partners leveraged funding from other "anchor funders" and were able to deliver a "higher quality, seamless product" because of the Capacity Building FIP grants. Partners expressed universal appreciation for OWEB's flexibility allowing modifications to the timeline, scope, and strategic action plan template relative to partner needs.

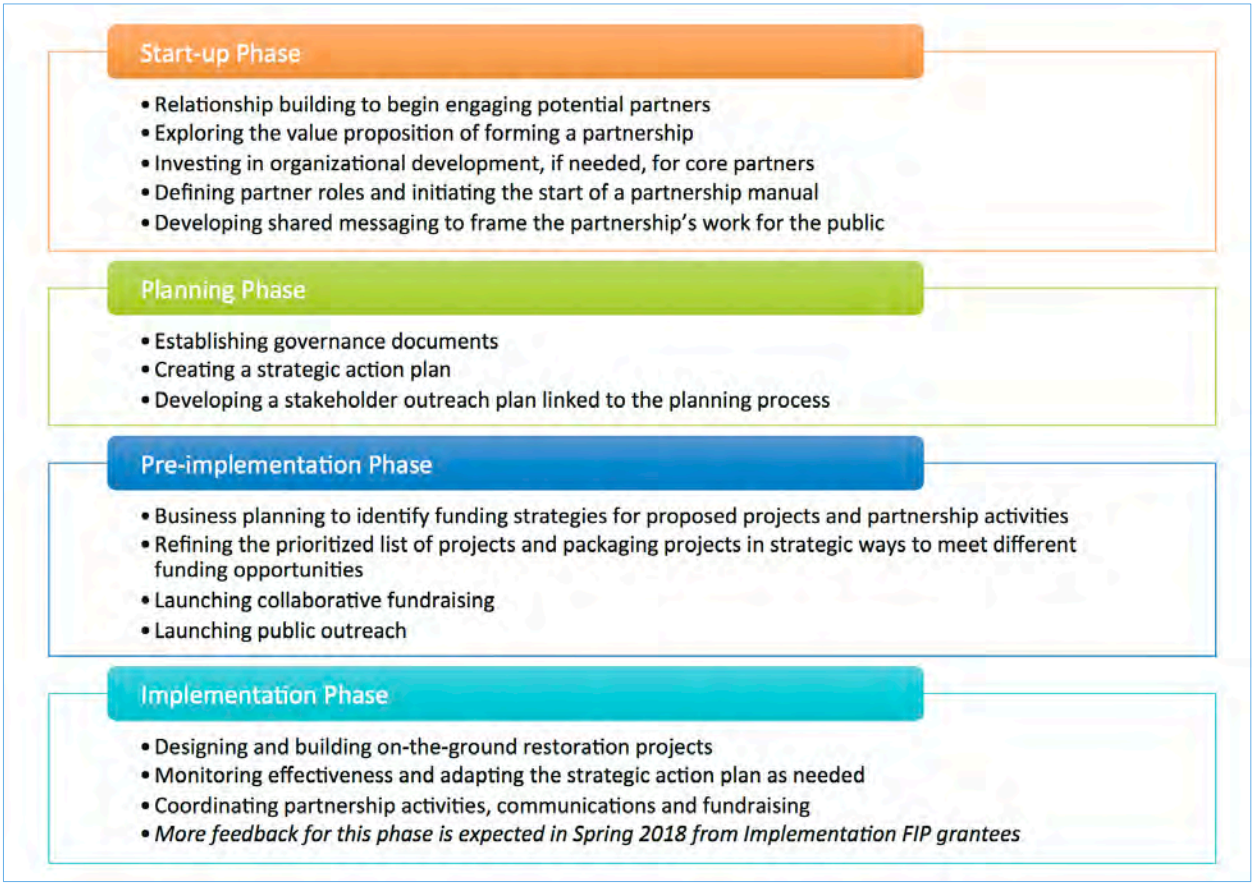
> *"So far this grant has worked very well. I think the secret to this success is flexibility at OWEB. Had OWEB led these grants with hard and fast prescriptions, I think success would be much lower."*

Suggested Four Phases of Partnership Support

As partners reflected on their progress with planning and looked ahead to their goals for implementation, several interesting suggestions surfaced across the partnerships that together paint the picture of how the FIP program could better support resilient partnerships through four phases of partnership support. Specifically, suggestions emphasized the need for more relationship building and organizational development upfront before technical planning began and more capacity to refine the prioritized project list and diversify fundraising strategies to more fully prepare for implementation.

> *"FIP or no FIP we're going to use our plan to leverage more money. The leverage is the plan. The better the plan the better the leverage. We don't have our plan fleshed out to the level that I would like. I would like to say, 'We have these anchor habitats. Here's what your money will buy you, and this is what we can do. Here is why it matters, and here are the projects you can be involved in.'"*

Suggested Four Phases of Partnership Support



The pre-implementation phase in particular seems to be a missing link in the current structure of the Focused Investment Partnership Program. Once the partnerships complete the Capacity Building FIP grants, they are eager to find substantial enough implementation funding to justify continued investment of time and effort in the partnership. Most partnerships are strategically focused on developing a competitive Implementation FIP proposal, despite the reality that the Implementation FIP grant is highly competitive and open to all partnerships in the state.

> *"We would definitely continue on and look for other funding if we didn't get an Implementation FIP grant. But it would definitely help! Since we are investing a lot of our time and effort in defining what our FIP proposal would look like, it would be a shame if we didn't get that funding source."*

Most partnerships will not be able to get an Implementation FIP grant because of the small number of grants open to all partnerships in the state, and so a key step in supporting the resiliency of these partnerships is to provide support for them to develop a business plan that would identify a mix of potential private and public funding sources. This would allow

a partnership to layout their work plans along different timelines and pace themselves according to the potential sources of available funds.

A question that requires more discussion is whether these newly strengthened collaborative partnerships will attract new investment for restoration in the state – potentially yes especially if restoration goals are linked more broadly with economic development – or whether this approach will simply concentrate existing investments in more focused geographies and activities. If there is a chance that funding in the state will stay the same or decrease, a measure of caution is wise to avoid encouraging the growth of too many collaborative partnerships if implementation funds are not likely.

Communications and Outreach Investments Linked to Strategic Action Planning

Several partners acknowledged the limitations of a highly technical strategic action plan relative to their goals for stakeholder outreach and the community support needed for project implementation. Suggestions for future investments in communications and outreach linked to the strategic action plan included: **studies on the economic value of restoration and why it should matter to people**, **clear messaging from these studies to launch a state-wide campaign** that could be tailored at the local level, and **general capacity for relationship building**, particularly local leaders and influencers with a history of skepticism toward government.

More Than One Way to Be Strategic in "Moving the Needle" for Restoration

OWEB's two restoration funding programs – the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program and the open solicitation program – can be used strategically to respond to different types of opportunities. They have the potential to be complementary if they are appropriately linked and the details are clearly explained to potential grantees.

Similarly, within partnerships, there are different views about what's most strategic to "move the needle" for watershed restoration. Partners that push for the biggest environmental win tend to rely on a purely scientific approach to prioritization that makes a clear case for specific geographies and restoration activities, which is a good match for the FIP program. Partners that operate with a "restoration through relationships" approach, which some refer to as opportunistic, tend to fit well with the open solicitation program. The latter approach may have more modest environmental wins initially, but this can build trust among potentially skeptical land owners. Through a "neighbor-to-neighbor approach," one private land owner may turn from a restoration skeptic to a champion, and as a result, an initially modest environmental win can create positive waves of opportunity throughout a basin that can lead to increasingly strategic environmental wins over the long-term.

More discussion is needed to understand how best to link the Implementation FIP and open solicitation programs – or not – to support different paths to long-term restoration. Also, more support within the partnerships to navigate these differences could facilitate the development of prioritization frameworks that better reflect the diverse partners and constituencies represented by the strategic action plans. The value of respecting these differences and working to find common ground for long-term restoration cannot be underestimated.

Appreciation for Learning

From across the partnerships, people expressed appreciation for OWEB's investment in this Partnership Learning Project to invite early feedback from grantees with a willingness to apply learning to the next evolution of the Focused Investment Partnership Program. Most partnerships also expressed an interest in repeating the survey, interviews, and observations at some point in the future to highlight their progress and any additional feedback that might emerge after more experience as a partnership. They also expressed an interest in future opportunities for peer-to-peer sharing across partnerships.

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Introduction

Robert Warren, Harney Wetlands

Introduction

OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program was initiated in the 2015-2016 biennium to make multi-year investments in partnerships, which demonstrated strong potential to accelerate the restoration of priority species and habitats. In January 2016, the OWEB Board awarded $13.7 million to fourteen partnerships – eight received two-year Capacity Building FIP grants to support the continued growth and development of their partnerships and six received six-year Implementation FIP grants to support large-scale on-the-ground restoration.

By encouraging reflection among funded partners, this Partnership Learning Project aims to better understand:

1) What do partnerships need to be resilient and maintain a high level of performance?

2) How can OWEB improve and innovate the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program to support high performing, resilient partnerships that can make progress toward desired ecological outcomes?

This report presents findings from the eight partnerships that received Capacity Building FIP grants in January 2016, including insights expected to benefit the partnerships and suggestions to adapt and evolve the FIP Program. In Fall 2017, the six partnerships that received Implementation FIP grants will be invited to share their reflections. Those findings will be presented a separate report anticipated in Spring 2018.

Partnerships are dynamic and experience normal ups and downs in performance depending on both group dynamics and external events. This project aims to consolidate insights across partnerships with the idea that learning at any point in a partnership's evolution will help paint the picture of what is needed for partnerships to be successful and resilient over the long-term.

Methods

Robert Warren, Monitoring Juvenile Salmon Use of Estuarine Wetlands in the Columbia River Estuary

Methods

From October 2016 to April 2017, each of the eight partnerships that received Capacity Building FIP grants were visited to observe their process and informally talk with partners. A confidential online survey was developed and sent out to the partnerships using a mix of ranking and open-ended questions asking about people's experience with their partnership and the support needed to build their performance and resiliency (See Appendix). Phone interviews were conducted to understand the history, vision, and current activities of each partnership, including expected benefits and costs and how they managed challenges and risks. Altogether, this effort included:

- 8 partnership meetings, which lasted 3-8 hours,
- 17 confidential phone interviews, which lasted 30-90 minutes, and
- 80 confidential survey responses, including quantitative and qualitative responses.

Interview transcripts, survey responses, and meeting notes were analyzed using a qualitative approach called grounded theory, which builds theory from emergent themes (Charmaz 2006).

Partnerships (Capacity Building FIP Grantees)

- Clackamas Basin Partnership
- John Day Basin Partnership
- Oregon Central Coast Estuaries
- Rogue Basin Partnership
- Siuslaw Coho Partnership
- Umpqua Basin Partnership
- Wallowa Habitat Restoration Partnership
- Wild Rivers Estuary Partnership

Diversity of Partnerships

The eight partnerships have different histories and context, which influence the culture of the group, how they work together, their ability to attract key partners, their potential for fundraising, and their outlook for large-scale implementation. Aspects of diversity include:

- **Time that partners have worked together and known each other.** When partnerships overlap with personal friendships, past mentor relationships, and community ties, they tend to operate very well on an informal basis even with moderate levels of complexity.
- **Number and size of watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts**. Complexities and competitive tensions tend to emerge when there are multiple watershed councils and soil and watershed conservation districts, especially when one organization operates at a much higher capacity in terms of staffing and success in fundraising.

- **Tribal involvement and potential for competing tribal interests**. Tribes can be a powerful ally in long-term restoration and can often help access specific funding sources. Complexities emerge with multiple participating tribes who have competing interests or a history of past conflicts, which may not be apparent to non-tribal partners, especially when intertribal relations are too sensitive to for discussion.
- **Agency involvement (state and federal) and the longevity of staff in key positions working in the focus geography**. When government staff were in key positions for many years, they acquired extensive knowledge of local geography and the institutional knowledge to mobilize resources and support for collaborative efforts. In some partnerships, they were long-standing members and key partners. Yet when agency staff were newer in their positions, they tended to lean toward a more peripheral role in the partnership, hesitant to over-commit scarce resources.
- **Regional and national environmental non-profit involvement**. Regional and national environmental non-profits tended to be able to pull in significant resources when the partnership goals overlapped with their internal priorities, specifically technical, fundraising and general capacity support.
- **Mix of urban and rural communities and proximity to large urban areas.** Partners based in urban and rural areas discussed the challenges of engaging local residents and leaders. Urban residents tended to be too busy for one more activity or commitment, while rural residents may limit their full engagement due to geographic distance or concerns about privacy. Attracting potential funders and local champions with the capacity to rally others seemed to be associated with being somewhat close to urban areas and more diverse economies. Although within large metro areas, watershed groups found higher competition for funding.
- **"Anchor" funders with an interest in the focus area**. Partnerships that had one or more large anchor funders seemed to have more capacity and flexibility to build relationships and fully engage in strategic action planning since they had some level of certainty in significant funding for implementation. These anchor funders tended to invest in specific geographies or habitats aligned with their mission and goals.
- **Mix of younger and experienced professionals.** Some partnerships notably had a broader age range, which was seen as an advantage when the full range of partners actively participated. Younger professionals offered fresh perspectives and an ability to connect with younger constituencies, while senior professionals provided valuable institutional and content knowledge.

- **Prior experience with strategic planning and/or collaborative groups**. Partnerships benefited when one or more partners with a leadership role had past experience with strategic planning and/or leading collaborative groups.
- **Prior experience contributing to the development of OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership Program**. Many partnerships had one or more people who actively participated in the development of the FIP program or submitted comments during the public process. These partners described how their early involvement inspired them to see how they could operate in a different way and have impact at a different scale. This inspiration created a sense of vision and persistence to counter the tedious pace of planning and the sometimes challenging work of partner engagement.
- **Geographic scope and breadth of activities covered in the strategic action plan**. Partnerships with a more focused geography and scope tended to have a smaller set of partners that were used to working together and comfortable with the scope. However, most partnerships expanded their geography and/or scope to some degree from previous planning efforts.
- **Rules defining "membership."** Some partnerships intentionally started with a small, well-defined group of partners, while others sought the full range of potential partners from the beginning, which created more work but also more energy and new ideas. Some partnerships struggled with the slower pace of working with a bigger group in scheduling meetings and working through complex topics, and these worked to define representatives and tiers of participation. Tiers of participation, including working groups defined by geography or interest area, were also adopted by many groups to provide opportunities for engagement that matched partners' interests and ability to participate.
- **Degree of formalization of the partnership structure.** Smaller partnerships where most people had a long history of working together tended to operate more informally relying on contract terms and letters of agreement to define roles and expectations among partners. Groups that were larger or tackling more complex issues or scope tended to invest time early in their process to formally define roles and expectations for decision-making and communication, for example in MOUs or partnership manuals.

How Partnerships Work

Robert Warren, Snow Geese Near Burns, Oregon

How Partnerships Work

Partnerships are networks of people and organizations working together to advance shared interests. They operate on the fundamental belief that partners can achieve more collectively than individually. Partnerships require a great deal of upfront investment in relationship building, and once a partnership is established, there are inherent costs and challenges related to communication, decision-making, and coordinated action (Brouwer and others 2015).

Partners and funders commit time and resources based on their perception that the expected value of the partnership outweighs the costs, challenges, and risks. Various internal or external events, such as changes in leadership, funding, or policies, may influence people's perceptions of the value and costs of the partnership, and thus partners' commitment and the overall performance of the partnership. A resilient partnership emphasizes learning and feedback to continually build confidence in the value of the partnership and actively manage the inherent costs, challenges, and risks to maintain a strong value proposition that can maintain engagement despite crisis and change (Arnold and Bartels 2014, Warren, Reeve and Arnold 2016).

For partnership champions and funders, understanding the range of partnership types can help guide the group strategically toward the structure that best fits the history, context, and value proposition for partners. From the Public Administration literature, partnerships are described along a continuum where partners are more autonomous at one end and more interdependent at the other (Cigler 1999; Mandell 2001).

The key distinction is the degree to which individual partners remain separate and autonomous or form new combined organizational structures for long-term change and interaction (Mandell 2001). They also represent different purposes and structural characteristics that require different levels of trust, depth of communication, investment in partnership operations, and length of time to develop.

A Continuum of Partnership Types

- **Information networks** – Partners come together to share information but may have little formal connection or shared work together.
- **Cooperative partnerships** – Partners remain autonomous, while sharing responsibilities for specific projects, such as a contractual relationship or task force.
- **Coordinated partnerships** – Partners retain most of their autonomy, but actively work with each other to align their missions and activities to strategically advance mutual goals.
- **Collaborative partnerships –** Partners commit to a long-term shared vision and take on complementary roles and responsibilities to achieve that vision, sometimes referred to as the collective impact model (Kania and Kramer 2011, Christen and Inzeo 2015).

As you move from left to right on the continuum, you find increasing:

- Complexity of purpose,
- Intensity of linkages,
- Formality of agreements,
- Commitment to each other and greater whole,
- Interdependence of purpose and operations,
- Risk to individual organizations,
- Capacity to achieve systems change, and
- Investment in governance and communications.

Notably it may seem counterintuitive that as partnerships become more collaborative, individual organizations may experience greater risk since the ideal of a collaborative model is that "all boats rise on a rising tide." However, as individual organizations commit to each other and the greater whole, the success of the partnership's vision may require that individual organizations change their internal operations and priorities to benefit the

greater whole. In some cases, organizations may be ready and willing to make these changes, while in other cases, such changes may represent a risk that the organization is asked to fundamentally shift or in some cases even dissolve or merge with others to realize the larger vision of the partnership. In these cases, individual organizations risk losing their self-determination, possibly even their identity as an organization.

Partnerships are dynamic and may shift along this continuum over time, for example in response to changes in leadership, a crisis, or opportunity. Common challenges frequently encountered by even the most successful partnerships include:

- High staff turnover,
- Personality clashes, including institutional and cultural differences,
- Coping with high expectations,
- Reducing transaction costs, for example to maintain a high level of communication and coordination given costs for travel, meeting time, etc., and
- Maintaining the interest of the private business sector considering that businesses often prefer to maintain independence and restrict sharing proprietary information to protect their economic bottom-line and competitive advantage in the market place (Sanginga and others 2007).

Often new partnerships establish first as a coordinated network and may evolve to a collaborative network with pooled resources and a combined organizational structure as trust and commitment build over time (Raine and Watt 2013). Conversely, some partnerships operate quite effectively as an information network or cooperative partnership, and the expected value of a more complex, collaborative structure does not offset the greater costs. Some partnerships are established for a specific purpose and time period, which again may not warrant a more resource-intensive collaborative structure. Partnerships are highly dynamic and do not necessarily follow linear trajectories of development (Mandell and Keast 2008).

Findings

Robert Warren, Crooked River

Findings

Making the Shift toward Coordination and Collaboration

Most of the partnerships included in this study have had a long history of successfully operating project-based cooperative partnerships that have now evolved into a broader interest in working together more formally, collaboratively, and over a longer timeframe.

> *"Our partnership has evolved over time, not quite sure why it's been successful. For some reason, we're just better together than we are apart. The FIP process is very timely to help us work at a higher level – almost like we've graduated from high school, and now we get to be an adult."*

> *"It's easy to end up in silos of excellence. We've had great partnerships between organizations, agencies, and the tribe, but it's individuals working in silos. This is new that we're all getting together and talking about the basin as a whole."*

> *"I said, 'Hey, would everyone like to get together to form a partnership? A basin partnership would be helpful for the resource.' They said, 'We don't know what it means yet, but yes, we're interested.'"*

Looking at the events leading up to a group's decision to shift toward collaborative work at a broader scale, several themes emerged relative to the timing and conditions or "readiness" of partners to move in this direction. This "readiness" was complemented by a good dose of serendipity such as the opportunity to leverage multiple funding sources just at the right time.

"Readiness" to shift toward collaborative restoration:

- **A history of strong relationships among partners and local leaders**, most commonly project-based cooperation, where partners contractually agree to different tasks to complete a project, and sometimes coordination between organizations, where they align their missions and jointly agree to take on complementary roles,
- **Leadership**, most commonly one or more people who see a strong value proposition in collaboration, who can persuasively share that vision, and who have the organizational capacity and personal interest to try this new way of working,
- **Internal strategic planning** completed by partner organizations that points to broader goals than what their organization can accomplish alone and recognition of how those goals overlap strategically with other potential partners,

- Past positive **experiences with collaboration**, especially among the leadership of partner organizations who can share wisdom and provide support,
- A **personal affinity** expressed by leaders for relationship building, listening, serving as a liaison among partners, managing tough conversations, and strategic planning,
- **Foundational planning documents, watershed data, and analysis tools** that provide a launching point for more comprehensive, integrated restoration planning,
- **Unique funding opportunities** that provide flexible support for facilitation, partner capacity, and consultants as needed to work in this way, for example from OWEB, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Oregon Water Resources Department, Bonneville Power Administration, The Nature Conservancy, etc., and
- **Inspiration** from personal contact with potential funders or successful collaborative groups that planted the seed for how this approach could lead to greater funding, effectiveness, and impact.

Value Proposition – Weighing the Benefits and Costs of Participation

As conveners brought potential partners together to envision what this new way of working together would look like and to explore the potential benefits and costs, they often used the "carrot" of attracting more, stable, long-term funding.

> *"A big part of the motivation was working together in a more strategic way so that we could attract larger funding into the basin. The message was loud and clear that funders didn't want to fund single entities focused on single actions. If we wanted to get the work done that we wanted, then we had to work in a different way."*

Yet this potential for funding speaks to different partners in different ways – not all partners feel they will be able to access funds leveraged by the partnership and they feel the strength and strategic focus of the partnership may outcompete or eclipse their priorities.

> *"The challenge is to create opportunity without trumping somebody's ability to compete for funds."*

For some, the partnership approach creates uncertainty and risk that if their organization's mission, goals and activities do not align with the larger partnership then they may be less competitive for funding or even cut out of some opportunities like OWEB's open solicitation grant program.

> *"This partnership approach stretches people. It really does."*

As partners considered the potential benefits and costs, people felt stretched both within their own organization and within the partnership itself. Each partner organization was stretched to understand how their internal goals aligned (or not) with the emerging focus, goals, geography and funding opportunities of the larger partnership. Organizations that had recently gone through strategic planning found it easier to demonstrate overlapping interests and alignment with the broader partnership and justify participation or even a leadership role. As the scope and focus of the partnerships evolve through the planning process, many partners struggled with where their organization fit in and how much time they should invest, especially when a partner might be involved in multiple collaborative planning efforts.

> *"It is a risk how the partnership defines projects and how they are prioritized. I have to ask – Is this worth my very limited time and funding? I am not going to be able to justify being a part of this collaborative if [our geographic area] isn't prioritized until many years later, which is hard. I totally see the value in it and the value of all of our ideas and expertise contributing to it. The reality is I don't think that will work for [small organizations]."*

Many core partners whose organizations closely align with the partnership have found themselves investing considerable energy to engage their leadership and boards, especially over the first few years of a broader collaborative partnership. They have had to continually reassure and remind board members of the expected value and how it aligns with their internal mission and goals. They have also regularly addressed fears, such as "mission creep" and the potential for reduced funding opportunities if their organization does not align well with the partnership's priorities or if the partnership does not attract additional funds.

To help the partners stretch into the partnership, leaders and conveners have invested considerable time to reach out to potential new partners and keep skeptics on-board. Many people described this as a cyclical process that comes in waves of doubt or fear and that requires continual patience to remind and reassure people of the added value of working together and steps taken to manage risks. People taking on this leadership role in the partnership or their organization must have the capacity to feed and nurture those relationships and align expectations.

> *"We have had a lot of bumps in the road where member organizations aren't happy about a particular decision. We have to navigate those little flare ups from time to time."*

Participation has required an investment of time and capacity to attend meetings, follow up on action items, and review and comment on collaborative documents, which has often taken far more time and capacity than people initially realized. For organizations with limited capacity or with interests in multiple partnerships, this has meant that they may only attend meetings or track progress through email. The value they get from the partnership is limited if they do not have the capacity or technical background to review and comment on partnership documents and assert their own internal priorities. Yet without participating, they risk being left out of potential opportunities.

"I come from a watershed council, and with a staff of one, I do everything. Taking the time to be there is really hard for me. The only reason I continue to do so is that the decisions will continue to affect me whether I am there or not, and also it's so well run that it's worth my time."

"It would be helpful to have more funds for the councils to support their time and expenses. There may be other partners, groups that may be better able to participate if there was greater funding – in recognition of what it takes. And soon, we'll be able to report out what it did take."

Some of the partnerships have actually considered whether they may eventually function as an information network at a large scale including the full range of partners, while a smaller sub-group of partners, who have more tightly aligned missions, goals, and geographical focus, may operate as a coordinated or collaborative partnership seeking out funds for focused work in a particular portion of their focus area. This speaks to the value proposition associated with a lower level of investment as an information network that can still yield significant value in terms of sharing expertise, influencing restoration approaches, and reporting on activities and effectiveness.

"From my perspective, [the partnership] brings a lot of interest from agencies and outside that we might not have if we were just at the sub-watershed level, a lot more expertise and support. I feel like I have more people I can go to for advice. I know they are there, but being part of the group, I feel like they are more accessible to me."

"Just the expertise in the room is incredibly valuable, to hear and learn about what worked and didn't is hugely valuable. Surprisingly, we don't have a lot of forums where we sit down and talk about those things."

Trade-offs Between Efficiency and Complexity

Some partners viewed this shift toward broad-scale strategic planning as a step toward efficiency, especially those partners who had experience doing this type of planning in other geographies. However, in most cases, partnerships took on more complexity, which was beyond what they had done previously and ended up extending their timelines and budgets. This extra effort was considered reasonable as it was expected to yield results.

Dimensions of increased complexity beyond past planning efforts:

- Expanding to include **new partners** such as additional watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tribes, or government agencies who may see the issues and strategic focus differently,
- Broadening the focus to include **multiple fish species**,
- Broadening the focus to include **uplands in addition to in-stream habitat**,
- Focusing on **complex habitats**, such as estuaries, that require specialized technical expertise,
- **Expanding the geography** to include areas that have not been the focus of restoration activities in the recent past,
- **Combining multiple basins**, in some cases with different geology and hydrology, and
- **Expanding prioritization frameworks** to include social and economic considerations in addition to ecological factors.

Engaging and Sustaining Core Partners

The diversity of core partners has contributed greatly to the strength and resilience of the partnerships.

> *"Each partner has different strengths, different ways of doing things, and different abilities…. The partnership tries to play to everyone's strengths."*

Core partners have included:

- Watershed groups,
- Soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs),
- State and federal agencies, including land managers, regulatory entities, researchers, and funders),
- Environmental advocacy groups,
- Tribes,
- Power utilities,
- Funders,
- Local government entities, and to a lesser degree
- Land owner associations,
- Agricultural interests, and
- Industrial forest interests.

Some patterns emerged across partnerships related to how these different types of partners participated and engaged. In general, it was difficult for partnerships to involve land owners, agricultural interests, and industrial forest interests at least during development of the strategic action plan. In a few cases, this was possible where well-organized land owner associations existed or where ranchers or farmers on Soil and Water Conservation District boards participated directly. In other cases, core partners worked diligently to reach out through personal networks to get at least high-level input from colleagues. Most partnerships anticipated more success with engaging these interest groups once planning efforts were complete and the work shifted toward implementation.

A common theme among small groups, such as watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, land owner associations, and in some cases tribes, was limited capacity to participate. Modest capacity funds from the Capacity Building FIP grant were greatly appreciated and allowed these smaller groups to participate.

> *"We need capacity for sure, and that's hard to come by. It's really been helpful that we've had some reimbursement for our participation, especially for a small organization like ours. More of that would be helpful."*

In a few cases, it seemed that processing travel reimbursements and stipends might be more time-consuming than expected, which kept people from submitting invoices for various reasons. Perhaps this could be an area that partnerships could share best practices to streamline internal processes.

Agency staff took on a breadth of different roles depending on agency priorities, the longevity of specific staff in an area, and the flexibility staff had in their work schedule to dedicate to partnership activities. In some partnerships, agency staff took a lead technical role or had the longest personal experience working in a partnership. In other partnerships, agency staff only felt comfortable playing a supporting role and explicitly did not want to be a decision-maker or "member."

Another common theme was tension between organizations with a tightly focused environmental mission and funding sources dedicated to that mission, such as environmental advocacy groups and some government agencies, and soft-money organizations with broader missions reflecting diverse constituencies, such as watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts.

> *"[The SWCD] faces constant pressure to do more from others, and we are really limited on funding. We have managed to avoid being pulled into a lot of the politics, while still getting funding to do our work. It is important to not take a super hard stand on any one issue as nothing is black and white."*

These two types of organizations often had different ideas of what they considered "strategic restoration" based on their missions, their constituencies, and their funders. Tensions, discomfort, and competitiveness came to the surface when developing a shared vision for restoration and a shared framework for prioritizing projects. To maintain a broad partnership that has the core partners needed for implementation, some partners recognized the importance of respectfully working through these differences to maintain engagement.

Most partnerships recognized stronger relationships with core partners as one of the early accomplishments of their collaborative planning efforts, in some cases yielding new joint fundraising opportunities or other near-term benefits. In other cases, core partners have felt unsure or skeptical about their future involvement, which is expected especially during this early planning phase as each partner considers their value proposition relative to the evolving scope and focus of the plan and related funding opportunities.

Tribal Engagement

Most partnerships value tribes as strategic partners and seek their full engagement, yet most non-tribal partners experience a learning curve to working with tribes, which is why this section of the findings is expanded.

> *"Historically, the tribes have not been key partners. In fact, the tribes have been so opaque to so many of us in terms of an organization and an entity to work with. Now, in the last year, there has been an incredible growth in their engagement. We have really tried to bring them in. Now all of a sudden, they are pushing from their end as well."*

In these eight partnerships, tribes take on the full range of roles:

- A **convening or leadership role** because of the tribe's deep interest in natural and cultural resources,
- An **intermediary role** bridging perspectives and building relationships because of their triple bottom line approach to social, environmental, and economic sustainability that resonates in different ways with conservationists, resource users, and forest industry,
- A **core partner** actively engaged, making comments, and taking on responsibilities,
- A **new or peripheral partner**, learning about the partnership, tracking progress, and waiting for opportunities where partnership activities intersect with tribal priorities and merit more involvement.

Many non-tribal partners unintentionally underestimate the sensitivities and complexities of working with tribes. However, they are open to learning and changing as they gain more appreciation, which can have a huge impact on promoting fuller engagement. Yet it can also be draining for tribal partners who are regularly placed in the role of explaining the full breadth of tribal perspectives, often in a short amount of time.

> *"What I learned, in the future, we need to sit down with the tribe when we get a draft and make sure the wording and the content is going to be satisfactory so they're not going to be surprised."*

"The general understanding of the partners – understanding the tribe's role – is an interesting concept. Not many people understand how the tribe manages their resources. And all tribes are different. Out of everyone in the room, the tribe has been there the longest and probably will be there the longest. The impacts will be seen and heard the longest. Having people understand our role is a challenge sometimes. And people don't understand the tremendous landscape that we cover – multiple counties and millions of acres – as opposed to a single watershed or jurisdiction."

Tribal partners discussed a range of complexities that are often not well-understood by non-tribal partners, but that heavily influence their interest and ability to engage in broader partnerships.

Complexities of tribal participation not often understood by non-tribal partners:

- The **vast geography of aboriginal territories** relative to their capacity and staffing and how that may overlap or touch on aboriginal territories or reservations of other tribes,
- **A broad range of tribal interests in natural resources** from protection of culturally important sites and restoration of fish populations to specific issues of accessing natural resources for cultural uses or managing tribal industrial forest operations,
- **Legal standing in resource management**, including concepts of treaty rights, co-management, sovereignty, and government-to-government relationships with federal entities,
- **The structure of tribal government** and the process needed to gain approval or feedback from tribal leadership, and
- **Conflicting interests between tribes**, which may complicate communications and the ability to participate together in a collaborative partnership.

The opportunity with these partnerships is to reach out genuinely to tribal partners and take the time to ask and learn about their interests.

> *"We do a lot of outreach to talk about our history, who we are, our culture, and what my department does so that people really understand where we're coming from. I think there needs to be more of an introduction like that for the partnership. Maybe it would be helpful to have set-aside time for each partner to discuss what their priorities are in general and talk about their organization. I know we say, 'Oh we already know all of that.' But there's always new staff. For the tribe, it is a regular recurring problem. People don't know what we do, where our land base is, what we care about. They just don't get it. I just did a presentation again for the National Forest. They are a federal agency so you would think they would understand what we do, but they were so happy to have this presentation. I don't know exactly what this would look like. It would definitely be valuable for the tribes to have that opportunity in this partnership."*

Partners highlighted the value of getting to know other partners' interests as a key step in the early formation of the partnership. The process of developing partnership governance documents, such as a charter or MOU, and inviting tribes to comment and sign on can be an extremely valuable opportunity to listen and reframe partner roles in ways that respect tribal culture, history, and legal standing. Defining the scope and setting goals can also be an important time to draw out those interests, for example several partnerships included lamprey when defining their scope, which is a non-listed native fish of particular cultural significance to tribes. These opportunities for learning may come up at any point in planning or implementation when key decisions are made or when new partners come to the table. By taking tribal interests seriously and incorporating them into the partnership's activities, non-tribal partners can make great progress with tribes building trust, learning how to work together effectively, and building momentum for long-term engagement.

> *"One tribe had some reps participating in our meetings, but maybe not the right ones. When they took the MOU and [partnership documents] in front of their tribal council, the council said, "What is going on?" They sent a letter with detailed questions and asked for representation from all the tribes on the steering committee. The steering committee got together in what I thought was a very thoughtful process and agreed to make those changes. Then the tribe was fine with it, and they signed the MOU. It was a very successful route to deal with those concerns."*

On a final note, tribal and non-tribal partners reflected on the tribe's capacity to do this work. Although tribes often have multiple staff in their natural resources department, the geography and breadth of issues they cover is often far greater than that of other partner organizations and the partnership itself.

> *"If I'm participating in this I can't participate in something else or do something that is maybe more culturally relevant. The mission of our department is really diverse. It includes artifact protection, cultural events, and camps. I always have to ask myself what am I gaining through this participation."*

This point is often not fully explored relative to the mismatch between the desire to have tribes fully engaged in partnerships and the capacity for them to do so. One tribal partner suggested that if OWEB was willing to extend capacity funding to tribes similar to what they do for watershed councils, they could greatly increase their ability to participate more fully in partnership activities – from commenting on planning documents to joint fundraising to getting technical training for staff to more fully participate in implementation of projects.

Stakeholder Outreach

Most partners felt public awareness and support are important or very important to achieving restoration goals, especially on private lands and arguably less so on federal lands. Many partners commented on the risk of "surprising people down the road" referring to the fear that people will push back against the plan if the first time they hear about it is when they are faced with a project proposal that they don't like. Yet people also recognized that the planning process is too slow and detailed for most land owners and community members to participate.

> *"It's really tough to engage land owners in this strategic action planning process (laughing). That's where you lose them. It's so detailed. They don't have time to come to meetings like that. Once you get past planning, that's when you get the land owners engaged. When you have some specific tangible things you can offer them, whether educational workshops or funding for projects, or getting them involved in community meetings that actually get them toward them something. In the planning process, you lose them."*

Some partnerships developed an outreach plan early in their planning process identifying the objectives, timing and approaches to engage and communicate with key audiences, while others have put more time into technical planning before getting into the details of an outreach and communications plan. In some cases, partners have conducted their own

stakeholder analysis and outreach planning, and in others, communications consultants have developed outreach plans and even facilitated some stakeholder engagement.

Some partnerships have focused first on broad education and relationship building, while others sought high-level input on the action plan from key stakeholder groups. At the time of this report, partnerships are at varying points in implementing their outreach activities.

Planned Outreach Activities

- **Personal outreach** to individuals to let them know about the plan and get feedback,
- **Public gatherings** to get high level input on the partnership's vision,
- An open invitation for the **public to attend partnership meetings**,
- Development of **shared talking points** so that partner organizations can speak to different audiences with a coordinated message, for example in their board meetings, newsletters, county commission meetings, etc.,
- **Listening sessions** with community leaders and influencers to understand interests, potential misperceptions, and opportunities for messaging,
- **A land owner survey** to get input and inform people of the planning effort,
- **A public website** for the partnership,
- **A public campaign** including short compelling videos and information displays,
- **Science summits** open to the public,
- **Townhall meetings** to get feedback from land owners on the draft action plan, and
- **Presentations on the final plan** for the public, county commissioners, funders, etc.

The most challenging stakeholder groups for partners to engage and the ones that are most important for implementing restoration projects on private land are private business interests, such as farmers, ranchers and industrial forest operations. Several partnerships described diligent efforts to thoughtfully reach out, but still with limited success. The most promising touch points to some of these important groups include:

- Reaching the **farming and ranching community** through Soil and Water Conservation District board members,
- Reaching **private land owners** through land owner associations where they exist to address issues, such as fuels reduction, riparian restoration, and weed management,
- Reaching **rural residents** through Forest Protection Associations and the potential for generating support through local jobs created by restoration projects, and
- Reaching **industrial forestry companies** through tribal forest enterprises.

Where these personal connections exist, there is a far greater potential for engagement. However, in most cases, the value proposition for private land owners and businesses may still not be great enough to warrant their involvement in planning. Those partners emphasized that valuable input can still be gained by speaking individually with key stakeholders and bringing their interests back to the partnership.

As a final note, in many watersheds, a contentious history has created especially challenging circumstances to engage people in a collective discussion about priorities for restoration and build trust in a shared strategy. In some cases, partners at the table are currently involved in litigation, for example between tribes and agencies. People in these situations remarked that they tend to work well together at the staff level even when things are tense among upper management. In other cases, private land owners have long-standing "problems with the G word," specifically the role of government, misperceptions about watershed councils as governmental entities, and concern about losing private property rights in the name of restoration. Some partners talked about strategies to address this "negativity" and prevent it from spilling over into the partnership's work, including field trips to unpack assumptions about land management, personal outreach to explain and accept responsibility for projects that weren't successful, and neighbor-to-neighbor approaches that highlight the multiple benefits possible with restoration projects developed in collaboration with private land owners. Several partners also suggested that OWEB and the state could play a larger role communicating the economic contribution of restoration, for example job creation, improvements to farms and ranches and clean water.

> *"At the end of the day, we can only be successful with WILLING landowners, and there are pockets of resistance due to anti-state, anti-federal lands, and anti-conservation sentiments. If OWEB and the State could help craft better economic studies regarding the economic value of conservation and communicate those for us, that would be helpful. We need CLEAR messaging on the economic value…that's the most effective way to turn peoples' minds toward conservation."*

Transition from Planning to Implementation

As partnerships anticipated the transition from planning to implementation, "where the rubber meets the road," partners described feeling nervous, awkward, and excited about implementation. A common sentiment was expressed that if planning moves too slowly or if implementation funding lags too much after the plan is complete, partners may stop showing up, and the collective effort may lose momentum. Thus, decisions about the desired complexity, scope, and level of detail in the plan are all critical considerations to increasing the chances for effective implementation.

> *"Once we start having implementation money and ranking projects, it will take a different tone for the partnership. That will be challenging as the partnership changes."*

> *"I'm excited about it. I look forward to the implementation money. Planning is tough for folks. We've been meeting for almost two years now. We keep going without funding. I'm looking forward to moving through to implementing projects."*

Part of the awkwardness of transitioning to implementation is that partners are expected to "put their project ideas in the hopper" and accept that the list of prioritized projects may not include their own at the top of the list. The success of this process requires that partners buy-in to the prioritization framework, which establishes alignment and emphasizes transparency as a means to build trust. In practice, it brings competition for funding and power dynamics to the surface. Some partnerships slowed down when they got to the step of requesting project proposals for the list.

> *"We're still working on the list of projects. Yeah, that's awkward. We work in such a crazy, weird competitive environment and in really small communities. Talking about projects and people you work with is not something we normally do a lot of for various reasons. There might be potential push-back from other organizations who think we shouldn't receive funding because our projects don't have enough of an environmental win – even though those are the projects that work in our area. Some of those people sit on review teams. You don't want to have all your cards on the table in this competitive environment."*

Many people acknowledged that it is critical to have a facilitator at this step – either an internal partner or an external consultant – someone that has the trust of all the partners and can help navigate challenging conversations and power dynamics. Some partners proudly commented on the effectiveness of their internal facilitator, while others were greatly appreciative of an outside consultant.

> *"It is helpful to have a consultant work with all of us as partners because no one of us has the time or what would appear to be the objectivity. It's good to have an outside source be able to balance the interests and feed it back to us so we can agree."*

> *"[Our internal facilitator] communicates expectations really well and follows up with people – makes us realize that our time is worth it, and we follow through. We are all incredibly busy and so contributing to this is a big deal. The way we walk through this planning exercise is really regimented and so well organized. That makes it strategic and focused. I've also been a part of collaboratives that have a contractor as a facilitator. It is really helpful that [our facilitator] is in the know. It's to our advantage."*

Many people felt this shift toward broad-scale collaboration wouldn't have been possible without funding for facilitators who can encourage a diversity of partners to feel comfortable participating, especially smaller organizations and younger professionals who at times have felt overpowered by well-funded organizations and senior professionals.

> *"[Our facilitator] pulls people back when we need to stay focused. It's frustrating, in collaborative groups like this, to have someone not acknowledge your statements and restate them in their own words. As a young female in this field, it is hard to be taken seriously. I've worked really hard, and I have the experience and education to get where I am. [Our facilitator] sees that and has class in how to deal with it."*

Other people emphasized the value of a facilitator to advance the work in between meetings by following up on action items and incorporating people's comments into collaborative documents.

> *"When you're doing strategic planning, it's just hard to find the time to do it in between all of the other work that has to get done."*

It is challenging to find time to dedicate to a strategic planning effort or management change within an organization. Within a partnership, it is all the more difficult for organizations to prioritize their staff time and limited capacity to a strategic planning effort that may or may not have significant overlap with their organizational mission and goals. It is even more critical to dedicate resources to facilitation for a collaborative planning effort. This goes back to the value proposition that each partner considers as they decide the extent of their participation. Having the funds for a facilitator can provide that valuable glue to hold people together long enough to solidify the partnership's focus and commitment from partners who can then contribute more fully to effective implementation.

> *"Having that person, your facilitator, hand-holding your partnership before they can walk on their own is extremely important."*

Internal facilitators can be extremely effective, especially when they are self-aware of their role and their influence on the group. Several internal facilitators noted that a culture of professional dialog and open channels for feedback can go far in minimizing the risks associated with internal facilitation.

Risks Associated with Internal Facilitation:

- An internal facilitator could be seen as **favoring one partner or sub-set of partners** over another that could create division and strife, potentially limiting the partnership's ability to work at a broader scale,
- An internal facilitator could assert their professional expertise or knowledge of the planning tools to **steer the prioritization framework** in a certain way that aligned with their priorities but not necessarily those of other core partners, and
- An internal facilitator could facilitate a process with such a strong leadership style and vision that the process becomes **unwelcome to different points of view or new partners**, called "founder's disease" when the internal facilitator is also the group's founder, which limits the resilience of the effort after the founder can no longer play a leadership role.

In contrast, external facilitators may be more easily seen as an advocate for all partners, but they may not understand the local context or technical content as well as an internal facilitator. There are also different types of consultants that could serve different facilitation roles depending on the partnership's needs, for example, technical planners, organizational development consultants, and communications specialists. Partners described the importance of managing risks associated with an external facilitator by providing opportunities for group feedback and providing oversight and guidance through a sub-committee or leadership team that includes multiple partners with different perspectives.

Risks Associated with External Facilitation:

- A partnership could **"fast track" the selection of an external facilitator** due to lack of time to research options or set up a selection process, which may lead to contracting with someone who is not a good match for the partnership's needs,
- An external facilitator could **impose their own planning tools or approaches** that may take the plan in a specific direction that does not reflect the interests or buy-in of all core partners, and
- Partners could **rely too much on an external facilitator to write the plan**, which may result in a technically sound plan that has very limited input or buy-in from partners.

Overall, partners acknowledged there is still much to learn as they proceed toward implementation. For those skeptics of the collaborative planning process, many felt the list of prioritized projects may not look that different from the projects people would have proposed without a plan. Each partnership has been navigating the challenges unique to their planning process to build that clarity, confidence and commitment among core partners and funders. Partners appreciated the opportunity to learn from each other and the partnerships awarded Implementation FIP grants so that they may better prepare to attract funding and shift toward implementing their strategic action plan.

Centralized Resources and Coordination

Referring back to the continuum of partnership types, partnerships structured as information networks typically come together informally with limited centralized support. For cooperating partnerships, partners come together according to specific roles and responsibilities for a specific time period, for example defined contractually in terms of projects, deliverables, and timelines. In these cases, it can be fairly straightforward for one organization to take the lead convening and coordinating the effort, or even to switch off from one organization to another depending on the terms of each project. However, as partners move toward aligning their priorities and coordinating their activities over the long-term, they gradually require more centralized support, for example to manage internal and external communications, partnership governance, joint fundraising, fiscal management, and shared accountability. As partner organizations become more interdependent, centralized resources can help build transparency, coordination and trust that everyone is moving forward together and following through on what was agreed.

> *"Getting projects on the ground to benefit fish is what's most important, but everyone is going after the same small pot of money. Better oversight and coordination would be beneficial to ensure consistency and fairness."*

For those partnerships gearing up to operate in this more coordinated or collaborative way, they found themselves faced with new decisions that represented uncharted territory. In two cases, partnerships felt caught in the transition between planning and implementation. In one case, the desire to hire a partnership coordinator was put on hold until long-term funding was secured to support that position. Despite the role that a coordinator could play to move the group closer to implementation, some partners didn't feel comfortable hiring without first securing implementation funding. In another case, the desire to launch a partnership website to increase public awareness stalled out after initial web design. None of the partners felt comfortable, at least initially, stepping forward to invest in a multi-year domain name without long-term funding in place to support this expense. Both of these examples demonstrate the growing pains associated with this shift toward a collaborative partnership and the required investment in centralized coordination. A modest funding commitment could go far to bridge the gap between an intensive planning effort that creates the scaffolding for collaboration and the ability to attract long-term implementation funding to build out the partnership in earnest. Without capacity dedicated to coordination and external communications, fundraising at the partnership level for a collaborative effort is a heavy lift for individual partners.

Another aspect of centralized support discussed across several partnerships is the need for technical services like GIS to provide basic mapping capabilities and more sophisticated modeling, for example climate change predictions and scenarios. GIS services are difficult for small organizations and even some partnerships to provide, and consultants are expensive. Some partnerships had success with fee-for-service agreements where the services of a GIS specialist could be used by multiple partners. Some relied on federal agency partners to provide GIS services. A few partners suggested perhaps OWEB could invest in GIS services at a regional level that would be available to help small organizations and partnerships increase the analytic power of their strategic action plans.

Governance

As partnerships transition from more autonomous to more interdependent, another common gap is a mismatch between the vision of how partners work together collaboratively and how collaboration is practiced, referring to the governance structure and culture of decision-making. The governance structure refers to how "membership" in a partnership is defined, how decisions are made, and how work gets done, for example in committees or work groups. Whatever the decision-making model that is adopted from consensus to modified consensus to majority vote, the importance lies in discussing how decisions will be made and which decisions will be made by the full partnership versus a leadership team or work group.

For groups that have a long history operating as informal networks or according to the terms in a contract, these aspects of governance may seem unnecessary, even annoying. Yet these are the democratic tools that can help diverse partners work through differences, make decisions that have broad support, and build momentum and influence for effective implementation. Without intentional conversations about decision-making and governance, a collaborative effort is far more vulnerable to destabilizing power dynamics or subtle undercurrents of resistance that lead to either missed opportunities for greater impact or problems with implementation.

> *"We all come together and talk about working together, but there is no direction. I feel a lot of the shortcomings of the strategic action plan can be attributed to the fact that the 'goals' of the plan were not adequately resolved, especially in the context of the actual capacity of the 'Partnership' members to implement it. Perhaps an effort to define a vision for how the partners could actually work together as a group, a vision that would reflect the contributions and organizational needs of each, should have taken precedence over developing a plan. That way the final plan, and its goals, would be a reflection of the capacity of the partnership."*

> *"I'm not aware of any governance documents. Right now, implementation is a big black box. I don't know what's intended in terms of implementation. I don't know who is going to be involved, the technical people reviewing the projects. I think we need to have those discussions about what's coming next."*

Despite the heaviness of skepticism in the above quotes, both indicated a desire to talk about governance and make the partnership work. These are examples of the subtle undercurrents of resistance that are common in groups when roles, responsibilities, and decision-making are not openly discussed. Yet in many cases, these concerns can be alleviated relatively quickly with productive conversations about roles, responsibilities, and expectations.

There is a learning curve to having these discussions as well as understanding the pros and cons of different approaches to structuring the group and defining decision-making. In the best cases, some partners have had experience with different collaborative decision-making models and can share experiences to help the group make an informed choice. When that is not an option, it can be useful to invite someone with experience to the group, for example peer-to-peer learning with someone from a well-established collaborative partnership or a consultant who can provide training or guidance in collaborative decision-making. Once decision-making rules are adopted, it usually takes some practice to get comfortable with them and make them a part of the partnership's culture.

> *"We identified that we would use modified consensus. We didn't discuss it in much detail. It was introduced by a partner, everyone just nodded, and it got recorded as the prevailing interest of the group. No other suggested decision tool was given. It was identified with those present, but it may evolve, especially as we get into it."*

Equally important, decision-making rules should be regularly revisited and refined. If they aren't working for a partnership, it is important to adapt them so that they do – or else the risk is sinking confidence, lack of participation, frustration, or division within the group (Hanson 2005). As an example of this, one partnership reflected on previous challenges with modified consensus and made a carefully considered decision to operate by majority vote. In general, some type of consensus is typically recommended in a diverse collaborative group that desires broad-scale impact. However, if the group decides consensus doesn't work, it is extremely valuable for partners to collectively decide what *does* work, invite feedback, and adapt as needed.

Strategies for Success

In summary, the following are strategies highlighted by multiple partnerships as keys to success:

- **Facilitators are critical to having productive conversations.** Whether internal partners or external consultants, it is important to have resources to support good facilitation, especially in the context of goal setting, clarifying partner roles, project prioritization, and funding for implementation.
- **It is critical that leadership is seen as inclusive and fair** leading to greater trust and commitment in the partnership. Collaborative leaders communicate evenly with partners so everyone is working from the same information. They bring partners in early on collaborative funding opportunities to review applications and provide comments. Good organization, focus and follow-through build a sense of accountability, teamwork, and momentum. Effective leadership allows flexibility to discuss important topics as they come up, while managing the process to meet budget and timeline goals.
- **GIS and IT are critical technical resources**. They are the "lynchpin" that hold it all together, most importantly data analysis for planning but also creating maps for outreach. Some watersheds or organizations may not have access to GIS and IT, while others have had success sharing staff or creating a fee-for-service agreement.
- **Strengthen partner organizations**. Stronger organizations with engaged boards and empowered staff can create forward momentum, activate local organizers, and identify opportunities where the value proposition for collaboration is high. It is challenging for grant-based organizations to carve out internal time to review and comment on collaborative documents, but also critically important to represent an organization's interests in the broader partnership. In remote, rural areas it may be challenging to develop a strong board due to lack of potential board members. In urban areas, potential board members may be too busy to commit time.
- **Create organizational commitments**, for example through governance documents, so that as individuals transition out, the partnership maintains its culture, purpose, and stability.
- **Seek anchor funding**. It is easier to attract more funding if you have a large anchor funder. Some geographic areas or habitat types may be more attractive to large funders, while other areas may have fewer options.
- **Diversify fundraising strategies** to get more capacity funding for coordination and planning. With 100% grant funded positions, common among small organizations, there is very little flexibility to invest staff time in organizational development or

partnership activities outside of implementation. Coordinated or collaborative partnerships hope to get more creative about fundraising, but there is also concern that there are only so many potential funding opportunities.

- **Receive feedback and comments with grace.** Understanding, trust, and relationships grow when challenges are handled well within the partnership and with external stakeholders. Feed and nurture relationships at all levels.
- **Partners meet in person periodically and communicate regularly through many channels.** Face-to-face meetings are still important in building trust, understanding, and relationships, but drive times make it difficult to find meeting locations that are central for everyone. Technology such as Go-To meeting and conference calling can help partners use their time more efficiently, for example meeting in person less frequently or for shorter meetings and following up with smaller work teams that are geographically closer together. However, partners from across the partnerships felt that some amount of in-person meeting time was needed, especially for important discussion topics.
- **Streamline internal processes** for managing tasks, timelines, and documents, for example using Basecamp for assigning tasks or DropBox for sharing documents. Peer-to-peer sharing creates opportunities for improvement, for example with processing stipends and travel reimbursement. A few partners expressed some potential bureaucratic hurdles to invoice capacity funds and cited the lack of time as a reason why they hadn't followed up to resolve these issues.
- **Offer tiers of participation.** Create options for organizations to participate in the partnership with less time commitment such as work groups, which give people an opportunity to focus their time on the topics or geographies where they are most interested.
- **Communicate openly and proactively with stakeholders** to avoid surprises. Interviews, listening sessions and surveys were appreciated by different partnerships as methods to better understand stakeholder interests and create opportunities to better connect with key audiences, such as land owners and community residents.
- **Track land owner contacts, projects, and outputs** to share knowledge, coordinate, and avoid redundant or duplicative work. A project tracker can be used to raise public awareness, get feedback early, and prevent surprises as one piece of a broader communications strategy.

Influence of the Funder

As discussed relative to the shift toward collaboration, funders have played a prominent role in how partnerships come together, including the focus and scope of their work. The Capacity Building FIP grants, which supported facilitators, staff capacity, and consultants, were cited as the tipping point that made the shift toward collaboration possible in many cases. In other cases, partners leveraged funding from other "anchor funders" and were able to deliver a "higher quality, seamless product" because of the Capacity Building FIP grants. The Implementation FIP grants also had significant influence on the formation of these partnerships not because partners received funding from this program but because partners wanted to do what they could to increase their competitive edge for a future Implementation FIP grant.

Partners talked about the risk of funders setting overly prescriptive requirements that would have undue influence on the quality of the plan, potentially on the prioritization framework itself. In the context of the Capacity Building FIP grant, partners expressed universal appreciation for OWEB's flexibility allowing modifications to the timeline, scope, and strategic action plan template relative to partner needs.

> *"So far this grant has worked very well. I think the secret to this success is flexibility at OWEB. Had OWEB led these grants with hard and fast prescriptions, I think success would be much lower."*

Yet referring back to the value proposition for partners, the primary motivating factor for partners coming together and formalizing their work with a strategic action plan and governance documents is the expectation that they will attract greater funding. Without long-term funding for implementation, the partnership will be stuck in limbo having invested significant time in planning, yet without the resources to launch implementation or a more cohesive fundraising effort, for example hiring a coordinator, creating a partnership webpage, writing grants, and building relationships with potential funders.

> *"We would definitely continue on and look for other funding if we didn't get an Implementation FIP grant. But it would definitely help! Since we are investing a lot of our time and effort in defining what our FIP proposal would look like, it would be a shame if we didn't get that funding source."*

OWEB guidance encouraged partners to focus first on developing a high-quality strategic action plan, which could be used to seek grants from different funders, and then later to separately develop their Implementation FIP proposal. However, the reality for partners is that developing a high quality strategic action plan and developing a competitive Implementation FIP proposal are closely intertwined, arguably inseparable, in the value proposition of the partnership.

"We have gotten some mixed messages about the intended scope of our plan. We have historically worked in a very large area and through this process are realizing that more focus is needed. Yet we have been highly encouraged by some OWEB staff to 'go ahead and do it all,' while at the same time hearing it's up to us to decide where to take it."

Without a good chance for attracting significant funding, partners may have to reduce their time commitment to a partnership. For example, in some cases organizations have had the opportunity to participate in more than one partnership. When they have had limited capacity to participate in both equally, they have had to select which one to prioritize, and the likelihood of getting significant funding for implementation has weighed heavily in their decision. With this in mind, despite the flexibility of the Capacity Building FIP program, partnerships were still greatly influenced by OWEB relative to the structure, expectations, and constraints of the Implementation FIP program due to their desire to be as competitive as possible for an Implementation FIP grant.

"I'm trying to fit what they're asking for in the strategic action plan template. Maybe I need to let go of that and say this is what's working for our group. I think it's worthwhile considering what OWEB is asking for. The group is cognizant that we want to present OWEB with what they expect so that we have a better chance at Implementation FIP funding – but we also want to keep in mind there is flexibility."

With this in mind, many partners across the partnerships expressed frustration with the lack of clarity or guidance regarding expectations for a successful Implementation FIP application. The top concerns across partnerships related to how they would define the geography and activities in their Implementation FIP proposal to maximize the potential for impact over the six-year timeframe and minimize limitations on other funding opportunities.

"There is some difficulty in tailoring your effort to an uncertain target."

The potential limitation most often discussed was OWEB's guidance that projects included in the scope of an Implementation FIP grant would not be eligible for their open solicitation grant program. The meaning of this guidance and its implications were discussed at many partnership meetings at different points in their planning process.

The timing of the Implementation FIP application process was another common question relative to the goal of keeping up the partnership's momentum until implementation funds would be available. For many partnerships, an Implementation FIP grant provides the best chances for the partnership to fully launch into implementation and operate as a coordinated or collaborative partnership.

Although partners recognized that OWEB was still learning and developing the program and so they might not be able to provide that level of desired clarity, there was consistent feedback across the partnerships that more clarity would be better. Specific suggestions included a presentation and Q&A session from OWEB along with clearly written guidance. Without direct guidance, partners spent considerable time speculating in meetings and side conversations.

> *"I think we oddly circulate lots of questions about what is a FIP and spend a lot of time rehashing, people saying 'my experience is this' and 'mine is this.' It's possible this happened, and I just didn't hear about it, but having some kind of really clear orientation from OWEB would be helpful. This is what a planning FIP is, and this what an implementation FIP is. I know part of the challenge is OWEB is still figuring it out. I wasn't involved from day one. Everyone has different backgrounds and conversations with different people. It ends up being confusing and a big waste of time."*

Some speculation and confusion is natural with any competitive funding opportunity. However, partnership comments suggest there is an opportunity for OWEB to provide more guidance to help ease those anxieties and get groups through the difficult decision points related to scope, prioritization, and positioning for future funding opportunities – whether Implementation FIP, open solicitation grants, or opportunities with other funders.

Although it will be tough news for partnerships who are not able to attract significant funding for implementation, partners have received considerable value from the Capacity Building FIP opportunity in large part due to OWEB's flexibility.

> *"The Capacity Building FIP grant was the catalyst, why we took this deeper look and came up with this operational manual. It's pretty historical for us. Hopefully, positioning us to function as a partnership will make us more efficient and effective."*

Topics for Discussion

OWEB, Imnaha River

Topics for Discussion

More Than One Way to Be Strategic in "Moving The Needle" for Restoration

OWEB's two restoration funding programs – the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program and the open solicitation program – can be used strategically to respond to different types of opportunities. The FIP program aims to focus investments in specific geographies and restoration activities to have a greater ecological impact in a relatively short timeframe, which follows a broader trend in grantmaking, for example the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Save Our Great Lakes Program (See also the literature on collective impact, Kania and Kramer 2011, Pearson 2014). In addition to direct ecological benefits, the advantages to this approach when successful are that impacts can be demonstrated more clearly to the public, funders, and decision-makers to build further support for restoration. In contrast, flexible funding programs, such as OWEB's open solicitation grant program, can respond to a range of opportunities as they come up and can distribute funding more evenly across the state, which is often important for public grant programs.

These two types of funding programs can be complementary, yet depending on how they are linked, or not, they can also undermine each other's effectiveness. For example, if there are no restrictions on applying for both Implementation FIP and open solicitation programs and the Implementation FIP grantees can put together very competitive proposals for the open solicitation program, then it is possible that the open solicitation program could begin to function much like the FIP program without providing opportunities for a broader range of project types. On the other hand, if partners associated with a successful Implementation FIP are not allowed to apply for open solicitation funding, then project proposals that are not ranked high by the partnership may not be eligible for either Implementation FIP funding or open solicitation funding, again restricting the effectiveness of the open solicitation program to fund a broader range of project types.

Similarly, within partnerships there are different views about what's most strategic to "move the needle" for watershed restoration. Partners broadly acknowledged the power of a scientifically based prioritization process to achieve ecological restoration. However, there were differences of opinion about how to integrate social and political factors into prioritization frameworks or whether it is most strategic to focus solely on ecological criteria.

Partners broadly agreed that willing land owners are necessary in the context of private land restoration. However, according to some views of strategic restoration, activities should only take place when particular areas and project proposals indicate the potential for a strong environmental win. These views were more often held by partners from national or regional environmental organizations or government programs with a strong focus on environmental protection. These approaches are typically easier to implement on public lands although when private land owners are willing, these approaches can be extremely impactful in the private lands context. Approaches that emphasize strong environmental wins are most attractive to environmental funders.

Other partners representing broader constituencies, such as watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts, tended to emphasize the strategic value of doing restoration projects that have additional social and economic benefits, for example farm improvements that also benefit aquatic habitat. These approaches may have more modest environmental wins initially, but they can build trust among potentially skeptical land owners. Through a "neighbor-to-neighbor approach," one private land owner may turn from a restoration skeptic to a champion, and as a result, an initially modest environmental win can create positive waves of opportunity throughout a basin that can lead to increasingly strategic environmental wins over the long-term, for example as multiple land owners along a stream become receptive to restoration projects. This "restoration through relationships" approach is the approach that tends to get the most traction in landscapes managed by private land owners and potentially industrial forestry operations. Funding opportunities that blend environmental, social, and economic benefits like the USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service programs are a good fit for these opportunities.

While these two strategic approaches to prioritizing restoration can be complimentary, they can also be viewed as opposites. As partnerships have put together their prioritization frameworks and proposed project lists, some have struggled with tensions between large, well-funded groups pushing for the biggest environmental win and smaller organizations with broad-based constituencies who can only operate using the "restoration through relationships" approach. Conflicting missions among partners are an inherent challenge of broad-based partnerships (Hanson 2005). Common strategies to manage these challenges are to respect differences broadly and navigate the issues as they come up to try to make decisions that everyone can support even if they do not fully agree.

The crux of the problem is that these two approaches to strategically prioritize restoration tend to align with the two different types of grant programs. Partners that push for the biggest environmental win tend to rely on a purely scientific approach to prioritization that makes a clear case for specific geographies and restoration activities, which is a good match for the FIP program. Partners that operate with a "restoration through relationships" approach, which some refer to as opportunistic, tend to fit well with the open solicitation

program. The risk that many partnerships have discussed openly is that the partnership may prioritize projects with the highest environmental win, especially if their prioritization frameworks focus strictly on ecological factors, while projects with more modest environmental wins may not rank very high on the list, potentially limiting future funding opportunities.

> *"What does research tell us is most limiting? What is the data telling us what we need to do? That is the strategy to move away from opportunistic to strategic restoration. It is important to have willing landowners, but if that [stream] reach doesn't matter, then why are we there?"*

> *"There are partners around the table who all work in different ways. Coming from a watershed council, my organization is enacted by The Oregon Plan, and I report to the county commissioners and state. Our goal is to meet people in the middle and get environmental work done, while some other organizations have the luxury of choosing just environmental win projects. It has started to get to me as we start to identify project areas. I can't be against farm practices and push full dike removals. I can convince people to breach their dike, but if that is not one of the practices that is chosen by the partnership then that is limiting – we cannot participate like that in our county with our working landscape. It will potentially push me out of getting funding for the type of work that I could get done. The understanding that we all come from different ways of working – we need to find a way to make that work, and I worry we might not find a way to make that happen."*

The risk lies in the connection between the two funding programs. If the partnership is awarded an Implementation FIP grant and it has prioritized projects with the biggest environmental win, more modest projects in working landscapes may be excluded from both Implementation FIP and open solicitation funding because of the current limitation that projects within the scope of a funded Implementation FIP are not eligible for the open solicitation program. More discussion is needed to understand if there are other options for how the Implementation FIP and open solicitation programs are linked or not. Also, more discussion and support within the partnerships could potentially help ease these tensions and facilitate prioritization frameworks that more broadly reflect the diverse partners and constituencies represented by the strategic action plans. Some partnerships sought to bridge these different perspectives by including social and ecological factors into their articulation of goals and values, their prioritization framework, and their situational diagram or results chains. The value of respecting these differences and working to find common ground for long-term restoration cannot be underestimated.

Communications and Outreach Investments Linked to Strategic Action Planning

Similarly, as we think about the next frontier for strategic action planning, several partners acknowledged the limitations of a highly technical plan relative to their goals for stakeholder outreach and the community support needed for project implementation.

> *"The plan was basically built by scientists, but it wasn't really built at a second level with the thought of community engagement – not to dumb it down, but to put it in a different light. Although it was created with a gee whiz of limiting factors and basin geography, it also has to be put into a different light. What's the benefit of doing these things? What's the need to do this? Fisheries are crashing. Forget the scientific explanation, tell us in different terms why this is important."*

> *"In general, the FIP is a tremendous opportunity for us to take funding and focus on areas with a broad partnership – we need to continue to increase our messaging and find ways to better frame the strategic process that makes sense at different scales."*

As OWEB provided direction for this study, they were interested to understand what types of support might be helpful for partnerships to more proactively and meaningfully engage stakeholders through outreach.

Suggestions for future investments in outreach:

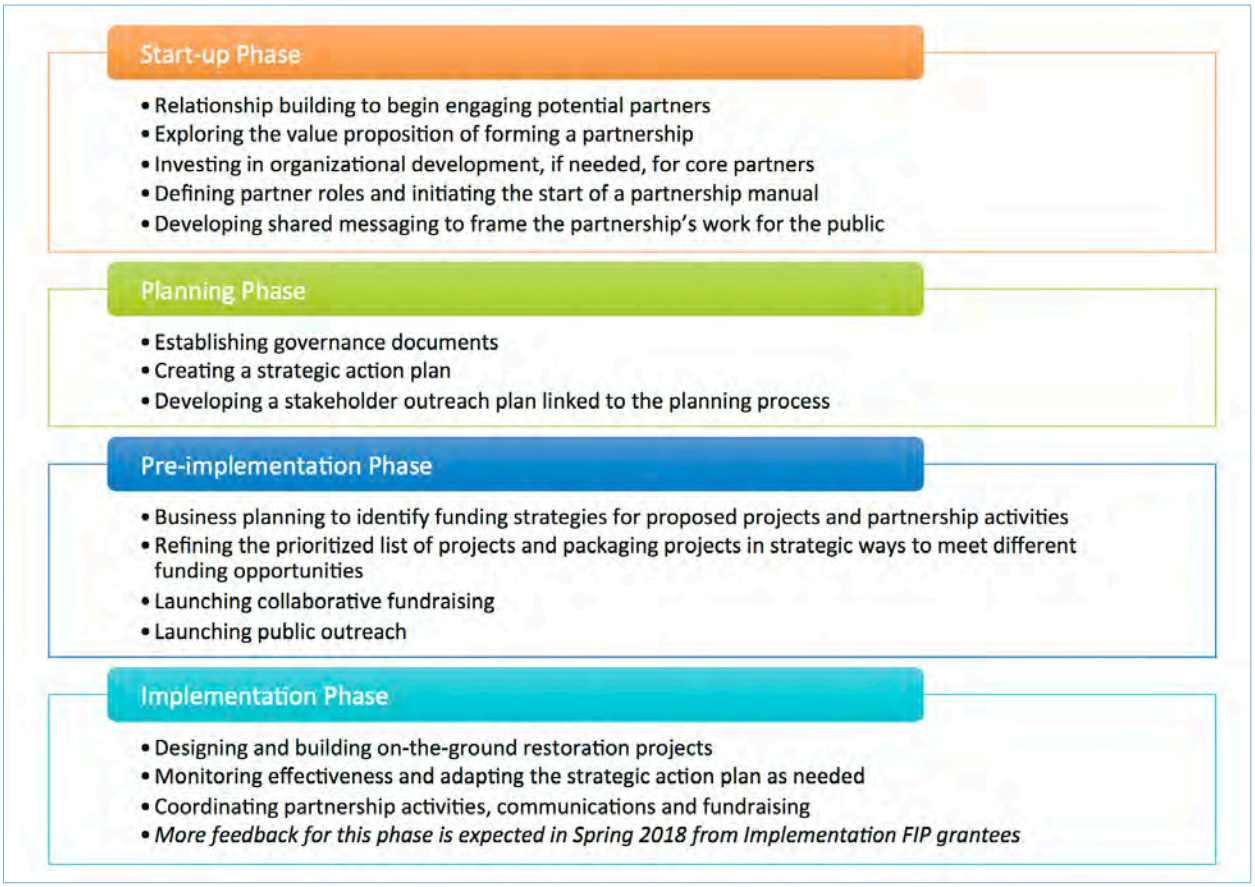
- Studies on the **economic value of restoration and why it should matter** to people paired with **clear messaging in a state-level campaign** that could be tailored for local outreach efforts,
- Funds to support **more extensive land owner surveys** that could be used to gauge awareness, potential misperceptions, and opportunities for engagement, and
- **General capacity for relationship building** with local businesses, community leaders, land owners, and residents, particularly those with a history of skepticism toward government and restoration.

The insights, messaging tools, and relationships developed through these types of investments could help re-orient the planning framework to include social and political factors and more effectively connect the goals, prioritization framework, and monitoring methods with the interests and needs of constituents.

What is Needed to Support Highly Performing, Resilient Watershed Partnerships?

As partners reflected on their progress with planning and looked ahead to their goals for implementation, several interesting suggestions surfaced across the partnerships that together paint the picture of how the FIP program could better support resilient partnerships through four phases of support.

Suggested Four Phases of Partnership Support



Partner suggestions related to the need for a pre-planning phase centered around the reality that one to three years of internal organizational development work and relationship building often helps to catalyze these types of collaborative efforts before technical planning even begins. In other cases, 10 or more years of relationship building created an opportunity to put together a Capacity Building FIP application when the call for proposals went out. In some cases, this long-term relationship building was possible due to significant anchor funders. One partner raised the question, what if there is a strategically significant part of the state or a resource issue that warrants investment, but there is not a history of collaboration or partnership? Perhaps having a start-up phase of support would help groups come together and explore the potential for collaboration.

> *"I'm thinking back on the process of applying – I was just so pleased, our partnership too, that we already had experience with one another and recognized our complementary roles. It would be interesting if an area needed groups to come together and they didn't have that history. They wouldn't have been able to pull something together. As OWEB identified the 7 focal areas, there may be an area they would like addressed, it may require some support to get a group started."*

Relative to the planning phase, there was consistent feedback that capacity support was greatly appreciated and more support would help bring additional partners more fully to the conversation, especially watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, smaller organizations, and in some cases tribes. Support for facilitation, GIS analysis and consultants to write the plan and develop a communications and outreach plan was strongly emphasized.

The suggestion for a pre-implementation phase came from several different partnerships. People explained that from their years of experience with project management, they recognized the significant work required to take a list of projects on paper that were only roughly sketched out and develop fleshed out descriptions that could be more persuasively taken to funders.

> *"FIP or no FIP we're going to use our plan to leverage more money. The leverage is the plan. The better the plan the better the leverage. We don't have our plan fleshed out to the level that I would like. I would like to say, 'We have these anchor habitats. Here's what your money will buy you, and this is what we can do. Here is why it matters, and here are the projects you can be involved in.'"*

Along these lines, one partnership had already completed their strategic action plan prior to being awarded the Capacity Building FIP grant. Reflecting on their experience, partners explained that they used Capacity Building FIP funds to convene work groups, build out their work plans in more detail, and position themselves for stronger funding proposals. The grant funds also allowed the partnership to focus more capacity on fundraising and external communications, which has already led to near-term funding with the potential for longer term opportunities. As a result, they are gradually transitioning from planning into implementation.

> *"Obviously, the FIP capacity grant was huge. It got us over the hump in terms of capacity and was instrumental to our development. We leveraged it to bring in more foundation support. We always wanted to stay lean and mean in staff, but now we're up to 2 FTE. Now we are working on transitioning my role to champion fundraiser."*

Most partners in this study couldn't speak directly to suggestions about the implementation phase since they have not gotten to that point yet. This section will be further explored with Implementation FIP grantees for Part 2 of this report.

A central theme that ran throughout people's comments was the limited capacity and limited flexibility in staff time to commit to building a resilient partnership.

> *"Funding for capacity is the thing that could make or break watershed-wide efforts. We can't 'move the dial' and get the right people on-board without the flexibility of staff not being attached to a certain project. If you really want that long-term success, there has to be attention to the work that isn't clearly associated with just one project. That's what this grant allows. It is wonderful thinking ahead to provide that. The next step is how can we support the success and continuation of this effort in a way that is not project specific, but still feeding that goal of on the ground restoration?"*

Strategies to diversify funding were discussed by some partnerships, but many smaller organizations haven't had the capacity to invest in fundraising beyond what they already do. The promise of a collaborative model of watershed restoration is that there would be centralized leadership and resources to do fundraising on behalf of the whole to distribute to partners. Again, this points to uncertainties, concerns, and fears about how this would affect individual fundraising by partners and how funds might be distributed.

> *"What we're really trying to get people to do is to jump boundaries and look for money."*

In the most successful scenario, realizing this vision would take time and investment to establish a centralized structure to be effective at long-term fundraising at that scale, and depending on the value proposition for potential partners, funders, and stakeholders, that level of greater investment may not be warranted in many places. Because of the phenomenon of "anchor funders" attracting other big funders, there is the potential that funders will end up further concentrating their funds in these partnerships where centralized infrastructure exists. This topic deserves more discussion and careful consideration. Perhaps over time, if large funders continue to place emphasis on collaborative partnerships, they may create a larger gap between "haves" and "have nots" among watersheds and restoration organizations. Going back to the continuum of participation from the introduction of this document, a lower level of partnership may be more cost-effective and produce significant value. It is too easy to fall into the popular ideal that more collaboration is better. It is worth more discussion.

For capacity building grantees, perhaps there are different "on-ramps," such that they aim for the point in the partnership continuum that they feel has the greatest value proposition for their partners and funders. What would that look like? Perhaps the start-up phase would be the broadest opportunity for many potential partnerships to explore partner roles and their value proposition for different partnership types. From there, some partnerships could operate as an information network or cooperative partnership with relatively little additional investment, while others could decide to further invest in building a strategic action plan and governance documents to move toward a collaborative partnership. As more partnerships take this step toward implementation, there is a possibility that the number of partnerships and the scale of the investment required to keep their partnership going is not feasible at the statewide scale given the general trends in environmental grantmaking.

It may be useful to map out the known funding sources, recognizing that these will change over time, to estimate roughly how many collaborative partnerships could potentially be supported in the state through various funders. This number could be used to inform how many collaborative partnerships OWEB would like to catalyze through the Capacity Building FIP program. This number could also potentially inform a more accurate value proposition for newly forming collaborative partnerships. Reflecting on the awkward transition between planning and implementation, partnerships risk falling apart if they are not able to secure relatively stable implementation funding relatively soon after completing their plan. Although partners appreciated the near-term value of relationship building and information sharing, they likely would not have chosen to invest so much time and energy in strategic planning, governance, and outreach if they did not feel they have a good chance at long-term funding.

Appreciation for Learning

Robert Warren, Sagebrush

Appreciation for Learning

From across the partnerships, people expressed appreciation for OWEB's investment in this project to obtain feedback early in the process to inform and adapt the Focused Investment Partnership program. Partners also appreciated the opportunity to learn across partnerships through the conference calls and informally sharing of planning tools and resources. Yet there was a touch of frustration that it was too early in their collaborative effort to have more in-depth feedback. Most partnerships expressed an interest in repeating the survey, interviews, and observations at some point in the future to see how they have progressed and what feedback they may have after more experience as a partnership. They also expressed an interest in future opportunities for peer-to-peer sharing across partnerships.

> *"I was so excited to see that this [Partnership Learning Project] was part of this effort. It shows that OWEB wants to make this something that works. That is nice. And then there is less griping when something doesn't work. I am very appreciative."*

> *"Thank you for taking time to get feedback from the tribes."*

> *"Thank you for the opportunity to read and offer comments on this report prior to it being finalized. It was fascinating to learn of the similarities between these 8 partnerships."*

Conclusion

Robert Warren, Juvenile Coastal Cutthroat Trout

Conclusion

The strategic vision of this style of focused investments is that a cohesive, strategically-oriented body of work with the buy-in of diverse partners and stakeholders will have greater impact and attract more funding. The purpose of this report was to learn from the experiences of 8 partnerships that received Capacity Building FIP grants to understand what is needed to support resilient, highly performing partnerships. Drawing from the public administration literature, it is helpful to think about partnerships on a continuum from information networks, where partners remain mostly autonomous to collaborative partnerships where partners become interdependent and oriented toward collective goals. Moving toward more collaborative partnerships requires greater investment in planning, governance, conflict management, and communication, but the promise is that this increased investment will strategically use the strengths of different partners to tackle more complex restoration goals more effectively.

Considering how partners made the shift toward working more collaboratively, several themes emerged as common to several partnerships, such as a history of positive working relationships, a personal affinity to working with groups on the part of partnership leaders and conveners, and the serendipity of multiple funding sources coming together at the right time. Although many partners approached strategic action planning with a desire to be more efficient, especially those who had past experience with planning, most groups added new layers of complexity that extended timelines and budgets, for example new partners with different views, multiple watersheds, or multiple habitat types. Several common themes emerged relative to tensions between some partners and challenges to engage others. Tribes are engaged in most partnerships, in some they take a prominent leadership role. Throughout there was recognition of the learning curve to working with tribes and the value of taking adequate time to talk about partner roles and interests, including tribes along with all other partners, for example during the development of governance documents. Although some partnerships waited to develop governance documents until after the strategic planning process, some of these partnerships experienced more difficulty getting buy-in from some skeptical partners. Stakeholder outreach was challenging for everyone, especially engaging private land owners, farmers and ranchers, and industrial forest interests. In general, partners felt outreach would be more effective once the strategic action plan was complete. However, there was still an overall interest in having more communication tools and messaging ready to communicate broadly about the partnership and the goals of the plan early in the process.

As partnerships transitioned from planning to implementation, there was a nervousness, anxiousness, and excitement. Most partnerships were focused on being as competitive as possible for Implementation FIP funding and struggled somewhat to keep up momentum

through the planning process, eager to move into implementation and more tangible results. Some partnerships also had promising leads to other funding sources. As groups anticipated implementation, they began to feel the tensions of competition rise to the surface and the influence of the funder, in this case OWEB, became stronger. Partnerships broadly praised OWEB's Capacity Building FIP program for its flexibility and its lack of restrictions. Ironically although partnerships weren't funded through the Implementation FIP program, they were greatly influenced by it because it represented for most if not all partnerships the clearest path toward somewhat stable implementation funding. The Implementation FIP structure and link to other funding opportunities, such as OWEB's open solicitation program, has created lots of concern, speculation, and to some degree perhaps unintended influence on the scope and focus of the strategic action plans. Some of this perhaps is unavoidable because of the nature of competitive grantmaking, but there appears to be an opportunity for OWEB to provide more clarity in messaging and perhaps more careful consideration of how the different grant programs are related.

Returning to the purpose of this report, it appears that four phases of support may be more appropriate – start-up, planning, pre-implementation, and implementation. The early start-up phase would allow partners the space to build relationships, explore the value proposition for working together, and begin defining partner roles early on in the process. A partnership may decide to operate at a lower level of investment, for example as an information network if that feels right for their value proposition. If partnerships felt there was value in moving toward a more collaborative partnership type, they would begin the planning phase similar to the current Capacity Building FIP program. The pre-implementation phase would provide extra support to ground-truth initial project ideas and package them more persuasively for funders. Suggestions for the implementation phase will be further developed in Part 2 of this report drawing from the experiences of Implementation FIP grantees. Overall, there was recognition that working collaboratively takes more capacity and the FIP grants provide some flexibility to support that capacity. Realistically partners reflected that it probably takes more capacity than was funded, and they can provide that retrospective information about how much it did take once their plan is complete.

Potentially refining the Capacity Building FIP program to emphasize development of a business plan could uncouple the formation of new partnerships through the Capacity Building FIP program with the expectation of implementation funds through the Implementation FIP program by providing alternative pathways to fund newly formed collaborative partnerships through a mix of private and public sources. With a roadmap of potential funding sources, a partnership could adjust their pace, shift their timeline, and set realistic expectations based on available funds.

A question that requires more discussion is whether these new collaborative partnerships will attract new investment for restoration in the state – potentially yes especially if restoration goals are linked more broadly with economic development – or whether this approach will simply concentrate existing investments in more focused geographies and activities. If there is a chance that funding in the state will stay the same or decrease, a measure of caution is wise to avoid encouraging the formation of new collaborative partnerships if implementation funds are not likely.

Overall, partners greatly appreciated being a part of this exciting program and looked forward to learning from each other, current Implementation FIP grantees, and the next cycle of Capacity Building FIP grantees. They greatly appreciated OWEB's genuine interest in getting feedback from partners in this way, and many hoped there would be an opportunity to continue learning together and providing feedback over the next few years as their work takes off.

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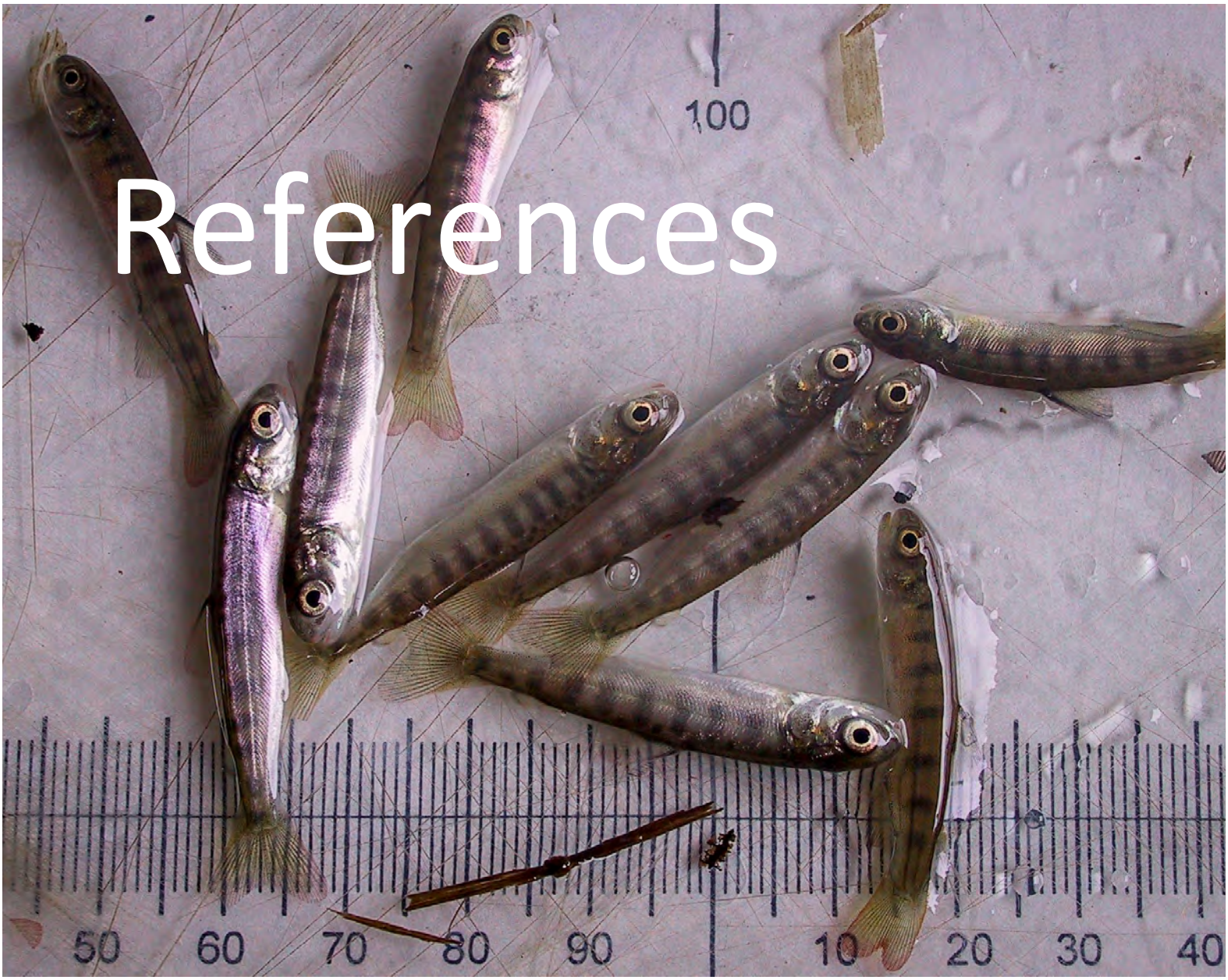

Robert Warren, Chinook and Coho Salmon Fry

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Appendix – Partnership Survey

OWEB's Partnership Learning Project

Thank you for taking the time to share your reflections and feedback!

Even the most successful partnerships face common challenges, such as recruiting key partners and staff turnover. Performance is dynamic, with normal ups and downs expected. This study does not attempt to categorize partnership performance, but collect insights from your experience to understand what partnerships need to be resilient and how OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program can support your success.

If you are short on time, you can complete the required questions in 8-10 minutes. If you have more time, please add your comments, suggestions and examples to promote learning and sharing.

This survey is confidential. At the end, we ask for your name to keep track of who completed the survey. However, your name will not be connected in any way with your answers in the presentation of results. The summarized survey results for your partnership will be shared with you; however, they will not be shared with OWEB. OWEB will only see results that are generalized across all FIP partnerships, and FIP partnerships will have the chance to review preliminary findings.

Contact Jennifer Arnold at jennifer@reciprocityconsulting.com with any questions.

Partnership

1. To what extent do you feel your partnership is actively changing and evolving or stable and established?

Actively changing and evolving	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Stable and established

2. To what extent are you satisfied with your partnership's process to develop your strategic action plan?

Not at all satisfied	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely satisfied

   Any comments or reflections on the structure, scope or content of your strategic action plan? Any advice for groups just starting their plan?

Core Partners

3. To what extent do you think the right people, organizations, and stakeholders are actively involved in the partnership, referring to the core partners that will help achieve your goals?

Lacking core partners or not active	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	All core partners involved, active

Are there specific people or organizations you would like to see more involved? If yes, please explain what you hope they would bring to the partnership and your thoughts about why they are not as involved as you would like.

Any comments or suggestions for recruiting core partners? Any advice to share with other groups?

Communication

4. To what extent are you satisfied with the frequency and quality of communication among core partners for planning and coordination?

Not at all satisfied	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely satisfied

5. To what extent are you satisfied with how the partnership communicates with external stakeholders?

Not at all satisfied	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely satisfied

Any comments or suggestions to improve communications with core partners or external stakeholders? Any advice for other groups?

6. To what extent do you think core partners hold themselves and each other accountable to follow through on their commitments?

Significant gaps in follow-through and accountability	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Exceptional follow-through and accountability

Any comments or suggestions to improve follow-through and accountability? Advice that could benefit other groups?

Governance

7. To what extent are you satisfied with the way that core partners work together to make decisions, for example deciding on the scope for the capacity building grant, prioritizing grant funds, or assigning project leads?

Not at all satisfied	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely satisfied

8. To what extent do you think your governance documents, such as MOU, accurately reflect how partners work together and are useful in supporting your success? If you feel your governance documents are a good start, but would benefit from further development, please note that in the comments below. Skip if you do not have governance documents.

Not accurate, not useful	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Highly accurate, very useful

Any comments or suggestions about the usefulness of governance documents or how they can be improved to support your success?

Value of the Partnership

9. To what extent do you feel the benefits of participating in the partnership are greater than the costs?

Costs far greater than benefits	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Benefits far greater than costs

Please tell us about the costs and benefits that matter most to you and your organization.

Challenges and Adaptation

10. To what extent has the partnership faced external challenges that limited what you could achieve, such as changes in laws, policies, land ownership, elected officials, funding, etc.

Few, minimal challenges	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Continual, extreme Challenges

11. To what extent has the partnership responded well given these limitations?

Struggled to respond	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Responded extremely well

Please share an example of an external challenge faced and how the partnership responded.

Success

12. To what extent do you feel the partnership has made good progress developing a strategic action plan and the capacity to implement it?

Limited progress with action plan and capacity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Exceptional progress with action plan and capacity

Please share your reflections on what have been the key drivers of your success or lack thereof?

13. To what extent do you feel public awareness and support are important to achieving your restoration goals?

Not at all important	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely important

14. To what extent do you feel the public is aware and supportive of the value of the partnership's work? If the partnership has not yet conducted the public outreach desired, please note in the comments below.

Public not aware or supportive	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Public very much aware and supportive

Any comments about your success with public outreach or the outreach your partnership plans to do in the future? Suggestions for how OWEB resources could help you achieve your public outreach goals? Advice for other groups?

Feedback for OWEB

15. To what extent were you satisfied with the FIP application and selection process?

Not at all satisfied	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Extremely satisfied

Any comments or suggestions to improve the FIP application and selection process in the future?

16. To what extent have you been satisfied with the frequency and quality of communication with OWEB staff?

    Not at all satisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely satisfied

    Any comments or suggestions for OWEB to improve communication?

17. To what extent are you satisfied with the FIP program as an approach to support resilient partnerships and implement ecological restoration?

    Not at all satisfied 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 Extremely satisfied

    Please share any specific feedback for how OWEB can better structure the FIP program and associated funding to support your partnership's success.

Oregon
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J– FIP Implementation Monitoring Update
July 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

The team from Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) will join OWEB staff to provide the first of two presentations (one in July, the second in October) about the initial steps in the Implementation Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) work. BEF will report on development of a progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs, and will describe progress-to-date.

II. Background

OWEB's investments in FIP Implementation and Capacity Building support restoration at a strategic scale and build resilient, sustainable partnerships able to plan and implement effective restoration strategies.

In April 2016, the board awarded $302,823 to BEF for FIP monitoring, including a progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs and the Partnership Learning Project (see staff report for Item H). The FIP monitoring approach approved by the board in April 2016 is a unique opportunity to identify effective ways to measure progress toward outcomes under six-year investments in Implementation Partnerships. Information will be used to adaptively manage partnership investments. OWEB staff have met regularly with the BEF team to develop and begin implementation of the progress monitoring framework.

III. Progress Monitoring Framework for Implementation FIPs

BEF's work aims to develop a progress monitoring framework, in collaboration with the Implementation FIP partners. This framework is intended to be applied to all of the Implementation FIPs to establish a practical and consistent approach for measuring and reporting progress toward achieving implementation objectives and predicted ecological outcomes. In addition to tracking and communicating progress, the framework is intended to be an effective tool to facilitate adaptive management of restoration initiatives by FIP partners.

The basic structure of the progress monitoring framework consists of a results chain (a graphical representation or model of the partnership's theory for how strategies are expected to produce long-term ecological impacts) and a cross-walk matrix that details key objectives related to implementation and ecological outcomes and associated indicators to measure progress toward meeting those objectives (see Attachment A for a generic results chain). At the July board meeting, the BEF team will guide the board through the process used to develop the overall framework and an overview of the process by which results chains and crosswalks are developed.

The BEF team constructed unique initial drafts of the frameworks for each FIP using their strategic action plans and FIP application materials, and then presented them to each partnership for discussion and feedback. Members of each FIP were then recruited to participate in workshops where the results chains were further developed or refined to ensure they accurately represent the FIP's restoration efforts. Updated versions of the progress monitoring framework elements produced from these workshops are currently in the process of being presented to partnerships for their feedback and final review. At the October board meeting, the BEF team will share the results of applying the progress monitoring framework with each of the Implementation FIPs.

As part of this process BEF will overlay each partnership's existing monitoring plan and, in collaboration with FIP partners, identify potential monitoring gaps that, if addressed, strengthen their ability to understand and communicate a more holistic and accurate narrative of their work and progress being made. Ultimately, the progress monitoring framework results may lead to refinements to existing monitoring approaches and modest requests for resources from the Implementation FIPs. Any such requests would support additional monitoring and/or reporting that is needed to ensure the Implementation FIPs can accurately measure and communicate their progress, in a quantitative fashion, toward intended ecological impacts.

Next Steps

BEF will complete its collaboration with each of the six Implementation FIPs to apply the progress monitoring framework. Between July and October, multiple products (e.g., results chains, crosswalks, and simplified overviews of each FIP's progress monitoring approach) will be completed. The BEF team and OWEB will present information about these products to the board at its October meeting. Finally, OWEB staff from both the monitoring and FIP programs will begin outreach to Implementation FIP partners about potential future funding requests to support implementation of the progress monitoring frameworks.

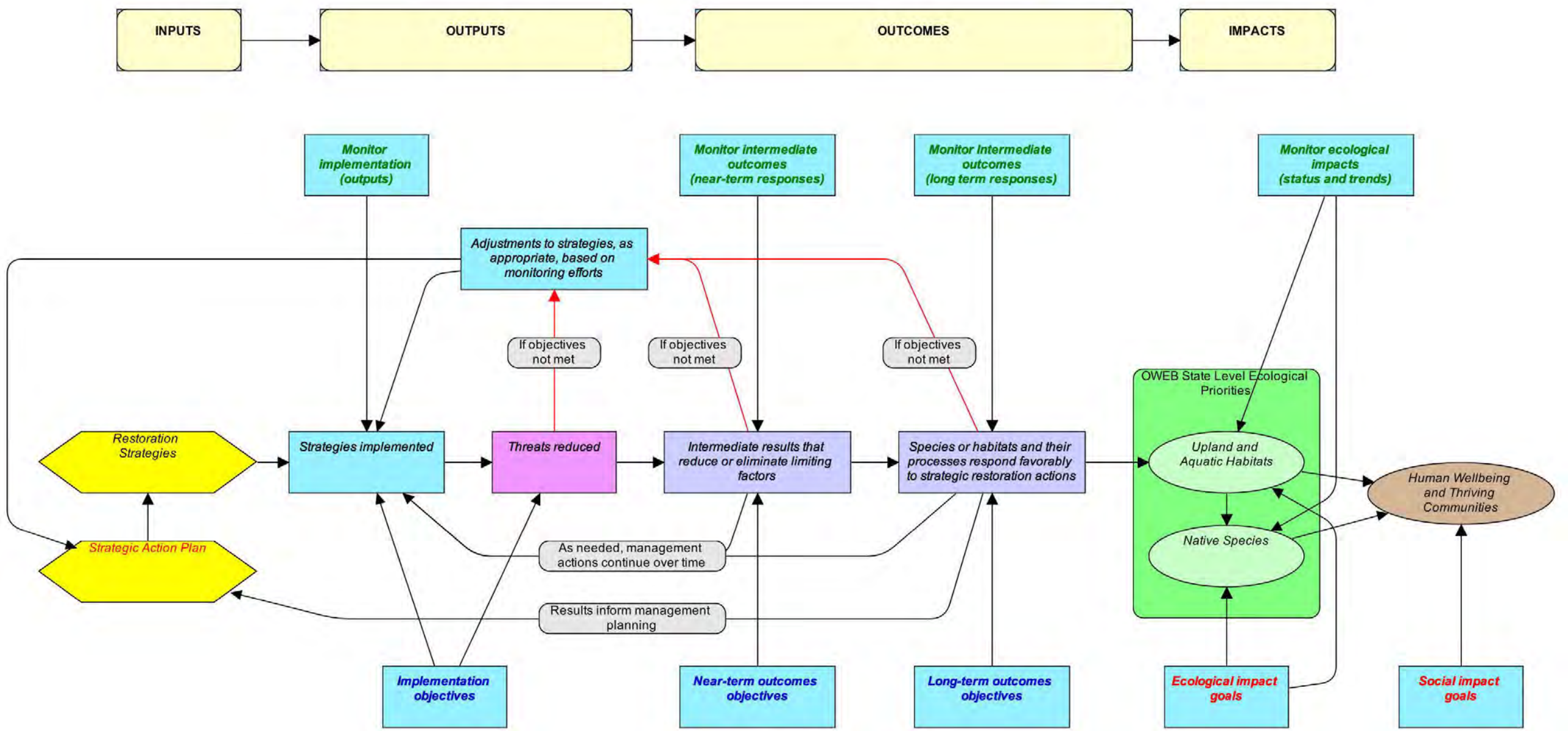
IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

A. Generic Results Chain

Proposed Generic Results Chain for Implementation FIPs
(modified from AFWA report generic direct management action results chain)



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – Outreach/Stakeholder Engagement Administrative Rules
July 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Background

Passage of Measure 76 in 2010 necessitated many changes to OWEB's programs, including outreach grants. Given the breadth of work needed at the time, the board scheduled work on outreach grants for the 2015-17 biennium. Measure 76 changed the eligibility criteria for outreach grants from a broad array of activities, including general education, to grants that are "necessary for carrying out" eligible restoration and acquisition projects. The Open Solicitation Subcommittee expressed preference for a new title for these grants that more clearly expresses their purpose and nature: Stakeholder Engagement grants.

II. Work Group

Staff convened a work group made up of watershed council and soil and water conservation district staff with experience managing outreach grants in each of OWEB's six regions, as well as the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts and the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils. The work group helped OWEB staff develop a draft application that better solicits projects meeting Measure 76 eligibility criteria.

III. Rules Advisory Committee

In January 2017, the board designated the work group as the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) for the purpose of assisting in the development of new rules governing stakeholder engagement grants. Attachment A provides a list of RAC members. After meeting three times during winter and spring to help develop a new stakeholder engagement application, the RAC met in May to review draft rules, which were then distributed for public comment.

IV. Public Comment

The public comment period was open from June 1 through June 30. Public hearings were held June 15 in Sisters and June 30 in Eugene. A summary of the written public comments received is provided in Attachment B. Attachment C provides the proposed Stakeholder Engagement Grants rules which were available for public comment and edits made after staff review of public comments. Attachment D is

the final revised version of the Stakeholder Engagement Grants rules. At its July meeting, the board may only receive public comment on the revisions to the proposed rule amendments that have occurred since the close of the public comment period.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve the Stakeholder Engagement Grants rules found in Attachment D.

Attachments

A. Rules Advisory Committee members
B. Written public comments received and response
C. Proposed Stakeholder Engagement Grants rules-redline
D. Proposed Stakeholder Engagement Grants rules-clean

ATTACHMENT A

Outreach Rulemaking Advisory Committee Members

Kelley Beamer, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Portland

Bill Buhrig, OSU Malheur County Extension, Ontario

Donna Chickering, Rogue River Watershed Council, Central Point

Elise Delgado, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Mt Vernon

Katie Duzik, OWEB – North Coast, Newport

Chris Hathaway, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership, Portland

Jordan Kim, Hood River SWCD, Hood River

Karen Leiendecker, OWEB – Eastern Oregon, Enterprise

Kathy Leopold, OWEB Small Grants Coordinator, Salem

Shawn Morford, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Salem

Courtney Shaff, OWEB Capacity Coordinator, Salem

Jennifer Weber, McKenzie Watershed Council, Springfield

Eric Williams, OWEB Grant Program Manager, Salem

Summary of Public Comments Received: Stakeholder Engagement Grants

Rules: General Comments			
Commenter(s)	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
Kristen Larson Luckiamute Watershed Council	Retain "Outreach" grant name.	The Board's Open Solicitation Subcommittee expressed preference for changing the name of the outreach offering to avoid confusion about eligible project types.	No
Kristen Larson Luckiamute Watershed Council	Add "protection" to "restoration and acquisition" when describing eligible project types.	The statutory language does not include "protection" as an eligible project type.	No
Bessie Joyce Calapooia Watershed Council	Incorporate a longer time frame into project eligibility such that youth and community education and fostering a culture of watershed restoration are eligible outreach projects.	The constitutional language requires that outreach projects are necessary for eligible restoration or acquisition projects. The proposed rules provide for stakeholder engagement in support of programmatic restoration or acquisition efforts. Education programs were specifically removed from the constitutional language regarding eligibility for use of Grant Funds.	No
Johnny Sundstrom Siuslaw Institute	Include youth education in eligible project activities.	See response to Bessie Joyce above.	No
Sam Tucker, esq.	Community outreach and engagement is essential to the success of watershed restoration.	Agree. The activities described in the comment, to the extent that they are designed to gain public support for eligible restoration or acquisition	No

		projects, are allowable activities under the proposed rule.	
Larry Six McKenzie Watershed Council	Include youth education programs as eligible for outreach grant funds.	See response to Bessie Joyce above.	No
Kathleen Guillozet Bonneville Environmental Foundation, et. al.	There is value to broad community education and outreach.	See response to Bessie Joyce above.	No
John Zerba, Chair Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council	Outreach to landowners and community members is critical to achieving successful restoration projects. Do not limit access to funds for this purpose.	The proposed rules envision funding the kinds of activities described in the comment letter.	No
Bruce Taylor, Intermountain West Joint Venture – Oregon	Stakeholder engagement should include activities that support programmatic restoration and acquisition efforts, and should not be limited to development of specific projects at specific project sites.	The comment was incorporated into revisions that clearly allow stakeholder engagement activities that support programmatic restoration and acquisition.	Yes
Bruce Taylor, , Intermountain West Joint Venture – Oregon	Education programs are eligible for funding under the Operating Fund established in the Constitution, rather than from the Grant Fund.	Concur.	No
Graham Banks, Outreach Coordinator, Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council	Stakeholder Engagement funds should support generational education efforts to promote understanding of watershed ecology and restoration.	See response to Bessie Joyce above.	No

Rules: 695-015-XXXX Purpose				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
N/A	Kristen Larson Luckiamute Watershed Council	Change name to “outreach” grants and add “protection” to “restoration and acquisition” when describing eligible project types.	See response to general comment above.	No
N/A	Kathleen Guillozet, et. al.	Broaden the purpose of stakeholder engagement grants to implement the Oregon Plan and the Oregon Conservation	The purpose statement in ORS 541.956 is further limited to outreach activities necessary for carrying out	No

		Strategy as described in ORS 541.956.	eligible restoration and acquisition projects.	
695-015-XXXX Definitions				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
N/A	Kristen Larson Luckiamute Watershed Council	Cite the outcome statements in ORS 541.942 (2) in the definition of outreach grants and delete the proposed language describing eligible restoration or acquisition projects.	ORS 541.942 includes broad outcome statements applicable to the entire Natural Resources Subaccount, whereas the proposed rules cite ORS 541.956, which is specific to the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund. The Natural Resources Subaccount includes both the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund and the Watershed Conservation Operating Fund. The OWEB grant program is operated through the Watershed Conservation Grant Fund.	No
N/A	Kathleen Guillozet Bonneville Environmental Foundation, et. al.	List the 14 stakeholder groups identified in the Oregon Plan's Education and Outreach Team.	The proposed rule lists "landowners, organizations, and the community" as the stakeholders to be engaged. This includes the broad list of specific subsets of the community identified by the Oregon Plan's Education and Outreach Team.	No
N/A	Ken Bierly	Simplify and organize the definition stakeholder engagement project.	This comment improves the proposed rules	Yes
695-015 XXXX Eligible Project Types				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
1 & 2	Kristen Larson Luckiamute Watershed	Delineate ineligible project types rather than eligible project types.	The commenter's proposed language would only exclude education	No

	Council		projects from eligibility. The rulemaking proposal provides clarity to prospective applicants regarding the outcomes of proposed stakeholder engagement work.	
1&2	Kathleen Guillozet, et. al.	Consider projects that will deliver conservation benefits identified in the Oregon Plan.	This language is more limiting than the proposed rule since it would require the stakeholder engagement project to specifically achieve conservation benefits, rather than funding the actions that ultimately lead to successful restoration or acquisition projects.	No
2	Ken Bierly	Limit ineligibility to "academic education" rather than just "education" projects.	The term "education" was specifically removed from statute and should be kept here. The remaining sections of the rules make clear that projects leading to eligible projects or programs are eligible for stakeholder engagement funds.	No
1&2	Ken Bierly	Simplify the eligibility statements.	This comment improves the proposed rules.	Yes
695-015-XXXX Application Requirements				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
1 & 2	Kristen Larson Luckiamute Watershed Council	Include information about the target audience and specific outreach activities.	These topics are included in the Evaluation Criteria section of the rules.	No
1	Kathleen Guillozet Bonneville Environmental Foundation, et. al.	Broaden the eligible project types to include stakeholder engagement that builds support for eligible projects.	The intent of the proposed rule is to include stakeholder engagement activities that support eligible project types, or that support programs that	Yes

			develop eligible project types.	
2	Ken Bierly	Substitute "connection" for "correlation" with eligible restoration or acquisition projects.	This comment improves the proposed rules.	Yes
695-015-XXXX Evaluation Criteria				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
2-5, 7	Kristen Larson Luckiamute Watershed Council	Include a criterion about the rationale for the selected target audience and delete questions about the effectiveness of two-way communication with stakeholders and the timeliness of anticipated restoration or acquisition projects.	The criteria in the proposal already include the rationale for the selected target audience. The criteria relative to multi-directional communications and timeliness of anticipated projects are necessary to implement the statute.	No
1-3, 7	Kathleen Guillozet Bonneville Environmental Foundation, et. al.	Broaden eligible communications activities to "multi-dimensional" communications and incorporate "evidence based strategies" into the evaluation criteria.	These comments improve the proposed rules.	Yes
2	Ken Bierly	It is difficult to evaluate the effectiveness of a communication strategy until it is complete.	The evaluation criteria should include the likely effectiveness of communication.	Yes
695-015-XXXX Technical Review Process				
Sub-Section	**Commenter(s)**	**Comments**	**Response**	**Rule Change**
2(c)(B)	Ken Bierly	Clarify that the technical review team is considering the certainty of success of the stakeholder engagement project, not the resulting restoration or acquisition projects.	This comment improves the proposed rules.	Yes

DIVISION 15
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT GRANTS

695-015-xxxx

Purpose

The Board shall provide grants, as funds are available, for stakeholder engagement projects that are necessary for carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to development of eligible projects, as required by ORS 541.956.

695-015-xxxx

Definitions

"Stakeholder Engagement Project" means a project whose purpose is to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations, and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefits of a specific eligible restoration or acquisition project or program that leads to development of eligible projects within an identified geography~~, or an eligible resource assessment or planning project, in order to successfully plan or implement said restoration or acquisition project~~.

695-015-xxxx

Eligible and Ineligible Project Types

The Board will only consider projects that:

(1) ~~That a~~Are focused on a specific project site or sites, or that support resource assessment and planning that results in identification of a specific project site or sites; and

(2) ~~That w~~Will lead to eligible restoration or acquisition projects within a specific timeframe.

Projects whose primary purpose is education are not eligible.

695-015-xxxx

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted on the most current form prescribed by the Board. In accordance with Section 4(b)(2) of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution, funds used for outreach activities are required to be necessary for carrying out eligible restoration or acquisition projects. These are described in OAR 695-010 and 695-045. Stakeholder engagement applications must include the following:

(1) The eligible project type, or program that leads to development of eligible project types, that the Stakeholder Engagement project intends to develop:
  (a) Acquiring, from willing owners, interests in land or water that will protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats;
  (b) Projects to protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitat;
  (c) Projects to protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve water quality or streamflow; or
  (d) Resource assessment or planning for the above project types.

(2) A description of the ~~The~~ direct connection~~rrelation~~ the Stakeholder Engagement project has~~will have~~ with future restoration or acquisition projects or programs~~activities~~.

695-015-xxxx

Evaluation Criteria

Stakeholder Engagement projects will be evaluated on:

(1) The ~~basis~~ degree to which ~~they~~ applicants engage with the appropriate stakeholders in the appropriate geography;

(2) The likely effectiveness of ~~two-way~~mulitmulti-directional communication ~~between~~ among the applicant and stakeholders;

(3) The proposed evidence base linking ~~correlation between~~ the stakeholder engagement project and the resulting restoration or acquisition projects, or program that leads to development of eligible project types~~resource assessment or planning for such projects~~;

(4) The timeliness of the resulting restoration or acquisition projects, or program that leads to development of eligible project types~~resource assessment or planning for such projects.~~;

(5) Cost effectiveness;

(6) The qualifications and experience of applicant; and

(7) The expected outcomes of the resulting restoration or acquisition project with respect to protecting or restoring fish or wildlife habitat, watershed function, and water quality or quantity.

695-015-xxxx

~~Regional~~Technical Review Process

(1) Prior to the ~~regional~~technical review team meeting, the ~~regional~~ technical review team:

(a) Shall receive each application, past evaluations for projects resubmitted in the current grant cycle, and an evaluation sheet to complete for each application;

(b) Shall evaluate each application based on the information provided. During this process, team members are encouraged to contact the applicants, Board staff, or other agency staff to clarify information in the application or to get expert review.

(2) At the ~~regional~~ technical review team meeting, the team shall:

(a) Review and evaluate each project individually based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria in 695-015-0050;

(b) Recommend the project as~~:~~;

(A) Do fund;

(B) Do fund with conditions;

(C) Do not fund; or

(D) Defer to staff or the Board with an explanation, if there is a policy issue or budget issue that needs to be addressed by the Board prior to a funding decision; and

(c) Rank order all projects recommended for funding based on:

(A) How well the project meets the criteria established in 695-010-0040 and 695-010-0050;

(B) The certainty of success of the stakeholder engagement project, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant and the likelihood the project will meet its stakeholder engagement objectives;

(3) The project description, summary evaluation and funding recommendation for all projects, and the rank order of projects recommended for funding shall be forwarded from the regional review team to Board staff for their consideration. This information will be sent to all applicants within a region for their region and for all regions to the Board.

695-015-xxxx

Staff Funding Recommendation Process

(1) Staff shall review the recommendations from each ~~regional~~ technical review team and make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period and type. The recommendation shall include any conditions placed on individual projects and may include proposed budget adjustments. The staff recommendation, as represented in the staff report to the Board, shall be sent to applicants and members of the technical~~Regional~~ r~~R~~eview t~~T~~eams at least two weeks before the Board meeting where funding decisions are to be made.

(2) Applicants may provide written or oral comment to the Board on the staff recommendation prior to the Board decision.

695-015-xxxx

Board Funding Decision

(1) The Board may fund a project in whole or in part.

(2) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during application submission periods prescribed by the Board.

695-015-xxxx

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Grantee must submit a report at completion of the project describing the work done and placing it in its larger watershed context.

(2) The Grantee must agree to complete the project as approved by the Board and within the timeframe specified in the grant agreement unless proposed modifications are submitted and approved by the Director prior to the beginning of any work proposed in the modification.

(3) The Director will consider project modifications including expansion of funded projects with moneys remaining from the original project allocation if the purpose and intent of the amendment remains the same as the original project, the proposed activity is within the same geographic area, and the modification would be compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans.

(4) The Director may authorize minor changes within the scope of the original project plan.

695-015-xxxx

Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 15 for individual grant applications unless required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's stakeholder engagement grant program. Any waiver must be in writing and included in the grant file to which the waiver applies.

DIVISION 15
STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT GRANTS

695-015-xxxx

Purpose

The Board shall provide grants, as funds are available, for stakeholder engagement projects that are necessary for carrying out eligible restoration and acquisition projects, or programs that lead to development of eligible projects, as required by ORS 541.956.

695-015-xxxx

Definitions

"Stakeholder Engagement Project" means a project whose purpose is to communicate and engage with landowners, organizations, and the community about the need for, feasibility, and benefits of a specific eligible restoration or acquisition project or program that leads to development of eligible projects within an identified geography.

695-015-xxxx

Eligible and Ineligible Project Types

The Board will only consider projects that:

(1) Are focused on a specific project site or sites, or that support resource assessment and planning that results in identification of a specific project site or sites; and

(2) Will lead to eligible restoration or acquisition projects within a specific timeframe.

Projects whose primary purpose is education are not eligible.

695-015-xxxx

Application Requirements

Applications must be submitted on the most current form prescribed by the Board. In accordance with Section 4(b)(2) of Article XV of the Oregon Constitution, funds used for outreach activities are required

to be necessary for carrying out eligible restoration or acquisition projects. These are described in OAR 695-010 and 695-045. Stakeholder engagement applications must include the following:

(1) The eligible project type, or program that leads to development of eligible project types, that the Stakeholder Engagement project intends to develop:
    (a) Acquiring, from willing owners, interests in land or water that will protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitats;
    (b) Projects to protect or restore native fish or wildlife habitat;
    (c) Projects to protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve water quality or streamflow; or
    (d) Resource assessment or planning for the above project types.
(2) A description of the direct connection the Stakeholder Engagement project has with future restoration or acquisition projects or programs.

695-015-xxxx

Evaluation Criteria

Stakeholder Engagement projects will be evaluated on:

(1) The degree to which applicants engage with the appropriate stakeholders in the appropriate geography;
(2) The likely effectiveness of multi-directional communication among the applicant and stakeholders;
(3) The proposed evidence base linking the stakeholder engagement project and the resulting restoration or acquisition projects, or program that leads to development of eligible project types;
(4) The timeliness of the resulting restoration or acquisition projects, or program that leads to development of eligible project types;
(5) Cost effectiveness;
(6) The qualifications and experience of applicant; and
(7) The expected outcomes of the resulting restoration or acquisition project with respect to protecting or restoring fish or wildlife habitat, watershed function, and water quality or quantity.

695-015-xxxx

Technical Review Process

(1) Prior to the technical review team meeting, the technical review team:

(a) Shall receive each application, past evaluations for projects resubmitted in the current grant cycle, and an evaluation sheet to complete for each application;

(b) Shall evaluate each application based on the information provided. During this process, team members are encouraged to contact the applicants, Board staff, or other agency staff to clarify information in the application or to get expert review.

(2) At the technical review team meeting, the team shall:

(a) Review and evaluate each project individually based on how well the proposed project meets the criteria in 695-015-0050;

(b) Recommend the project as:

(A) Do fund;

(B) Do fund with conditions;

(C) Do not fund; or

(D) Defer to staff or the Board with an explanation, if there is a policy issue or budget issue that needs to be addressed by the Board prior to a funding decision; and

(c) Rank order all projects recommended for funding based on:

(A) How well the project meets the criteria established in 695-010-0040 and 695-010-0050;

(B) The certainty of success of the stakeholder engagement project, based on the organizational capacity of the applicant and the likelihood the project will meet its stakeholder engagement objectives;

(3) The project description, summary evaluation and funding recommendation for all projects, and the rank order of projects recommended for funding shall be forwarded from the regional review team to Board staff for their consideration. This information will be sent to all applicants within a region for their region and for all regions to the Board.

695-015-xxxx

Staff Funding Recommendation Process

(1) Staff shall review the recommendations from each technical review team and make a statewide funding recommendation to the Board based on available resources for the grant period and type. The recommendation shall include any conditions placed on individual projects and may include proposed budget adjustments. The staff recommendation, as represented in the staff report to the Board, shall be sent to applicants and members of the technical review teams at least two weeks before the Board meeting where funding decisions are to be made.

(2) Applicants may provide written or oral comment to the Board on the staff recommendation prior to the Board decision.

695-015-xxxx

Board Funding Decision

(1) The Board may fund a project in whole or in part.

(2) Projects not funded may be resubmitted during application submission periods prescribed by the Board.

695-015-xxxx

Grant Agreement Conditions

(1) The Grantee must submit a report at completion of the project describing the work done and placing it in its larger watershed context.

(2) The Grantee must agree to complete the project as approved by the Board and within the timeframe specified in the grant agreement unless proposed modifications are submitted and approved by the Director prior to the beginning of any work proposed in the modification.

(3) The Director will consider project modifications including expansion of funded projects with moneys remaining from the original project allocation if the purpose and intent of the amendment remains the same as the original project, the proposed activity is within the same geographic area, and the modification would be compatible with acknowledged comprehensive plans.

(4) The Director may authorize minor changes within the scope of the original project plan.

695-015-xxxx

Waiver and Periodic Review of Rules

The Director may waive the requirements of Division 15 for individual grant applications unless required by statute, when doing so will result in more efficient or effective implementation of the Board's stakeholder engagement grant program. Any waiver must be in writing and included in the grant file to which the waiver applies.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – OWEB Technical Assistance and Focused Investment Partnership Rulemaking
July 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report seeks board authorization to initiate rulemaking for OWEB Technical Assistance grants and the Focused Investment Partnership program.

II. Background

Technical Assistance (TA) grants are an integral OWEB grant offering; however, they do not have administrative rules specific to the grant type. Currently all TA grants are operated under the broader administrative rules found in the Division 5, OWEB Grant Program. With recent changes to the other grant program administrative rules, staff propose developing administrative rules for TA grants.

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) program grants are also operated under the Division 5, OWEB Grant Program administrative rules. The FIP grant program was developed over several years, and grants were awarded in the program during the 2015-2017 biennium. Through this process, lessons have been learned that staff propose to develop into administrative rules for the FIP program.

III. Proposed Rulemaking Process

Staff propose to develop the FIP rules first, as solicitation for the 2019-2021 FIP Implementation grants will begin in January, 2018. Staff will convene a rules advisory committee (RAC) for both the FIP and TA rulemaking processes. The RACs will be composed of grantees, stakeholders, and staff to review the proposed rules. Staff propose to develop the TA and FIP program rules according to the draft staggered schedule below.

Rulemaking Action	FIP Rules Dates/Deadlines	TA Rules Dates/Deadlines
Board Authorization for Rulemaking	July 2017	July 2017
Draft Rules Developed	August 2017	February 2018
RAC Meetings to Vet Draft Rules and Provide Feedback	September-October 2017	March-April 2018
Draft Rules Revised Based on RAC Feedback	November 1, 2017	May 1, 2018
Notice Filed with Secretary of State	November 15, 2017	May 15, 2018
Public Comment Materials posted online	December 1, 2017	June 1, 2018
Notice to Agency Mailing List and Legislators	December 1, 2017	June 1, 2018
Secretary of State's Bulletin	December 1, 2017 (published)	June 1, 2018
Public Comment Period	December 1-31, 2017	June 1-30, 2018
Public Hearing(s)	December, 2017	June, 2018
Revisions to Draft Rules Based on Public Comment	Early January, 2018	Early July, 2018
Board Adoption of Rules	January 30-31, 2018	July 24-25, 2018

Table 1

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board authorize rulemaking for OWEB Technical Assistance grants and the Focused Investment Partnership program.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – Conservation Effectiveness Partnership
July 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will provide an informational briefing about OWEB's engagement in the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP). The CEP is an inter-agency collaboration with a mission to describe the effectiveness of cumulative conservation and restoration actions in achieving ecological outcomes through collaborative monitoring, evaluation and reporting. The presentation will include a description of CEP's accomplishments to date, and discuss next steps for documenting and sharing the results of cooperative conservation with funders, practitioners, and decision-makers.

II. Background

CEP brings together technical staff from Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), OWEB, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to evaluate the effects of conservation and restoration investments on agricultural water quality and overall watershed health. DEQ, ODA, NRCS, and OWEB formed the partnership in 2010. Through a Memorandum of Understanding effective through 2020, the agencies have committed to participate in CEP. In 2016, ODFW joined the CEP as a technical advisor to help the team consider questions about the connections between water quality and fish species and habitats.

The CEP partners have agreed on four broad goals for the collaboration:

- Build an understanding of the extent of the investment in watershed improvement and the watershed response through the agencies' collective grant programs.
- Develop a clearer understanding of how local organizations are utilizing the agencies' respective grant programs, in concert.

- Evaluate the effects of conservation and restoration investments on water quality and watershed condition.
- Design tools and methods of reporting results of investments.

CEP identifies watersheds with significant agency investment and with specific water quality issues, and then engages with on-the-ground partners to identify specific questions about the effects of restoration investments on ecological outcomes. CEP then collates information on the relevant variables of interest (e.g., temperature, oxygen, nutrients, bacteria, sediments). Through this collaborative approach, CEP reports the results of investments, provides information about how different restoration approaches are working, and shares findings with partners.

III. Summary of Accomplishments

To date, CEP has completed focused work in six watersheds around the state, and is actively working to integrate and summarize results in three additional watersheds (see example in Attachment B). Online information and fact sheets summarizing CEP findings have been produced, and discussions about a process for updating past analyses are underway. Additional CEP accomplishments focus on governance of the partnership, the establishment of consistent, science-based criteria, and the selection of focus areas for CEP work. CEP also is working to improve data-sharing among agencies to better 'tell the story' of improvements in water quality outcomes. Staff will describe highlights of these accomplishments at the July board meeting.

IV. Next Steps

OWEB and partner agencies will continue to coordinate through monthly Technical Team meetings, quarterly meetings with managers, and an annual meeting with the directors from each agency. Work will continue on updating past watershed case studies, initiating new watershed case studies, and improving interagency data sharing.

V. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

A. Example CEP Watershed Case Study Fact Sheet: Wilson River

CONSERVATION effectiveness partnership

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE | OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY | USDA NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE, OREGON | OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Conservation Effectiveness Partnership

PULLING TOGETHER TO IMPROVE NATURAL RESOURCE INVESTMENTS IN OREGON

Dive In! Tillamook's Wilson River now Clean Enough for Swimming

Tillamook, Ore.—The water in Wilson River is now clean enough for the general public to enjoy swimming or wading thanks to water quality improvement efforts and monitoring measures by cooperating public natural resource agencies, nonprofits and landowners.

Wilson River is the largest watershed feeding Tillamook Bay, a major water body on Oregon's northern coast. While the upper portion of the river is flanked by forestland, the lower 8.5 miles flows through dairy land and is affected by development pressures from the City of Tillamook.

THE PROBLEM

In 1997, the lower 8.5-mile segment of the Wilson River was found to have dangerously high bacteria levels, which moved the state's Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to place the river on the 303(d) list of impaired waterways. That listing meant that recreational use was not advised.

Oregon's recreational use water quality standard has two requirements: first, that for 30 days water does not show a median of 126 or more *E. coli* organisms per 100 milliliters (mL) of water and second, that no single sample exceed 406 *E. coli* organisms per 100 mL. The Wilson River exceeded those limits.

COLLABORATION WAS KEY

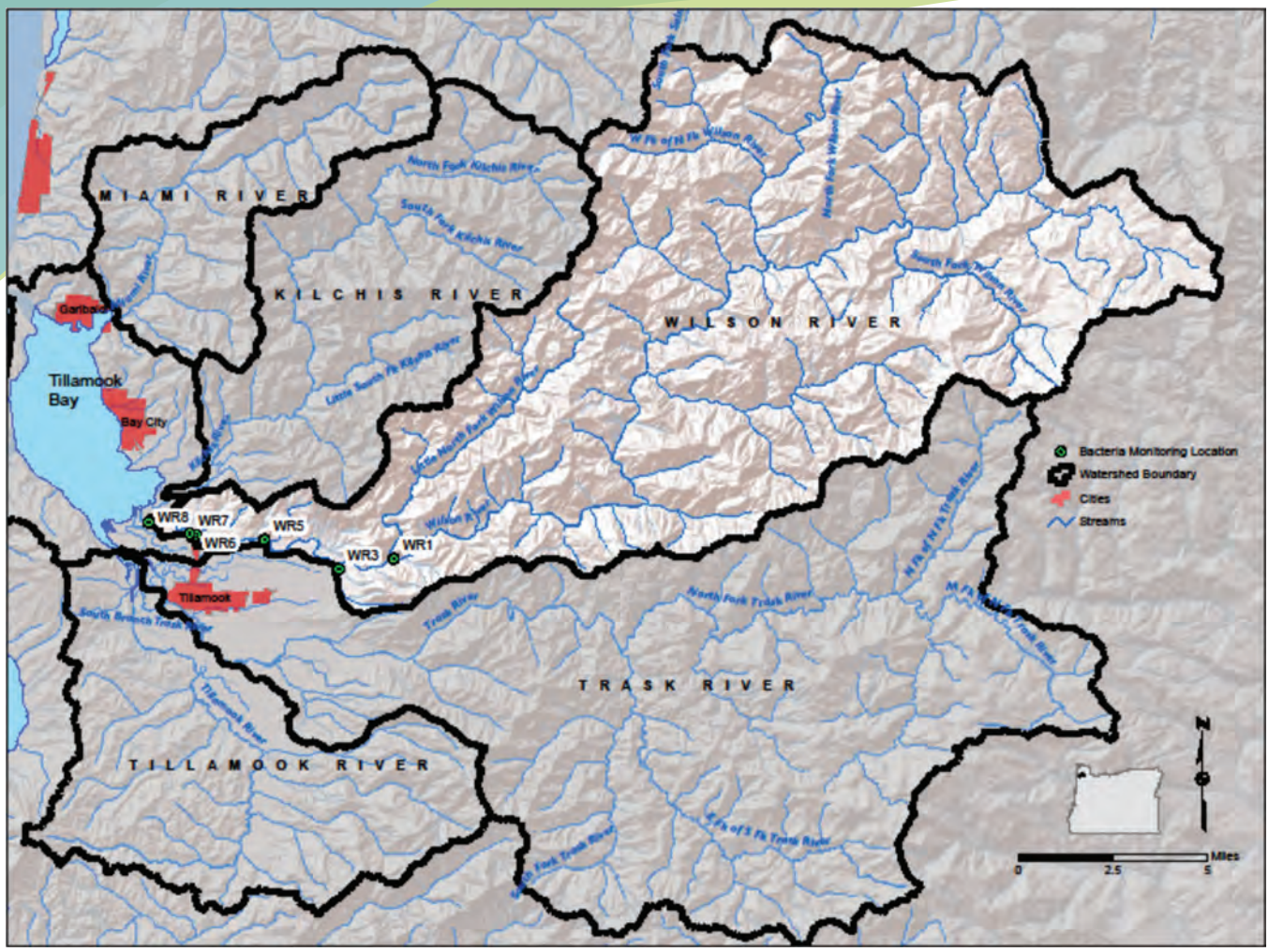
Work began toward finding a solution to Wilson River's water woes by local citizens, dairy farms, nonprofits and natural resource agencies including the Tillamook Estuary Partnership, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), Oregon State University, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), USDA Farm Service Agency, DEQ, Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), and the Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation District, which leveraged their investments in multiple conservation projects and water quality data monitoring intended to improve and measure the watershed's health.

MULTI-PRONGED EFFORT

Partners spent millions of dollars to restore and protect Tillamook Bay and its watershed. Projects included 20 riparian enhancements on private land that fostered planting, fencing and invasive species removal to stabilize streambanks and to keep livestock off a buffer of land along the river's edge; purchase of three wetland parcels and improvements to Tillamook County Creamery Association wastewater treatment system that discharges to the river. Farmers invested in additional improvements as well. They built covered manure-storage areas and improved the efficiency of sprinkler systems and fertilization programs to prevent runoff from entering waterways.

SCIENTIFIC MONITORING SHOWS SUCCESS OF INPUTS

Scientific monitoring gives water quality managers a starting point and a scientific, progressive measurement of success or failure in water quality improvement efforts. In the Wilson River, monitoring of pollutants began in 1997. At that time, *E. coli* organisms were present at nearly triple the levels considered safe for swimming and wading.



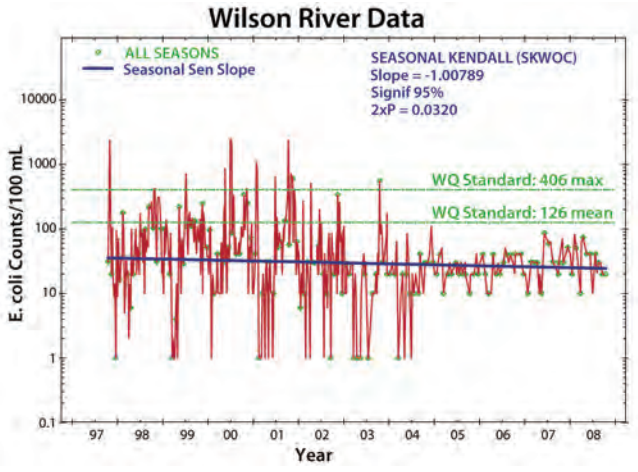
Wilson River water is checked regularly for bacteria at six monitoring locations along the lower 8.5 miles of the river.

Special equipment measured water quality in the Wilson River over the long term. Six bacteria monitoring stations set up along the 8.5 mile stretch of Wilson River monitored the presence of *E. coli*. Data collected from those stations from 1997 through 2009 show that bacteria levels have steadily declined since 1997 and now consistently meet the recreational use water quality standard. The data is collected by The Tillamook Estuary Partnership and DEQ collect and review the data.

Monitoring has been in place long enough now for scientists to see patterns of improvement. They predict with confidence that conditions will continue to improve over the next 25 years. And that can only be good news for the Wilson River and to those who depend on and enjoy using it.

KEEPING THE WATCH

The Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (CEP) is a new collaboration of natural resource agencies that gives direction to conservation in Oregon. Partners include Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The CEP works collectively to understand, optimize and communicate the benefit of conservation funding investments in the Wilson River and other focused areas around Oregon.



Bacteria levels from each location are plotted on a graph.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Collaborative Voluntary Measures
July 24-26, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will be joined by representatives from the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to present the results of two collaborative reports on voluntary measures that were completed by OWEB, ODF and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute (OFRI).

II. Background

Over the past 20 years, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds (Oregon Plan) has facilitated substantial landowner contributions to salmon and watershed restoration. ODF, OFRI, and OWEB collaborated on this project to explore the role of voluntary conservation projects throughout the Oregon Coast Range. The objectives of the project were to:

1) Tell the success stories of voluntary restoration measures implemented on forestlands in Oregon.
2) Assess implementation of voluntary restoration projects that are most frequently conducted by forest landowners.
3) Identify barriers to the implementation and reporting of voluntary measures.

To accomplish objectives 1 and 2, a report was prepared that summarizes voluntary measures reported by landowner types (e.g., private industrial, private nonindustrial, etc.) to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI) database (Attachment A). OWRI is the primary repository for information on voluntary projects associated with the Oregon Plan. To address objective 3, a survey was conducted in June 2016 that assessed forest landowners' understanding of voluntary measures and what they perceived as barriers to implementing and reporting voluntary projects (Attachment B).

III. Summary of key findings

Role of private landowners: In the Oregon Coast Range, landowners have completed 5,639 voluntary restoration projects at a cost of over $162 million. Moreover, 84% of these projects received no incentive funding (i.e., costs of implementation were borne

entirely by landowners). Private industrial owners conducted over 4,000 projects, investing $63 million, with industrial owners bearing the majority of the cost. The majority of coho habitat is found throughout private nonindustrial forests. However, when compared with industrial ownerships, the number of projects implemented and reported by nonindustrial owners was considerably lower (373 projects), as was the total contributions to projects ($10.9 million). This indicates that opportunities remain for nonindustrial landowners to contribute to coho restoration. However, there are challenges both to engaging these landowners in conservation efforts, and to encouraging them to report their results. In this study, two-thirds of the voluntary projects completed and reported by nonindustrial landowners were incentive-based, suggesting that incentives are a key method for engaging nonindustrial landowners.

Reporting: Relatively few landowners reported voluntary projects to OWRI, with many noting they had completed projects, yet did not report them. Very few landowners had used OWRI's online reporting tool. Lack of awareness of the option to report was frequently cited. Additional reasons included: lack of clarity on how to report; uncertainty about the value of reporting; and distrust of government agencies. Survey participants noted that financial incentives or reduced costs would increase their willingness to report voluntary projects. They also recommended education, training, a simplification of the reporting process, and better understanding and communicating the value of completing and reporting projects.

Monitoring: Monitoring is expensive and time-consuming, and therefore not often included when implementing the majority of restoration projects. However, Oregon Plan partners and landowner groups have acknowledged the importance of monitoring and expressed interest in monitoring future restoration projects.

IV. Next steps

OWEB, ODF and OFRI are considering the results of this project and ways to:

1. Involve more private, non-industrial forest landowners in implementing restoration projects;
2. Increase reporting rates of conventional restoration projects that are implemented by landowners;
3. Monitor implementation (including quantity, project type, and adherence to implementation guidelines) and effectiveness of restoration projects; and
4. Tell the story resulting from Steps 1-3, and assess change over time.

V. Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachments

A. Executive Summary of 'Voluntary Efforts by Forest Landowners to Restore Salmon Habitat and Watersheds in the Oregon Coast Range' Report

B. Summary of 'Survey of Forest Landowners' Engagement in Voluntary Practices in the Oregon Coast Range' Report

Voluntary Efforts by Forest Landowners To Restore Salmon Habitat and Watersheds in the Oregon Coast Range

Prepared by
The Oregon Department of Forestry
The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

March 2017

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the Pacific Northwest, salmon populations were historically more abundant than they are today. As a result, many populations have been the focus of habitat restoration efforts. A vital role in these restoration efforts is played by private landowners, who collectively manage one-third of the forestlands in Oregon. Crucial habitat for some salmon populations occurs predominately on lands that are privately owned.

This report describes the extensive restoration effort that has been made by forest landowners to recover salmon in the Oregon Coast Range as part of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds ("Oregon Plan"). This Plan was initiated in response to declines in coho (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) populations during the 1980's and 1990's. The Oregon Plan is a partnership between private landowners, communities, citizens, and industry to recover salmon species and restore watersheds. The plan emphasizes voluntary restoration efforts by landowners, recognizing these efforts are essential to salmon recovery.

Over the past 20 years, the Oregon Plan has facilitated substantial landowner contributions to salmon restoration. In the Oregon Coast Range, landowners have completed 5,639 voluntary restoration projects at a cost of over $162 million. Moreover, 84% of these projects received no incentive funding, and the costs of implementation were borne entirely by landowners.

Voluntary projects conducted by landowners in the Oregon Coast Range have translated into tangible benefits for coho that include: 1) improved fish passage for 1,400 miles of streams that were previously unavailable to coho; 2) improved water quality as result of more than 8,000 miles of roads that were surveyed, of which nearly 3,000 miles were treated; 3) enhanced habitat through the installation of over 11,000 instream structures, most of which were large wood placements; and 4) nearly 12,000 acres of riparian forests improved by planting trees, restoring conifers in hardwood dominated stands, and leaving trees that could otherwise be harvested.

Private industrial landowners have been leading supporters of the Oregon Plan, completing the majority (71%) of all reported projects. Specifically, industrial landowners conducted over 3,800 large wood placements, 1,300 miles of roads were treated based on over 6,000 miles surveyed, increased access to 900 miles of streams by improving fish passage.In the Oregon Coast Range, the majority of coho habitat is found throughout private nonindustrial forests, as such these lands play a pivotal role in coho restoration. When compared with industrial ownerships, the total financial contributions to projects and the number of implemented projects reported by nonindustrial private landowners was considerably lower ($10.9 million vs. $63.5 million; 373 projects vs. 4,033 projects). This suggests that there are still opportunities to restore coho habitat on nonindustrial private lands in Oregon Coast Range. However, it is important to note that we do not know if these lower numbers are due to implementing fewer projects or a lower rate of reporting. Recent landowner surveys detailed in this report indicate that landowners are primarily motivated by a strong desire for ecological uplift, also expressing interest in incentives and cost-sharing programs for restoration work (Appendix III).

Even though forest landowners have embraced the spirit of the Oregon Plan by completing thousands of restoration projects, coho were still listed as Threatened by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in 1998 and remain listed as Threatened in Oregon today. Coho populations, however, have rebounded substantially from record lows observed in the 1990s. The current state of coho populations in Oregon reflects reductions in fish harvest, improved hatchery management, and extensive restoration work conducted by forest landowners.

After two decades, the Oregon Plan remains relevant as a way to ensure that salmon populations continue to recover and thrive. To increase effectiveness, Oregon Plan efforts should involve more nonindustrial owners in implementing restoration projects. The Oregon Plan would benefit from outreach to increase landowners' reporting rates for restoration projects that do not involve incentives; and monitoring the effectiveness and implementation of restoration projects to improve the impact of their results on policy development.

DRAFT

June 2015

Survey of Forest Landowners' Engagement in Voluntary Practices in the Oregon Coast Range

ONLINE SURVEY

Oregon Department of Forestry

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Oregon Forest Resources Institute

dhm RESEARCH
PORTLAND | SEATTLE | WASHINGTON DC

Prepared by DHM Research

503.220.0575
239 NW 13th Ave #205
Portland, OR 97209
www.dhmresearch.com

Summary & Observations 2

While participants are only somewhat familiar with the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, commonly called the "Oregon Plan," they are knowledgeable and well-aware of the types of improvements considered to be voluntary projects. Many are completing these projects as part of their management practices.

- Slightly over half (53%) were at least somewhat familiar with the Oregon Plan.
- Almost all landowners were able to list enhancements that would be considered voluntary projects, but those who had completed such projects did so with more specificity.
- Three quarters (75%) had completed voluntary projects.
    - Almost all (94%) of those managing plots over 370 acres had done so, and 69% of those landowners had completed more than 10 projects.
    - Those who had not completed a project often said that their land was not suitable for any voluntary projects. Others were unaware that voluntary projects were an option.

Landowners largely consider voluntary projects the "right thing to do" when it comes to managing their land. The primary factor in deciding to complete projects was ecological benefit, while other specifics played a supporting role.

- Open-ended responses often noted the common sense nature of making improvements to one's land with a variety of motivations: ecological, economic, personal. Others focused on the nitty gritty requirements including cost, time, and difficulty.
- Some 62% listed ecological benefits as an important deciding factor, followed closely by financial costs (56%) and probability of successful completion (52%).

Relatively few landowners had reported voluntary projects to the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory, with many explicitly noting that they had completed and not reported projects. While lack of awareness of the option to report was the most frequently mentioned reason, there were a variety of other explanations given for this behavior.

- Just 20% of all survey participants had reported a voluntary project.
- A majority (58%) said they completed a project they did not report.
    - Some 79% of those who had completed and reported a project, and 72% of those who had completed but not reported a project said they completed a voluntary project that went unreported at least once. This suggests that reporting is an inconsistent practice.
- The most common reason given for not reporting was lack of awareness (56%), with an additional 29% saying that they were unsure of how to report. On the other side, some questioned the value of doing so, or the efficacy or trustworthiness of the agencies in charge of the process.

Survey participants were asked about initiatives to increase their willingness to complete and report voluntary projects. Initiatives that reduced costs or provided financial benefits tested well. That said, when landowners were asked about incentives in an open-ended fashion, they focused on other motivation strategies such as education, training, a simplification of the process, and effectively communicating the value of completing and reporting projects.

- The two most popular initiatives to increase willingness to complete voluntary projects were cost sharing (55%) and tax incentives (50%)
- Equal proportions said incentives would be effective in increasing reporting (42%) or were uncertain (43%). As such, they should be viewed as a secondary tactic to encourage reporting.

Very few landowners had used the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory's online reporting tool. Suggestions for improvement focused on clarity and simplification. Complexity in the reporting process was seen as a barrier for doing so.

Conclusions and Recommendations

While many have completed voluntary projects (75%), relatively few have ever reported them to OWRI (20%). Even among those who have ever reported at least one project, a strong majority (79%) had completed projects that they did not report. Although landowners see the inherent value to completing these types of enhancements to their land, they do not always connect them to the Oregon Plan, instead viewing them as "the right thing to do." Connecting this sentiment – tied to the ecological, economic, and social value of preserving and improving one's land – to the mission and specifics of the Oregon Plan serves as a valuable avenue. Many, especially newer and smaller landowners, are unaware of the plan details, and may be encouraged to complete more projects through education, training, and outreach efforts

Getting buy-in for reporting projects is a larger hill to climb. Two distinct camps emerged. On one hand, less experienced and smaller landowners are by and large unaware of the Oregon Plan, let alone the reporting process. Educating and supporting these landowners could prove invaluable in encouraging a new wave of project completion and reporting. One strategy may be to target those with new land holdings who might be easily encouraged to make improvements. These landowners were more likely to respond well to the idea of online resources.

Landowners with more experience and larger ownerships were more aware of the Oregon Plan, and more likely to have completed and reported projects. That said, many noted reasons for a decline in both of these practices. For some, what had once been voluntary projects had become best practices. Through this process of normalization, they had ceased reporting, often citing the difficulties of reporting. These landowners preferred initiatives that lowered the barriers to project completion and reporting, such as tax breaks, cost sharing, and regulatory assurances. With this group, lowering perceived barriers will help to increase buy-in to the Oregon Plan. Much of this work should focus on building and strengthening relationships with landowners across the state. They value honest, forthright, and conciliatory communication, and ODF is well regarded despite general gripes toward government. Some were skeptical about sharing their information with government, and doubted the efficacy of governmental organizations.

Across both of these groups, many made note of the fact that they were unsure of the value of reporting projects (to themselves and in general). Educational efforts about the successes of past projects and of the value of reporting could prove helpful in convincing landowners to report. Participants mentioned the Oregon Small Woodland Association, watershed council publications, Stewardship Foresters, and soil and water conservation districts as possible outreach partners.

Some said they believe the drop in project completion and reporting was a result of all the "low-hanging fruits" having been picked already. In their mind, the easiest or most impactful projects had already been completed. Communicating about the importance of smaller projects, and continuing to improve upon one's land may prove effective with these landowners.

This report provides the board an update on the 2017 legislative session and information about the status of OWEB's 2017-2019 budget.

Background

The Legislature began the 2017 legislative session on February 1 and adjourned on July 7.

The Legislature approves budgets for state agencies on a biennial basis. In preparing for the next biennium, budgets are structured so that each agency's Current Service Level (CSL, or "base") budget is recalibrated and submitted without need for specific policy description or justification. Any resources requested to be added to the base budget by agencies must be identified separately with full policy narratives and justification of funds requested. The requested additions to an agency's base budget are called "Policy Packages" or POPs.

Governor's Recommended Budget and Next Steps

The Governor's Office released the Governor's state budget recommendations, known as the Governor's Recommended Budget (GRB) on December 1, 2016. This budget proposal includes agency POPs that reflect the Governor's priorities and initiatives. The GRB is the starting point for agency budget discussions at legislative hearings. During the session, agencies may advocate for their individual POPs only to the extent that these are included in the GRB.

Attachment A contains a brief summary of the OWEB's budget as requested through the GRB.

In February, the Legislature convened and initiated the legislative budget development process. Several minor adjustments were made by the Legislative Fiscal Office and included in the budget considered by the subcommittee:

- Making permanent the two partnerships positions (River Basin/Native Fish Partnerships Coordinator and Coast Coho/Clean Water Partnerships Coordinator);
- Removing the grant funds for forest collaboratives until it was approved through ODF's budget (ODF's budget has passed both the House and Senate, and at this writing is waiting for Governor's signature); and
- Including a budget note that streamlines and clarifies how Measure 76 grant funds are presented in OWEB's budget during development of the ARB.

Both of OWEB's budget bills (House Bills 5040 and 5041) passed the House and Senate and as of the writing of this staff report are now pending signature by the Governor.

Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)

Since 2000, approximately one-third of OWEB's funding (both for grants and operations) has been provided through the competitive PCSRF grant process, which is offered by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. PCSRF has contributed just over $215 million to Oregon for salmon and steelhead recovery efforts. The OWEB Board and the state's Legislature have used PCSRF funding to support watershed restoration related actions and for staffing in state agencies. PCSRF has significantly enhanced OWEB's expenditures through grants in salmon and steelhead recovery areas around the state.

On an annual basis, OWEB, as the designated grant recipient for the State of Oregon, applies for PCSRF funding. The PCSRF solicitation included a two-step application process. OWEB, on behalf

of the State of Oregon, requested $25 million, the maximum amount of funding possible. This request included a required 33% match, which in the past has come from lottery funding, salmon license plate revenues, match from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), along with additional leverage contributions.

For the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2017 PCSRF solicitation, NOAA awarded the state $14.65 million in funding. This amount is nearly the same as the FFY 2016 award amount. Staff have submitted revised final application materials to NOAA to match the awarded amount. Consistent with the last few years, funding received from NOAA will be used to satisfy both OWEB's and ODFW's budget needs if the Legislature approves the use of these funds in both of the agencies' budgets.

Policy Bills

As noted in Attachment A, House Bill (HB) 2327 is an agency bill to revise OWEB's statutes. The statute revisions are intended to include additional language that will revitalize certain statutes and remove aspects of the statutes that are no longer relevant. Some statutes for which repeal or revisions are recommended no longer apply due to statutory changes made by the Legislature in previous years, while others reflect changes to the way OWEB serves the public.

In addition to general statutory cleanup, the bill provides two substantive changes related to 1) adding U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as an ex-officio member to the OWEB Board, and 2) removing language that allows DAS to provide liability coverage for watershed councils, based on the fact that OWEB is putting in place stronger requirements for all grantees. The Governor signed the bill on April 4th, with an effective date of January 1, 2018.

HB 3249 establishes both the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund to be administered by OWEB. HB 3249 was passed by both chambers and is pending signature by the Governor. HB 3249 directs OWEB to establish a program to support working farms and ranches by providing grants for conservation management planning, succession planning, and working lands conservation covenants and easements. HB 3249 also directs the Legislative Policy and Research Office to study tax issues and financial incentives regarding transfer of land and succession planning on working lands. HB 3249 appropriates $190,000 in General Funds to OWEB to develop the framework for the programs described in the bill, including rulemaking and building the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. With an emergency clause, HB 3249 is considered effective on July 1, 2017. HB 3249 has passed both the House and Senate and as of the writing of this staff report is now pending signature by the Governor.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis, Deputy Director, at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203, or Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator, at eric.hartstein@oregon.gov or 503-986-0029.

Attachments

A. Budget and Legislative Handout
B. Letters to the Editor to support OAHP

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD
2017-2019 Governor's Budget and Agency Legislation

	2015-2017 Legislatively Adopted Budget	2017-2019 Governor's Budget
General Fund	$0	$0
Lottery Funds	$62,482,687	$72,300,559
Other Funds	$3,553,093	$3,781,360
Federal Funds	$37,274,113	$41,668,724
Total Funds	$103,309,893	$117,750,643
Full-Time Equivalent (FTE)	34.25	32.99

HB 2327 OWEB Statute Revisions

In addition to general clean-up, HB 2327 includes the following revisions to OWEB statutes:

- Adding a representative of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a non-voting member of the OWEB Board. USFWS plays an important role in funding and implementing watershed enhancement projects across the state, and the addition of a USFWS representative to the Board will provide important guidance to the agency on a broad array of issues.
- Repealing language in statute that the Department of Administrative Services (DAS) may provide liability coverage for watershed councils at the expense of OWEB, and replacing with language requiring grantees to obtain liability insurance. The liability coverage provided by DAS is limited, and OWEB staff is working with stakeholders to ensure grantees obtain appropriate levels of liability insurance commensurate with activities.
- Repealing the requirement for other natural resource agencies to provide written reports related to the enhancement or restoration of riparian areas or associated uplands to OWEB to assist in developing and maintaining a centralized repository. The widespread use of the Internet has made this requirement unnecessary, as reports are posted on agency websites and other information clearinghouses found online.
- Repealing elements in OWEB statutes related to Oregon Plan status reporting on watershed and key habitat conditions in each drainage basin in the state. The State does not have data or resources to adequately address this biennial status reporting requirement in a geographically consistent manner.

2017–2019 Critical Budget Issues

Program Continuity

Provides capacity to effectively deliver grants, manage operations of 17-member board and stay abreast of emerging funding opportunities while reporting accomplishments of OWEB investments.

- NRS4 – River Basin/Native Fish Partnerships Coordinator (FF: PCSRF/BPA). Manages three current Focused Investment Partnerships: the Upper Deschutes, the Upper Grande Ronde, and the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat. $271,143

- NRS4 – Coast Coho/Clean Watershed Partnerships Coordinator (FF: PCSRF). Manages five current programs: Water Acquisitions grant program, Strategic Investment Area grant program, the Coastal Wetlands grant program, the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program's technical assistance work, and the Coastal Coho Business planning effort. $242,397
- NRS-4 - Conservation Outcomes Coordinator (FF: PCSRF). Limited duration; measures and reports on ecological, economic, and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. Coordinates with various agencies and stakeholders to implement the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership and similar initiatives (including those with a connection to salmon habitat and recovery), and develop metrics and evaluation methods. $234,740
- NRS-3 - Conservation Outcomes Specialist (LF: Ops). Limited duration; measures and reports on ecological, economic, and social outcomes resulting from OWEB grant investments at the landscape level. $198,165
- Office Rent (LF: Ops). Biennial rent, Region 1, to share office space with Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries in Newport. $12,000

Federal Forest Health Policy Packages

- Additional Grant Funds: This policy package proposes to allow OWEB to receive and allocate funds up to $750,000 (OF), should additional funds be appropriated by the Legislature, for grants to forest collaboratives under the State's Federal Forest Health Program in conjunction with the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF).
- Federal Forest Health Grant Administration (shift from LF: Ops to Other). This policy package provides limited support and duration; continues grant management of Federal Forest Health program in coordination with ODF.

Carry Forward

This policy package proposes to extend expenditure limitation for non-lottery fund grants that have been awarded and continue to be active. This will allow funds for these grants to be expended in the 2017-19 biennium. $16,400,000

Lottery Funds: Measure 76 Grant Funds

This policy package provides the budget vehicle for Measure 76 grant funds for the next biennium. These are the primary source of grant funds for OWEB and are used to support a wide variety of grants, including watershed council and soil and water conservation district capacity, restoration, acquisition, technical assistance, monitoring and outreach. $65,329,830

Lake Oswego Review

Pamplin Media Group

Thursday, June 15, 2017

Protect our soil

Twenty years ago, we started 47th Avenue Farm on a small double lot in Southeast Portland. Today, our 50-acre farm and Community Supported Agriculture program have grown to include farmland in Clackamas and Yamhill Counties, too.

We are lucky to live in a region that has a vibrant food system, where buying local is a way of life. But our thriving food system isn't guaranteed forever.

People come to Oregon for our livable cities, local food and open spaces. These features have been safeguarded for over 40 years by the strongest state land use program in the nation. Created in 1973, this program has slowed the spread of development and the loss of our wild and working lands, but it is not perfect — we've lost half a million acres from agricultural use since the program began.

Oregon's growing population has the potential to compromise the very qualities that make this a great place to live, like our local agriculture and wildlife. Flat land near rivers has the best soil for growing food — it is also the easiest land to develop.

At the same time as development pressures are increasing, farmers are experiencing mounting challenges affecting agricultural land and the ability to pass the farm to the next generation.

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (House Bill 3249) would offer some solutions. Among other things, it establishes a match fund for working-lands conservation easements, where the landowner is paid to forgo certain development rights. The land can still be farmed and is protected from development forever, while the farmer can use the payment to grow the business or pay estate taxes without having to sell the farm.

We need to act now to protect one of our most valuable non-renewable resources — our soil. Without it, we lose the food system, open space and habitat Oregonians hold dear.

Laura Masterson

Portland

Capital Press
The West's Ag Website

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program a starting point for getting farmland to next generation

Agricultural land is changing hands, aging farmers want to see their legacy continued, and qualified beginning farmers and ranchers are ready to take it on.

By Nellie McAdams • For the Capital Press
Published on June 19, 2017 10:14AM

ERIC MORTENSON/CAPITAL PRESS FILE

Nellie McAdams at her family's hazelnut farm near Gaston, Ore. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, HB 3249, would help fund working lands easements as well as other voluntary tools like temporary covenants and conservation management plans.

How do beginning farmers and ranchers connect with the record number of retiring producers? What should be a straightforward question with a straightforward answer isn't always so simple.

Recent research by Oregon State University, Portland State University and Rogue Farm Corps found that the average age of Oregon's farmers and ranchers is nearly 60, higher than it's ever been. As a result, 64 percent of Oregon's farmland — 10.45 million acres — will change hands in the next 20 years. Yet the majority of Oregon producers might not have comprehensive succession plans, which means this land is not guaranteed to stay in agricultural production.

Estate taxes, attorney fees and family strife can come with any estate, but they are especially likely and costly in an unplanned estate. As one rancher said: "either you pay the attorney now and have something left over for your kids, or you pay it all to the state after you die and you burden your family in the process."

Land-rich but cash-poor farmers and ranchers often sell their agricultural land to pay estate taxes and divide the estate among multiple heirs, jeopardizing the future of the business that created this wealth. One farmer asked: "if the first generation spent their lives buying the asset, how can they help the next generation not have to pay for it again?"

In a recent series of agricultural succession workshops around the state, attendees included not only retiring producers, but first-generation farmers and ranchers without property to inherit. Among them was Aimee Danch, a Jackson County rancher in her 30s.

Aimee grew up in a semi-urban area, but was always drawn to agriculture. Fearing it wasn't a viable profession because she wasn't born into it, she worked on and off ranches until apprenticing at San Juan Ranch in Colorado, where she finally decided there must be a way to make a living. Aimee couldn't stop ranching. "I feel most myself when I'm doing this work," she said.

She went on to manage a 600-head cow operation with upwards of 1,000 head of finish beef for a company in California. After 4 years, she met her husband Jeremiah Stent, a ranch manager in Central California, and together they decided to form their own land and cattle company, Pacific Grasslands LLC.

Business has grown steadily for them. But one thing they couldn't do during the decade of amassing the skills and experience necessary to successfully run a livestock business, is save enough money to purchase land. As Aimee explained, "You simply cannot legitimately learn the skills and save or raise the money for a down payment at the same time."

Aimee and Jeremiah now raise their 1-year-old daughter outside Jacksonville, running several hundred head of cattle on more than 10 leases in Oregon and California. None of their properties are contiguous and each has a different landlord. The decreased efficiency of this model and the inability to scale due to a lack of access to large parcels makes it nearly impossible to acquire the capital they need for a down payment.

They know about the mass farm and ranch succession, but wonder, “How do we develop a process that doesn’t depend on luck for connecting retiring ranchers who have solvent ranches and are looking for successors, with qualified first-generation ranchers? Having the skills and equipment isn’t enough when the price of the land is often too high to cash flow with agricultural income alone. We don’t know of any first-generation ranchers who’ve been able to purchase land unless they’re backed by a landowner or benefactor.”

Organizations are working to make these connections. Online programs like Oregon Farm Link connect landowners to land seekers; Dirt Capital LLC in the northeastern states pools capital from private investors to help beginning farmers buy land; and some land trusts help farmers purchase land in transactions that include a working lands easement. These easements prevent development, allow for production, help the seller get cash from their land without having to sell parcels, and make the land more affordable for young farmers.

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, HB 3249, would help fund working lands easements as well as other voluntary tools like temporary covenants and conservation management plans. It also would support succession workshops and a study of Oregon’s estate tax. This bill is an important part of the solution — a starting point. Agricultural land is changing hands, aging farmers want to see their legacy continued, and qualified beginning farmers and ranchers are ready to take it on. We should continue to explore tools and opportunities for connecting generations of farmers and ranchers for the future of agriculture in Oregon.

Nellie McAdams is on the board of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts and is the Farm Preservation Program Director at Rogue Farm Corps, where she helps create programs for farm and ranch succession planning and the preservation of agricultural land for the next generation. She also works on her family’s hazelnut farm in Gaston, Ore.

MARKETPLACE Auctions Hay Real Estate Tractors

This report updates the board on recent board member travels to Washington, DC in support of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF)

Background

Typically in even-numbered years, the OWEB executive director and co-chairs travel to Washington, DC to meet with Oregon's congressional delegation and key federal agencies to share Oregon's positive experience in delivering PCSRF grants. In addition, staff and board members typically meet with leaders from the US Forest Service, the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Land Management and Natural Resources Conservation Service to discuss support for the Conservation Title of the Farm Bill and voluntary habitat and water quality improvement work in partnership with local groups around Oregon.

In May 2017, due to the strong potential for funding of PCSRF to be eliminated at the federal level, Oregon joined the states of Washington and Idaho to travel back to Washington, DC with the specific purpose of discussing PCSRF and the benefits of salmon recovery with each state's congressional delegation and NOAA Fisheries. The visits received strong support, in large part because three of the five PCSRF-eligible states traveled together to share their experience in the program.

Next Steps

While PCSRF was funded in the 2017 budget, it is still zeroed out for the President's 2018 budget. In addition to the Washington, DC trip by state representatives, OWEB's partners have initiated an extensive outreach effort to the state's congressional delegation members, and have also placed opinion editorials in many of the state's newspapers supporting the program.

When OWEB was in Washington, DC, the political appointees were not yet selected for NOAA or NOAA Fisheries. Once those selections are in place, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho will evaluate timing for another Washington, DC visit as appropriate.

Finally, representatives from PCSRF-eligible states are exploring the potential for coordinated reporting about the past, current and future value—both ecologically and economic—of continued investment in the PCSRF program.

Attachments

A. PCSRF Handout
B. Op-eds

PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY FUND

May 2017

SALMON BY THE NUMBERS

28 threatened and endangered salmon species

19 salmon species with sufficient monitoring data to evaluate trends

13 are exhibiting stable trends in abundance

5 are showing increasing trends

1 continues to decline

PCSRF SUPPORTS BUSINESS AND THE FISHING INDUSTRY

15-24 local jobs created for every $1 million invested in salmon habitat restoration

33,000 jobs in commercial and recreational fishing in Oregon and Washington alone

WEST COAST SALMON ARE IN TROUBLE

In the 1990s, salmon and steelhead populations along the West Coast showed alarming declines, mostly due to environmental factors and human activities. In response, Congress established the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) in 2000 to reverse the decline of those populations.

PCSRF IS CRITICAL TO SUCCESS

PCSRF is a competitive grant program through which the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service awards grants to Alaska, California, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington States and the tribes in those states to protect, conserve, and restore these populations.

The program has an impressive record of success, but continued support is essential to prevent the extinction of 28 threatened and endangered salmon populations on the West Coast. In many cases PCSRF has contributed directly to stabilizing at-risk populations and set the stage for their recovery.

WHY IS THIS A FEDERAL RESPONSIBILITY?

- PCSRF plays a vital role in helping the federal government meet its obligations to tribal treaty fishing rights and subsistence fishing traditions.
- Recovery is needed to support interstate and international fisheries. Weak stocks, especially in Puget Sound, negatively affect fisheries in Alaska and in Canada.
- Recovery is required under the federal Endangered Species Act.

SALMON RECOVERY PROVIDES MANY BENEFITS

Restoring salmon and steelhead populations on the West Coast provides additional benefits.

Economic Benefits

Commercial and recreational fishing in Washington are estimated to support 16,000 jobs and $540 million in personal income. In Oregon, recreational fishing generates about $500 million annually and creates 16,500 jobs, while commercial salmon fishing creates more than $16 million in economic activity annually and produces more than 900 jobs, all largely in rural areas. In addition, every $1 million invested in restoration projects creates 15-24 jobs.

PCSRF LEVERAGES STATE AND LOCAL FUNDING

PCSRF is a critical anchor for funding that attracts additional state and local dollars, which are provided as match to the grants.

$76 million has been awarded annually on average by PCSRF since 2000.

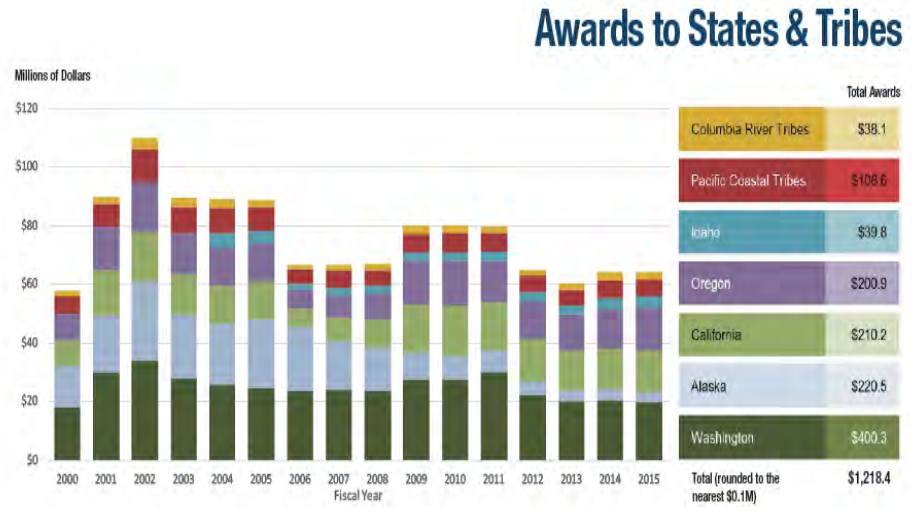
$1.4 billion in non-PCSRF contributions have been contributed as match from state and local partners.

$1.17 in local and state dollars is leveraged for every $1 in PCSRF funding.

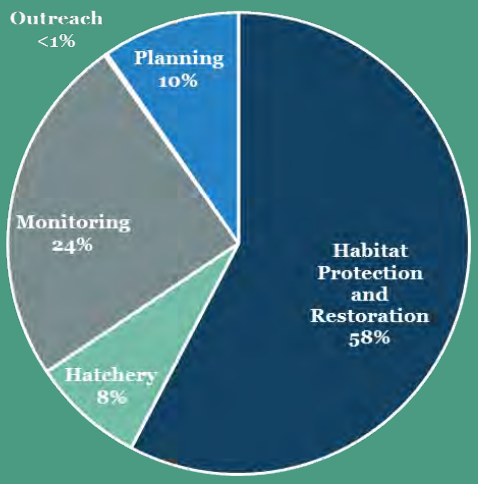
Environmental Benefits

Salmon recovery improves water quality, ensuring clean and reliably available water for drinking, irrigation, and recreation. Restoration activities reduce flooding and restore natural habitats for salmon and other species. Habitat restoration improves the environment for wildlife and provides economic opportunities for rural communities and outdoor enthusiasts.

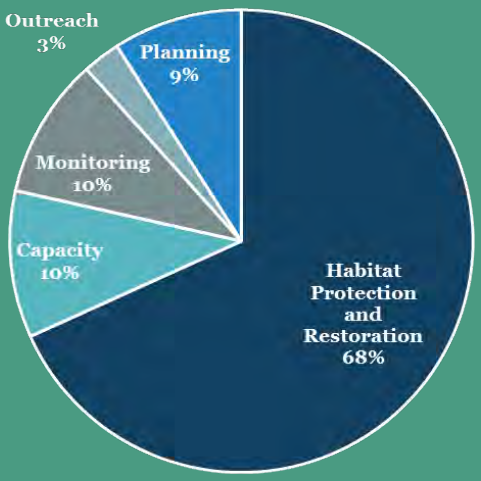
PCSRF PROJECTS THROUGHOUT THE NORTHWEST



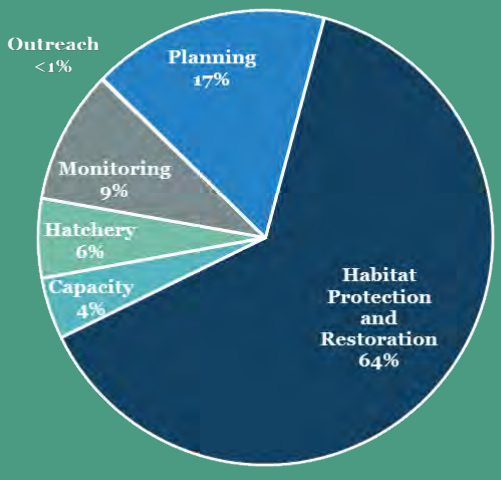
Idaho



Oregon



Washington



HOW THE MONEY IS SPENT

Projects have restored salmon habitat, removed barriers to fish passage, and improved water quality. In addition, funding is spent to monitor and track progress of restoration investments.

The majority of PCSRF funding has gone to projects on-the-ground. Collectively, more than 12,100 projects have been implemented to-date.

RESTORING SALMON HABITAT

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

IMPROVING FISH PASSAGE

MONITORING

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT BY THE NUMBERS*

359 Nonprofits, fish enhancement groups, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts receiving grants

94 Local governments receiving grants

49 Businesses receiving grants

30 Tribes receiving grants

30 State and federal agencies receiving grants

19 Schools and universities receiving grants

750,224 Volunteer hours in Oregon alone

*Statistics for Idaho, Oregon, and Washington only

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Infrastructure

In many cases, salmon restoration projects improve or repair roads, bridges, culverts, dikes, and other community infrastructure.

Working Smart

Projects are prioritized with rigorous technical and cost review, and significant local and state cost-sharing.

Guest column: Salmon restoration funding supports our rural economies

Salmon and steelhead are key to our way of life

By Glenn Lamb
Special to The Daily Astorian
Published on June 8, 2017 12:01AM

JOSHUA BESSEX/THE DAILY ASTORIAN
Glenn Lamb, executive director of the Columbia Land Trust, speaks at the Columbia Forum in 2015.

THE DAILY ASTORIAN/FILE PHOTO
Commercial fisherman Richie Williams of Astoria tosses spring salmon from his gillnet boat in May 2010 on the docks at the Astoria Yacht Club.

The Pacific Northwest is salmon country.

On the Lower Columbia River and Pacific Coast, salmon and steelhead are key to our way of life, anchoring coastal economies, ecosystems and culture. Today, as for generations, commercial and sport fishermen feed their families and support communities through salmon harvest.

Salmon restoration efforts support the fishing industry, but also benefit other species, make our water cleaner and reduce the risk of costly floods. In short, when we protect salmon, we bolster our communities and our environment.

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund is managed by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The agency works with states and tribes to invest in salmon and steelhead recovery work in Alaska, Washington state, Oregon, California and Idaho, contributing $1.2 billion since 2000 and leveraging $1.4 billion in matching funds. The $215 million invested in Oregon alone leverages $330 million of state Lottery funds, bringing the total to protect and enhance salmon to $545 million.

This is truly an investment, and one that provides returns.

Recreational fishing alone generates about $500 million annually in Oregon, creating 16,500 jobs, and commercial salmon fishing creates over $16 million annually and more than 900 jobs.

In addition to fishing, investing in the “restoration economy” also makes good business sense. According to the University of Oregon, every $1 million spent on habitat restoration creates 15 to 24 local jobs, and more than 90 cents of every dollar stays in Oregon communities.

The salmon recovery grant program supports locally driven actions, not regulatory directives. With the help of watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and land trusts, landowners and local communities plant trees, replace impassable culverts and restore streambanks. Cuts to this program would be a devastating setback for a citizen-led effort to restore healthy salmon runs in Oregon.

Without continued investment like the recovery fund, salmon recovery in the Northwest will stall, hurting the economies and communities supported by salmon fishing in the long term. We hope you'll join us in asking Congress to continue to support the recovery of our salmon.

Glenn Lamb is the executive director of Columbia Land Trust based in Vancouver, Washington, with offices in Hood River and Astoria. A nonprofit organization, Columbia Land Trust conserves and cares for the vital lands, waters and wildlife of the Columbia River region through sound science and strong relationships.

Below is the text of the letter to the editor printed on June 5 in the La Grande Observer

Malmberg: PCSRF deserves to be supported

To the Editor:

The Pacific Northwest's agriculture, fisheries and environmental well-being benefit from the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund. For the past seven years, these funds have leveraged local investment, local labor and service and our ecological health, bringing cash money back to our local economies.

This could all be at stake if the president's fiscal year 2018 budget proposal passes, as is, nixing this federal investment in the PNW. That is, unless our representatives communicate the nation's returns for their investment in our rich ecological heritage.

First, the citizens of Oregon have demonstrated huge support of Measure 76, with every county in the state voting to support the constitutional amendment dedicating lottery funds to watershed restoration through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. We put our money where our mouth is.

Second, those funds have been strategically directed to support infrastructure development in municipality flood control and to supply market bridge building and upgrading agriculture infrastructure — specifically improved irrigation management and efficiency, stock water development and fencing to enhance the health and function of the critical uplands feeding our rivers. These funds have created innumerable local jobs as well, but here's the kicker: these funds leveraged the interests of our fellow national citizenship, as their values were manifested in PCSRF.

Aligning national and local interest don't usually work this sweetly. Oregon brought this magic by generating money locally, managing that money locally and building an ecosystem that works one watershed at a time. The federal funds didn't have to start from scratch because Oregonians had the vision to build the systems, the local planning and execution and funding mechanisms to the tune of $215 million. The federal funds simply built on what we had by bringing $330 million.

Oregon may have brought the magic but the iconic salmon brings the edge. The salmon brings an edge that can sever the cynic from those with hope. The salmon inspires the hopeful land manager to build a beautiful and profitable ecosystem, with his sweat and

imagination. The salmon challenges the hopeful United States congressman to invest federal money to leverage a national interest in local investment, local imagination and local landscapes. Our combined efforts are building a capital base that will add profits to our economic, social and ecological values for years to come.

The salmon can bring people, money and landscapes together in a common interest. The Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery Fund can support that effort. Please ask your neighbor and your U.S. congressman to support the PCSRF.

Tony Malmberg
Union

EAST OREGONIAN

Letter: Salmon recovery funds have benefited Oregon

Published on July 4, 2017 9:01AM

The Milton-Freewater region, and also most of Oregon, has benefited from the federal funding investment of the Pacific Coastal Salmon recovery funds that have come to Oregon to restore salmon and steelhead populations in our rivers.

Locally, in the Milton-Freewater area, the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council has competed for and received PCSRF dollars offered by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board through a competitive grants program.

The watershed council matches these PCSRF funds with property owner cost share dollars, Bonneville Power Administration funds, other state grants and private foundation funds to improve water quality, water availability, fish passage and fish habitat.

The Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council is a nonprofit in the Milton-Freewater area that has been working with the local community for the last 22 years to implement locally acceptable watershed restoration projects. Competitive grants pay for designing and constructing projects that put Oregonians to work.

As much as possible, the Walla Walla basin council and other watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts in the region use local contracting companies and locally sourced materials such as fencing, irrigation pipe, quarry rock, and trees to build projects.

We appreciate our Oregon congressional delegation’s work (U.S. Sens. Jeff Merkley and Ron Wyden and U.S. Rep. Greg Walden) in past years to secure these funds for Oregon. Locally, the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council has used these dollars to implement river habitat restoration, fish passage,

irrigation efficiency, managed aquifer recharge projects, and surface water and groundwater monitoring work in Northeast Umatilla County.

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds received and used across Oregon have typically been $10-15 million a year. Hopefully this successful program that benefits Oregon will continue.

John Zerba, chair

Walla Walla Basin watershed council

Milton-Freewater

MARKETPLACE Jobs Garage Sales Real Estate

City of Prineville

387 NE THIRD STREET • PRINEVILLE, OREGON 97754

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

Phone: (541)447-5627 FAX: (541) 447-5628

EMAIL: broppe@cityofprineville.com Web Site: www.cityofprineville.com

June 6, 2017

Congressman Greg Walden
2185 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Federal Funding for Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery

Dear Congressman Walden,

I am writing to you today because I have been recently informed that the President's budget eliminates funding for the Pacific Coast Salmon Recovery (PCSR). There are a few highlights that we urge you to consider as we ask for your support to keep this funding in place.

- The City of Prineville has received over $226,000 in support of the City's wetlands based sewer treatment project, and while fisheries are the focus of PCSR, most would agree that the benefits extend far beyond the fish.
- In the Prineville area, this collaborative, innovative, locally-led approach helped the City of Prineville address the need to expand sewer treatment facilities, while improving water quality, wildlife habitat and public recreation on and along the lower Crooked River. Thanks in part to PCSFF.
- Central Oregon has demonstrated a remarkable ability to work together and find local solutions to complicated natural resource issues and PCSRF has been a critical funding source in implementing those solutions.
- PCSRF represents a 1/3 of the funding available to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for this kind of work and a loss of this funding would be detrimental to rural communities.
- The City of Prineville has a lot to be proud of, as well as other communities and stakeholders in central Oregon when it comes to working together through these issues and doing it in a way that works best for all.

Sincerely,

Betty Roppe

Mayor Betty Roppe
City of Prineville

This organization is an Equal Opportunity Provider

APPROVED BY THE BOARD October 24, 2017

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
July 24, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center
2 Marine Drive
Boardman, Oregon

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at https://youtu.be/-uX1d1XL04w)

OWEB Members Present
Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Robison, Jason
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob

ABSENT:
Marshall, Gary
Roberts, John
Stangl, Kathy
Wenner, Karl

VACANT:
Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present
Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Williams, Eric

Others Present
Beamer, Kelley
Collins, Whitney
Faucera, Jason
Fitzgerald, Pat
Luiz, Jessamyn
Morford, Shawn
Patty, Steve

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 0:00:00)

Co-Chair Randy Labbe called for public comment.

The board heard comments on the latest draft of OWEB's strategic plan from Kelley Beamer of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Shawn Morford of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Jason Faucera of the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network, and Pat Fitzgerald and Whitney Collins of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, all of whom represent the Conservation Partnership.

Strategic plan facilitator Steve Patty from Dialogues in Action led the board in a discussion of the "Who We Are" and "Strategic Priorities for Impact" components of the strategic plan in their advanced draft phases. Suggestions for text changes were provided. With those changes, the board generally agreed these documents are ready to be moved forward.

The meeting was adjourned for the day by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 6:09 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD October 24, 2017

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
July 25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center
2 Marine Drive
Boardman, Oregon

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at https://youtu.be/UTjvHgz5t3k Please keep in mind that sometimes agenda items are discussed out of order.)

OWEB Members Present
Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Marshall, Gary (by phone)
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Roberts, John (by phone)
Robison, Jason
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob
Wenner, Karl

ABSENT:
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT:
Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present
Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leiendecker, Karen
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present
Arnold, Jennifer
Beamer, Kelley
Bell, Dan
Collins, Whitney
Eagle, Bill
Farris-Olsen, Erin
Faucera, Jason
Fitzgerald, Pat
Houston, Ryan
Joki, Tyler
Keeney, Selene
Marriott, Deb
McAdams, Nellie
Morford, Shawn
Morrison, Katie
Rankin, Anna
Siebert, Paul
Stewart, Dave
McGinnis, Cheryl
VanNatta, K.C.

The meeting was called to reconvene by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 8:00 a.m.

B. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:00)
Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from the state and federal natural resource agencies they represent.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:31:11)
Minutes of the April 24-26, 2017 board meeting in Salem were presented to the board for approval.

> *Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the minutes from the April 24-26, 2017 meeting in Salem. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:31:42)*

D. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:32:00)

Representatives from the Focused Investments, Monitoring, and Open Solicitation subcommittees provided updates to the full board on subcommittee topics and activities.

E. Public Comment (Audio = 0:45:38)

The board was addressed by members of the Conservation Partnership to provide an update on activities of each group individually and collectively. Presenters included Shawn Morford of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils**,** Pat Fitzgerald of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Jason Faucera of the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network, and Kelley Beamer of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts.

Erin Farris-Olsen, Executive Director from the Montana Watershed Coordination Council, also addressed the board to discuss complementary work being accomplished by her organization in supporting watershed groups across the state of Montana.

F. 2017-19 Spending Plan (Audio = 1:11:15)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden introduced the 2017-2019 Spending Plan for board review and approval. Board Member Gary Marshall joined the discussion by telephone.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 1:21:00)
There was no public comment.

Debrah Marriott from the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership presented to the board components of the Estuary Partnership structure, programs, and ongoing projects.

Katie Morrison from the Oregon Department of Forestry addressed the board to review community-based forest collaboratives and OWEB's role in the forest collaborative technical assistance grant program.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden presented follow-up items from the April board meeting and proposed changes to the Spending Plan, including carry-forward, policy, and delegation recommendations.

> *Will Neuhauser moved the board adopt the proposed 2017 spending plan as described in Attachment A to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:02:45) Will Neuhauser moved the board amend the proposed 2017 spending plan to reduce the Forest Health Collaboratives line from $750,000 to $500,000. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:03:27)*
>
> *Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the carry-forward amounts as described in Table 1 of Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:04:08)*
>
> *Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the policy recommendations and receipt of funds from other sources as described in Table 2 of Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:04:41)*
>
> *Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the delegation of authority to the Executive Director for the spending plan line items and award dates described in Table 3 of Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:07:06)*

G. OWEB Technical Assistance and Focused Investment Partnership Rulemaking
(Audio = 3:11:20)
Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein, supported by Grant Program manager Eric Williams, requested the board approve initiation of rulemaking for OWEB Technical Assistance grants and the Focused Investment Program.

> *Bob Webber moved the board authorize rulemaking for OWEB Technical Assistance grants and the Focused Investment Partnership program. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously (Audio = 3:17:16).*

H. Council Capacity Grant Awards (Audio = 3:19:18)
Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff reviewed for the board OWEB's role in assisting watershed councils around the state, and explained the eligibility determination and review process for council capacity grants. Shaff described the three funding levels for council capacity: full funding, reducing funding, or no funding. OWEB's Region 1 Program Representative, Katie Duzik, assisted Shaff in responding to questions from the board about staff recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 3:44:45)
K.C. VanNatta, chairman of the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council (LCRWC) and Selene Keeney, Coordinator for LCRWC, addressed the board to request full funding for their watershed council and responded to questions from the board.

Dave Stewart from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Tyler Joki, a private citizen, also addressed the board to talk about the momentum of LCRWC and to request full funding.

Bill Eagle from the Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to talk about the relationship between the SWCD and the watershed council, and requested the board consider funding LCRWC.

Anna Rankin from the Pudding River Watershed Council addressed the board to talk about Pudding River issues and to thank the board for capacity funding for the next biennium.

> *Randy Labbe moved the board award the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grants as described in Attachment C to the staff report, with an award date of July 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Laura Masterson (Audio = 4:53:51). Following discussion, Dan Thorndike then moved to amend and provisionally fund the LCRWC at half of the reduced amount with the award of the second half contingent upon the watershed council completing the normal application process, demonstrating they have met all five merit criteria and are separate and distinct from the soil & water conservation district, and that, if award of the second half of the funding occurs, the board would increase the spending plan accordingly. Laura Masterson seconded the motion as amended. Following discussion, the amendment to the motion passed with one member - Bob Webber - voting against the motion. With passage of the amendment, the original motion was voted on as amended and passed unanimously.*
> *(Audio = 5:07:25)*

I. Executive Director's Update (Audio = 5:14:20)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented highlights of the 2017 legislative session, including OWEB's 2017-2019 budget and pertinent policy bills. Davis also announced the receipt of a Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund grant award from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed with the board that the passage of House Bill 3249 established the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, which will be administered by OWEB. Executive Director Loftsgaarden, with input from board member Will Neuhauser, discussed a recent trip to Washington D.C.

The meeting was adjourned for the day by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 2:54 p.m.

APPROVED BY THE BOARD October 24, 2017

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
July 26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center
2 Marine Drive
Boardman, OR

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording https://youtu.be/9e83SwpKEVw. Please keep in mind that sometimes agenda items are discussed out of order.)

OWEB Members Present	**OWEB Staff Present**	**Others Present**
Brandt, Stephen	Barnes, Darika	Abraham, Kyle
Furfey, Rosemary	Ciannella, Greg	Arnold, Jennifer
Henning, Alan	Davis, Renee	Banks, Graham
Hollen, Debbie	Dutterer, Andrew	Bell, Dan
Labbe, Randy	Duzik, Katie	Houston, Ryan
Masterson, Laura	Greer, Sue	McAdams, Nellie
Neuhauser, Will	Hartstein, Eric	McGinnis, Cheryl
Roberts, John	Hatch, Audrey	Morford, Shawn
Robison, Jason	Leopold, Kathy	Tucker, Lena
Thorndike, Dan	Loftsgaarden, Meta	Warren, Robert
Webber, Bob	Williams, Eric	Wolcott, Brian
Wenner, Karl		

ABSENT:
Marshall, Gary
Roberts, John
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT:
Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

The meeting was called to reconvene by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 8:03 a.m. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reviewed logistics for the day.

J. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update – Partnership Learning Project
(Audio = 0:00:00)
Deputy Director Renee Davis introduced Jennifer Arnold from Reciprocity Consulting to provide an update on the Partnership Learning Project being led by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Arnold stated her expertise is in helping new partnerships form around conservation and community development issues. Arnold provided a presentation to the board outlining her report on the Partnership Learning Project, related to the eight Capacity-Building FIP Grantees.

K. Public Comment (Audio = 1:00:05)
There was no public comment.

L. Outreach/Stakeholder Engagement Administrative Rules (Audio = 1:00:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on the Stakeholder Engagement grants rulemaking process, and requested the board adopt the revised rules.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio =1:25:24)

Graham Banks and Brian Wolcott from the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council addressed the board to request continued funding for educational outreach grants.

> *Randy Labbe moved the board approve the Stakeholder Engagement Grants rules as specified in Attachment D to the staff report with a technical correction to the proposed Stakeholder Engagement Grant rule numbering on page 3, rule (2)(a) from 695-015-0050 to 695-015-XXXX. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The amendment passed with Bob Webber voting against the motion. (1:57:00)*

M. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update – Implementation (Audio = 2:02:15)

Deputy Director Renee Davis introduced Robert Warren from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Ryan Houston from the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council to update the board about the process of developing a progress monitoring framework for each of the six Implementation FIP partnerships.

N. Collaborative Voluntary Measures (Audio = 2:46:40)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Oregon Department of Forestry Division Chief of Private Forests Program Lena Tucker and Deputy Chief of Private Forests Program Kyle Abraham presented to the board a report on the voluntary actions forest landowners in western Oregon are undertaking that benefit salmon and watersheds.

O. Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (Audio = 3:22:35)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch updated the board on the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, which brings together multiple state and federal agencies to evaluate the effects of conservation and restoration investments on water quality and watershed conditions.

P. Other Business (Audio = 3:54:40)

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 12:12 p.m. (Audio = 3:54:40)

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Meeting Materials

for

October 24-25, 2017
Board Meeting

Lebanon, Oregon

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Meeting Agenda
October 24-25

Tuesday, October 24, 2017

Best Western Premier Boulder Falls Inn and Conference Center
Room A
505 Mullins Drive
Lebanon, OR 97355
Directions: http://www.boulderfallsinn.com/location

Business Meeting – 8:00 a.m.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D, E, I, J, and N), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes.*** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after October 18th, 2017 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

A. Board Member Comments (8:10 a.m.)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies will provide an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This is also an opportunity for public and tribal board members to report on their recent activities and share information and comments on a variety of watershed enhancement and community conservation-related topics. *Information item*.

B. Review and Approval of Minutes (8:40 a.m.)

The minutes of the July 24-26, 2017 meeting in Boardman will be presented for approval. *Action item*.

C. Board Subcommittee Updates (8:45 a.m.)

Representatives from the Executive, Focused Investments, Monitoring, and Open Solicitation subcommittees will provide updates on subcommittee topics to the full board. *Information item*.

D. Public Comment (9:05 a.m.)

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the board.

E. Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering (9:35 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 11:05 a.m.

Introduction

Prior to hearing public comment, Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives will provide background information on the Spring 2017 Open Solicitation grant offering.

Public Comment [approximately 11:05 a.m.]

This time is reserved for public comment on pending restoration and technical assistance grant applications to be considered for funding by the board. Only comments pertaining to these specific grant applications will be accepted during this portion of the meeting. The board will not accept any written materials at this time. Any written comments pertaining to pending grant proposals must be received by agency staff by the October 18, 2017 deadline. ***The board encourages speakers to limit comments to three to five minutes.***

Board Consideration of Pending Open Solicitation Grant Applications

The Board will consider grant applications submitted through the Spring 2017 Open Solicitation grant offering. Proposals, supporting materials, and funding recommendations will be discussed and acted on by the Board. *Action item.*

F. Winter Lake Restoration Project Funding Request (2:00 p.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams, Partnerships Coordinator Jillian McCarthy, and Region Two Program Representative Mark Grenbemer will update the board on the status of the Winter Lake restoration project and request the board award additional funding for the project. *Action item.*

G. OWEB Strategic Plan Update (2:30 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the board on the status of the OWEB Strategic Plan that is currently under development. *Information item.*

H. Executive Director's Update (3:00 p.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden will update the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item*.

Tour – 3:30 p.m.

The OWEB Board and staff will participate in a field tour of a riparian restoration project along a tributary to the South Santiam River, which is associated with the Willamette Model Watershed Program. The tour will be leaving from the Best Western Premier Boulder Falls Inn and Conference Center. Anyone is welcome to join the tour, but please be prepared to provide your own transportation and be prepared for inclement weather.

Informal Reception – 5:45 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The public is invited to join the OWEB Board and staff at a reception sponsored by local partners and stakeholders.

Location:
Best Western Premier Boulder Falls Inn and Conference Center
Room F
505 Mullins Drive
Lebanon, OR 97355

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. The board may also elect to take an item out of order in certain circumstances. During the public comment periods (Agenda Items D, E, I, J, and N), anyone wishing to speak to the board on specific agenda items is asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). This helps the board know how many individuals would like to speak and to schedule accordingly. At the discretion of the board co-chairs, public comment for agenda items on which the board is taking action may be invited during that agenda item. ***The board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*.** Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after October 18th, 2017 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

I. Public Comment (8:00 a.m.)

This time is reserved for general public comment, as well as other matters before the board.

J. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) - Capacity Building Grant Awards (8:15 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 8:25 a.m.

Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff will update the board on the FIP Capacity Building program and the 2017-2019 grant solicitation offering. Following public comment, the board will consider the 2017-2019 FIP Capacity grant awards. The board will also consider authorizing an additional grant offering during the current biennium. *Action item.*

K. FIP Gathering (9:05 a.m.)

Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff will request the board amend an existing grant with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to award funds to host a gathering for FIP Implementation and Capacity Building grantees. *Action item.*

L. Strategic Implementation Areas and Coordinated Streamside Management (9:20 a.m.)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden, Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff and representatives from the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) will provide a presentation to the board on updates to ODA's Strategic Implementation Areas and the Coordinated Streamside Management Partnership (formerly the Clean Water Partnership). *Information item.*

M. FIP Rulemaking Update (10:20 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will update the board on the FIP rulemaking process. *Information item.*

N. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (10:35 a.m.)

NOTE: Public Comment at approximately 10:45 a.m.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden and Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Project Manager Nellie McAdams will update the board on the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program and request approval to initiate rulemaking. *Action item*.

O. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update – Implementation (11:25 a.m.)
Deputy Director Renee Davis, Bonneville Environmental Foundation Model Watershed Program Director Robert Warren, and Upper Deschutes Watershed Council Executive Director Ryan Houston will update the board on monitoring efforts associated with the six Implementation FIPs. *Information item.*

P. Other Business (12:25 p.m.)

1. Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will update the board on due diligence for the Mountcrest Working Forest Conservation Easement Project and request the board approve a time extension to allow the grantee to close the transaction. *Action item.*

2. Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff will brief the board on the Organizational Collaboration grant program that supports new or expanded collaborations between organizations. The board will then consider Organizational Collaboration grant awards. *Action item.*

Meeting Rules and Procedures

Meeting Procedures

Generally, agenda items will be taken in the order shown. However, in certain circumstances, the board may elect to take an item out of order. To accommodate the scheduling needs of interested parties and the public, the board may also designate a specific time at which an item will be heard. Any such times are indicated on the agenda.

Please be aware that topics not listed on the agenda may be introduced during the Board Comment period, the Executive Director's Update, the Public Comment period, under Other Business, or at other times during the meeting.

Oregon's Public Meetings Law requires disclosure that board members may meet for meals on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday.

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 17 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and six are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into two categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business

A general business quorum is **six voting members**. General business requires a majority of **all** voting members to pass a resolution (not just those present), so general business resolutions require affirmative votes of **at least six voting members**. Typical resolutions include adopting, amending, or appealing a rule, providing staff direction, etc. These resolutions cannot include a funding decision.

Action on Grant Awards

Per ORS 541.360(4), special requirements apply when OWEB considers action on grant awards. This includes a special **quorum of at least eight voting members** present to take action on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of members present, **if three or more voting members** object to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

Public Testimony

The board encourages public comment on any agenda item.

General public comment periods will be held on *Tuesday, October 24 at 9:10 a.m.* and *Wednesday, October 25 at 8:00 a.m*. for any matter before the board. Comments relating to a specific agenda item may be heard by the board as each agenda item is considered. People wishing to speak to the board are asked to fill out a comment request sheet (available at the information table). *The board encourages persons to limit comments to three to five minutes*. Written comments will also be accepted on any item before the board. Written comments should be sent to Eric Hartstein at Eric.Hartstein@oregon.gov. Please note that written comments received after October 18, 2017 will not be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Tour

The board may tour local watershed restoration project sites. The public is invited to attend, however transportation may be limited to board members and OWEB staff. Any person wishing to join the tour should have their own transportation.

Executive Session
The board may also convene in a confidential executive session where, by law, only press members and OWEB staff may attend. Others will be asked to leave the room during these discussions, which usually deal with current or potential litigation. Before convening such a session, the presiding board member will make a public announcement and explain necessary procedures.

More Information
If you have any questions about this agenda or the Board's procedures, please call Darika Barnes, OWEB Board Assistant, at 503-986-0181. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise Darika Barnes (503-986-0181) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Laura Masterson, *Board of Agriculture*
Vacant, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Bob Webber, *Fish and Wildlife Commission member*
Vacant, *Board of Forestry*
John Roberts, W*ater Resources Commission*
Jason Robison, *Public (tribal)*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Will Neuhauser, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Randy Labbe, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Dan Thorndike, *Public*
Karl Wenner, *Public*

Non-voting Members

Rosemary Furfey, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Debbie Hollen, *U.S. Forest Service*
Kathy Stangl, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*
Ron Alvarado, *U.S. National Resource Conservation Service*
Alan Henning, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*

Contact Information

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
503-986-0178
Fax: 503-986-0199
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

OWEB Executive Director – Meta Loftsgaarden
meta.loftsgaarden@oregon.gov

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – Darika Barnes
darika.barnes@oregon.gov
503-986-0181

2017 Board Meeting Schedule
January 24-25 in Madras
April 24-26 in Salem
July 24-26 in Boardman
October 24-25 in Lebanon

2018 Board Meeting Schedule
January 30-31, in Florence
April 24-25, in Frenchglen
June 26-27, Stevenson, WA and Cascade Locks
October 16-17, Brookings/Gold Beach

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our web site: www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

OWEB Strategic Direction and Principles

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

Goals

Goals from OWEB's 2010 Strategic Plan

In 2010, the OWEB Board approved a strategic plan with five goals. With the passage of Constitutional Measure 76 and permanent Lottery funding, the Board continues to operate under the strategy.

Goal 1: Adaptive Investment
Restore and sustain resilient ecosystems through program and project investments that enhance watershed and ecosystem functions and processes and support community needs.

Goal 2: Local Infrastructure Development
Support an enduring, high capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 3: Public Awareness and Involvement
Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds.

Goal 4: Partnership Development
Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation.

Goal 5: Efficient and Accountable Administration
Ensure efficient and accountable administration of all investments.

Long-Term Investment Strategy

OWEB's Framework for Grant Investments

In 2013, the Board adopted a Long-Term Investment Strategy that guides its investments of Lottery, federal and salmon plate funding. All of OWEB's investments in ecological outcomes also help build communities and support the local economy. The Board also approved a direction for the investments outlined below. They will continue operating capacity and open solicitation grants and continue focused investments with a gradual increase over time.

Operating Capacity
Operating Capacity Investments support the operating costs of effective watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. Councils and districts are specifically identified in OWEB's statutes.

Open Solicitation
OWEB offers responsive grants across the state for competitive proposals based on local ecological priorities.

Focused Investments
OWEB helps landscape-scale collaborative partnerships achieve collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes.

Effectiveness Monitoring
OWEB evaluates and reports on the progress and outcomes of watershed work it supports.

OWEB

Guiding Principles

Guiding Principles

As the Board developed the Investment Strategy, they did so under established principles for how any changes in OWEB's programs would operate.

Build on accomplishments. The commitment and work of our local partners have resulted in a nationally and internationally recognized approach with unmatched environmental accomplishments. OWEB will build on this foundation.

Effective communication. OWEB is committed to active, two-way communication of ideas, priorities, and results with its staff, partners, potential partners, and the public as a means for developing and maintaining a strong investment strategy and successful cooperative conservation.

Transparency. OWEB values transparency and develops its Long-Term Investment Strategy through an open, transparent process that involves input and dialogue with stakeholders and staff.

Maximize service, minimize disruption. The Board considers how OWEB's grant portfolio impacts partner organizations and staff resources to maximize effectiveness without adversely affecting service delivery.

Responsive. The Long-Term Investment Strategy will adjust to changes in revenue and be responsive to changes in ecological priorities from the Governor, Legislature, the Board, and local partners.

Adapt based on monitoring and evaluation. OWEB's staff and Board monitor and evaluate the effectiveness and implementation of the Long-Term Investment Strategy. The Board shall adapt and modify the strategy as needed to meet its desired goals and outcomes and to improve overall investment success.

Phase-in Change. OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy will guide future efforts, is designed to accommodate changes and adjustments made by stakeholders and OWEB staff, and will be periodically revisited.

Operating Principles

Operating Principles to Enhance OWEB Team Work

We will do all we can, individually and as a group, to:

- **Use Good communication--at all levels and in all directions;**
- **Operate with a Team approach;**
- **Follow through on conversations in order to build and maintain needed trust;**
- **Empower staff wherever it is appropriate to do so; and**
- **Have fun while doing important work!**

OWEB 2017-19 Spending Plan for the October 2017 Board Meeting

	OWEB SPENDING PLAN	July 2017 Spending Plan		TOTAL Board Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan as of July 2017 awards	Oct 2017 Proposed Board Awards	Remaining Spending Plan as of Oct 2017
1	**Open Solicitation:**						
2	Restoration	28.550		0.000	28.550	8.205	20.345
3	Technical Assistance						
4	Restoration TA	3.600		0.000	3.600	0.809	2.791
6	CREP TA	1.125		1.125	0.000		0.000
7	Stakeholder Engagement	0.700		0.000	0.700		0.700
8	Monitoring grants	2.500		0.000	2.500		2.500
9	Land and Water Acquisition						0.000
10	Acquisition Projects	6.200		0.000	6.200		6.200
11	Acquisition Technical Assistance	0.300		0.000	0.300		0.300
12	Weed Grants	3.000		3.000	0.000		0.000
13	Small Grants	3.300		3.300	0.000		0.000
14	Programmatic Effectiveness Monitoring	1.587		0.000	1.587		1.587
15	**TOTAL**	**50.862**		**7.425**	**43.437**	**9.014**	**34.423**
16	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**59.50%**					
17	**Focused Investments:**						
18	Deschutes	4.000		4.000	0.000		0.000
19	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat	2.445		2.445	0.000		0.000
20	Harney Basin Wetlands	1.970		1.970	0.000		0.000
21	Sage Grouse	2.355		2.355	0.000		0.000
22	Ashland Forest All-Lands	2.340		2.340	0.000		0.000
23	Upper Grande Ronde	2.417		2.417	0.000		0.000
24	Capacity-Building FIPs	1.150		0.120	1.030	0.452	0.578
25	FI Effectiveness Monitoring	0.750		0.000	0.750		0.750
26	**TOTAL**	**17.427**		**15.647**	**1.780**	**0.452**	**1.328**
27	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**20.39%**					
28	**Operating Capacity:**						
29	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)	13.547		13.547	0.000		0.000
30	Statewide org partnership support	0.450		0.450	0.000		0.000
31	Organizational Collaborative Grants	0.400		0.200	0.200		0.200
32	**TOTAL**	**14.397**		**14.197**	**0.200**	**0.000**	**0.200**
33	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**16.84%**					
34	**Other:**						
35	CREP	0.600		0.600	0.000		0.000
36	Governor's Priorities	1.000		0.850	0.150		0.150
37	Strategic Implementation Areas	1.200		1.200	0.000		0.000
38	**TOTAL**	**2.800**		**2.650**	**0.150**	**0.000**	**0.150**
39	**% of assumed Total Budget**	**3.28%**					
40	**TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan**	**85.486**		**39.919**	**45.567**	**9.466**	**36.101**
41	**OTHER DISTRIBUTED FUNDS IN ADDITION TO SPENDING PLAN DISTRIBUTION**						
42	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife - PCSRF	10.450		10.450	0.000		0.000
43	Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership	0.309		0.309	0.000		0.000
44	Forest Health Collaboratives from ODF	0.500		0.500	0.000		0.000
45	PSMFC-IMW	0.438		0.438	0.000		0.000
46	PSMFC-Coho Habitat Tools	0.166		0.166	0.000		0.000
47	Natural Resources Conservation Svc-CREP TA	0.250		0.250	0.000		0.000
48	**TOTAL**	**12.113**		**12.113**	**0.000**	**0.000**	**0.000**
49	**TOTAL Including OWEB Spending Plan and Other Distributed Funds**	**97.599**		**52.032**	**45.567**	**9.466**	**36.101**

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
July 24, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center
2 Marine Drive
Boardman, Oregon

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at https://youtu.be/-uX1d1XL04w)

OWEB Members Present
Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Robison, Jason
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob

ABSENT:
Marshall, Gary
Roberts, John
Stangl, Kathy
Wenner, Karl

VACANT:
Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present
Barnes, Darika
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Williams, Eric

Others Present
Beamer, Kelley
Collins, Whitney
Faucera, Jason
Fitzgerald, Pat
Luiz, Jessamyn
Morford, Shawn
Patty, Steve

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. by Co-Chair Randy Labbe.

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Update (Audio = 0:00:00)

Co-Chair Randy Labbe called for public comment.

The board heard comments on the latest draft of OWEB's strategic plan from Kelley Beamer of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Shawn Morford of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils, Jason Faucera of the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network, and Pat Fitzgerald and Whitney Collins of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, all of whom represent the Conservation Partnership.

Strategic plan facilitator Steve Patty from Dialogues in Action led the board in a discussion of the "Who We Are" and "Strategic Priorities for Impact" components of the strategic plan in their advanced draft phases. Suggestions for text changes were provided. With those changes, the board generally agreed these documents are ready to be moved forward.

The meeting was adjourned for the day by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 6:09 p.m.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
July 25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center
2 Marine Drive
Boardman, Oregon

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording at https://youtu.be/UTjvHgz5t3k Please keep in mind that sometimes agenda items are discussed out of order.)

OWEB Members Present
Alvarado, Ron
Brandt, Stephen
Furfey, Rosemary
Henning, Alan
Hollen, Debbie
Labbe, Randy
Marshall, Gary (by phone)
Masterson, Laura
Neuhauser, Will
Roberts, John (by phone)
Robison, Jason
Thorndike, Dan
Webber, Bob
Wenner, Karl

ABSENT:
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT:
Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

OWEB Staff Present
Barnes, Darika
Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Dutterer, Andrew
Duzik, Katie
Greer, Sue
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Leiendecker, Karen
Leopold, Kathy
Loftsgaarden, Meta
Shaff, Courtney
Williams, Eric

Others Present
Arnold, Jennifer
Beamer, Kelley
Bell, Dan
Collins, Whitney
Eagle, Bill
Farris-Olsen, Erin
Faucera, Jason
Fitzgerald, Pat
Houston, Ryan
Joki, Tyler
Keeney, Selene
Marriott, Deb
McAdams, Nellie
Morford, Shawn
Morrison, Katie
Rankin, Anna
Siebert, Paul
Stewart, Dave
McGinnis, Cheryl
VanNatta, K.C.

The meeting was called to reconvene by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 8:00 a.m.

B. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:00)

Board members provided updates on issues and activities related to their respective geographic regions and/or from the state and federal natural resource agencies they represent.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes (Audio = 0:31:11)

Minutes of the April 24-26, 2017 board meeting in Salem were presented to the board for approval.

> *Co-Chair Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the minutes from the April 24-26, 2017 meeting in Salem. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 0:31:42)*

D. Board Subcommittee Updates (Audio = 0:32:00)

Representatives from the Focused Investments, Monitoring, and Open Solicitation subcommittees provided updates to the full board on subcommittee topics and activities.

E. Public Comment (Audio = 0:45:38)

The board was addressed by members of the Conservation Partnership to provide an update on activities of each group individually and collectively. Presenters included Shawn Morford of the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils**,** Pat Fitzgerald of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Jason Faucera of the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network, and Kelley Beamer of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts.

Erin Farris-Olsen, Executive Director from the Montana Watershed Coordination Council, also addressed the board to discuss complementary work being accomplished by her organization in supporting watershed groups across the state of Montana.

F. 2017-19 Spending Plan (Audio = 1:11:15)

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden introduced the 2017-2019 Spending Plan for board review and approval. Board Member Gary Marshall joined the discussion by telephone.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 1:21:00)
There was no public comment.

Debrah Marriott from the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership presented to the board components of the Estuary Partnership structure, programs, and ongoing projects.

Katie Morrison from the Oregon Department of Forestry addressed the board to review community-based forest collaboratives and OWEB's role in the forest collaborative technical assistance grant program.

Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden presented follow-up items from the April board meeting and proposed changes to the Spending Plan, including carry-forward, policy, and delegation recommendations.

Will Neuhauser moved the board adopt the proposed 2017 spending plan as described in Attachment A to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Karl Wenner. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:02:45) Will Neuhauser moved the board amend the proposed 2017 spending plan to reduce the Forest Health Collaboratives line from $750,000 to $500,000. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:03:27)

Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the carry-forward amounts as described in Table 1 of Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:04:08)

Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the policy recommendations and receipt of funds from other sources as described in Table 2 of Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:04:41)

Will Neuhauser moved the board approve the delegation of authority to the Executive Director for the spending plan line items and award dates described in Table 3 of Attachment C to the staff report. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The motion passed unanimously. (Audio = 3:07:06)

L. OWEB Technical Assistance and Focused Investment Partnership Rulemaking

(Audio = 3:11:20)

Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein, supported by Grant Program manager Eric Williams, requested the board approve initiation of rulemaking for OWEB Technical Assistance grants and the Focused Investment Program.

> *Bob Webber moved the board authorize rulemaking for OWEB Technical Assistance grants and the Focused Investment Partnership program. The motion was seconded by Dan Thorndike. Following discussion, the motion passed unanimously (Audio = 3:17:16).*

G. Council Capacity Grant Awards (Audio = 3:19:18)

Capacity Coordinator Courtney Shaff reviewed for the board OWEB's role in assisting watershed councils around the state, and explained the eligibility determination and review process for council capacity grants. Shaff described the three funding levels for council capacity: full funding, reducing funding, or no funding. OWEB's Region 1 Program Representative, Katie Duzik, assisted Shaff in responding to questions from the board about staff recommendations.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio = 3:44:45)

K.C. VanNatta, chairman of the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council (LCRWC) and Selene Keeney, Coordinator for LCRWC, addressed the board to request full funding for their watershed council and responded to questions from the board.

Dave Stewart from the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Tyler Joki, a private citizen, also addressed the board to talk about the momentum of LCRWC and to request full funding.

Bill Eagle from the Columbia Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD) to talk about the relationship between the SWCD and the watershed council, and requested the board consider funding LCRWC.

Anna Rankin from the Pudding River Watershed Council addressed the board to talk about Pudding River issues and to thank the board for capacity funding for the next biennium.

> *Randy Labbe moved the board award the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grants as described in Attachment C to the staff report, with an award date of July 1, 2017. The motion was seconded by Laura Masterson (Audio = 4:53:51). Following discussion, Dan Thorndike then moved to amend and provisionally fund the LCRWC at half of the reduced amount with the award of the second half contingent upon the watershed council completing the normal application process, demonstrating they have met all five merit criteria and are separate and distinct from the soil & water conservation district, and that, if award of the second half of the funding occurs, the board would increase the spending plan accordingly. Laura Masterson seconded the motion as amended. Following discussion, the amendment to the motion passed with one member - Bob Webber - voting against the motion. With passage of the amendment, the original motion was voted on as amended and passed unanimously.*
> *(Audio = 5:07:25)*

O. Executive Director's Update (Audio = 5:14:20)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Senior Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein presented highlights of the 2017 legislative session, including OWEB's 2017-2019 budget and pertinent policy bills. Davis also announced the receipt of a Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund grant award from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden discussed with the board that the passage of House Bill 3249 established the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, which will be administered by OWEB. Executive Director Loftsgaarden, with input from board member Will Neuhauser, discussed a recent trip to Washington D.C.

The meeting was adjourned for the day by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 2:54 p.m.

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
July 26, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Port of Morrow, Riverfront Center
2 Marine Drive
Boardman, OR

MINUTES (Audio time stamps on this day reference recording https://youtu.be/9e83SwpKEVw. Please keep in mind that sometimes agenda items are discussed out of order.)

OWEB Members Present	**OWEB Staff Present**	**Others Present**
Brandt, Stephen	Barnes, Darika	Abraham, Kyle
Furfey, Rosemary	Ciannella, Greg	Arnold, Jennifer
Henning, Alan	Davis, Renee	Banks, Graham
Hollen, Debbie	Dutterer, Andrew	Bell, Dan
Labbe, Randy	Duzik, Katie	Houston, Ryan
Masterson, Laura	Greer, Sue	McAdams, Nellie
Neuhauser, Will	Hartstein, Eric	McGinnis, Cheryl
Roberts, John	Hatch, Audrey	Morford, Shawn
Robison, Jason	Leopold, Kathy	Tucker, Lena
Thorndike, Dan	Loftsgaarden, Meta	Warren, Robert
Webber, Bob	Williams, Eric	Wolcott, Brian
Wenner, Karl		

ABSENT:
Marshall, Gary
Roberts, John
Stangl, Kathy

VACANT:
Environmental Quality Commission
Board of Forestry

The meeting was called to reconvene by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 8:03 a.m. Executive Director Meta Loftsgaarden reviewed logistics for the day.

H. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update – Partnership Learning Project
(Audio = 0:00:00)
Deputy Director Renee Davis introduced Jennifer Arnold from Reciprocity Consulting to provide an update on the Partnership Learning Project being led by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation. Arnold stated her expertise is in helping new partnerships form around conservation and community development issues. Arnold provided a presentation to the board outlining her report on the Partnership Learning Project, related to the eight Capacity-Building FIP Grantees.

I. Public Comment (Audio = 1:00:05)
There was no public comment.

K. Outreach/Stakeholder Engagement Administrative Rules (Audio = 1:00:40)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams updated the board on the Stakeholder Engagement grants rulemaking process, and requested the board adopt the revised rules.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Audio =1:25:24)

Graham Banks and Brian Wolcott from the Walla Walla Basin Watershed Council addressed the board to request continued funding for educational outreach grants.

> *Randy Labbe moved the board approve the Stakeholder Engagement Grants rules as specified in Attachment D to the staff report with a technical correction to the proposed Stakeholder Engagement Grant rule numbering on page 3, rule (2)(a) from 695-015-0050 to 695-015-XXXX. The motion was seconded by Jason Robison. The amendment passed with Bob Webber voting against the motion. (1:57:00)*

J. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Update – Implementation (Audio = 2:02:15)

Deputy Director Renee Davis introduced Robert Warren from the Bonneville Environmental Foundation and Ryan Houston from the Upper Deschutes Watershed Council to update the board about the process of developing a progress monitoring framework for each of the six Implementation FIP partnerships.

N. Collaborative Voluntary Measures (Audio = 2:46:40)

Deputy Director Renee Davis, Oregon Department of Forestry Division Chief of Private Forests Program Lena Tucker and Deputy Chief of Private Forests Program Kyle Abraham presented to the board a report on the voluntary actions forest landowners in western Oregon are undertaking that benefit salmon and watersheds.

M. Conservation Effectiveness Partnership (Audio = 3:22:35)

Deputy Director Renee Davis and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch updated the board on the Conservation Effectiveness Partnership, which brings together multiple state and federal agencies to evaluate the effects of conservation and restoration investments on water quality and watershed conditions.

P. Other Business (Audio = 3:54:40)

There was no other business.

The meeting was adjourned by Co-Chair Randy Labbe at 12:12 p.m. (Audio = 3:54:40)

October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Focused Investment Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee members: Gary Marshall, Chair, Ron Alvarado, Alan Henning, Jason Robison, Dan Thorndike

Background

The Focused Investment Subcommittee met on September 8th to discuss Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) capacity building and implementation program developments.

Summary of Focused Investment Subcommittee Work this Quarter

Capacity Building FIP Solicitation

OWEB received and reviewed seven capacity building FIP applications. Staff summarized the review process and evaluation results, along with the staff recommendation to the board. Given that there are other partnerships working on capacity-building for which the timing was not conducive to submitting an application, and that this spending plan line item will have funds remaining even if all recommended applications are awarded funding by the board, in October, staff will request the board authorize an additional capacity-building FIP funding cycle.

Timeline for 2019-2021 Implementation FIP Solicitation

The subcommittee reviewed the solicitation timeline and discussed the subcommittee interview process planned for November. In the previous solicitation, the application was divided into two phases; the planned solicitation for 2019-2021 will have only one. The subcommittee will receive the review team evaluations and staff recommendations prior to a public interview session. Subcommittee members will be provided an opportunity to check in with staff to ask clarifying questions on the content of the applications and evaluations. The subcommittee will make funding recommendations to the board in January 2019.

FIP Rules Advisory Committee (RAC)

Staff walked through the rule-making process, which was initiated by the board establishing a Rules Advisory Committee at the July meeting. The RAC is scheduled to meet on September 27 and complete its work in October. Noting that the board will be acting on the rules in January, the subcommittee asked that staff include a subcommittee review step in the process.

Capacity and Implementation FIP Gathering

Staff summarized the work to date with FIP partnership learning and noted that it became apparent through the process of working with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) and the FIP partnerships that there is a great opportunity to share lessons learned among existing FIP partnerships to help inform their work moving forward. Initially the concept of a partnership gathering was envisioned for the capacity building FIPs. However, as the work on progress monitoring frameworks progressed, it became apparent there would be great benefit to having the implementation FIPs participate in such a gathering. At the October board meeting, staff will be requesting funds for BEF to help OWEB hold a FIP gathering at a low-cost facility, such as Manucha, for a two-day event. To allow for travel time, there would be an afternoon session on the first day and a morning session on the second day.

To Be Presented at the October 2017 Board Meeting by:

Gary Marshall, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact

Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047.

October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Monitoring Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee members: Rosemary Furfey, Chair, Stephen Brandt, Karl Wenner, Alan Henning, Jason Robison

Background

The Monitoring Subcommittee is tracking ongoing work associated with both open solicitation programmatic effectiveness monitoring (EM) and Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) monitoring. They also are overseeing the process to develop improved guidance for applicants submitting monitoring grant applications. Finally, the subcommittee is discussing potential areas of focus for EM investments in the 2017-19 biennium.

Summary of Monitoring Subcommittee Work this Quarter

The subcommittee met on August 1, 2017, and discussed the following topics and highlights:

1) Debrief from the July board meeting – The results chain process being applied by Bonneville Environmental Foundation could be used in other monitoring projects and results of the monitoring guidance process for adaptive management.
2) Review of feedback from regional review teams and the Oregon Plan Monitoring Team as part of the monitoring guidance process – Adaptive management should inform restoration practitioners and agencies; options for leveraging existing monitoring guidance from other agencies; connecting grantees to tools and resources about consistent analysis and reporting; and gathering the 'right' data to answer questions. The next step in the process will survey monitoring grantees for their input.
3) Approaches to 'tell the story' using programmatic EM funding – Based on input from other agencies, three approaches—retrospective, prospective, and hybrid approaches—could be used to describe the ecological effects of restoration through time. While prospective is ideal, retrospective and hybrid are practical alternatives and can be applied in the near term. The next step is outreach to grant program staff.
4) Brief review of in-progress programmatic EM projects – tide gate removal/restoration literature review, final year of 10-year livestock exclusion monitoring, and Upper Middle Fork John Day Intensively Monitored Watershed.

The subcommittee will meet again on October 3, 2017.

To Be Presented at the October 2017 Board Meeting by:
Rosemary Furfey, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact:
Renee Davis, Deputy Director
renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203

October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Open Solicitation Subcommittee Update

Subcommittee members: Bob Webber, Chair, Stephen Brandt, Rosemary Furfey, John Roberts, Kathy Stangl

Background

The Open Solicitation Subcommittee completed some major work on the small grant program evaluation and outreach application revisions, and is now reviewing the funding line process.

Summary of Open Solicitation Subcommittee Work this Quarter

Funding Line Process

Since the April board meeting, the subcommittee has discussed whether it should recommend a more predictable process to address potential worthy projects that fall below the staff-recommended funding line. Staff presented four options:

1. Build a 10% contingency into the spending plan – both the board and applicants will be aware that these funds are available for particularly compelling projects.
2. Use recapture funds – when projects are cancelled or finish under budget, the remaining funds are recaptured and included in the next biennium spending plan. There are two sub-options:
    a. Allocate recapture funds when they are available – this would result in inconsistency when such funds are available;
    b. Amortize the anticipated recapture for the biennium – this would provide a predictable reserve, but could potentially allocate more funds than available if the anticipated recapture does not materialize.
3. Allocate funds from future funding cycles – this would result in an inconsistent reserve pool, and could result in funds being unavailable for worthy projects in the final grant cycle of the biennium.
4. Use unallocated spending plan line item funds – similar to April 2017, this would only be available in the last grant cycle of the biennium.

Following discussion of the options, the subcommittee agreed that, regardless of method, transparency and predictability are the most important factors. Since option 1 best meets those criteria, it was preferred; however, the subcommittee felt that 10% was too much money to set aside for a funding line contingency. Since the board recently approved a spending plan for the biennium, there is time to determine an appropriate funding line contingency amount in the 2019-2021 spending plan. In the meantime, the subcommittee would like staff to note whether there are recommended projects below the line that are exceptionally worthy of funding. This would improve the board's ability to fund worthy projects in particularly competitive cycles. The board can then determine whether to award funds based on available options. The subcommittee will present the concept at the October board meeting and seek board approval in January 2018.

To Be Presented at the October 2017 Board Meeting by:
Bob Webber, Subcommittee Chair

Staff Contact
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
eric.williams@oregon.gov or 503-986-0047

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachments D to the staff report, including funding for 54 restoration projects and 21 technical assistance projects.

II. May 2017 Grant Offering Background and Summary

A. Applications Submitted

The Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Cycle offered Restoration and Technical Assistance applications. A total of 116 grant applications were received seeking over $15 million. Attachment A shows applications submitted by region, project type, and funding request.

B. Applications Withdrawn

Following the application deadline, three applications (218-1007, 218-1009, and 218-4015) were withdrawn by the applicant prior to review.

C. Review Process

Staff sent eligible grant proposals for review to the agency's six Regional Review Teams (RRTs). Staff scheduled site visits to as many proposed projects as possible. Per OWEB process, all RRT members were invited on these visits.

Following site visits, OWEB facilitated RRT meetings in each region. Reviewers considered the ecological significance of the proposed project based on the evaluation criteria of proposal clarity, technical soundness, watershed context, capacity of the applicant, and cost effectiveness. After classifying applications as "Fund" or "Do Not Fund," the RRTs then prioritized the projects recommended for funding by application type.

The RRTs' evaluations and recommendations in summary form are distributed to all applicants whose proposals were reviewed by that team. Prior to the board meeting, staff forwarded to the board all written comments received from applicants regarding the RRT and staff recommendations.

III. Spring 2017 Grant Offering and Board Policy Decisions

A. Salmon License Plate Projects

Since it is the beginning of the biennium, there are not ample revenues to allocate salmon license plate projects in this grant offering. Staff expect that revenue will be sufficient to recommend salmon plate project funding in the Fall 2017 Grant Offering.

B. Sage-grouse Projects

At its April 2015 meeting, the board adopted a policy to make available at least $10 million through its granting programs over the next ten years in support of projects located in Oregon's sage steppe ecosystem directed to improve Greater Sage-Grouse habitat. For the Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering, there are five projects (218-4000, 218-5020, 218-5006, 218-5014, and 218-5003) recommended for funding that meet these criteria, requesting $441,236. Note that the board's July 2017 award of $2,355,250 for the *Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties* Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Initiative resulted in fewer sage-grouse projects eligible for Open Solicitation awards. Total funding awarded to sage-grouse projects since April 2015 is $3,649,728. If the recommended projects are awarded funding from the board, the new total will be $4,090,964.

IV. Funding Recommendations

The funding recommendations for the Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering are shown in Table 1.

Table 1: 2017-19 Spending Plan and Spring 2017 Grant Offering Staff Funding Recommendations

Grant Type	Spending Plan Total	Previously Awarded	Grant Funds Available	Staff Recommendations	Difference
Restoration	$32,000,000	$0	$32,000,000	$7,979,680	$24,020,320
Technical Assistance	$4,000,000	$0	$4,000,000	$808,696	$3,191,304
Monitoring*	$2,750,000	$0	$2,750,000	$0	$2,750,000
Stakeholder Engagement*	$700,000	$0	$700,000	$0	$700,000
TOTAL	$39,450,000	$0	$39,450,000	$8,788,376	$30,661,624

***Not offered in the Spring Offering** **Table 1**

A. Development of Staff Recommendations

OWEB staff considered the RRT recommendations and the funding availability in the 2017-2019 spending plan in developing the staff funding recommendation to the board. Attachment B contains the number of applications recommended for funding by RRTs and staff by region and type, and the funding requests recommended by staff by region and type.

B. Spring 2017 Grant Offering – Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend the board fund the applications listed in Attachment C.

Attachments

A. Grant Applications Submitted
B. RTT and Staff Funding Recommendations
C. Regions 1-6 Funding Recommendations

ATTACHMENT A

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

Types of Applications Received

	TA	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	5	10	15
Region 2	7	14	21
Region 3	4	15	19
Region 4	6	10	16
Region 5	6	21	27
Region 6	4	14	18
STATEWIDE	0	0	0
Totals	32	84	116

Dollar Amounts by Application Type

	TA	Restoration	Totals
Region 1	225,555	1,680,139	$1,905,694
Region 2	247,297	2,444,720	$2,692,017
Region 3	157,341	2,455,339	$2,612,680
Region 4	233,205	3,415,668	$3,648,873
Region 5	196,120	2,638,885	$2,835,005
Region 6	163,830	1,189,082	$1,352,912
STATEWIDE	0	0	$0
Totals	$1,223,348	$13,823,833	$15,047,181

ATTACHMENT B

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Spring 2017 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

RRT and Staff Funding Recommendations

Region	Restoration Projects Recommended			Technical Assistance Projects Recommended		
	RRT	Staff	%	RRT	Staff	%
Region 1	5	5	100%	3	3	100%
Region 2	10	10	100%	6	6	100%
Region 3	13	11	85%	2	2	100%
Region 4	7	5	71%	3	3	100%
Region 5	12	11	92%	3	3	100%
Region 6	12	12	100%	4	4	100%
Total	**59**	**54**	**92%**	**21**	**21**	**100%**

Funding Recommended by Region

Region	Restoration Funding Recommended	Technical Assistance Funding Recommended
Region 1	$575,935	$147,175
Region 2	$1,787,051	$215,911
Region 3	$1,827,971	$76,018
Region 4	$1,577,457	$111,107
Region 5	$1,146,672	$94,655
Region 6	$1,064,594	$163,830
Total	**$7,979,680**	**$808,696**

North Coast - Region 1 Spring 2017 Application Funding Status

Document Path: Z:\oweb\Technical_Services\Information_Services\GIS\Maps\Review Team Meetings\2017SpringCycle\Projects\Region1_AppFundingStatus_11x17_2017Spring.mxd

ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide, Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB- PK Wills Sept. 2017

Spring 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding LIne (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Salem, OR 97301-1290
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http://oregon.gov/OWEB/

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Region 1 - North Coast

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-1001	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	Nestucca River and Clear Creek Riparian Restoration	This project will improve water quality and stream habitat along the Nestucca River and Clear Creek on a working dairy farm in Cloverdale, OR. Native plants will be installed and livestock exclusion fencing installed to protect and enhance nearly two and a half miles of riparian habitat.	76,759	Tillamook
218-1003	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	NORP Project Management 17-19	The Northwest Oregon Partnership (NORP) provides native plant materials to watershed scale restoration projects in the north coast basin. This project will partially fund a coordinator position for the next three years, allowing the program to focus on growing and distributing native plants to the 41 conservation organizations that depend on NORP for their plant material each year.	84,231	Tillamook
218-1006	MidCoast WC	South Beaver Creek (Ona Beach) Stream Habitat and Riparian Restoration	A group of eight landowners along Beaver Creek in Lincoln County have joined together to improve stream habitat on their properties in this watershed scale restoration project. Native trees will be planted and large wood placed along the creek to improve stream habitat within the creek- which is widely recognized for its optimum habitat for Oregon coast coho salmon.	234,332	Lincoln
218-1004	MidCoast WC	Crazy Creek Fish Passage	An undersized culvert on Crazy Creek in the Five Rivers watershed is currently blocking fish passage to nearly two miles of important fish habitat. This project will replace the culvert with a newly designed structure that will provide free access for native fish, including Oregon coast coho salmon.	120,991	Lane
218-1008	Lincoln SWCD	Long Prairie Creek Plant Establishment	This project builds upon a previously constructed restoration project on Long Prairie Creek in the Siletz watershed. Along a 5 mile reach of stream where large wood structures were previously placed, native trees will be extensively planted to improve the health of the riparian area and provide for future naturally-recruited large wood.	59,622	Lincoln
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**575,935**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
NONE					
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**575,935**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
218-1000	MidCoast WC	Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration	61,520	Benton
218-1002	Necanicum WC	Coho Creek Culvert Replacement - Seaside	455,326	Clatsop
218-1005	The Nature Conservancy	Kilchis Porter Wetland Restoration Project	384,243	Tillamook

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
218-1013	Siuslaw WC	North Fork Siuslaw Tidal Restoration Technical Assistance	This project will investigate options to return a diked and drained property along the North Fork of the Siuslaw River to tidal wetland habitat that will host a range of native fish species. Project partners will conduct outreach to neighboring landowners and community members as part of the process to assess possibilities for restoration.	49,964	Lane
218-1011	Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council	North Coast Watershed Councils Restoration Assistance	A coalition of watershed organizations on the north coast have joined together to increase the collective technical expertise and restoration capacity within the north coast basin. This project funds a highly qualified consultant that assists the group of councils with project development, project designs, and contracting.	47,386	Tillamook
218-1010	Lower Nehalem WC	North Fork Road Fish Passage Projects	This project will produce designs to address three road crossings that currently inhibit fish passage in the lower Nehalem River watershed. The barriers are located along North Fork Road, and once replaced, will provide impeded access for fish to important tidal wetland habitat.	49,825	Tillamook
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**147,175**	
Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
NONE					
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommeded for Funding by RRT				**147,175**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
218-1012	Columbia SWCD	Fox Creek Fish Passage Feasibility Analysis	50,000	Columbia
218-1014	Tillamook Bay WC	OK Ranch Habitat Enhancement Project	28,380	Tillamook

Region 1 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**723,110**	**8%**

Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**8,788,376**	

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1000-15572

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ernest Creek LWD and Riparian Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $61,520

Total Cost: $88,150

Application Description *(from application)*

This project will improve stream complexity and riparian and aquatic habitat conditions on Ernest Creek by adding large woody debris and planting conifer species on the Thyme Garden property in Alsea, OR. Ernest Creek is a tributary of Crooked Creek in the Alsea River watershed and provides habitat for coho and Chinook salmon, cutthroat and steelhead trout, and lamprey species. Current wood loading on the stream is significantly below ODFW benchmark values, and as a result the creek has reduced complexity, floodplain connectivity, and increased channel incision.The project site was the subject of a previous OWEB restoration grant funded in 2002, which restored Ernest Creek into its historical channel. Once returned, the stream did not encounter legacy large woody debris in the historical channel as anticipated and has subsequently experienced channel incision. This project adds a total of 17 large wood structures on 0.7 miles of Ernest Creek in order to increase habitat complexity and floodplain connectivity, and plants conifers on 2 acres of riparian habitat to increase potential for long term large wood recruitment. Project partners include the Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership, Biosurveys LLC, Thyme Garden, Georgia Pacific, and a local landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will add more habitat complexity to Ernest Creek, an identified limiting factor for coastal coho salmon.
- The landowner is very engaged and does a great job providing outreach about watershed issues to the public.
- The revised application changed the permitting approach and removed the boulders from the design, both review team recommendations from the last submittal.

Concerns

- The team had reservations about the technical aspects of the project related to the geomorphology of the site. They noted that the creek had not yet stabilized in its current channel, and felt that the incision had other causes besides the lack of large wood.
- The team found the hydrology of the site not explained well in the application, and there was confusion about why the channel's elevation seemed artificially high, the hydrologic impact of the landowner-maintained impoundment, and how the water table issue affects current and proposed site conditions. The site’s hydrology may not have been fully considered in the 2002 restoration actions.

- In recent years the creek has not contained flow in the summer, creating concern that fish may become entrapped when the flow is subsurface. The addition of large wood is unlikely to address this issue.
- The application would have benefited from more explanation about why Ernest Creek is a priority location in which to work in the context of fish populations.

Concluding Analysis

The reviewers appreciated the opportunity to continue the work on Ernest Creek and had praise for the dedicated landowner involved. They recognized that the landowner went above and beyond to provide educational opportunities for the public, promoting restoration actions and watershed issues to a broad swath of the public that regularly visits Thyme Garden. This was a significant reason that a previous iteration of this project was recommended for funding in the last funding cycle, although it ranked too low to be funded.
The review team continued to have a lot of questions about the stream's hydrology as it related to the original diversion funded in 2002. During this discussion, more concerns about the site's geomorphology and hydrology arose. Reviewers found the site and application confusing and felt that the stream's incision was not primarily due to the lack of large wood, but rather that the stream was still working its way through a sediment slug. They felt that the addition of large wood would likely not address the issue, but rather would aggrade more sediment that could exacerbate fish entrapment issues within the reach. It was noted that in recent years, the stream goes subsurface during the summer under current conditions. The review team elected not to recommend the project for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1001-15574

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Nestucca River and Clear Creek Riparian Restoration

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $76,759

Total Cost: $95,953

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located south of Cloverdale (Tillamook County) and west of Hwy 101. It includes 2 landowners; the Trent Farm and the Cloverdale Baptist Church. The project includes 2,200 ft. of Nestucca River frontage and 9,900 ft. of Clear Creek frontage, from the mouth upstream to Hwy 101. The whole project encompasses approximately 8 acres. The Nestucca River and Clear Creek watersheds support populations of coho, chinook, chum, cutthroat, lamprey and steelhead. Clear creek contains 3.4 miles of coho habitat. Many of these populations have steadily declined in large part due to the loss of key habitats. The riparian areas included in the project are severely impaired and do not adequately provide shade, habitat complexity, and erosion control benefits. Degraded riparian conditions are identified as a limiting factor to water quality and salmon production in the Nestucca River Watershed Assessment and TMDL.The riparian areas of the project are primarily vegetated with non-native invasive species; reed canary grass and Himalayan blackberry. There are areas of active erosion and sloughing banks. There is a need for live-stock exclusion riparian fencing along one segment of Clear Creek. The Tillamook Soil and Water Conservation District will install that fencing prior to planting. The project will include the manual control of non-native species, the planting of approximately 3,000 native trees and shrubs and 4,000 willow cuttings, the installation of 900 ft of riparian fencing, and the maintenance, or tree release, of the plantings for 3 years post implementation.The Nestucca, Neskowin and Sand Lake Watersheds Council has a long history of successfully implementing riparian restoration projects. Since 2002, we have worked with over 145 landowners to improve the riparian areas along 45 miles of river, encompassing approximately 220 acres.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant and project partners have a good track record of success with this type of work, having regularly completed many similar projects under budget within the last decade.
- The project as proposed will have excellent water quality benefits for both temperature and bacteria--two limiting factors in this watershed.
- The approach proposed by the project for site preparation and planting is technically sound and likely to be successful.
- The landowner, a local dairy farmer, is committed and enthusiastic about restoration work and eager to improve his property. The buffers that are proposed are of good size for a working dairy.

- This reach of the Nestucca River and Clear Creek has excellent fish use, including populations of chum and coho. Intact headwaters support healthy populations of a variety of andromous and resident fish species.
- The project has good connectivity to other riparian planting projects on the Nestucca River, and continuing the effort at this location will further increase the realized benefits of the landscape-level effort.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were noted during review.

Concluding Analysis

The review team found the project to be compelling and straightforward-- a technically sound riparian planting project that addresses key limiting factors within a watershed in a priority location that is well connected to other adjacent restoration work. They appreciated the dairy farmer landowner's willingness to conduct restoration on his property and improve water quality within the Nestucca River and Clear Creek, and enthusiastically recommended the project for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$76,759

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$76,759

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1002-15599

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Coho Creek Culvert Replacement - Seaside

Applicant: Necanicum WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Clatsop

OWEB Request: $455,326

Total Cost: $587,655

Application Description *(from application)*

Coho Creek is a tributary to Neawanna Creek in the Necanicum River watershed within Seaside city limits in Clatsop County. The culverts to be replaced are juvenile and adult fish passage barriers under certain flow conditions and impair natural channel processes impacting ESA listed coho, cutthroat trout and winter steelhead. The project involves three existing, undersized culverts. The project proposes to permanently remove two culverts and relocate the City's sewer main which currently is piped over the top of the culverts. In addition, the project proposes to replace the existing undersized culvert crossing under Wahanna Road with a 19' open bottom, multi-plate arch with natural stream simulation that meets the design criteria of 1.5x active channel width. The project will improve fish access to 0.5 miles of stream habitat. Project partners include: City of Seaside and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project builds upon previous OWEB investments in fish passage upstream, and this crossing is the last remaining obstacle in the system.
- The applicant has good capacity for completing this type of project-- the upstream crossing was successful and is functioning well.
- Coho creek has a thriving coho population that is under threat from the demise of the subject crossing.

Concerns

- The cost-benefit ratio of the project does not seem favorable. The crossing in question is currently only a partial barrier and will provide access to only 0.5 mile of habitat.
- Ecological benefit from the project may be minimal.
- A significant portion of the project cost (nearly 20%) is slated for the removal and replacement of the city’s water and sewer lines, located just upstream of the crossing in a berm that crosses the creek.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the successful work implemented by the applicant upstream on Coho

Creek as the result of a past OWEB investment and were impressed by how well the project was functioning. They recognized that the school had taken ownership of that site and utilized the crossing and the creek regularly for environmental education opportunities, and were worried about how the demise of the culvert proposed for replacement in this application would affect that investment. However, they found the cost-benefit of the project to be unfavorable, with a minimal amount of habitat present upstream in combination with the fact that the current crossing is still passable to fish at certain velocities. They felt that the City should largely take ownership of the existing infrastructure issue and did not recommend funding for the removal and replacement of the water and sewer lines and other project elements, given the limited amount of habitat available upstream.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1003-15603
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: NORP Project Management 17-19
Applicant: Tillamook Estuaries Partnership
Basin: North Coast
County: Tillamook
OWEB Request: $84,231
Total Cost: $160,011

Application Description *(from application)*

The Northwest Oregon Restoration Partnership (NORP), a Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) program, is an integral part of the conservation community in northwest Oregon. Locally adapted, genetically appropriate native plant materials are critical for ensuring success in watershed scale restoration projects. NORP supports 41 organizations by propagating and distributing 75,000 – 100,000 native plants annually, which would otherwise be unavailable to restoration partners. In addition to providing this much needed native plant material for restoration, NORP supplies the plant material at 25% of the cost to its restoration partners. This allows partners of varying capacity to utilize the remaining 75% of the plant value as match to leverage additional funding needed to implement their restoration projects. As a result of NORP's efforts, landscape-scale watershed restoration projects are being implemented by partners on private and public lands in eight counties (Tillamook, Clatsop, Lincoln, Columbia, Washington, Yamhill, Polk, and Benton). Due to this unique partnership, every dollar invested in NORP has an exponential benefit in terms of on-the-ground watershed restoration accomplished. Partners include the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service, watershed councils, land trusts, Oregon State Parks, the National Park Service, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, local schools, and private landowners. NORP's on-going program and is evaluated annually by TEP's project manager, the NORP coordinator, and its partners. The partnership is requesting $84,231 from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to assist in funding the project coordinator over the next three years.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The program actively supports dozens of restoration projects each year by providing high quality material genetically appropriate for the north coast.
- The program has an excellent track record of success, and past OWEB investments have been well utilized to diversify funding opportunities.
- The effort continues to expand, with more partners added over the last few years and the nursery is currently undergoing a 20,000 plant expansion to better serve the group of partners.
- The program fosters collaboration among the region and encourages the development and sharing of information among practitioners.
- There is much anticipated need for this program and its services over the next three years.
- This proposal will cover three years of funding, giving the program time and security to focus on the continued development of a business plan.

- The project has taken steps to become more self-sufficient, with partners now contributing some funds toward plants. The project team indicated on the site visit they are actively working to reach a higher level of self-sufficiency.

Concerns

- The program continues to require capacity investments, despite the goal of achieving self-sufficiency.

Concluding Analysis

The review team was very familiar with this project and aware of how integral it has become to restoration work on the north coast. They recognized that numerous projects relied on the program for genetically appropriate plant material for the north coast. Such plant material is unavailable commercially in the size of stock necessary to compete successfully against the prolific understory vegetation common in the region. The program continues to expand since the previous OWEB request with the coordinator diversifying funding sources, increasing the capacity of the nursery in Tillamook, taking on new nonprofit and agency partners, and securing outside foundation support for capacity. There was a concern that the program hadn't moved far enough toward self-sufficiency since the initial OWEB investment, but the reviewers recognized the difficulty in finding stable funding for a coordinator position and were impressed with the program's vision and dedication to becoming more self-sustaining, and did find that key steps had been taken toward that goal. They recommended the project for funding, recognizing how the program would benefit from three years of stable funding for a coordinator position.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$84,231

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$84,231

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1004-15606
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Crazy Creek Fish Passage
Applicant: MidCoast WC
Basin: North Coast
County: Lane
OWEB Request: $119,907
Total Cost: $641,702

Application Description *(from application)*

This project addresses fish passage issues in the Middle and Upper Five Rivers 6th field watershed by replacing undersized and damaged culverts with structures that allow for full aquatic organism passage on Crazy and Lord Creeks. Both creeks are tributaries of Five Rivers, which flows into the Alsea River at river mile 25, east of the town of Tidewater. The undersized culverts are inadequately designed for aquatic organism passage and currently present complete or partial barriers for fish to these streams, both of which provide important cool water refugia for salmonids. The project replaces two culverts on Crazy and Lord Creeks and removes an 18” bedrock step on Crazy Creek near its confluence with Five Rivers. A watershed assessment conducted by the MidCoast Watersheds Council in 2001 identified the Middle and Upper Five Rivers 6th fields as having high potential for restoration of Oregon Coastal Coho salmon and prioritized fish passage work. With the replacement of the two culverts, unimpeded access will be restored to 1.75 miles of coho habitat critical for summertime rearing. Project partners include Lane County Public Works, Siuslaw Collaborative Watershed Restoration Program and the USFS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The habitat upstream of Crazy Creek is excellent, and the project would make available approximately 1.75 miles of spawning and rearing habitat for salmonids.
- The project would restore full volitional fish passage for all aquatic organisms, including lamprey.
- The project would address two limiting factors in the region – water temperature and access to cold water refugia.
- The design for the project is clear and straightforward, with the application much improved from earlier submissions.
- The applicant has been successful in diversifying funding sources for the project’s implementation.

Concerns

- The Cougar Creek culvert, in danger of failing, has been removed from the project due to lack of continued interest from the county. This has reduced the cost of the project significantly, but also has reduced the habitat benefit.

Concluding Analysis

This is the fourth time that the review team has reviewed an application to fix the Crazy Creek culvert. The team recommended the project for funding upon the third submission, but it did not receive funding due to a lower priority ranking in a competitive cycle. Again- this time the review team found the application clear and detailed, the project planning thorough, and the design appropriate for the site. They appreciated the applicant's ability to diversify funding sources for the project implementation, noting that the request had decreased as more partners were involved. They regretted that the Cougar Creek portion of the application had to be removed from the project, but understood that the county's priorities had changed and were nonetheless supportive of moving forward with the plan to restore full fish passage to Crazy Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$119,907

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount
$120,991

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1005-15614

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Kilchis Porter Wetland Restoration Project

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $384,243

Total Cost: $1,075,312

Application Description *(from application)*

The Kilchis Porter project is located in the lower Kilchis River estuary on the east side of Tillamook Bay in Tillamook County near Bay City. The 60.26 acre project area lies between Stasek Slough to the south and Hathaway Slough to the north and borders the Kilchis Estuary Preserve to the south, a TNC preserve that is undergoing active restoration. The Porter project will restore former tidal wetlands that were converted to pastures, thereby providing critical off-channel rearing habitat for salmon and other species dependent upon tidal wetlands. The restoration will remove dikes, recreate tidal channels, fill agricultural ditches and restore tidal wetland vegetation through planting of wetland species. Weedy species will be reduced across the site to encourage native wetland habitats. In addition, the restoration will provide for a more active connection between Stasek Slough and Hathaway Slough by removing a constricting culvert and re-designing a connecting ditch to better function as a natural tidal channel. This new channel will foster better drainage of farmlands that are along Stasek Slough upstream and east of Highway 101; the new channel will also provide enhanced tidal flow onto the existing Kilchis Estuary Preserve to the south of the Porter project. Project partners include Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, ODFW, USFWS and adjacent landowners who are interested in native wetlands mitigation of flooding effects. Access will be maintained across the new channel via a constructed bridge for the purposes of maintaining restoration plantings and an easement to private property.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will restore and enhance 60 acres of estuarine habitat, a high priority in the north coast basin.
- The applicant has a good track record of success having implemented a similar restoration project on the adjacent property. This project will expand the habitat connectivity and landscape level benefits of that project.

Concerns

- The submittal of the application seemed premature, with many details missing from the application. Only draft conceptual designs were available to review.

- The applicant was currently working on a technical assistance grant to procure designs and cost estimates for restoration, which was still underway and final copies were not available at the time of review.
- The budget provided was extremely limited in detail for a project of this nature, with items listed as lump sums in each category.
- The project was very expensive per acre for this type of work, especially given the lesser amount of earthwork required for this site compared to the neighboring Dooher property.
- The site preparation and maintenance plan indiscriminately applied herbicide, with native plant communities slated to also be sprayed.
- The proposed use of plastic cages was not preferred as a plant protection strategy.
- The component of the project that involved reconnecting the two artificial sloughs to the Kilchis River was unclear.

Concluding Analysis

Reviewers appreciated the opportunity to further expand the successful Kilchis River Wetland project onto the subject property and were enthusiastic about estuarine habitat restoration, a top priority for north coast watersheds. Overall though, it seemed that the application submittal was premature. The designs were not yet complete as a technical assistance project was still underway at the time of application submittal, so many details remained unclear. The budget submitted was also very limited in detail for a project of this scope and size, containing only a few lump sum amounts. A more detailed project budget was provided after the site visit and available for review at the meeting, but it still remained unclear what OWEB would be paying for with this request and the reviewers would have liked the additional detail provided upfront at the time of application.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1006-15624

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Beaver Creek (Ona Beach) Stream Habitat and Riparian Restoration

Applicant: MidCoast WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $233,248

Total Cost: $365,427

Application Description *(from application)*

Beaver Creek is a direct ocean tributary, meeting the Pacific two miles north of Seal Rock, in Lincoln County. Walker Creek is a direct tributary to Alsea Bay, 2 miles over a ridge from S. Beaver Creek. The seven properties on S. Beaver Creek represent a significant portion of the private land between the protected lands in the lowest 1.5 stream miles to lands being managed for old growth in the headwaters. Stream channels on all seven properties lack large wood, are incised and disconnected from the floodplain, minimizing groundwater storage and release. The stream corridors also lack native riparian vegetation with most areas dominated by reed canary grass. Additionally, beavers in the area lack of forage and dam building materials. Limiting factors on S. Beaver Creek are elevated summer temperatures, low dissolved oxygen (DO) and failure to capture spawning gravels. Additionally, a culvert limits fish passage to rearing habitat on a side tributary. On Walker Creek, a lack of native riparian corridor through former agricultural properties limits stream shading and channel stability. Our restoration will address these factors by restoring native vegetation on 17.02 acres (15.15 on S. Beaver, 1.87 on Walker Creek), placing large wood, installing four beaver dam anchors, and removing the problematic culvert. In some areas, plantings will enhance previous restoration work, increasing stream buffers from “one-tree width” up to 180 feet. Large wood placement will increase stream and wetland complexity and floodplain connectivity and increase habitat for salmonids and other animals. Thirteen project partners are involved, including the seven private landowners, Hancock Timber, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife Service, BioSurveys, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians and the Seal Rock Water District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses key limiting factors in a highly productive coho stream and will have a positive impact on water quality issues plaguing the Beaver Creek watershed, including temperature, dissolved oxygen, and bacteria.
- The project is comprehensive, involving a multitude of willing landowners enthusiastic about improving the habitat on their properties.
- The applicant was open to suggestions on the site visit and had a thoughtful approach to project design and implementation.

- The project manager had built good partnerships in the project development phase. Notably, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians is slated to provide crew labor in exchange for opportunities to forage for first foods within a portion of the project area.
- The proposed buffer sizes are substantial and will adequately provide critical stream shading throughout this reach.
- The project has the potential to promote future phases of this work in the watershed, including efforts to re-meander the creek where it has been diverted and channelized and increase floodplain interaction.

Concerns

- Some of the planting was slated to occur directly under the powerline corridor and within the right of way, raising concerns that the plants may be someday vulnerable to maintenance by the power company.
- The current restoration plans in the proposal may have missed key opportunities to increase wetland and floodplain function by remeandering the creek, especially on the Beaver Creek Community property.
- The Beaver Dam Analogs (BDAs) proposed for the low gradient and low velocity areas may not have the intended impact given the limited stream power and scour potential. The goals of the BDAs were unclear and the application would have benefited from more discussion of the desired intent.
- Elk are a natural component of the ecology within the watershed, and the hardened crossings proposed to accommodate their transport through the project site on Walker Creek seemed unnecessary.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the breadth and scope of the project as well as the enthusiasm demonstrated from all the involved landowners. They liked that the project addressed key limiting factors within the Beaver Creek watershed, including temperature, dissolved oxygen, and habitat complexity. Given the enthusiasm of some of the landowners, it was felt that the application could have been more ambitious in places when it comes to floodplain reconnection and addressing the locations where the stream has been diverted and channelized. The team would be supportive of a delay in project implementation on properties where more comprehensive floodplain restoration is possible in order to accommodate more project planning time, should the possibility arise. However, the review team appreciated that opportunities could arise for this type of work after the successful implementation of this project and they understood that future phases of the project were planned that would look at stream re-meander on high priority locations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority

3 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$233,248

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Fund with Conditions: Reduce elk crossings to 1 equipment crossing, reduce BDAs to 1 pilot on Kesselring property, design the planting plan so that no trees are planted within the powerline right of way, and investigate moving the power line farther from the creek. Increase by $1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$234,332

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1007-15627
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Fishhawk Creek Restoration
Applicant: Columbia SWCD
Basin: North Coast
County: Columbia
OWEB Request: $84,800
Total Cost: $129,948

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located on Fishhawk Creek, which is a tributary of the Nehalem River, and is 5 miles above the confluence with the Nehalem, and 0.70 miles upstream of Fishhawk Lake. The site is near the Fishhawk Lake community in Columbia County. The environmental issue is the complete lack of riparian plants along this reach of Fishhawk Creek, which has resulted in a large cut bank with unnaturally exacerbated erosion rates. The active grazing and deteriorated root structure in conjunction with unconsolidated soils has resulted in an aggressive cut bank that extends for 350 feet along the river right side of the channel. This issue was identified by Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) as a compliance issue in 2016 through the Strategic Implementation Areas program (SIA). The property owners have since been eager to implement an ecosystem informed solution. The compliance issue was recognized due to the lack of riparian vegetation next to the stream; however, the steep and rapidly eroding nature of the bank prohibits simply planting trees. The restoration funding requested would support funds from the SIA program to complete the implementation of the re-vegetation and stream channel improvement project. The project seeks to both take pressure off the eroding bank to allow re-vegetation, while increasing beneficial habitat for native salmonid populations, through extensive riparian planting, sloping the existing degraded bank, and adding large wood structures. The reforested bank will provide strong root networks and long-term bank cohesion. The District is partnering with the landowners and ODA.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis

Application withdrawn by the applicant prior to review.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Withdrawn

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1008-15639

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Long Prairie Creek Plant Establishment

Applicant: Lincoln SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Lincoln

OWEB Request: $59,622

Total Cost: $74,532

Application Description *(from application)*

The project location is 5 miles of riparian area along Long Prairie Creek, which is a tributary of the Siletz River. The restoration location is about 6 miles east of the town of Siletz in Lincoln County.The 5 miles of riparian area to be addressed are dominated by hardwood trees and scattered reed canary grass openings. The lack of conifer species within the riparian area is the major limiting factor because it reduces future large woody debris recruitment. Large woody debris help to improve habitat for aquatic species, improve channel complexity and floodplain conductivity, and as trees mature they help maintain high water quality. This proposed project will target 2.4 net miles (~45 acres) along the 5 mile stretch of riparian habitat of Long Prairie Creek starting at the confluence of Sams Creek. Within the 5 mile treatment area on Long Prairie Creek, 7.36 acres are dominated by reed canary grass meadows which will be planted with a mix of 1100 (150 trees/acre) conifer and hardwood species. The other 37.4 acres of riparian corridors are dominated by hardwoods with little to no conifer within one tree height back from one or both banks and will be planted with 4675 (125 trees/acre) conifer trees to improve future recruitment of large woody debris. The project partners are: Nestucca Forest LLC, Forest Investment Associates, Starker Forests Inc. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will have positive impacts on water quality, particularly temperature and sedimentation.
- The project area provides excellent habitat for salmonids, including Oregon coast coho salmon.
- The limiting factor of instream habitat complexity is addressed through providing for long term large wood recruitment.
- The project complements existing restoration work on Long Prairie Creek and directly responds to a review team suggestion to increase the potential for large wood recruitment in the project area.
- The project has good partnerships and participation from a number of different timber and agency landowners.
- There is good cost-benefit for the scale of the planting proposed.
- The application responded to comments from the review team from previous submissions and incorporated suggestions into the revised proposal.

Concerns

- A good portion of the trees are being planted within the riparian zone managed by industrial timber landowners, and no assurances could be obtained that the landowners would commit to preserving the trees planted into the long term.
- Douglas fir was suggested as a species to be planted in the understory, a species that typically does not do well in shady conditions.
- ODFW was a past project manager on this project and due to staffing reductions may not be able to provide the level of assistance previously expected when the application was developed.

Concluding Analysis

This project will provide a greater potential for future large wood recruitment throughout a stretch of Long Prairie Creek, which was an idea initially suggested by reviewers on an earlier site visit for a companion restoration project that placed large wood in the stream over a 5 mile reach. The review team liked that the applicant had considered previous suggestions and simplified the site preparation plan to include just manual and mechanical control of the reed canary grass, a technique reviewers felt would have a greater likelihood of success than the previously proposed herbicide applications. There were concerns remaining about the prospect of the industrial timber landowners using existing procedures within the Forest Practices Act to enter the riparian zone and harvest some of the trees planted, and while current land managers indicated that this was not a likely outcome, no written assurances could be offered. However, the review team ultimately understood the nuances of working in an industrial timber landscape and also that the current Forest Practices Act made harvest of the planted riparian trees an unlikely possibility. They felt that the project as proposed would address a key limiting factor within north coast basin watersheds by providing future large wood recruitment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 5

Review Team Recommended Amount
$59,622

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$59,622

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1009-15674

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Nehalem River Ranch Riparian Enhancement

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $120,483

Total Cost: $150,583

Application Description *(from application)*

A substantial amount of the lowland areas within the Lower Nehalem Watershed are privately owned rural properties (agricultural or residential), many of which have severely impaired riparian conditions and do not adequately provide shade, habitat complexity, and erosion control benefits to streams. The North Coast Subbasins TMDL (2003) emphasizes the role of riparian vegetation in abating excessive stream temperature, controlling bacteria run-off and erosion, and providing habitat for fish and wildlife. The report lists sections of the Nehalem watershed as water quality limited due to bacteria, temperature and dissolved oxygen. According to the 2007 OWEB Summary of Watershed Health Indicators, limiting factors to instream and riparian health included temperature, water quality, large wood and invasive species. The Lower Nehalem Watershed Council and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership aim to address these limiting factors through the control of invasive species, vegetative bank stabilization, and the establishment of native trees and shrubs on 6 acres of agricultural land along 7,000 feet of the mainstem Nehalem River in the next five years. The Nehalem River Ranch Riparian Enhancement project is located near Mohler in Tillamook County. The site is off of Foss Rd., approximately 3 miles east of the Foss Bridge over the Nehalem River. The riparian area of the site is largely dominated by Japanese Knotweed, Himalayan blackberry and Reed-canary grass, and generally lacks diversity of native trees and shrubs. Project partners recognize lowland riparian restoration as an achievable strategy to address the root cause of degraded water quality, improve habitat for fish and wildlife, and work cooperatively with agricultural landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis
Application withdrawn by applicant prior to review.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Withdrawn

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1010-15578

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Fork Road Fish Passage Projects

Applicant: Lower Nehalem WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $49,825

Total Cost: $99,825

Application Description *(from application)*

The North Fork Road Fish Passage project seeks to address three fish passage barriers along North Fork Road in Nehalem, Tillamook County. Bob's Creek (culvert 445) and two unnamed Nehalem River/North Fork Nehalem tributaries (culverts 446 and 470) that have been identified as fish passage barriers in the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council's 2016 Culvert Assessment and Fish Passage Prioritization Report, Clearway Environmental. The three undersized culverts cross under Tillamook County owned North Fork Road and impair fish passage for ESA listed coho, winter steelhead, chum and fall chinook. North Fork Road is a significant local access and emergency route and is important to transportation of locally produced goods and materials. All three tributaries drain to the Nehalem River/North Fork Nehalem River, identified as Salmon Anchor Habitat (Oregon North Coast Salmon Conversation Assessment, 2008) . The Council proposes to contract with a qualified engineering firm to design a crossing for culvert 445. Due to the site conditions, this location will likely necessitate a bridge. Tillamook County Roads Department will provide engineering designs for the remaining two sites, which will be new culverts. All three crossing designs will meet federal fish passage criteria to satisfy the 1.5x Active Channel Width.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project stemmed from the completion of the Lower Nehalem Culvert Assessment, and the Bob Creek location ranked high in that process as a priority for the watershed council.
- The culverts appear to be in poor condition and if allowed to fail could create even more fish passage problems at the three locations.
- There is a strong partnership behind this project, with Tillamook County engaged and contributing designs for two of the three locations.
- There is high coho use in this system and restoring fish passage on these three tributaries will increase available habitat for anadromous fish.
- Increasing hydrologic connectivity in this location will have water quality benefits.
- Other opportunities for conservation and restoration may exist in this area of the watershed and project partners are actively engaged in pursuing additional floodplain restoration and acquisition projects.
- The project partners seemed opened to considering ecologically preferable design options for the other two crossings, including alternatives that would allow the tributaries to interact more freely with the floodplain.

Concerns

- With potential for a more comprehensive floodplain restoration project noted upstream of two of the crossings, design for the culvert replacements at this time may be premature.
- The designs slated to be completed by the County could be complex given the system of braided channels and estuarine soils.
- Given the presumed complexity, the eventual construction costs for all three of the projects could be cost-prohibitive for the amount of habitat involved.

Concluding Analysis

This project is the first effort by partners to move forward with a restoration project stemming from the recently completed culvert assessment and prioritization in the watershed, and the review team appreciated the marriage of both ecological and social benefit that could result. There clearly is a good deal of opportunity present along North Fork Road, and reconnecting the three tributaries involved with the estuary could have broad habitat benefits. There was much discussion around the other potential projects in the area that were mentioned on the site visit, particularly the potential to conduct more comprehensive floodplain restoration in the vicinity of Bob Creek. Should this possibility come to fruition, only one crossing may be needed and there was concern that the designs may not be able to accommodate the expected increased flow. The project team should consider a design for Bob Creek that could carry increased flow and not hinder future restoration opportunities.

The review team had two specific recommendations for project partners:
1) Engage with ODFW during the design process, and
2) Consider designs at all three culvert locations that will allow for maximum interaction with the floodplain.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$49,825

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$49,825

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1011-15581

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Coast Watershed Councils Restoration Assistance

Applicant: Nestucca-Neskowin Watersheds Council

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $47,386

Total Cost: $57,886

Application Description *(from application)*

Between 2012 and 2017, a coalition of north coast watershed councils have joined together to increase the collective number of grant applications submitted for restoration projects. This coalition encompasses watersheds from Nicolai-Wickiup on the lower Columbia River all the way south to Neskowin Creek, all of which are within Clatsop and Tillamook Counties. This proposal is intended to continue this very successful collaboration. With the assistance of OWEB funding, our North Coast councils share the resources of a highly qualified consultant for pre-project field work, project design solicitation, proposal drafting, and contract preparation. Each Council's needs are similar, so sharing the services of a highly qualified contractor effectively leverages our ability to win funding opportunities and move high-priority projects forward. This has resulted in a proven model that takes advantage of economies of scale with only one contract. Partners US Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), and Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP) support this program, seeing the value in hiring a "third arm" for the participating Councils. The partners increase that value by providing additional match. This cooperative effort has demonstrated the efficiencies that can be created by sharing resources among Councils, and it is more important than ever considering the ongoing reductions in ODFW and Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) staffing and budgets. The best way to maintain or increase restoration is to find efficiencies through contracting. Deliverables include 8 submitted grant applications.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The councils involved have extremely limited resources and this continuing project provides important technical capabilities to multiple organizations.
- The project fosters good collaboration and coordination among councils, allowing them to pool resources to achieve additional technical assistance with project development.
- Continuing to fund this resource for the councils helps maintain consistency through staff changes, builds partnerships, and keeps the councils engaged with landowners.
- Past iterations of this project have been successful, with involved organizations regularly meeting benchmarks for project development and implementation.
- The quality of projects and applications has been steadily improving with the availability of this additional resource.

Concerns

- Many of the stated projects that the groups will be working on with this next iteration of the project focused solely on culverts and additional technical assessments. Reviewers would prefer to see more habitat projects and more on-the-ground restoration come out of this work.

Concluding Analysis

The benefits this project has had to the watershed councils in the region were well understood. The ability of the organizations to access technical assistance with project development has improved the quality of project applications and translated to success with project implementation. The organizations involved have a good track record of success and consistently have met the goals of past iterations of this effort. There was some concern about the limited type of work that the organizations planned to focus on with this next technical assistance grant, with much of the work revolving around additional assessments and fish passage projects. There is recognition that culvert projects are expensive and a favorable cost-benefit analysis is difficult to achieve given that fish passage is often not recognized as a primary limiting factor for coho salmon, causing some to wonder if the subsequent restoration projects would be competitive for funding. The review team would have liked to see more habitat complexity projects under consideration by the councils with this funding but they understood that each individual council is responding to separate watershed priorities. The project was recommended for funding with the knowledge that this collaborative technical assistance approach has been successful in supporting restoration work of all types in the north coast basin.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$47,386

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$47,386

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1012-15629

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Fox Creek Fish Passage Feasibility Analysis

Applicant: Columbia SWCD

Basin: North Coast

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $50,000

Total Cost: $85,000

Application Description *(from application)*

The Fox Creek Culvert in Columbia County runs from the Columbia River, under Highway 30 and through the town of Rainier, OR. During the flood event of 12/7/2015 and subsequent days, the culvert was overwhelmed with material leading to multiple clogged points within the undersized metal culvert. This led to significant flooding on Hwy 30, and prevention of all fish passage. A sink hole developed in the middle of the culvert reach threatening the three businesses located within the vicinity of Fox Creek. The SWCD is proposing in this Technical Assistance to conduct a feasibility analysis to determine the most ecologically and economically viable solutions to allow fish passage through Fox Creek. Deliverables will include a brief report showing design alternatives, costs, and long-term sustainability for at least 3 proposed alternatives. Project partners include the SWCD, City of Rainier, ODFW, ODOT, NRCS, and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location has been a problem area for decades, and this effort could achieve a daylight solution to the creek that could provide for unfettered fish passage to the Fox Creek watershed.
- The urban setting and City involvement could showcase the restoration efforts and provide for educational opportunities.
- OWEB's involvement in the project could promote a more ecologically preferable design approach.

Concerns

- There was no letter or show of support from the City of Rainier, a major project partner. The City did not attend the site visit, and when the review team requested a letter of support from the City one could not be procured by the applicant in the intervening month between the site visit and review team meeting.
- Letters of support were also notably lacking from the businesses and residents who own the property involved in the project.
- The quantity and quality of the fish habitat located upstream was debatable, with some concern that the expected expense of the resulting restoration project would far outweigh the benefits able to be achieved.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the opportunity to work on the last remaining piped reach of Fox Creek, and agreed with the applicant that the opportunity for a demonstration restoration project through the center of the City of Rainier would have wide social benefits in addition to restoring passage for anadromous fish species. However, the success of the project largely hinges upon the City of Rainier's participation and willingness to engage in a design process that considers ecologically preferable alternatives such as daylighting the creek and restoring a naturally functioning riparian area through the City's center. Without being able to gauge the City's and local business community's support during the review process, the review team could not comfortably recommend the project for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1013-15665

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Fork Siuslaw Tidal Restoration Technical Assistance

Applicant: Siuslaw WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $49,964

Total Cost: $68,805

Application Description *(from application)*

The North Fork Siuslaw Tidal Restoration Technical Assistance project will investigate baseline site conditions and restoration options for a 250-acre property on the lower North Fork of the Siuslaw River. The property is located in the Siuslaw River estuary, northeast of Florence, Oregon, in Lane County. The property is composed of diked and drained former tidal wetland and is separated into two hydrologically-disconnected grazing pastures, each drained by ditches and protected from tidal inundation by tidegates. This property is a segment of the lost tidal wetland habitats in the Siuslaw River estuary. An estimated 67% of tidal wetlands in the Siuslaw River estuary have been lost as a result of agricultural, development, and transportation infrastructure land use actions. Estuarine habitat quantity and quality are identified as key limiting factors in the health of the Siuslaw watershed and its ability to support healthy populations of species such as Oregon Coast coho, making restoration of estuarine habitat a high priority for local and regional organizations. This project proposes to gather baseline site data including property boundaries, elevation, and hydraulic modeling which will be used to inform outreach efforts with neighboring landowners and community members, to assess the restoration options for the property, and to support property acquisition and restoration. Partners on this TA project include McKenzie River Trust (MRT) and the Siuslaw Watershed Council (SWC). In addition to the efforts associated with this TA project, McKenzie River Trust is conducting due diligence activities in support of acquisition of the property from the willing landowner.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project location has excellent potential for restoration and presents a good opportunity to restore estuarine habitat for fish and wildlife species within the Siuslaw estuary.
- The project and site constraints are complicated, making the technical assistance funds a good investment.
- This project has been identified as a top priority for coho recovery by numerous processes and agencies, including NOAA, the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, and the Siuslaw Coho Business Plan.
- The landowner is committed to the project and has been a key social representative within the community.
- The resulting restoration project will have a significant impact on improving water quality within the estuary.

- The project is proposed for one of the last remaining properties in the lower North Fork estuary that is still under agriculture ownership and it connects well with other conserved properties. Once restored, the site will contribute to a corridor of connected estuarine habitat.

Concerns

- No concerns were noted during review.

Concluding Analysis

The review team found a lot to like about this project, recognizing that the proposed work would implement a priority action in a priority location that has been identified in numerous plans and assessments. The landowner is committed to selling the property for restoration and conservation purposes, but more technical information addressing the feasibility of restoration with the existing site constraints is necessary to move forward with the acquisition and restoration process. The review team felt that this technical assistance grant will provide partners and funders with enough information needed to move forward with project implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$49,964

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$49,964

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
North Coast (Region 1)

Application Number: 218-1014-15666

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: OK Ranch Habitat Enhancement Project

Applicant: Tillamook Bay WC

Basin: North Coast

County: Tillamook

OWEB Request: $28,380

Total Cost: $71,540

Application Description *(from application)*

The OK Ranch sits at the top of the Miami River floodplain five river miles above the reach of tide and the town of Garibaldi. Landowners Doug and Mary Lee live and farm on the property, and are growingly concerned about the migration of the river channel toward one of their barns, a septic drain-field and a prime piece of pasture. The last 100 years of land use in Tillamook Bay watershed has left its main stem rivers nearly devoid of riparian trees, log jams, or other significant woody debris. The Tillamook Bay Watershed Council (TBWC) has been looking for opportunities to work with area farmers to place and accumulate large woody debris in the floodplains, and the Lee's situation has resulted in a growing partnership between the OK Ranch, the TBWC, the US Forest Service, and Stimson Lumber to design and implement a major large-wood placement project that will provide significant, lasting fish habitat enhancement to the river, and protection for important farm infrastructure. The technical assistance this grant would provide will help pay for the design and engineering services of the US Forest Service's TEAMS unit to prepare the project for implementation. In addition to the measurable improvement in fish habitat that this project represents, it is hoped that a successful demonstration of soft-structure techniques might generate interest among other farmers to employ similar treatments where infrastructure is threatened.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The lower Miami River watershed is limited in large wood, and could benefit from some additional habitat complexity.
- The soft-structure approach is preferable to hardened banks and could provide some additional rearing habitat in this reach.

Concerns

- This stretch of the Miami River is dynamic with a large bedload and would require very large material in the design; the project partners did not seem to have a plan to acquire appropriately sized material.
- The design team involved was very expensive and required air transportation for biologists from elsewhere in the country. Reviewers questioned whether similar resources could be found closer to the project site at a more competitive rate.

- The resulting restoration project was likely to be very expensive and may be cost-prohibitive due to a marginal benefit to the resource.
- The project seemed overly focused on protecting the eroding banks of the property involved rather than on habitat benefits appropriate for OWEB funding.
- The project was touted as a demonstration project to show other landowners how banks could be stabilized using a soft-structured approach, but the reviewers felt that the geomorphology of the site was quite unique in Tillamook County and that it may not be representative of typical site conditions.
- One aspect of the design was planned to protect the drainfield, but on the site visit it appeared that the drainfield was already perilously close to the river. Relocating the drainfield would seem much less expensive and complicated.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated the willingness of the landowners to conduct restoration focused work on this reach of the Miami River, but they felt that habitat benefits likely from the project would be marginal. While the soft-structured approach proposed was favored, it seemed the focus of the project was more about protecting the banks of the property than creating more aquatic habitat. The task of protecting the property with this method was likely to be expensive, complicated, and may not have a high likelihood of success given the geomorphological characteristics of the Miami River along this reach. The review team felt that other less expensive solutions would be more appropriate to meet the landowners' goals, including focusing on protecting the residence, relocating key pieces of infrastructure farther from the river, and adopting a willingness to accept the dynamic nature of the river along this reach. OWEB may not be the best source of funding for activities focused solely on property protection.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

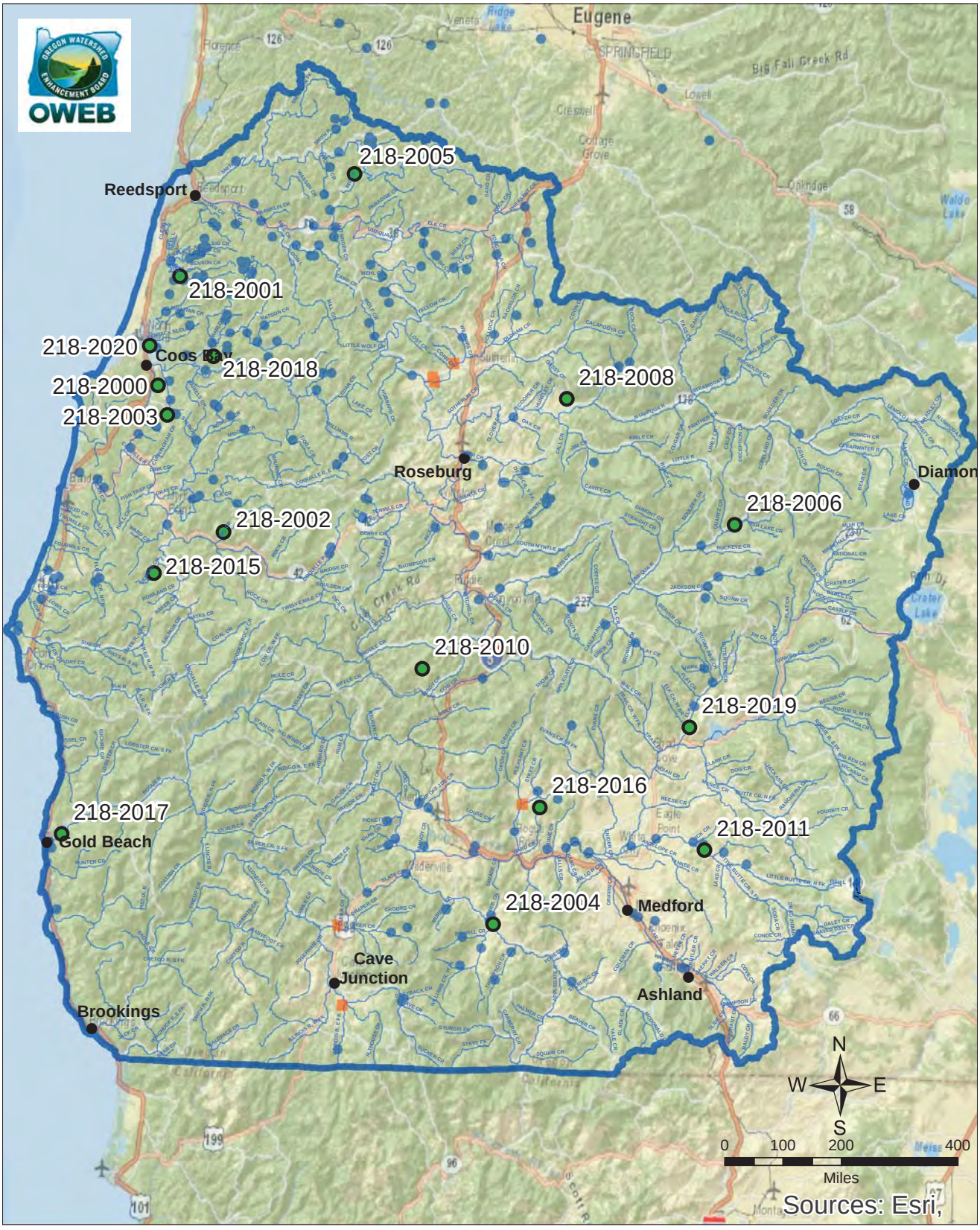
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Attachment C-2

Southwest - Region 2 Spring 2017 Application Funding Status



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Software: ESRI ArcMap 10.2, Oregon Lambert Projection, NAD 83, WKID 2992, OWEB- PK Wills Sept. 2017

Spring 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding LIne (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Region 2 - Southwest Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-2008	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	French Creek Instream Restoration	By adding log and boulder structure to 2.25 miles of French Creek, a tributary to the North Umpqua near Glide, instream habitat for native fish will be improved.	161,384	Douglas
218-2004	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Applegate Riparian Restoration Project - Provolt	This project focuses on improving stream health and water quality across 48 acres at the BLM Provolt Seed Orchard located along Applegate River and Williams Creek near Williams, by removing invasive plants and planting native tree species.	343,542	Jackson
218-2000	Coos Watershed Association	Ross Slough Fish Passage Bridge Restoration Project	The project will restore more natural stream function on Ross Slough near Coos Bay, by replacing an undersized culvert with a bridge.	137,446	Coos
218-2011	The Freshwater Trust	Little Butte Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	The project will improve water quality and stream health on Little Butte Creek near Eagle Point by placing large wood structures and planting native trees and protecting them with fencing on a 1.75 acre stretch of stream.	316,130	Jackson
218-2003	Coos Watershed Association	Catching Creek Riparian Restoration Project	The project will improve water quality and stream health through fencing, planting native tree species, replacing an under-sized culvert and restoring a historic stream channel on Catching Creek a tributary to Catching Slough near Coos Bay.	134,559	Coos
218-2006	South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership	Upper South Umpqua Habitat Restoration Project Phase IV	The project will help restore spawning and rearing opportunities for Spring Chinook on the upper South Umpqua River near Tiller by placing spawning gravel and structures to hold the gravels.	110,949	Douglas
218-2010	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	McCullough Creek Instream Restoration	To improve instream habitat for native fish, log structures will be placed instream in 1.02 miles of McCullough Creek, a tributary to Cow Creek near Glendale.	36,853	Douglas
218-2001	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Lower Adams Creek Riparian and Passage Enhancement	The project will improve fish passage an improve stream health on Adams Creek, a tributary to Tenmile Lakes near Lakeside, by replacing two failing culverts with bridges and installing, fencing and planting native trees along 5,500 feet of stream.	146,567	Coos
218-2005	Smith River WC	Big Creek Sub-Basin Instream Restoration Phase II - Helicopter	By placing large wood instream with a helicopter, the project will improve instream habitat for a variety of native fish species in seven tributaries to Big Creek, a tributary to the Smith River located near Reedsport.	186,557	Douglas

218-2002	Coquille Watershed Association	Fall Creek and Huff Creek Fish Passage Enhancement and Habitat Restoration	The project will restore native fish passage and improve instream habitat on two tributaries to the Middle Fork Coquille River near Bridge by replacing two impassable culverts and placing large wood instream.	213,064	Coos
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,787,051**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Prioritiy Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
NONE				
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT			**1,787,051**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
218-2007	The Freshwater Trust	South Fork Little Butte Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project	169,396	Jackson
218-2009	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Glover Tidegate Replacement and Channel Re-meander	346,203	Douglas
218-2012	Coos SWCD	Adams Creek Culvert Removal and Riparian Enhancement Project	93,299	Coos
218-2013	City of Roseburg	South Umpqua River and Tributaries Riparian Restoration	55,273	Douglas

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
218-2019	Rogue River WC	Elk Creek River Mile 3.0 Side Channel Design and Permitting	This project will result in a 1,300-foot long, engineered design required to construct the side channel at river mile 3.0 of Elk Creek, a Rogue River tributary, near Trail.	28,703	Jackson
218-2017	Curry SWCD	Lower Rogue Estuary Enhancement TA	This project will support the design of large wood placements and native tree planting designs on God Wants You Slough in the Rogue River Estuary near the town of Gold Beach.	25,719	Curry
218-2020	Coos Watershed Association	Coos Bay Tide Gate Inventory and Restoration Planning	The project will conduct a comprehensive basin-wide tide gate inventory and develop a strategic restoration plan for tide gates in the Coos River estuary.	36,229	Coos

218-2016	Applegate Partnership, Inc.	Evans Creek Fish Passage Evaluation	The project will identify fish passage barriers on Evans Creek near Rogue River and on Birdseye, Foots, Galls, Kane, Sardine, and Ward creeks near Gold Hill.	36,218	Jackson
218-2015	Coquille Watershed Association	South Fork Coquille River/Dement Creek Project Development	The project will review of watershed habitat conditions on Dement Creek a tributary to the South Fork Coquille River, near Broadbent, in order to develop, prioritize, and design habitat enhancement projects.	39,688	Coos
218-2018	Coos Watershed Association	Coos Watershed Aquatic Inventory Action Plan & Basin Wide Restoration Prioritization	The project will complete the basin wide restoration prioritization plan for the Coos watershed by surveying the final 26 miles of 384 miles accessible by anadromous species.	49,354	Coos
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**215,911**	

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
NONE					
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**215,911**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
218-2014	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Tenmile Lakes Watershed Land Acquisition Technical Assistance	31,386	Coos

Region 2 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**2,002,962**	**23%**

Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**8,788,376**	

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2000-15571

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Ross Slough Fish Passage Bridge Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $137,446

Total Cost: $236,706

Application Description *(from application)*

Ross Slough is a historical tidal wetland and a tributary of Catching Slough, situated in a narrow agricultural valley that has been heavily impacted by past and current land management practices which have resulted in stream channelization and removal of riparian vegetation. Ross Slough supports fall Chinook, coho winter steelhead, resident and cutthroat trout, pacific lamprey, and other aquatic species. Restoration projects in the Ross Slough sub-basin are of high priority due to the high coho and steelhead intrinsic potentials (0.8-1.0), as described in the Catching Slough, Daniels Creek, and Heads-of-Tide Assessment & Restoration Opportunities (Coos Watershed Association, 2008). This project proposes to replace an undersized culvert with a bridge on Old Wagon Road to alleviate drainage and fish passage issues. The current culvert is a 72” corrugated steel pipe that is extremely undersized for the present 8’ active channel width. The current culvert will pass a maximum of 178 cfs and the 50-year and 100-year peak flows are 417 cfs and 481 cfs, respectively. The proposed bridge is a 40’ X 25’ modular bridge with guardrails with a 12’ active channel width, designed to pass a 100-year flood event. The culvert is located at the bottom of the recently completed channel re-meandering and riparian restoration project (OWEB 216-2045). OWEB funds will be used for project management, project materials, contracted services, and indirect costs. The Coos County Road Department and ODFW will provide match that includes bridge materials, temporary detour, and technical assistance.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This road crossing is the last culvert to be replaced on Ross Slough.
- Proposed restoration is the last piece of the channel reconstruction work occurring directly upstream, and will result in a more natural stream flow and function through the stream reach.
- Restoration work will improve water quality and benefit coho, and other salmonids as well.
- Project partners have extensive experience with this type of watershed restoration work.
- The downstream landowner is interested in continuing restoration work onto their property; which will expand the benefit of this project investment.

Concerns

- Final project designs should comply with both the ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on restoration efforts directly upstream, as well as offering an opportunity to recruit work downstream. Replacing the culvert with a bridge will allow for a more naturally functioning stream. The resulting investment will have a high cost benefit from the restoration activities. The review team recommends a "Fund with Conditions" with the following condition: final designs must comply with both ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
3 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$137,446

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Fund with Conditions: Final designs must comply with both ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$137,446

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2001-15592

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Adams Creek Riparian and Passage Enhancement

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $144,400

Total Cost: $188,371

Application Description *(from application)*

Historically, the Tenmile Lakes Basin has been an excellent producer of Coho salmon and may have been the largest producer on the coast of Oregon. Currently, Tenmile Lakes is considered to have the highest potential for Coho habitat on the coast. Fish passage, exotic species, and habitat complexity are limiting factors negatively impacting Tenmile Coho and other Tenmile native fish species. Native fish habitat and water quality in the lower reaches of Adams Creek, a high priority basin within the Tenmile Lakes Watershed, is negatively impacted due to 2 improperly sized and placed metal pipe stream crossings and reduced riparian zone functions, a result of past land-use practices. Nutrient loading and a lack of a functioning riparian zone from these and similar sites has direct linkages to the growth, distribution, and densities of toxic blue-green algae, and the heavy infestation of the exotic aquatic plant, Egeria densa in the Lakes. Project Partners Winfield and Ben Muffett, the landowners, the Watershed Council, and ODFW, have expanded this previously resubmitted project to encompass OWEB RRT recommendations. This multifaceted project will utilize OWEB and match funding to 1) Correct 2 improperly functioning historic stream crossings with bridges, 2) Install approximately 5,500ft of wooden exclusion fencing, and 3) Plant and protect a mix of Oregon Ash and Douglas fir seedlings within the fenced 5,500 foot riparian area. All proposed project components and locations have been identified as high priorities within the Tenmile Lakes Watershed Assessment and Action Plan (TLBP 2006) and the Tenmile Lakes TMDL (ODEQ 2007), and TLBP Action Plan (February 2017). All of these actions have been proven to be successful in achieving the Watershed Council's objectives of riparian enhancement, sediment abatement, and improving water quality and native fish habitat.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration will benefit water quality, and support TMDL implementation in this watershed.
- The landowner is highly supportive of restoration and engaged in the project.
- This project is well leveraged with cash and in-kind match.
- Areas upstream from the project site have quality Coho spawning habitat.
- Proposed fencing is designed to withstand water flows and elk browsing pressure; and a grazing plan was submitted with the application.
- Proposed restoration builds on other nearby projects.

- Applicant has built a successful track record of developing and implementing similar types of projects.
- The project is ready for implementation.

Concerns

- For the proposed project to provide ecological benefits, it will be important for the gates to remain closed so that livestock cannot access the riparian area and cause damage.

Concluding Analysis

The application is a resubmitted project and the applicant addressed previous review team concerns. Furthermore, the applicant expanded the project scope to provide a restoration project with greater impact in addressing several watershed limiting factors. The approach to fencing is sound and based on lessons learned from earlier work. The project builds on other successful fish passage and riparian work completed in this stream, which expands the benefit of this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$144,400

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $2,167 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount
$146,567

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2002-15594

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fall Creek and Huff Creek Fish Passage Enhancement and Habitat Restoration

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $210,897

Total Cost: $364,228

Application Description *(from application)*

The Coquille Watershed Association (CWA) and partners have been working with the Coos County Road Department to identify habitats upstream of road/stream crossings obstructed by infrastructure. Two such problem culverts were found on tributaries to Big Creek in the Middle Fork Coquille River (MFCR) sub-basin. The MFCR sub-basin (HUC 1710030501) and Big Creek watershed are found in Coos County near the town of Bridge, Oregon. Big Creek is a productive anadromous fish stream but is limited in access to high quality spawning and rearing habitat. Specifically, it is lacking in instream habitat complexity and is plagued by fish passage issues blocking access to cold-water refugia and spawning gravels. The CWA proposes to implement restoration actions that would replace the two problem culverts on tributaries Fall and Huff Creek as well as installing designed LWD structures in both streams. Both culverts are perched to a point that they diminish adult fish passage and completely prohibit juvenile passage during all flows. This will be ameliorated by the installation of two new culverts that will meet state and federal fish passage standards, as well as installation of LWD structures that will increase habitat complexity. The project also proposes 0.6 acres of riparian invasive removal and native planting which will aid in cooling stream temperatures further enhancing in-stream habitat.Project partners include BLM, ODFW, Coos County Road Department, Coquille Indian Tribe and Coquille Watershed Association. The project OWEB request is $210,785; partners will provide the remaining budget total of $364,109.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal presented a straight forward, technically sound restoration approach.
- Project designs meet ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.
- This project addresses several watershed issues, including: instream fish habitat, fish passage to provide juvenile fish access to thermal refuge, invasive plants, and water quality.
- The project is supported by partnerships.

Concerns

- Project cost is somewhat high for a culvert replacement that gains fish access to 0.6 miles of stream habitat; however, there is higher cost associated with the fill on the site.

- Application would be strengthened by highlighting the water quality benefits that could be realized from the proposed project because the culverts are approaching the end of their serviceable life and if they fail sediment will be mobilized downstream.
- Application would be strengthened by the following information: (1) whether the need for grade control with the culvert replacements was assessed as part of the design, the results of that assessment, and design plans for when grade control is needed; (2) the percent embedment proposed for the culvert replacements; and (3) the estimated scour prism and plans for limiting any needed scour protection to outside of the scour prism.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is straightforward and is likely to succeed in achieving its restoration goals. Providing juvenile salmonids opportunities for access to thermal refuge is a restoration priority; and the project will provide water quality benefits that also benefit ESA-listed fish.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$210,897

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $2,167 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount
$213,064

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2003-15596

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Catching Creek Riparian Restoration Project

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $134,559

Total Cost: $175,279

Application Description *(from application)*

The project proposes to restore riparian function through riparian planting and fencing and improve fish passage and off-channel habitat through the replacement of an undersized culvert on Catching Creek and one of its tributaries. Catching Creek, a tributary to Catching Slough near Coos Bay, is situated in a narrow agricultural valley that has been heavily impacted by past and current land management practices which have resulted in stream channelization and removal of riparian vegetation. The project proposes to install livestock exclusion fencing along a 3925’ of stream on the mainstem and tributary with a 20’ and 14’ setback that will be planted with a variety of native tree and shrub species according to the planting plans developed. Prior to planting, invasive blackberry will be addressed along this 3925’ reach of stream and a 350’ section with steep bank will receive a pull-back treatment. Plant establishment activities will occur for 5 years after the planting to insure a goal of 80% plant survival. An undersized culvert will be upgraded to pass a 100-year flood event and meet NOAA fish passage criteria. Tributary channel reconfiguration will removed one undersized crossing, connect existing drainage, and provide approximately 1150’ of off channel habitat and connect a cold water seep. OWEB funds will be used for project management, contracted services, engineering designs, plant establishment, travel, project materials, and indirect costs. Landowner and OYCC match will cover a portion of contracted services and fully fund an 8-member youth crew for plant stewardship activities.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application presents a straightforward, technically-sound restoration project that is well rounded and addresses multiple limiting factors.
- Applicant has extensive experience in this type of restoration work.
- The project is supported by a very enthusiastic landowner, which is demonstrated by match and a letter of support.
- This project builds on restoration efforts in adjacent areas; and is the result of successful outreach efforts.
- Project plantings will improve water quality by addressing water temperature and sediment inputs caused by erosion.
- The project is located in Coastal coho habitat.

Concerns

- Project designs would be strengthened by use of larger streamside vegetation buffers; however, it is understood that the project location is a working landscape that requires a balanced approach to restoration.
- The application would be stronger if designs for the channel reconfiguration were included. However, since only a short stretch of the stream will be routed through a historic channel and the applicant has extensive experience with this type of restoration activity; the project as described in the application is likely to succeed.
- The application is unclear on whether culvert designs will meet ODFW and NOAA passage standards.
- This application would be strengthened by an increased diversity of partnerships typically associated with this applicant's projects.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project builds on and adds value to the channel re-meander and riparian work located upstream because it will create a more naturally functioning stream condition. The applicant has a great deal of experience with these types of projects, and the highly visible nature of the site makes for a valuable outreach opportunity. As a result, this project has a significant cost-benefit for the investment. The review team recommends a "Fund with Conditions" with the following condition: final designs must comply with both ODFW and NOAA fish passage criteria.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
5 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$134,559

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Fund with Conditions: Culvert designs must meet ODFW and NOAA passage standards.

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$134,559

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2004-15605

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Applegate Riparian Restoration Project - Provolt

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $343,542

Total Cost: $565,892

Application Description *(from application)*

This project focuses on riparian restoration along both the Applegate River and Williams Creek across 48 acres at the BLM Provolt Seed Orchard. This property is located in Provolt, Oregon and is split between Josephine and Jackson Counties. The Applegate River and Williams Creek are both listed by the ODEQ as 303 (d) water quality limited for summer temperature and this reach has suffered from historic agricultural encroachment on the riparian areas and heavy invasive species encroachment. This habitat supports Chinook, SONCC Coho, Steelhead and Pacific Lamprey, and is considered in the highest Intrinsic Potential ranking for SONCC Coho habitat. This project will work to address limiting factors, including long-term shade and large wood recruitment, improvement of off-channel refugia habitat for salmonids, as well as erosion and agricultural runoff prevention. This project will help provide cold-water rearing habitat for juvenile salmonids. Invasive vegetation, including ArmEnian Blackberry, English Ivy, Poison Hemlock, Teasel, Vinca, and Reed Canary Grass will be mechanically removed from the riparian habitat, and replaced with a diversity of native trees and shrubs at 350 stems/per acre and within widths of 100' to 400' from the edge of the riverbank. These plantings will be maintained (mulched, watered and protected) for 5 years after planting while invasive species regrowth will continue to be suppressed. Project Partners include the Middle Rogue Steelheaders, the Southern Oregon Fly Fishers, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, US Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant addressed all review team concerns raised during previous application evaluations.
- Applicant has begun invasive species removal and planting native vegetation on the project site. Work accomplished to date was viewed during the review team site visit and appears to be successful.
- The project site has a large infestation of invasive blackberry and California grape that will be challenging to control; however, the site is the only location known with a California grape infestation in the Applegate watershed so treatment is timely.
- Applicant is building a successful track record for addressing invasive species and implementing plant establishment activities in the challenging Applegate watershed environments.
- This project will benefit water quality; and provide a more diverse floodplain habitat and refuge for coho during high water events.

Concerns

- Some match funding is in jeopardy of being lost if this OWEB project is not funded.
- The project management costs are higher than other similar projects; however, it is reflective of the hands-on management approach and the extensive work required to establish native plants at this location.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant has done a good job of focusing the project activities and developing a proposal that has a high likelihood of success. The need for the project and the restoration approach is laid out well in the application. There is currently momentum underway at the site as matching funds are being used to implement sections of the project already.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$343,542

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$343,542

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2005-15608

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Big Creek Sub-Basin Instream Restoration Phase II - Helicopter

Applicant: Smith River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $186,557

Total Cost: $540,787

Application Description *(from application)*

The project area is in Douglas County in the Big Cr. Hydrologic Unit, 35 miles east of Reedsport. Streams in this area have been simplified by past timber harvest practices, large-scale fires and subsequent timber salvage operations. Streams are below benchmarks for large wood, lack complex pools for salmonid rearing, lack historic substrate beds and are thermally impacted. This project will place large wood in 7 creeks with the use of a vertol helicopter. Creeks to be treated with helicopter: Argue, Big Cr. Headwaters, Blind, Clearwater, Coldwater, Devils Club and Slide. Marsh Creek will be treated by directionally falling 94 riparian trees into the channel. 217-2038 was the previous submission of this project. We have found other funding for the excavator portion of this project which has greatly reduced the funds we are requesting during this submission. Project Partners include: Bureau of Land Management, Roseburg Resources Co., Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umpqua Fishing Derby/Douglas County Timber Operators and Western Native Trout Initiative.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant addressed recommendations from previous review team evaluation by providing project designs in this application.
- The project is well leveraged by match, and is a reasonable cost for the restoration actions.
- Proposed restoration will benefit coho.
- Large wood structure design is site appropriate.

Concerns

- This application would be strengthened by detail on why past large wood structure placement failed; and how this information was used in the current design approach to ensure project success.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on multiple large wood placement projects completed in this basin. Proposed project addresses low large wood recruitment, which is a key habitat bottle neck to coho in this basin. Using

helicopter large wood placement has shown to be an effective method to create stream habitat in this watershed where there is not easy access to the stream for these restoration activities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$186,557

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$186,557

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2006-15612

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper South Umpqua Habitat Restoration Project Phase IV

Applicant: South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $109,865

Total Cost: $265,705

Application Description *(from application)*

Upper South Umpqua Chinook Restoration Project Phase IV – Skillet Cr. is requesting $109,865 to restore 500' on the mainstem of the upper South Umpqua River (Douglas County, approximately 25 miles upstream of Tiller) for one of the few remaining wild spring chinook populations in Oregon. This project directly addresses limiting factors identified within the FY 2011 Skillet-Emerson Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WAP) and the 2014 ODFW Coastal Multi-Species Conservation and Management Plan, namely redd scour and juvenile swimming fatigue. The project will treat Priority Site #4 providing approximately 9,000 ft2 of stable spawning gravel and constructing two rock/wood structures designed to reduce the over widened stream channel width and provide juvenile rearing habitat using ground based equipment. Project partners include SURCP and the US Forest Service, Tiller Ranger District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration actions target a very depressed population of spring Chinook and will provide valuable spawning habitat to these fish.
- The project is technically sound and builds on other restoration efforts in the area.
- This project is well leveraged with match.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project demonstrates an effective working relationship among project partners and builds on other restoration efforts within the area. The proposed restoration work is important to helping restore depressed spring Chinook populations in the South Umpqua River. Therefore, the resulting restoration is likely to succeed and provide significant ecological benefit for the investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$109,865

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$110,949

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2007-15632

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Fork Little Butte Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $169,396

Total Cost: $631,689

Application Description *(from application)*

South Fork and North Fork Little Butte Creek form Little Butte Creek near the town of Lake Creek, eventually joining the Rogue River after flowing through Eagle Point near Medford in Jackson County. Little Butte basin has a 303(d) listing that includes temperature, bacteria, and sedimentation. Altered hydrologic regimes from agricultural water delivery and withdrawal, removal and degradation of riparian and upland forests from residential, industrial, forestry, and agricultural land-use practices, lack of large wood and channel complexity, simplification and confinement of stream channels for transportation and development infrastructure, and sedimentation and nutrient pollution have contributed to lowered water quality and habitat conditions. In 2016, The Freshwater Trust (TFT) initiated a two-phase effort to restore mainstem and side channel habitat on private land between river miles 1.15 and 1.75 of South Fork Little Butte Creek. Phase I included installation of mainstem large wood structures and riparian revegetation completed with funding from US Bureau of Reclamation (USBR). OWEB funding is sought to support Phase II, which will 1) reactivate flow to 0.35 miles of side channel fed seasonally by the mainstem and an unnamed tributary; 2) install 7 large wood structures within the reactivated side channel and 1 at its inlet; 3) revegetate riparian areas; and 4) install livestock exclusion fencing. The proposed side channel restoration will work in concert with the mainstem actions to enhance overall watershed benefits. TFT will lead this effort in partnership with the site's landowner (C2 Cattle Company), and US Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application includes a well thought out vegetation plan with a five year plant establishment plan.
- Restored side-channel will provide valuable off channel habitat in the winter.
- Little Butte Creek provides important critical habitat for SONC coho.
- Restoration builds on successful instream work completed in the area by the applicant.
- The project is well leveraged with match.

Concerns

- Application does not provide enough design information to determine the likelihood for success since restoration described is at a conceptual stage; application would be strengthened by including a

longitudinal profile survey, and additional information on the water control structure and the extent to which it will control water.

- Areas adjacent to the project location has severe blackberry and Reed canary grass infestations; therefore, it is important for project designs to ensure invasive species are controlled since the Reed canary grass could potentially choke the stream channel once it is exposed to more sunlight.
- Some areas with previously completed plantings on the project property appear to be lacking plant stewardship necessary for plants to successfully reach a free-to-grow state; therefore, proposed plant stewardship plans would benefit from adding a watering plan for new plantings.

Concluding Analysis

Little Butte Creek is important for coho production in the Rogue basin. Side-channel habitat in quality condition as found in the proposed project reach is rare in Little Butte Creek. Therefore, since there does not seem to be time restrictions on this project, it is important for restoration activities to be designed to ensure work does not damage this habitat; for example, by increasing invasive species presence. The proposed work is important to address loss of habitat opportunities for coho. The application can be strengthened by additional detail about the side-channel surveying and design, additional plant stewardship to ensure plants reach a free-to-grow state, and potentially consider phasing the project to include long-term invasive species management. If this project is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide this additional project design information for the review team to evaluate the likelihood of success for this project to provide value-added habitat benefits without risking existing quality habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2008-15642
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: French Creek Instream Restoration
Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers
Basin: Southwest Oregon
County: Douglas
OWEB Request: $160,300
Total Cost: $263,740

Application Description *(from application)*

French Creek Watershed is a 2,975-acre tributary to the North Umpqua River above the town of Glide in Douglas County, Oregon. It is home to spawning and rearing OC coho, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout and other native fish. The Strader family owns and manages 56% of the watershed and nearly 100% of the 2.25 miles of coho habitat. The family voluntarily recorded coho run counts each year since the 1990's. Peak counts ranged between 500-800 fish/day, 20 years ago. Now, peak runs are closer to 100-200 fish/day. Eliminating the release of hatchery coho in the North Umpqua, combined with worsening fish habitat conditions in French Creek, are some of the reasons for this decline. After eliminating upstream barriers to fish passage with bridge and culvert replacement work and enrolling the lower 1.25 miles of French Creek into the CREP streamside fencing program, the family was concerned when fish numbers never improved. PUR, ODFW and BLM are partnering with the Straders to address the poor habitat conditions remaining in French Creek to restore quality instream habitat for fishery recovery. The Straders are donating time and use of their construction-scale equipment to place 775 boulders, 268 logs and 3 trees at 45 sites across 2.25 miles of French Creek. The ranch will donate the rock, trucking and the family/staff time spent preparing for and implementing the instream and willow planting projects. OWEB funds will be used for project management, log delivery, purchase of logs, trees and boulders, mileage and PUR administrative costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is a resubmitted project and the applicant addressed previous review team concerns by providing designs for the use of boulders.
- Strong landowner support is demonstrated by a letter and match support.
- The project will provide a great outreach opportunity for other landowners.
- Proposed project builds on past restoration efforts; and the landowner is looking at renewing their CREP contract.
- French Creek has a high intrinsic habitat potential for coho; and supports trout, steelhead, and Pacific lamprey.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant worked with project partners to address concerns from previous application reviews. The proposed restoration will benefit coho and address a key stream habitat issue in this watershed. This project also represents a good outreach opportunity. Reviewers encouraged the landowner and project partners to continue looking at future fencing in the upper stream reaches.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$160,300

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount
$161,384

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2009-15643

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Glover Tidegate Replacement and Channel Re-meander

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $346,203

Total Cost: $612,456

Application Description *(from application)*

The Umpqua/Smith River Estuary provides salmon, steelhead and eulachon with important feeding areas, refuge from predators and transition zones as they move from fresh to saltwater. However, many estuarine wetlands along the coast have been filled, cleared, diked and drained for agriculture or urban development. Tidal wetlands along the lower Smith River were converted to pastures on 135 acres of the Glover Ranch by building levees, reconfiguring stream channels to ditches and installing tidegates to control the incoming tide. To restore natural drainage, create lost wetlands for winter rearing, fish passage and improve water quality to this critical area for anadromous fish, PUR, Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District, ODFW, Natural Resources Conservation Service, NMFS and the Glover Family are collaborating to reestablish 2.25 miles of sinuous tidal channel and replace two failing tidegates with one 8' side-hinge tidegate that is adjustable throughout the year to manage water for fish habitat needs. Approximately 3.6 miles of livestock exclusion fence is proposed to be built 35' from the channel, and over 28,000 native plants will be established along the new meandering channels. This project is located in the tidal wetlands of the Umpqua River Estuary near the communities of Gardiner and Reedsport in Douglas County; an area important to ESA listed Oregon Coast coho salmon and eulachon, Chinook salmon, steelhead trout, Pacific lamprey and a variety of other native fish. OWEB funds will be used for project management, engineering, tidegate and channel work, fencing, native plants, mileage and PUR administrative costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project provides a high potential for creating quality over-wintering habitat opportunities for coho in a tidally influenced area.
- This new landowner is very supportive and committed to the project.
- Project site is highly visible and has potential for recruiting additional watershed restoration projects.
- Proposed restoration is site appropriate for the location; and could result in as much as 110 acres of habitat available for coho during winter flows.
- The project ranked as a medium-high priority in an assessment undertaken by the applicant and project partners.

Concerns

- Project design plans changed significantly between application submission and the review team meeting. This redesign was undertaken to increase restoration benefit of fish passage efforts; and this design change resulted in a significant increase in the project cost.
- Currently only preliminary designs are available for review; therefore, it is difficult to evaluate the project for likelihood of success.
- Landowner may not be fully apprised of all the design changes.
- No written agreements on water management plans are developed yet; and any future plan will need to include an approach for addressing mosquitoes.
- Without all the final design details, it is unclear whether geo-technical concerns were considered, including: bearing capacity of the soil (as it relates to installation of the bridges and possibly a concrete headwall for the new tidegate), investigation of the existing dikes at the locations where the two existing tidegates are to be removed and the dike repaired, and hydrology studies or calculations to show current fish passage requirements can be met (i.e flow depth and velocity) by installation of the proposed 8’ tidegate.
- The in-water work period for the Umpqua River estuary is November 1 to January 31, which is not an optimal time for heavy equipment to drive in a tidally influenced pasture areas. Applicant is encourage to investigate the potential for an exemption from permitting agencies or work from barges.

Concluding Analysis

Following application submission, project partners significantly changed the project scope that resulted in a different design approach and increased budget. These changes resulted in a more efficient approach while maintaining original goals and objectives of the project. However, there were enough fundamental changes in design and approach that it is difficult to evaluate the project for likelihood of success based on the review criteria for proposal clarity, technical soundness, watershed context, and cost effectiveness. This project has a large potential for benefits to coho and water quality, as well as enhancing the landowner's ability to effectively manage the property. If application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to include: design details, a water management plan, a planting plan, fencing setbacks details, geo-tech work, revised budget, a livestock water system and design, description of herbicide use, and discussion on any monitoring plans.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount $0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2010-15644

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: McCullough Creek Instream Restoration

Applicant: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $36,853

Total Cost: $80,423

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is located in McCullough Creek, northwest of the rural community of Glendale in Douglas County. McCullough Creek is a tributary to Cow Creek in the Middle Cow Creek 5th Field Watershed. Fish present in the watershed include winter steelhead, coho salmon, fall Chinook salmon, Pacific lamprey and cutthroat trout. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Habitat Surveys and associated maps identify McCullough Creek as having areas of higher to highest winter intrinsic potential for coho salmon but the lowest quality winter habitat (<0.1 parr/square meter). Winter rearing habitat for fish in the project area is limited by a lack of instream large wood (Middle Cow Creek Watershed Assessment, 2002). PUR, in partnership with Oregon Department of Forestry, will place logs at 37 sites throughout 1.02 miles of the creek to generate pools, cover, gravel deposition and access to off-channel areas that are currently limited in the area and needed for quality winter rearing and spawning habitat. Structures will include approximately 5 pieces of wood each for a total of 185 logs placed into McCullough Creek. Project partners include Oregon Department of Forestry, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. The Bureau of Land management and Oregon Department of Forestry will both contribute logs from a nearby timber sale and Biologist and Forester Staff time to help manage the project. OWEB funds will be used for PUR project management, log and boulder placements, mileage and PUR administrative costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project is located in critical habitat for Oregon coastal coho.
- The project is supported by partnerships, which is demonstrated by match contributions of logs and equipment use.
- Restoration design is technically sound, will address a limiting factor for coho, and incorporates incense cedar that will last longer in the stream structures.
- This project is ready for implementation.
- Project cost is reasonable.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by including information on how the project will benefit water quality, which is also an important limiting factor for this watershed.

Concluding Analysis

This straight forward project will benefit coho by addressing a key limiting factor in critical habitat for this fish. The project is ready for implementation, and provides significant ecological benefits for a reasonable cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount
$36,853

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$36,853

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2011-15649

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Little Butte Creek Instream and Riparian Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: The Freshwater Trust

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $316,130

Total Cost: $551,782

Application Description *(from application)*

The proposed project is located on private lands at river mile 13 of Little Butte Creek in Jackson County near Eagle Point. Little Butte is a tributary of the Rogue River and is considered a priority stream at the state and federal level for endangered coho salmon recovery. The Creek also has a 303(d) listing for temperature, bacteria, and sedimentation. Limiting factors include: Reduced large wood supply; Lack of channel complexity and aquatic habitat; Sediment impacted spawning surfaces due to erosion; Degradation of riparian forests; and High water temperatures due to lack of shade and summer flows. Restoration components of the proposed project include: Construction of five large wood structures along “river left” to create salmonid habitat, stabilize the bank, reduce erosion, and protect riparian plantings. Installation of 3.75 acres of irrigated riparian tree plantings with five years of maintenance and monitoring. Approximately 1.75 acres will be planted with native trees and shrubs on river left as a City of Medford thermal credit project; requested funds will complete a similar 2.0 acre planting on river right. Installation of livestock exclusion fencing to protect all project work. TFT has completed four similar wood projects and two additional riparian restoration projects within the basin. This requested OWEB investment will enhance and expand on the benefits of these nearby projects. The Freshwater Trust (TFT) will lead this effort, in partnership with the landowners, the City of Medford and US Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project presents an outreach opportunity to raise other landowners' interest in watershed restoration because the project landowner is enthusiastic and much of the restoration work will be visible from the adjacent highway.
- Applicant has proven experience with similar restoration efforts; therefore, project is likely to succeed.
- This project will tie into another riparian project on the opposite stream bank.
- Project will primarily benefit water quality by improving stream temperature and reducing sediment inputs from the actively eroding bank. This will provide some benefit to anadromous fish as this section of the stream is a transportation reach between habitats for these fish.

Concerns

- The budget was unclear on what project components will be contracted and what materials will be purchased directly.
- The cost per large wood structure is significantly high compared to similar projects and it is unclear from the application on why.
- The City of Medford Thermal Credits may not be eligible as match under OWEB's mitigation policy.

Concluding Analysis

Project offers a great outreach opportunity to demonstrate riparian restoration in an agricultural area where there is a lack of stream bank vegetation, a high degree of invasive plant species, and bank erosion is occurring in much of the stream area. The project is supported by partnerships and has potential to be a step towards improving water quality in the mainstem Little Butte Creek.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

4 of 10

Review Team Recommended Amount

$316,130

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

The City of Medford Thermal Credits will not be used as match; without this match source there is still greater than 25% match for the project.
Furthermore, City of Medford cannot receive thermal credits for OWEB funded restoration.

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$316,130

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2012-15651

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Adams Creek Culvert Removal and Riparian Enhancement Project

Applicant: Coos SWCD

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $93,299

Total Cost: $116,855

Application Description *(from application)*

The Adams Creek Culvert Removal and Riparian Enhancement Project proposes to address the issues of stream temperature, riparian shade, and nutrient and sediment contamination through the proven methods of fencing to exclude livestock from the riparian and planting native trees to provide both streambank stability and eventual shade. The Coos SWCD has recognized the strong need for fish passage and stream riparian improvements in the lower Adams Creek watershed, tributary to South Tenmile Lake, Lakeside, Coos County OR. Historical stream manipulations including channelization, riparian clearing, and installation of numerous undersized culverts on Adams Creek and tributaries has resulted in the current condition. The project area is on agricultural land that is seasonally grazed (May-October) by a herd of 11-14 cows. During the rainy season, the cattle are moved off location. The main Adams Creek stream channel has a severely undersized failing culvert where a farm access road crosses to the north side of the valley. Additionally, main Adams Creek and tributaries channels are without riparian woody vegetation. This project will install a bridge at the failing Adams Creek Culvert that meets state and federal standards as well as a new CMP on the southerly pasture channel that is substantially larger. A total 8,225 feet of stream corridor fencing will be installed on the mainstem Adams Creek and southerly channels with planting of native tree species within the fence. We are working collaboratively with the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership watershed council, landowner, and ODFW to develop and implement this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project resulted from successful outreach efforts; and the landowner is very supportive of proposed restoration.
- The resubmitted application is much improved from the previous submission with more project details provided.
- Restoration activities will benefit water quality, which is a watershed limiting factor in this basin.
- Applicant engaged NRCS to provide a livestock feed/forage analysis.

Concerns

- The fencing and planting plan could reinforce a straight stream channel configuration that prevents the stream channel from creating natural meanders.

- The lower portion of the field near the lake, which is inundated during the winter, is a mucky peat dominated soil that has low grazing value and is not ideal for forage for the livestock operation located on the property.
- The north side of the project that has the old stream channel, and feeder stream into that channel, will remain unfenced and accessible by livestock.

Concluding Analysis

This resubmitted application has improved from the previous submission; however, the project approach limits potential ecological benefits that could be gained by this project. The project site offers an opportunity to look at how grazing is approached on the property to increase ecological benefit of a restoration investment. For example, since the mucky peat soils with low grazing value provides only 9% of total forage for this livestock operation and the remaining portion of the property produces more than adequate forage for the number of livestock identified; applicant might consider working with the landowner to see if USDA's Wetland Reserve Program is an acceptable land management tool. This would allow for the lower quality peat dominate portion of the pasture to not be grazed. The application would be strengthened by an alternatives analysis to that includes restoration options that with actions, such as channel remeander, rotational grazing, and farm bill programs.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2013-15672

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: South Umpqua River and Tributaries Riparian Restoration

Applicant: City of Roseburg

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Douglas

OWEB Request: $55,273

Total Cost: $116,565

Application Description *(from application)*

The project area includes City-owned parks and parcels within the city limits of Roseburg . It includes riparian, upland and buffer areas along the South Umpqua River and segments of Newton, Deer and Sleepy Hollow Creeks. Roseburg is centrally located within Douglas County and the Lower South Umpqua River Watershed. Years of urban impacts have negatively affected water quality, fish and wildlife habitat. The Umpqua Basin Action Plan describes limiting factors within this project area. Stream buffers are thin, shade is low and water temperatures are high. Water quality for the South Umpqua River, within Roseburg, is considered "poor" by the DEQ. Recent high winter flows have further degraded streambanks. Riparian zones are narrower, erosion has increased, and shade has decreased. Armenian blackberry and English ivy dominate the shrub layer and are overtaking the native trees and shrubs. This project is aimed at reducing invasive weeds, currently displacing native plants. By protecting and planting more native trees and shrubs, erosion and sedimentation will be reduced, and shade will increase. These measures will ultimately improve water quality, wildlife habitat, and fish migration. This critical corridor is home to Western pond turtles, Coho salmon, spring and fall Chinook, winter steelhead, Pacific lamprey, beavers, ospreys, acorn woodpeckers, and many other native fish and wildlife species. Project partners include PUR, ODA, Douglas County, USFWS, ODFW, Umpqua Watersheds, NeighborWorks Umpqua, CCBUTI, and Phoenix School.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project is highly visible in an urban setting, which offers an outreach opportunity.
- Riparian bank conditions are not functioning properly because of areas with heavy erosion and sediment inputs into the stream; proposed restoration activities could help address these issues.
- The City is contributing considerable cash and in-kind match to the project.

Concerns

- The planting design approach may not be enough to effectively stop stream bank erosion occurring at this site.
- There are locations within the project area in which only invasive plant removal is planned without replanting with native plants, it is unclear whether there will be enough plantings or natural plant propagation to fill these cleared areas.

- The number of project sites may be ambitious, and restoration may be more likely to succeed if project was phased into smaller stream sections at a time.
- The project site could present opportunities for oak woodland restoration, and therefore, increase ecological benefit of restoration efforts.
- Application would be strengthened by additional information on plans for irrigation and detail on stormwater facilities mentioned in the application.

Concluding Analysis

This project presents an opportunity for demonstrating riparian restoration in an urban setting. If the application is resubmitted, the applicant is encouraged to provide further detail on the bank erosion and planned treatment design of those areas, plans for areas not being replanted after invasive plant species are removed, plans for watering plantings, and explanation of the stormwater facilities.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2014-15577

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Tenmile Lakes Watershed Land Acquisition Technical Assistance

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $31,386

Total Cost: $49,626

Application Description *(from application)*

The Tenmile Creek Watershed is situated in southwestern coastal Oregon. The watershed encompasses an area of approximately 98 square miles and is located in Coos County with a small portion of the upper watershed extending into Douglas County. The Tenmile Lakes subbasin consists of 10 highly productive Coho streams that flow east from headwaters in the Elliott State Forest through private agricultural lands into both North and South Tenmile Lakes. The City of Lakeside is located on South Lake near Tenmile Creek, the outlet which flows 4 miles to the Pacific. In many instances these tributaries that once meandered and contained wetland vegetation to filter out nutrient and sediment are now channelized. These channel modifications have increased the movement of Non-Point Source pollutants from the upper reaches of watersheds into the lakes and sediment loading has increased 10,000 x since Europeans settled in the region (Nutrient Study, Eliers 2002). This dramatically increased rate in eutrophication has resulted in impacted water quality and reduced salmonid habitat. Technical assistance will support the TLBP to collect habitat data and investigate the acquisition of two high priority agricultural properties and conduct outreach for near future land acquisition and wetland restoration projects to reduce the high sedimentation rates that are negatively impacting Tenmile Lakes native fish habitat and water quality. Project Partners include the Tenmile Lakes Basin Partnership, ODFW, CTCLUSI, ODEQ, DSL, and the Tenmile Lake Association.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant has built trust locally with landowners and stakeholders; and has the capacity to implement proposed activities.
- Acquisition projects have potential for meaningful water quality improvements and would help in meeting TMDL goals.
- The project has potential to result in big long-term benefits to habitats important to coho.
- Proposed locations build on previous OWEB funded restoration efforts, including plantings, fencing, and culvert replacement.

Concerns

- The application is unclear on the specific project goals and products.

- A land trust has not yet been identified for potential acquisitions; involving a land trust at the beginning of this technical assistance project will help ensure the work is focused on tasks necessary to implementing an acquisition project.
- This application is unclear on the site specific ecological benefits to understand why the specific project locations were chosen.
- It was unclear from the application whether the Big Creek landowner has been contacted about the project.

Concluding Analysis

Land acquisition can be a powerful tool for restoring important habitats, and this proposal presents opportunities for moving acquisition projects forward in habitats important for coho and other anadromous fish species. The application would be stronger with further details to support adequate project evaluation for likelihood of success; and engaging a land trust early in this project to help guide and shape the work to ensure critical needs are considered early in the acquisition process. Future applications could be strengthened by including: (1) more detail on site specifics, the reason these properties are important, and how they fit into the bigger picture for restoring the watershed; (2) incorporating use of existing information to present the need for proposed work, such as wetland layer mapping; (3) description of outreach needed, as well as how it will be approached, to help understand the likelihood of getting larger community support for the work; (4) letters of support from key partners and agencies, such as ODFW and DSL, to help determine level of support from these entities; (5) discussion on likely future maintenance of sites; and (6) explanation of whether the NRCS Wetland Reserve Enhancement program could be considered as a possible avenue since it is an easement program for working lands and may fit well here.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2015-15587

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Fork Coquille River/Dement Creek Project Development

Applicant: Coquille Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $39,688

Total Cost: $68,711

Application Description *(from application)*

The project will occur on Dement Creek, a 9,700-acre tributary drainage to the South Fork Coquille River, ~1.0 mile south of Broadbent, OR (Coos County). Dement Creek provides spawning and rearing habitat for coho, fall Chinook, winter steelhead, coastal cutthroat trout, and Pacific lamprey. Primary limiting factors for anadromous fish in the sub-watershed are lack of stream habitat complexity and water quality. Historically, Dement Creek was splash dammed for logging, subjected to stream cleaning, and currently lacks sufficient LWD. The sub-watershed has riparian corridors impacted by road construction, timber harvest, and agricultural practices. This TA grant will help facilitate the review of watershed habitat conditions in order to develop, prioritize, and design habitat enhancement projects in the sub-watershed. Assessments will include surveying fish passage impediments on County and private road crossings, conducting road network surveys using Geomorphic Road Analysis and Inventory Package methods, assessing in-stream habitat features using AQHI, evaluating riparian conditions, and monitoring water quality metrics (sediment and temperature). We expect assessments to yield ~5-7 potential projects with project ready designs for the top three projects as determined by the Coquille Watershed Association Project Committee. The TA grant will cover hydrologic designs, initial permitting, and request for bids for the top projects. We have conducted initial surveying and expect to develop designs for a minimum of three anadromous stream culvert replacements, placement of ~200 LWD components, installation of 200-400+ cross drain/road infrastructure improvements and riparian enhancement where needed. Current partners: private landowners, ODFW, BLM, and Lone Rock Timber Company.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application is well written with detail that lays out the project need, plan for the work, benefits expected from future restoration work, and comprehensive budget.
- The project is leveraged by match from DEQ.
- The focus area of this technical assistance project is in need of restoration work; and there is a high potential for resulting restoration projects to have clear water quality benefits, as well as provide habitat improvements.
- The project location is in a water quality focus area for NRCS; and there are 4 CREP projects in the area.
- Restoration projects that result from this work will be based on a strong foundation of prioritization.
- Applicant has built strong partnerships with landowners in the sub-basin.

- The project area contains critical coho habitat.

Concerns

- Engineering cost seem low compared to similar projects; and it is unclear from the application whether the time proposed for this activity will be enough.
- The application would be strengthened by further information on how the meetings planned for engaging local landowners will effectively achieve their landowner outreach goals.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant provided a well-written application that describes project components, as well as including watershed limiting factors and developing a suite of potential solutions to those issues. Proposed project seems appropriately sized without "biting off more than the applicant can chew" with this proposal; and there is a likelihood for success in achieving the project goals.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$39,688

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$39,688

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2016-15601

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Evans Creek Fish Passage Evaluation

Applicant: Applegate Partnership, Inc.

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $36,218

Total Cost: $70,073

Application Description *(from application)*

The project proposes to update and identify fish passage barriers in high priority salmonid streams in the Seven Basins Watershed of the upper Rogue River in Jackson County. Streams to be evaluated include: Evans Creek of the Evans Creek Watershed and Birdseye, Foots, Galls, Kane, Sardine, and Ward creeks of the Gold Hill-Rogue River Watershed. These tributaries of the Rogue River enter the river between Gold Hill and Rogue River. Limiting factors for the watersheds include fish passage barriers and flow modification, which limit salmonid access to stream reaches with significant spawning and rearing habitat. Current fish passage data is insufficient to effectively prioritize the and improve fish passage at the more than 180 known barriers on fish bearing streams in the project area. This project will assess fish passage at these barriers using successfully implemented protocol developed by a Technical Team under two previous OWEB Grants: Applegate Fish Barrier Assessment: Humbug/Thompson/Slate Creek (213-2032) and the Rogue Basinwide Priority Barrier Removal Analysis (215-2034-11632). The Applegate Partnership & Watershed Council (APWC) staff and technical partners will conduct a data review and ground truth surveys to update the ODFW Oregon Fish Passage Barrier Dataset database. Data will be collected using a field app. that will capture data electronically and enter it into the Council's fish passage barrier geodatabase. This project will allow the APWC and project partners to gather current fish passage barrier data, identify and prioritize potential projects, and foster relationships with landowners that will lead to restoration project implementation. The resulting Action Plan will summarize data collected and outline a strategy for implementing fish passage improvement and habitat restoration projects within the watersheds. Project partners are BLM, ODFW, OWRD, Seven Basins WC, Rogue Basin Partnership, Lone Rock Resources, Trout Unlimited, and Lone Rock.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Rogue basin is a leader in prioritizing and addressing fish passage issues; and this project application presents the next logical assessment step in the Evans Creek watershed.
- Improving fish passage is key to restoring coho and other anadromous fish runs in the Rogue basin.
- Applicant will be using a protocol that was developed through an OWEB grant and has proven success in the Applegate watershed.
- Evans Creek clearly needs additional fish passage work following removal of the two priority dams last year.

- The project includes consideration of water rights, water quality, and irrigation efficiency.
- This application is well written in describing the project.

Concerns

- There is already considerable understanding of the fish passage issues in this basin; therefore, it is unclear whether further evaluation is needed. However, work similar to that proposed in this application was completed in the Applegate and was important to bringing restoration projects to fruition.
- The project application is unclear on who will take a lead role in implementing restoration projects that result from this technical assistance work.
- The application would be strengthened by some quantification of potential numbers of willing landowners or restoration projects likely to result from this project.
- Application is unclear on the level of relevant experience the surveyor implementing this technical assistance has. The applicant will be responsible for ensuring work results in a quality product with accurate field data that is critical to their success.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed project builds on efforts in the Rogue basin, as well as efforts within the Seven Basins watershed. This technical assistance work has a high likelihood of achieving the described goals; and includes consideration of water quantity issues. The applicant has a sound track record in implementing this type of technical assistance work and using it to develop restoration projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$36,218

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$36,218

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2017-15604
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Lower Rogue Estuary Enhancement TA
Applicant: Curry SWCD
Basin: Southwest Oregon
County: Curry
OWEB Request: $25,719
Total Cost: $35,576

Application Description *(from application)*

This project takes place in God Wants You Slough, which is fed by two freshwater creeks – Krambeal and Lynch Creeks. The slough is connected at the downstream end to the Rogue River Estuary, and is adjacent to the town of Gold Beach, in Curry County. This slough provides critical over-wintering habitat for coho salmon, and rearing habitat for steelhead, cutthroat, Pacific lamprey, and Chinook salmon. ODFW Biologists have identified these areas as having high intrinsic potential for coho salmon production. Due to the high intrinsic potential of the area for anadromous fish production and the need to improve stream complexity, the Rogue River Estuary Strategic Plan (LRWC, 2015) identifies the slough as high priority for instream restoration. In addition, riparian areas are mainly composed of small shrubs and hardwoods and lack large conifers needed for future contributions of large wood to the stream. The request for Technical Assistance will be to secure a design for large wood installments, create a planting plan for the surrounding riparian area, and to work with the USFS to secure a large wood donation. We will also work to align our project with a USFS large wood helicopter placement at the same time in order to reduce overall costs of implementation. Deliverables include a design for large wood placements in slough and surrounding floodplain, a riparian planting plan, an agreement with the USFS to donate wood, and a quote for implementation. Project partners include private landowners, ODFW, USFS, USFWS, Riley Creek Elementary School, and Oregon Stewardship.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant addressed review team comments raised in the previous application review.
- The application demonstrates a high level of support for the project, including support from the larger landowners.
- The project presents meaningful restoration approaches in a tidally influenced area of the Rogue River. Furthermore, this project provides a rare restoration opportunity in this stream system because it includes a small estuary and tidally influenced zone.
- Resulting restoration will address key issues impacting the watershed.
- This project offers outreach potential with a local school actively involved in the riparian component.
- Large wood placement will be designed by an engineer; however, it is important for this engineer to have relevant experience with large wood placement in tidally influenced areas.
- Partners are looking at the project site as a whole and addressing issues important to the riparian habitat by including invasive weed control and developing a technically planting plan.

- The application is well written and applicant made good use of maps and photos.

Concerns

- This technical assistance project would be stronger if it included completion of the permitting process.
- It is unclear who developed the ecological priority map and what information this prioritization was based on.
- The basis for the engineering costs is not provided.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal resulted from a review team recommendation following the evaluation of a restoration project proposal submitted in the November 2016 cycle. The review team suggested the likelihood of success of the proposed restoration work would increase with technical design work before moving forward with a restoration project. The technical assistance work described in this proposal is sound and the approach has a high likelihood in resulting in a well-rounded restoration proposal. The review team recommends this project as "fund with conditions" with the following condition: the professional engineer (PE) selected by the applicant should have experience in large wood placement design in tidal conditions or applicant should establish a peer review process composed of restoration practioners experienced in large wood placement design in tidal conditions to review the PE designs.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
2 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$25,719

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Fund with Conditions: The professional engineer (PE) selected by the applicant should have experience in large wood placement design in tidal conditions or applicant should establish a peer review process composed of restoration practioners experienced in large wood placement design in tidal conditions to review the PE designs.

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

$25,719

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2018-15641

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Coos Watershed Aquatic Inventory Action Plan & Basin Wide Restoration Prioritization

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $49,354

Total Cost: $89,394

Application Description *(from application)*

For more than a decade now the Coos Watershed Association (CoosWA) has worked diligently to obtain a comprehensive baseline Aquatic Inventory dataset for the entire Coos basin. This technical assistance grant is a multi-faceted approach at obtaining 100% coverage within all anadromous fish habitats here in the Coos watershed (~384 miles). CoosWA crews will survey the final 26 miles (parts and pieces) throughout the watershed in an attempt to culminate this comprehensive inventory program. Once complete, the data will be input into a single ODFW database, followed by a rigorous QA/QC process addressing any data inconsistencies. CoosWA will run the data through ODFW's Habitat Limiting Factors Model (HLFM) and HabRate model to identify habitat limitations for the entire watershed. These outputs will be used to develop GIS shapefiles at the reach/unit level that are spatially referenced using dynamic segmentation. Finally, the data will be evaluated against ODFW's coastal coho reference reaches in order to assess how our data compares to those benchmarks and quartile distributions developed from 76 reference reaches identified in ODFW's Coastal coho ESU region. The results from this data compilation/analysis will be the framework for developing the basin wide restoration prioritization plan for the Coos watershed, and prove instrumental for obtaining a priority ranking for the Coos. This grant will allow CoosWA, in close partnership with ODFW, BLM, ODF, SSNERR, and Weyerhaeuser Timber Company to properly identify and evaluate restoration projects for the entire Coos Watershed, with the goal of long term on-the-ground restoration implementation to follow.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed technical assistance will finish the last of the habitat inventory for the watershed and provide a basin-wide foundation for prioritization efforts.
- This project builds on and compliments other successful planning efforts; therefore, the current proposal has a high likelihood of success.
- The applicant has a successful track record of turning similar technical assistance work into meaningful restoration projects.
- Applicant has the personnel, skill sets, and protocols to implement resulting restoration projects.
- Proposed project is well leveraged with match.
- This project creates a holistic approach to addressing issues within the Coos watershed; and compliments important tidegate prioritization work the applicant is currently undertaking.

Concerns

- Application is unclear on whether some of the project activities described are redundant to work being funded through the recently approved Coos Coho Business Plan project. Redundant activities should be removed from this application.
- A portion of landowners have not yet been contacted regarding this project; however, previous projects demonstrate that this applicant has approaches in place for contacting landowners in these kinds of efforts.

Concluding Analysis

The applicant has a successful track record of turning technical assistance and monitoring projects into tools that serve many audiences, inform other work and functions, and result in on-the-ground restoration projects. Finishing the remaining AHI survey work for the basin will allow project partners to complete planning and prioritization efforts for habitats accessible to anadromous species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$49,354

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Staff followed-up with the applicant and determined this project was developed as a stand alone project from the Coho Business Plan and there are no redundancies in funding between these two efforts. Information developed from this project should prove useful in helping inform other work, such as the Coho Business Plan.

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$49,354

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2019-15650

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Elk Creek River Mile 3.0 Side Channel Design and Permitting

Applicant: Rogue River WC

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Jackson

OWEB Request: $28,703

Total Cost: $48,693

Application Description *(from application)*

This project will result in a 1,300-foot long, engineered side channel design (at the site of an avulsing channel) and the permits required to construct the side channel at river mile 3.0 of Elk Creek (a Rogue River tributary), near Trail, OR (Jackson County). The project location is directly adjacent to a high-volume pedestrian trail along the Creek on Army Corps of Engineers lands, very near a trail head. Elk Creek produces large numbers of Coho Salmon though the mainstem contains very little over-summering habitat (warm temperatures, few quality pools), overwintering habitat (few off-channel habitats like alcoves and side channels and low floodplain connectivity), and spawning habitat (bedrock dominated stream bed because of lack of complex habitat and low floodplain connectivity). This project will directly improve off-channel habitat availability, floodplain connectivity, and streamside vegetation density (leading to more shade along the stream). Rogue River Watershed Council (RRWC) and partners propose to design a side channel in an area along mainstem Elk Creek where a channel avulsion is forming and apply for the permits necessary to construct the design. RRWC will be working with Army Corps of Engineers (USACoE), Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), US Forest Service (USFWS) on the design and permitting aspects of this project. Additionally, Chuck Huntington (formerly of Clearwater Biological Consulting) will assist with project development, field verification, and monitoring initiation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The restoration project to be designed is based on results from a Type II Technical Assistance project (OWEB #214-2006) and is a priority identified in that work.
- This project demonstrates good project match and support.
- Technical assistance will lead to a project that addresses a bottle neck to coho production in this stream; and increasing off-channel habitat benefits coho habitat.
- The project is supported by the landowners.
- The applicant and project partners have the capacity to complete this work and have proven they can handle large-scale complex projects.
- Resulting restoration work will provide water quality benefits by reducing potential sediment inputs, and help restore riparian health.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

The project builds on previous technical assessment efforts that identified potential restoration. This applicant has the capacity and experience to successfully complete the work, and there is a high likelihood that this investment will result in a high value restoration project that addresses limiting factors for coho in this stream.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$28,703

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$28,703

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Southwest Oregon (Region 2)

Application Number: 218-2020-15673

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Coos Bay Tide Gate Inventory and Restoration Planning

Applicant: Coos Watershed Association

Basin: Southwest Oregon

County: Coos

OWEB Request: $36,229

Total Cost: $66,278

Application Description *(from application)*

1) Coos Bay Estuary and Sub-Basins; Coos County Oregon; (lat 43° 21’ N, long 124° 20’ W) 2) Tide gates create a distinct boundary between freshwater streams and the estuary. This ecotone was naturally in dynamic flux based on interactions between seasonal weather patterns and tidal fluctuations. Tide gates and channelization have degraded the function of lowland areas for both anadromous fish and agriculture production. Conventional tide gate designs use top hinged gates that are by default closed and significantly restrict fish passage. Many and perhaps most of these structures are considerably beyond their design life and are now failing. Gated openings in dikes are also usually undersized for the upstream basins that drain through them. These constrictions create velocity barriers that further diminish fish passage windows; exacerbates erosion around tide gate structures; and inhibits drainage of the upstream basin. Off channel rearing habitat has been identified as the primary limiting factor for the Coos Basin coho population. Reconnecting lowland floodplains will release rearing benefits for fish and pasture quality for producers. 3) Comprehensive basin-wide tide gate inventory is critical for baseline evaluation and scope. Several models exist that rigorously assess, prioritize and optimize structures for replacement based on maximizing ecological and societal benefits with limited financial resources. Aggregating models will provide options and alternatives that reduce uncertainty for stakeholders and planners to make decisions with greater confidence. Aerial and in situ monitoring of targeted priority sites will provide high quality baseline data for project development, outreach, model calibration and effectiveness monitoring. 4) CoosWA, TNC, ODFW, CSWCD, SSNERR, USFS (PNRL), Coos County, City of Coos Bay, and Nehalem Marine.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant has relevant experience as a leader in tidegates projects; and monitoring fish use and access in tidal and estuarine areas.
- Applicant has a strong record in taking a holistic approach; and turning assessment work into on-the-ground projects.
- The modeling project components are of high value to the work.
- Tidegates impact habitats critical for coho and other aquatic species; and projects like this are needed to prevent large-scale issues associated with failure of or improper fixes to tidegates.

Concerns

- The application is unclear on the groundtruthing project component, which made it difficult to determine whether the budget will adequately cover this cost.
- This application would be stronger by including potential water quality benefits that will result from future restoration projects in addition to addressing tidegate impacts to fish.
- The application is unclear on the connection of proposed technical assistance work and the plant community transitions discussed.
- The application is unclear on the status of landowner outreach completed to date and planned in the future as part of project implementation.
- Proposed project may be somewhat ambitious by combining assessment work along with the design component. An engineering approach that focuses on hydrology and not on the dikes or geotech exploration may not address risks associated with tidegate projects.

Concluding Analysis

Tidegates have become a significant concern throughout the Oregon Coast. Many tidegates are near the end of their service life and are subject to failing, which causes impacts to agricultural activities or the infrastructure located behind them. The opportunity to replace these structures with more state of the art, fish friendly structures has resulted in the need for tidegate inventories, analyses, and prioritization to support informed decisions on how best to address these structures. This project represents one such opportunity to provide products that inform future tidegate replacement efforts within the Coos estuary. Resulting restoration can benefits coho and water quality, as well as supporting the ability of landowners to more effectively manage their properties. Reviewers were concerned that the assessment and prioritization process needed to be accomplished before site specific designs could be undertaken; therefore reviewers recommended this project as "fund with conditions" with the following condition: site specific designs should not be funded at this time.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
3 of 6

Review Team Recommended Amount
$36,229

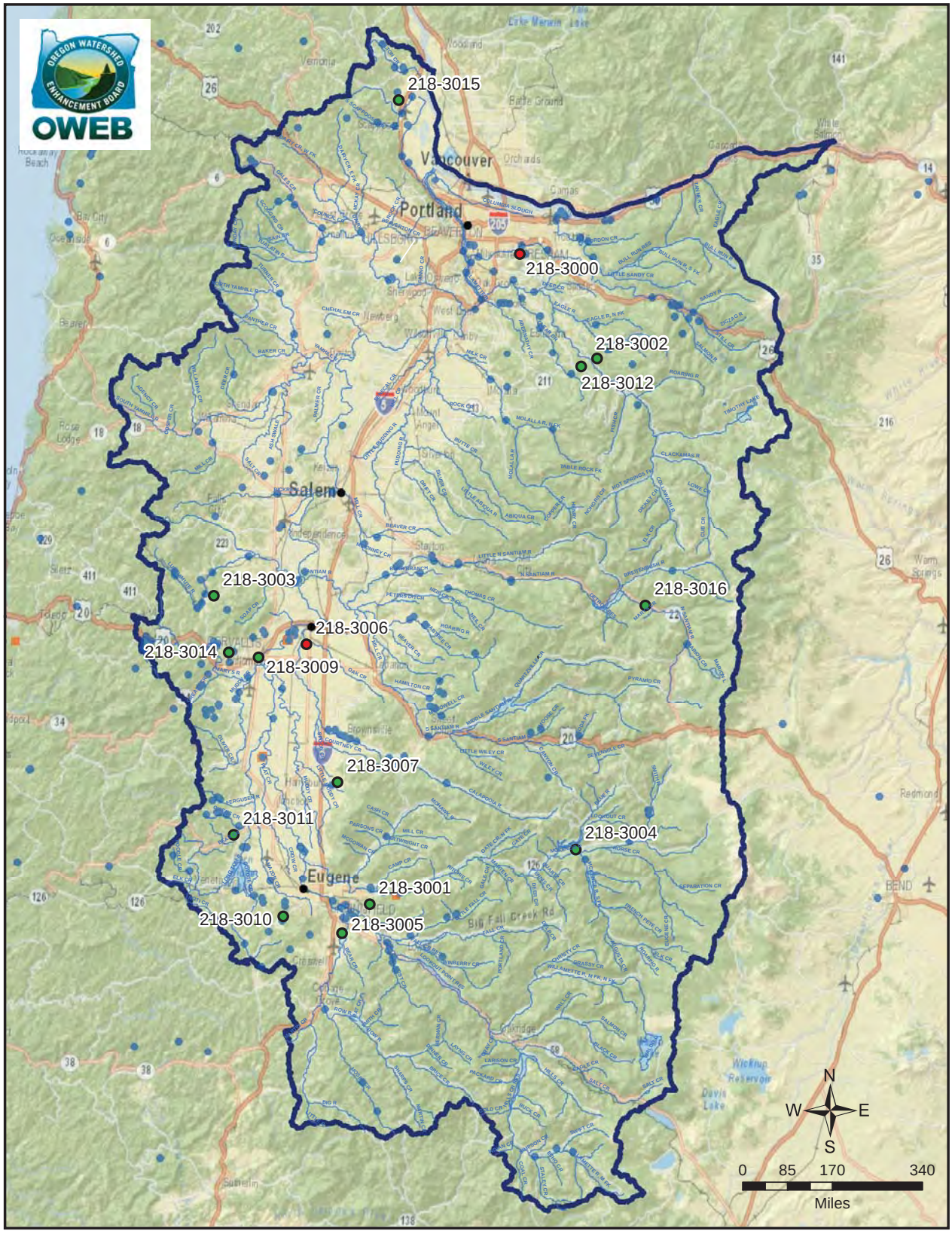
Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Staff clarified proposal deliverables with the applicant’s project manager. Funds requested for technical assistance are not intended to develop site specific designs, instead grant project will undertake the modeling that will inform the design and costs of site specific projects when they are identified.

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$36,229

Willamette Basin - Region 3 Spring 2017 Application Funding Status



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ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority: EPSG OWEB-PK Wills Sept. 2017

Spring 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding LIne (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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Salem, OR 97301-1290
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http://oregon.gov/OWEB/

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Region 3 - Willamette Basin

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3004	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project	The Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project is designed to restore stream processes that maintain a healthy, diverse, and resilient ecosystem for native fish species on the Endangered Species Act list.	324,458	Lane
218-3012	Clackamas River Basin Council	Clear Creek North Restoration Project	The proposed project restoration, located on Metro's Clear Creek North Natural Area 68-acre property on a tributary to the Clackamas River, will encourage natural river processes that create habitat for endangered fish species.	149,588	Clackamas
218-3007	Calapooia WC	Tub Run Riparian and Wetland Prairie Restoration	Proposed project, located south of Brownsville on Tub Run Creek, will restore wetland prairie and streamside habitats for native fish and wildlife. Wetland prairie is considered the most imperiled habitat in the Willamette Valley with less than 2% of its historic range remaining.	190,711	Linn
218-3009	Institute for Applied Ecology	Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Partnership: High Quality Seed for Restoration and Recovery	Proposed project will provide locally sourced native seed for restoration work in the Willamette Valley. These restoration efforts implemented by collaborative partnerships among non-profit organizations, private landowners, and public agency reduce the decline of native plants, recover endangered species act listed plants and wildlife, and create an interconnected landscape of prairie and oak habitat.	239,392	Benton
218-3014	Greenbelt Land Trust	ButterFlyWay: Release the Oaks! Restore the Prairie! Connect the Habitats!	The ButterFlyWay project, located in Benton County between Philomath and Corvallis, will address the loss of prairie, savanna, and oak woodland habitats. This project will create a 2-mile corridor that connects Critical Habitat for two federally listed butterflies across 280 acres of conservation lands.	233,132	Benton
218-3002	Clackamas River Basin Council	North Fork Clackamas River Restoration Project – Phase II	The North Fork Clackamas River, northeast of Estacada, will restore river habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and steelhead fish in the Clackamas River Basin.	117,473	Clackamas
218-3011	Long Tom WC	Bear Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration at Bennett Vineyards	This project, located on a vineyard west of Cheshire in Lane County, will restore stream, wetland, floodplain, and upland habitats along Bear Creek, which drains into the Long Tom River. This will benefit native fish and wildlife, including nesting pond turtles.	93,580	Lane
218-3005	Coast Fork Willamette WC	My Brothers Farm Riparian Enhancement Phase II	This project located on a farm in Lane County, north of Creswell on the Coast Fork Willamette River, will improve habitat and water quality for native fish and wildlife by managing invasive plants and replacing them with native plants.	44,870	Lane

218-3010	Long Tom WC	Spencer Creek Oak Woodland Restoration, Old Gimpl Farm Oak Savanna Restoration, and Biochar Creation	This project, located on two properties in Lane County near Eugene, seeks to complement landowner management actions to restore 10 acres of high-quality oak savanna and prairie habitats important to multiple sensitive plant and wildlife species.	116,277	Lane
218-3003	Luckiamute WC	Building Resiliency and Connecting Corridors - Maxfield Creek Phase I	Proposed project on Maxfield Creek, a tributary of the Luckiamute River in Benton County, will work with five landowners to restore degraded streamside corridors. Controlling invasive plants and restoring native plant communities along the creek will improve water quality, and provide fish and wildlife habitat.	215,807	Benton
218-3001	Middle Fork Willamette WC	Thurston Hills Natural Area Oak Restoration and Enhancement - Phase 1	The 665-acre Thurston Hills Natural Area, located on the southeastern edge of the City of Springfield within Lane County, has rare but degraded Willamette Valley oak woodland and prairie habitats. Oregon white oaks within the project area that is threatened by conifer tree encroachment and an understory heavily invaded by non-native plants will be restored for native wildlife dependent on oak habitat.	102,683	Lane
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,827,971**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-3000	Johnson Creek WC	Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhacement	Proposed project is located on a school district property in the unincorporated area of Multnomah County between Gresham and Portland. Stream restoration actions will improve water quality and fish habitat on Mitchell Creek, which is connected with Johnson Creek.	98,598	Multnomah
218-3006	Calapooia WC	Oak Creek Open Space - Phase 1 Restoration	Proposed project is located in Albany's Oak Creek Open Space natural area; and will restore streamside and wetlands plant communities that support native fish and wildlife.	121,386	Linn
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**2,047,955**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
218-3008	Scappoose Bay WC	Milton Creek at Hancock Stream Restoration	114,624	Columbia
218-3013	Lomakatsi Restoration Project	Willamette Basin Oak Habitat Restoration Project	250,000	Polk

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
218-3015	Scappoose Bay WC	Honeyman Creek Fish Passage	This technical assistance project, located on a tributary of Scappoose Bay in Columbia County between Scappoose and St. Helens, will complete project designs for the last two fish passage barriers in the area. Future restoration project to replace these barriers at road crossings will provide native fish access to upstream habitat needed by Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and steelhead.	36,386	Columbia
218-3016	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Upper North Santiam Side Channel Alternatives Analysis	The proposed technical assistance project is located 10 miles upstream of the Detroit Dam near the town of Idanha, and will result in designs for stream side-channel habitat restoration that will benefit native juvenile salmon.	39,632	Linn
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**76,018**	

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
NONE				
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT			**76,018**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
218-3017	Cascade Pacific RC&D	North Santiam River Lower Bennett Dam Alternatives Analysis	44,354	Marion
218-3018	North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council	NCUWC 10-Year Restoration Action Plan	36,969	Clackamas

Region 3 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,903,989**	**22%**

Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**8,788,376**	

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3000-15573

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mitchell Creek temperature and fish passage enhacement_Resubmit

Applicant: Johnson Creek WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Multnomah

OWEB Request: $98,598

Total Cost: $237,341

Application Description *(from application)*

A shallow inline pond on the property of the Centennial School District has been shown to raise the temperature of Mitchell Creek by as much as 14C on hot summer days. High stream temperature is one of the most significant factors limiting salmonid population on Johnson Creek, and is so documented in the Lower Willamette TMDL (ORDEQ, 2006). JCWC's 10-year Action Plan lists stream temperature reduction as a priority. Taking inline ponds offline is listed there as a key strategy, along with riparian planting, to reduce temperatures.This temperature reduction and fish passage improvement project is located on Mitchell Creek in the Johnson Creek Watershed, in unincorporated Multnomah County between Gresham and Portland. The pond is located on a 35-acre property, owned by the Centennial School District, a project partner. Other partners include Multnomah County, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services (Portland will be annexing this and neighboring taxlots), and Metro (who funded the engineering design).The main components of this project include a) removing two culverts that have created the pond by restricting flow; b) adding large wood and beaver dam analogs for habitat and channel stability; c) adding a cobble/gravel mix at both ends of the pond for grade control; d) constructing a small offline, seasonal amphibian pond, e) revegetating the area to encourage off-channel wetlands and to restore native grass, herbs, and shrubs, OWEB funds will be used for construction, revegetation, project management, engineering, travel, and indirect costs.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Removing in-line ponds is expected to be one of the most effective restoration actions for addressing water temperature concerns in this watershed.
- The project design builds on beaver activity in the area and provides opportunity to learn about the effectiveness of beaver analogs in watershed restoration.
- This application is well-written and reflects a well thought out project.
- The applicant addressed recommendations from a previous review team evaluation, which has strengthened the project design.

Concerns

- The magnitude of project benefit to water temperature may be limited; it is unclear how much stream flows from Mitchell Creek influence stream temperatures to downstream Kelley Creek.

- The landowner does not appear to be an active, engaged project partner.

Concluding Analysis

Mitchel Creek is a small channel, therefore, the scale of the project impact to stream temperatures in Mitchell and Kelley Creeks is somewhat uncertain. As a result, the overall project cost benefit is uncertain. The proposed project offers an opportunity to pilot restoration of in-line ponds, which is a priority action for the Johnson Creek watershed. Therefore, the proposed project could provide lessons learned to apply to future efforts and potentially recruit additional in-line pond restoration projects that could collectively improve water quality.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
12 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$98,598

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3001-15580

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Thurston Hills Natural Area Oak Restoration and Enhancement - Phase 1

Applicant: Middle Fork Willamette WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $102,683

Total Cost: $256,348

Application Description *(from application)*

The 665-acre Thurston Hills Natural Area (THNA) is located on the southeastern edge of the City of Springfield within Lane County and the lower Middle Fork Willamette Watershed. THNA is comprised of rare but degraded Willamette Valley oak woodland and prairie habitats. Open-grown Oregon white oaks within the project area are threatened by conifer encroachment and overtopping while the understory has been heavily invaded by exotic woody vegetation and the prairie by non-native grasses. This loss of native habitat reduces biodiversity and negatively impacts important faunal species that rely on these open habitats such as acorn woodpecker, Lewis's woodpecker, western bluebird, chipping sparrow, slender-billed nuthatch, and western gray squirrel. To address these problems, we will release the oak stands through timber harvest and snag creation of the encroaching conifers and will do repeated understory and prairie Integrated Pest Management treatments to remove invasive plants before seeding with native forbs and grasses. Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council and Willamalane Park and Recreation District will jointly implement this project. US Fish and Wildlife Service will provide technical support for restoration prescriptions. We will coordinate with the Bureau of Land Management to align restoration efforts with their Fire-Dependent Ecosystems Restoration Project in which THNA is identified for hazardous fuel reduction work. We will also partner with local school districts as part of our outreach efforts. OWEB funds will be used for salary (project manager, community engagement and education coordinators), contracted services (forestry consultant, logger, weed removal/planting crews), travel, and materials (grasses and forbs).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This restoration effort will expand connectivity of upland oak habitat, a priority habitat for the Willamette Valley.
- The project designs utilize standard methods for oak habitat restoration.
- The project location is prioritized in the broader regional Rivers-to-Ridges strategy.
- The project team has proven experience with related restoration efforts; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.
- The project site is a large public area near an urban center, which will encourage community access and connection with restoration, therefore, providing an outreach opportunity on the value of habitat restoration.

Concerns

- This project would be strengthened by prioritizing treatments to protect large oaks.

Concluding Analysis

The project location is a priority for restoring oak habitat communities to preserve sensitive species relying on these habitats. The proposed project offers opportunity to expand connectivity of this habitat type, therefore, expanding the benefit of this restoration investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
11 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$102,683

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$102,683

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3002-15582

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: North Fork Clackamas River Restoration Project – Phase II

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: $116,389

Total Cost: $180,410

Application Description *(from application)*

The North Fork Clackamas River, a tributary to the Clackamas mainstem, in Clackamas County and northeast of Estacada is the location of this proposal for habitat restoration to address the limiting factor of lack of life cycle habitat for ESA listed Chinook, coho and steelhead in the Clackamas River Basin. Restoration to 0.8 miles of river will include flow to 3,975 feet of off-channel habitats to provide rearing habitat for juvenile coho, spring Chinook, and winter steelhead and spawning habitat for winter steelhead and coho salmon. Restoration on 1.25 acres will provide effective riparian forest canopy and floodplain vegetation where invasive plants currently out-compete native trees, sedges and rushes.Project partners include BLM, CRBC and their contractors.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project addresses primary limiting factors for ESA-listed fish, including spring Chinook, steelhead and coho, and resulting habitat improvements will support the entire time range of spawning for these species.
- The project builds on previous restoration on this tributary, and proposed project design incorporates lessons learned from previous efforts by maximizing the benefit of large wood.
- The proposed budget is reasonable.
- This application is well-written and the project design is technically sound.
- The Watershed Council and BLM have a proven partnership history with previous success on similar projects.

Concerns

- The project design should consider incorporating conifers into planting elements and adding slash to large wood structures.

Concluding Analysis

Clackamas watershed is a high priority for fish habitat because it is one of only a couple watersheds that support life stages for coho in this region.

Since the proposed project builds on previous restoration and improves habitat for ESA-listed fish in a priority location at a reasonable cost, resulting investment has a high benefit to cost ratio.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$116,389

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount
$117,473

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3003-15583

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Building Resiliency and Connecting Corridors - Maxfield Creek Phase I

Applicant: Luckiamute WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $215,807

Total Cost: $290,766

Application Description *(from application)*

This restoration application seeks to address limiting factors of water quality and habitat condition in the upper Luckiamute Watershed. Conditions at Maxfield Creek, a tributary of the Luckiamute River in Benton County, include a lack of habitat complexity and fragmented riparian forests devoid of vegetative structural complexity and species diversity. These problems stem from current and historical land management practices that have replaced a native riparian corridor with a patchwork of hardwood forest and dense invasive plant cover. As a result, riparian areas in their current state in mid and lower Maxfield Creek are unlikely to produce the canopy cover and large conifers essential for high quality salmonid habitat. The low density, partial canopy cover is insufficient to shade the creek and keep water temperatures cool long-term, while the disconnected terrestrial habitat does not facilitate wildlife migration or native plant dispersal. This proposal will work with five landowners to restore degraded riparian corridors in 26.5 acres along 1.95 miles of Maxfield Creek to address these key limiting factors. Project elements will include control of invasive species, native plant installation, and plant establishment activities. Outreach activities will include landowner coordination, project tours, and active stewardship planning with landowners. Project partners include landowners, Benton SWCD, Greenbelt Land Trust, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, and Meyer Memorial Trust.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project will restore future large wood recruitment and the water temperature profile in a Willamette Model Watershed location that is a priority for steelhead habitat.
- This restoration is a part of the Watershed Council’s strategic plan, which is based on strong data collection and prioritization methodologies.
- The project builds on restoration efforts occurring upstream.
- The proposed project is well planned, and the design is technically sound, incorporating a balance of mechanical and chemical weed control until plantings are free-to-grow.
- The applicant has a proven track record with similar projects; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.
- The applicant addressed previous review team comments, and has improved the application by providing additional information on herbicide guidelines to be used and securing additional match.
- This project is leveraged with partnerships and supported by landowners, which is documented with letters of support.

- The project incorporates working with landowners to better understand watersheds, water quality, and important habitat characteristics; as a result, landowner engagement through restoration has potential to recruit restoration projects on adjacent properties.

Concerns

- Watershed benefits from proposed restoration could be greater with additional instream large wood structures incorporated into the project design and increased connectivity between project sites.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed restoration is timely due to the urgency for restoring any available habitat for upper Willamette winter steelhead, a population that is currently at historically low numbers. Any effort towards restoring fish habitat in their range is of value for recovery. This project also builds on work completed under the Willamette Model Watershed and will likely result in future restoration project recruitment that will expand habitat connectivity, therefore, providing significant benefit for this investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$215,807

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$215,807

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3004-15586

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $323,374

Total Cost: $2,920,541

Application Description *(from application)*

The Lower South Fork McKenzie River Floodplain Enhancement Project is a multi-phased project designed to restore the physical, chemical, and biological processes that maintain a healthy, diverse, and resilient ecosystem within the lower 4.2 miles and 600 acres of the South Fork McKenzie River. The application is seeking support for Phase I of the Project, which will take place on public lands owned and managed by the US Forest Service within the lower 2 miles and 400 acres of floodplain on the South Fork McKenzie River, a tributary to the McKenzie River in Lane County near the town of Blue River. The lower South Fork McKenzie River has been significantly altered in the last century by the construction of Cougar Dam, placement of levees, riprap and fill within the floodplain, riparian tree harvest, and wood removal from river channels. These activities have altered physical, chemical and biological processes and degraded habitat for native species including ESA-Threatened spring Chinook salmon and bull trout. Limiting factors for native communities include; lack of spawning gravel, off-channel habitat, high flow refuge, pools, cover, fine sediment deposition on the floodplain, and shallow wetland habitat. The Project will address limiting factors through the removal of floodplain levees, riprap and fill, manual aggradation of incised channels, upgrade of culverts and/or elimination of road crossings, decommissioning of roads within the floodplain, and placement of over 2,700 pieces of large wood within channels and throughout the floodplain. The entire 4.2-mile South Fork Project area is part of a larger floodplain restoration and conservation effort focused on a 12-mile reach of the "Middle" McKenzie River from Quartz Creek upstream to Horse Creek. Partners include the Willamette National Forest, McKenzie Watershed Alliance, Eugene Water & Electric Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, McKenzie River Trust and US Army Corps of Engineers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed restoration will significantly benefit ESA-listed fish in a critical area for the recovery of wild spring Chinook.
- The project design is a watershed process-based approach that is not over engineered and will reconnect floodplains and side channels with the main stream channel.
- A strong partnership with a proven track record and previous success on similar projects will implement this project.
- This application is well-written.

Concerns

- There is a limit to the ecological uplift that can occur below a dam due to its downstream impacts to the stream.
- While the Army Corps appears to support the project as a local landowner, their participation is limited as an active partner.
- The application budget has lump sums; application would be strengthened by additional budget detail.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project has more potential challenges to overcome rather than concerns because of the complexity and scale of proposed work and the unique, innovative design approach. Therefore, this project offers an opportunity to learn about the effectiveness of large scale, stream process-based restoration approaches. This project is also expected to result in a significant amount of high quality fish habitat. Furthermore, the proposed project is timely because of the momentum generated by the partners involved and similar restoration completed in this watershed. An OWEB investment has potential for leveraging with other funding sources to result in a large-scale, high impact project that has significant benefits to ESA-listed fish in a priority watershed for their recovery.

The Review Team recommends a "Fund with Conditions" with the following condition: applicant should adjust application metrics to reflect reduced scope of work resulting from the match fund sources not secured.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
1 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$323,374

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Fund Increased with Conditions: applicant should adjust application metrics to reflect reduced scope of work resulting from the match fund sources not secured. Increase by $1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

$324,458

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3005-15611

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: My Brothers Farm Riparian Enhancement Phase II

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $93,263

Total Cost: $144,086

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located in Lane County, north of Creswell on the lower mainstem of the Coast Fork Willamette River and Bear Creek. Historic and current land use practices within the Willamette Basin have degraded water resources. High summer water temperatures, erosion, and nutrient inputs are chronic issues throughout the Willamette basin, particularly in the Coast Fork Willamette River. Much of the riparian areas found along the Coast Fork Willamette River have been converted to non-riparian plant species, usually for agricultural crops and grazing livestock. The project site has been impacted through grazing livestock that removed much of the stream side vegetation, compacted and disturbed soils, and broke down banks, resulting in both channel incision and the widening of stream channels. Degradation of these systems has continued by the colonization of invasive plants, reducing the habitat suitability for wildlife. This 31.64 acre project will address habitat for native species, through management of invasive vegetation, planting native vegetation, and plant establishment over 5 years to ensure project success and sustainability. A diverse selection of native species will be planted to increase native plant diversity. Re-establishing a native riparian buffer and fencing off the waterways in this lower reach of the Coast Fork Willamette will benefit fish and wildlife habitat and improve water quality by shading the water, filtering out fine sediments and nutrients, resulting in a more resilient habitat in the face of climate change. Project partners include Farm Services Agency CREP, My Brother's Farm, and Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration benefits fish and wildlife habitat within a Willamette River Anchor Habitat and a Conservation Opportunity Area.
- Plant maintenance utilizes a reasonable Integrated Pest Management approach until native plants are free-to-grow.
- Project support is documented in letters of support.
- This project leverages with a CREP investment to expand restoration benefits.
- Phase one of this project is underway and progress appears to be successful.
- The landowner is dedicated to conservation, which is demonstrated in their land management practices.

- The proposed project offers opportunity for demonstrating how ecological and economical land uses can successfully coexist.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by additional detailed information on herbicide application methods.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project expands on previous successful restoration efforts at a priority location in this watershed and provides opportunity for recruiting future voluntary restoration on private lands. Therefore, this project provides a strong benefit for the restoration investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$93,263

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Staff recommends funding this project with reduced funding. This project will also be funded through another grant offering; therefore, the full grant request is no longer necessary. The two grants together will fund the entire project.

Staff Recommendation
Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount
$44,870

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3006-15618

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Oak Creek Open Space - Phase 1 Restoration

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: $121,386

Total Cost: $158,236

Application Description *(from application)*

1. Restoration actions (see Map 1) will take place within Albany's Oak Creek Open Space natural area. The site is located on the south side of Albany, in Linn County, and is partially bordered by the Calapooia on the west and Oak Creek, the Calpooia's largest tributary, on the east just upstream from their confluence. The site is less than four miles upstream of the mouth of the Calapooia where it enters the Willamette River. 2. Limiting factors to be addressed include loss of floodplain and riparian forests, off channel sloughs, and wetlands. The habitats are especially important in the lower watershed to provide refuge for juvenile native fish from high winter flows in the mainstem streams and rivers. This project will help connect and improve fragmented habitats important to grassland/wetland prairie dependent birds, and will control invasive plant species. 3. Restoration will occur in phases beyond the request of this proposal. This, phase 1, includes 5 acres of riparian plant establishment and 12.4 acres of wetland plant establishment. These actions were prioritized in the Oak Creek Open Space Management Plan because of the need for these habitat types, and the visibility of the planting locations within the residential area. A subsequent effort will engage the community in the restoration of the Open Space. 4. Our major partner is the City of Albany Parks and Recreation Department. They will contribute in-kind site maintenance and management, and participate in advisory discussions via the WSTAR meetings for this grant.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project has committed partners demonstrated by match contribution and letters of support, including the local homeowner association.
- Applicant incorporated previous review team comments and recommendations for adjusting the project design.
- An archeological investigation is included in the application, which is important in this area that has a significant number of cultural resources sites.
- The project provides an outreach opportunity on impacts of invasive plants to habitats in an urban setting.

Concerns

- Restoration gains and long-term success will be challenging to maintain with the constant reintroduction of invasive species that will likely occur at this site.

- The application would be strengthened by additional detail on herbicide use, methods, and timeline given the portion of project cost for herbicides.
- The application would be strengthened by information on why previous wetland work failed and how the current project design specifically addresses these issues to increase likelihood for success of the proposed project.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed restoration will address invasive plant species before it is too late to restore native vegetative communities at the project location. The site offers unique opportunity to maintain habitats in an urban setting as populations grow over time. This site also has potential for providing rearing habitat for ESA-listed fish once restored.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
13 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$121,386

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3007-15619

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Tub Run Riparian and Wetland Prairie Restoration.

Applicant: Calapooia WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: $189,566

Total Cost: $325,212

Application Description *(from application)*

Tub Run Riparian & Wetland Prairie Restoration Project is located 8 miles south of Brownsville. Tub Run Creek is a tributary to the Little Muddy River. Tub Run Creek is outside of the Calapooia Watershed, although it is within the Calapooia Watershed Council's service area. Once an abundant ecosystem within the Willamette Valley, native wetland prairies have declined dramatically in extent since the mid-1800s due to a variety of factors including agricultural conversion, urbanization, drainage, and colonization by invasive and woody vegetation. Today, wetland prairie habitat is regarded as one of the most imperiled in the Willamette Valley ecoregion, with less than 2% of its historic range remaining (Johannessen et al. 1971, Towle 1982). Degraded water resources from past and current land-use practices, such as high summer water temperatures, erosion, and nutrient inputs, are chronic issues throughout the Muddy Creek basin. These types of problems have negatively affected populations of anadromous and resident salmonids and lamprey in the greater Willamette Basin. Restoration components to be implemented include: restoring 36 acres of farmland to wetland prairie, and restoring 37 acres of degraded riparian habitat. Project partners include a private land owner, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, Linn Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Calapooia Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project will restore a mosaic of habitats that will support multiple fish and wildlife species in a location that connects with nearby restoration efforts, therefore, expanding benefits of proposed restoration work.
- Proposed scale of restoration is a reasonable size to achieve meaningful gains while remaining manageable during this initial phase of a long-term restoration strategy for the overall property.
- The project team includes experienced contractors and partners; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.
- Landowner commitment to restoration is demonstrated by match and a letter of support that expressed the landowner's primary purpose for purchasing the property was to contribute to habitat restoration.
- This project has potential for recruiting other landowners to complete similar types of restoration.

Concerns

- It is unclear how restoration investment will be protected in the long-term; however, landowner appears to be working on long-term protections.
- The Watershed Council does not have relevant restoration experience with this habitat type; however, the partners engaged in design and implementation have proven experience.

Concluding Analysis

Wet prairie habitat is a high priority in the Willamette Basin for restoration. The proposed project site offers opportunity to restore and preserve a significant number of riparian and prairie acres. This will build habitat connectivity with previous restoration efforts while offering opportunity as a demonstration site to recruit future restoration projects, therefore providing a high cost benefit for this restoration investment.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$189,566

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $1,145 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$190,711

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3008-15640

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Milton Creek at Hancock Stream Restoration

Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Columbia

OWEB Request: $114,624

Total Cost: $144,044

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is located at RM 11.2 on Milton Creek, a subwatershed in the Scappoose Bay 5th-field watershed. Milton Creek drains 21,561 acres into Scappoose Bay just upstream of its confluence with Multnomah Channel and the Columbia River, at the town of St. Helens in Columbia County. The project site is directly downstream of Anchor Site 3, identified in the 2012 Limiting Factor Analysis (LFA, SBWC), and 6.5 miles from St. Helens.This project addresses watershed concerns identified in the LFA – extremely low mainstem wood complexity and channel simplification. Functional summer pool habitat is the most limiting factor in fish production potential of the Milton Creek. ESA-listed Lower Columbia Spring Chinook, Coho, steelhead, cutthroat and lamprey are the species of concern in this subwatershed, which have declined due to poor habitat conditions. Portions of Milton Creek downstream of the project site have been identified as having elevated stream temperatures, making middle and upper reaches of the creek more critical. This project will install at least four large wood complexes along a 1400-ft reach of the mainstem of Milton Creek. The project will also remove invasive vegetation and plant approximately 2000 native plants along both sides of the riparian corridor.Partners include five landowners, ODFW, Lower Columbia Engineering, CSWCD, and the SBWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project builds on previous restoration efforts in adjacent areas that appear to be functioning well.
- The project is located in an area with high potential for habitat supporting ESA-listed fish, including coho, spring Chinook and steelhead.
- Landowner support and commitment is demonstrated by match and letters of support; and there is opportunity to recruit additional restoration projects through landowner engagement resulting from this proposed project.

Concerns

- Project design includes use of boulders in a low gradient stream system, which would not occur naturally at this location. Without additional project design information in the application, it is unclear how and why boulders will be incorporated into the instream large wood structures to provide benefits to fish habitat and watershed process and function. As a result, the project design does not match the watershed context.

- Planting design has limited density coverage planned and it is unclear whether the proposed maintenance plan for plantings will be effective in restoring the native plant community to a free-to-grow state.
- The application overstates potential benefits to water temperature.

Concluding Analysis

Since this low gradient stream would not normally have boulders present, additional project design detail is needed to understand the design approach and how this design solution is likely to be successful in achieving expected watershed and fish habitat benefits. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide the following information: (1) project designs and explanation on how incorporating boulders into large wood structures will restore watershed process and function at this location and provide fish habitat benefits; and (2) explanation for the chosen planting design and plant stewardship plan, and how it is likely to successfully restore the native plant community to a free-to-grow state.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3009-15655

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Partnership: High Quality Seed for Restoration and Recovery

Applicant: Institute for Applied Ecology

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $239,392

Total Cost: $893,435

Application Description *(from application)*

Many government agencies, non-profit organizations and private landowners in the Willamette Valley have been working collaboratively to reduce the decline of native species, recover listed species, and create an interconnected landscape of prairie and oak habitat by implementing restoration projects throughout the region. However, one stumbling block to the success of many of these restoration projects has been the limited availability of high quality, native plant materials appropriate for use in these projects. Until recently, availability of locally sourced native seed for restoration work in the Willamette Valley suffered from a lack of coordination. This lack of coordination potentially resulted in over-collection from wild native populations, introduction of inappropriate genetic material into existing populations, duplication of plant materials production efforts, scarcity of critical diversity species, instability for commercial native plant growers, and higher costs for restoration projects. The Willamette Valley Native Plant Materials Partnership was established in 2012 as an ecoregional approach to increasing the availability and diversity of native seed in the Willamette Valley for restoration projects. Current partners include Benton County, Benton SWCD, Cascade Pacific RC&D, City of Corvallis, City of Eugene, Columbia Land Trust, Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Friends of Buford Park, Greenbelt Land Trust, Heritage Seedlings, IAE, Kenagy Family Farm, Long Tom Watershed Council, Marys River Watershed Council, McKenzie River Trust, Metro, NRCS, ODFW, ODOT, OPRD, Oregon Seed Certification, Oregon Wholesale Seed Co., Pacific Northwest Natives, Polk SWCD, TNC, Trillium Gardens, USACE, USFWS, Willamalane Park & Recreation District, Willamette Habitat Restoration, and Yamhill SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project builds on previous OWEB Technical Assistance grant investment, the design is well thought out with plans to make efforts self-sustaining by 2020, and the proposed work addresses a need for high quality native plants for Willamette restoration projects.
- Species identified for production are plants not currently produced by nurseries so that efforts will not be in competition with local nursery businesses.
- The project is supported by a diversity of partners and landowners, which is demonstrated by letters of support and match.
- The applicant has relevant experience; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.

Concerns

- Overall project cost is high; the application would be strengthened by additional budget explanation for some of the costs that seem higher compared to other applications (e.g. travel and staff time).

Concluding Analysis

This project is unique because proposed work will benefit restoration efforts completed by other groups. While the project has a high cost, it also provides broad reaching benefits to restoration practitioners for the large scale investment. Developing seed and plant materials from the local seed zone with diverse genetics will increase the quality of plant materials that can increase success and quality of restoration efforts utilizing this material.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$239,392

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$239,392

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3010-15659

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Spencer Creek Oak Woodland Restoration, Old Gimpl Farm Oak Savanna Restoration, and Biochar Creation

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $116,277

Total Cost: $163,119

Application Description *(from application)*

Old Gimpl Farm lies 1.5 miles southwest of Eugene in Lane County; it supports 23 acres of wet and upland prairie and oak savanna habitat interspersed with seasonal streams and a camas-ash swale. The Spencer Creek site lies 3 miles southwest of Eugene; it supports 80 acres of oak savanna and woodland habitat, and 7 acres of prairie, pond, seasonal stream, dry conifer woodland, and ash swale habitats. Both sites are within a half mile of large public and private lands sites on which LTWC has partnered to restore oak habitat, and within numerous overlapping areas identified as oak habitat conservation priorities. Former and current land uses on both sites have enabled oak habitats to persist. However, the absence of fire and other disturbances has allowed Doug fir, blackberry, Scotch broom and other woody vegetation to establish and compete for resources. This project seeks to complement landowner management actions to restore 10 acres of high-quality oak savanna and prairie, including populations of Kincaid's lupine and shaggy horkelia, and a 2-acre camas-ash swale on Old Gimple Farm; and 45 acres of open oak woodland, and an acre of pond and ash swale habitat on Spencer Creek, where Willamette daisy and Western pond turtle have been observed. The project will incorporate biochar creation in an effort to avoid piling and burning restoration slash. Project partners include two private landowners, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Rivers to Ridges partners, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, two biochar consultants, and Oregon Department of Forestry.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project will restore a diversity of habitats at sites that will benefit Kincaid's lupine and Willamette daisy populations located on the project properties.
- The applicant addressed all recommendations from the previous review team evaluation, which has strengthened the project application by focusing on elements with highest ecological benefits.
- The monitoring project component is improved.
- The applicant has proven experience with similar restoration efforts; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.
- This project provides a landowner outreach opportunity as a demonstration site for integrating wildlife habitat restoration with a profitable working farm.
- Landowner support is demonstrated by letters of support.

Concerns

- No significant concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis

This application demonstrates strengths in proposal clarity, technical soundness, watershed context, applicant capacity, and cost effectiveness. The proposed project also offers opportunity to test a new biochar methodology that could provide lessons for other upland oak habitat restoration practitioners looking for solutions to challenges related to the slash disposal associated with these projects.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$116,277

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$116,277

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3011-15664

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Bear Creek Stream and Floodplain Restoration at Bennett Vineyards

Applicant: Long Tom WC

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Lane

OWEB Request: $92,344

Total Cost: $138,640

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located at Bennett Vineyards and Wine Company, which is just west of Cheshire in Lane County. We are proposing to restore stream, wetland, floodplain, and upland habitat along Bear Creek, which drains into the Long Tom River. Watershed issues to be addressed include simplified instream habitat due to decreased large woody debris abundance, elevated downstream water temperatures due to decreased stream shading, insufficient native turtle and amphibian habitat caused by wetland alterations, and decreased native prairie plant abundance caused by conversion of prairie to agricultural land uses. We will install log jams in Bear Creek to improve instream habitat complexity, plant native trees and shrubs along Bear Creek to restore riparian habitat, install basking logs in a pond to improve native turtle rearing habitat, create suitable native turtle nesting habitat in a one acre zone adjacent to the pond, excavate three shallow seasonal pools to provide nesting and rearing habitat for native amphibians, and install twelve 25'x25' plots of native forbs in the upland portions of the riparian area. Project partners include Bennett Vineyards and Wine Company, CREP (USDA FSA, NRCS, and OWEB), US Army Corps of Engineers, and two consulting biologists.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is comprehensive by restoring a mosaic of multiple habitat types that will benefit a diversity of fish and wildlife species.
- Restoration builds on previous efforts in a Willamette Model Watershed.
- Landowner support is demonstrated by match contribution.
- This project has a high benefit given the amount of restoration that will result from the investment.
- The project provides significant outreach potential because it is located on a winery property with a tasting room, therefore offering a unique touch point for people to learn about restoration efforts integrated with working lands. This also offers opportunity to recruit other wineries to complete similar voluntary restoration efforts.
- The applicant addressed all recommendations from the previous review team evaluation, which has strengthened the project application.
- Applicant has proven experience with similar restoration efforts, therefore the project is likely to succeed.

Concerns

- Long-term stewardship will be challenging given the diversity of habitat types to be maintained after restoration.

Concluding Analysis

This project implements restoration actions that are part of a Willamette Model Watershed strategy and benefits a diversity of habitats supporting native fish and wildlife species, which results in a cost-effective project for the expected watershed benefits.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$92,344

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $1,236 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount
$93,580

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3012-15668

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Clear Creek North Restoration Project

Applicant: Clackamas River Basin Council

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: $148,504

Total Cost: $355,582

Application Description *(from application)*

The Clear Creek North Restoration Project is located on the Clear Creek North Natural Area, which was acquired by Metro in 2015. This 68-acre property includes approximately 3,000 feet of stream frontage on lower Clear Creek in Clackamas County. Headwatered on Goat Mountain (elevation 4,226 feet), Clear Creek is a free-flowing tributary to the Clackamas River, which enters the mainstem at river mile (RM) 8, near Carver, Oregon. Clear Creek is utilized by 11 different species of fish, including a number of federally listed species, including fall Chinook, winter steelhead, and the last significant run of late-run coho in the lower Columbia River Basin. Though Clear Creek exhibits arguably the highest quality habitat of any tributary in the Clackamas Basin, a number of anthropogenic factors limit habitat availability and geomorphic processes throughout the proposed project reach. Further, because of its relatively high existing habitat quality, it holds some of the greatest potential for significant habitat uplift through restoration actions. When compared to historical conditions, the main limiting factors identified in Clear Creek within this parcel include: lack of large wood pieces in the mainstem, lack of low-velocity refuge during flood flows, lack of cover in mainstem pools, limited river complexity, lack of small gravel accumulation in certain areas, minimal year-round off-channel cover and habitat, and disconnected floodplain regions. For the current effort on the Clear Creek North Natural Area property, efforts towards restoring the site to achieve historical baseline condition is the focus. This includes efforts to encourage natural river processes, increase instream wood counts to more closely match historical numbers, remove identified human-created features, and in those areas where river processes are deficient, create habitat that would likely have formed naturally. Project partners include Metro, ODFW and Clackamas River Basin Council

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed restoration will provide benefits to ESA-listed fish, including coho, steelhead and Chinook salmon, in a priority watershed for their recovery.
- The proposed project expands on previous restoration efforts in adjacent areas.
- The project location is in a priority area identified by Clackamas Capacity FIP partners and ODFW, and is a site Metro purchased because of its high habitat value.
- The Watershed Council and Metro have a proven partnership history with previous success on similar projects, which includes lessons learned from an upstream project on Clear Creek.

Concerns

- The project design has a high level of engineering that may not be necessary; however, it is understood the proposed level for technical design is required for Metro to invest in projects.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration in Clear Creek will reach the most number of ESA-listed fish species in a location that has a high response potential to habitat improvements. The high degree of engineering is balanced by the level of priority for this site to ESA-listed fish and potential benefit to the watershed resources that would not otherwise occur.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$148,504

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount
$149,588

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3013-15669

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Willamette Basin Oak Habitat Restoration Project

Applicant: Lomakatsi Restoration Project

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Polk

OWEB Request: $250,000

Total Cost: $390,948

Application Description *(from application)*

This project takes place at four Nature Conservancy sites in the Willamette Valley: the Willow Creek and Coburg Ridge Preserves near Eugene in Lane County, the Noble Oaks Preserve near Willamina in Polk County, and the Yamhill Oaks – Gopher Valley Preserve near Sheridan in Yamhill County. Approximately 90% of the pre-settlement oak savanna and woodland habitat in the Willamette Valley has been lost due to agricultural conversion, residential expansion, loss of historic fire regime, and encroachment of Douglas-fir trees. As a result, many plant and wildlife taxa are considered imperiled, and six have been listed under the federal Endangered Species Act. The conservation and restoration of oak habitats is a priority in the Oregon Conservation Strategy, the NWPCC Willamette Sub-basin Plan, and many local watershed plans. The proposed work at these sites, all of which have been identified as priority locations for oak conservation, will support restoration on 424 acres of oak habitat by addressing the limiting factors of: stand density, conifer encroachment, and presence of invasive weeds. The restoration components to be implemented include: treatment of invasive species, stand thinning with mechanical and hand treatments that target both conifer presence and oak density, habitat enhancement measures such as girdling or topping of conifer trees for wildlife benefit, removal of project biomass with chipping, hauling, or pile burning, and seeding of disturbed soil with appropriate native seed. The project partner is The Nature Conservancy - Oregon Chapter, who is the landowner or conservation easement owner at all proposed project sites.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project sites are in priority locations for oak habitat and would provide corridors of habitat connectivity with nearby oak sites. Furthermore, restoration action is timely for these sites to restore and protect valuable oak habitat.
- The proposed restoration approach uses an accepted methodology to treat forest structure.
- The project team appears to be qualified for oak habitat restoration given previous restoration work.
- The project sites could potentially provide future public access and outreach opportunities.

Concerns

- The application lacks details needed to effectively evaluate the project and would be strengthened by additional design and context information, such as on-the-ground layout plans and adjacent NRCS

easements that combined with proposed restoration will expand habitat connectivity.

- The project budget has lump sums; the application would be strengthened by additional budget detail to determine whether project costs are reasonable.
- This project has limited partner support documented in the application.

Concluding Analysis

Restoration efforts in oak habitats are a priority for the Willamette Valley; however, the application lacks enough proposal clarity to evaluate the proposed project for technical soundness, watershed context, capacity of the applicant, and cost effectiveness. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide additional project details including: (1) information on work completed to date at project sites, (2) context on why project sites are important (e.g. connection to adjacent conservation efforts, location within a Conservation Opportunity Area, etc.), (3) design information including on-the-ground layout, (4) information on current and future conditions including stocking densities, (5) location of plantings and native seed list expected to be used, and (6) partnerships supporting project implementation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3014-15675

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: ButterFlyWay: Release the Oaks! Restore the Prairie! Connect the Habitats!

Applicant: Greenbelt Land Trust

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Benton

OWEB Request: $233,132

Total Cost: $573,028

Application Description *(from application)*

Greenbelt is proposing to create a 2-mile corridor that will connect Critical Habitat across 280 acres of permanently protected land. The ButterFlyWay will span Bald Hill Farm and Mulkey Ridge Forest, which is located in the Mary's River Watershed, Benton County, between the cities of Philomath and Corvallis. This project will address the loss, degradation, and fragmentation of prairie, savanna, and oak woodland habitat and will focus on two federally listed butterflies: Fender's blue and Taylor's checkerspot. Restoration activities will emphasize invasive plant control, oak release, and savanna and prairie establishment. The ButterFlyWay will create a nectar-trail, rich in native plants, and will open forested habitats to create a corridor to allow for the expansion of our two geographically isolated endangered butterflies. Restoring imperiled species requires regional collaboration. Greenbelt will therefore be working closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Center for Natural Lands Management, and the Wildlife Habitat Restoration Fund.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposed project is a well thought out, ambitious strategy with a realistic projection of actions that can be accomplished in the near-term while incorporating long-term plans to connect together habitats across a broader landscape.
- Project location expands previous restoration efforts, and will benefit federally listed Fender's blue and Taylor's checkerspot.
- Project support is demonstrated by a diversity of partners documented through letters of support and match.
- The applicant has proven experienced with similar restoration efforts; therefore, the project is likely to succeed.
- Project location has a high potential for public outreach on the role of tree harvest in habitat restoration.

Concerns

- The false brome will be challenging to address because of the magnitude of its impact on the project site; however, the applicant provides a fair and reasonable approach for partitioning treatment across the site that will likely have meaningful gains in addressing this noxious weed.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is part of broader strategic plan that has key pieces falling into place that will provide connectivity of priority, high-quality oak habitat across a large landscape scale. This will result in significant ecological benefit at reasonable cost in a priority location for oak habitat restoration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 13

Review Team Recommended Amount
$233,132

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$233,132

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3015-15600
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Honeyman Creek Fish Passage
Applicant: Scappoose Bay WC
Basin: Willamette Basin
County: Columbia
OWEB Request: $36,386
Total Cost: $46,106

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is located on Honeyman Creek, a tributary in the Scappoose subwatershed that drains into Scappoose Bay. Honeyman Creek is located in Columbia County, between Scappoose and St. Helens, approximately 25 miles north of Portland. Honeyman Creek is an important watershed for ESA-listed Lower Columbia River Chinook salmon, coho salmon, winter steelhead, cutthroat trout, and other species occupying similar habitats. Road and access construction for historical logging practices and rural residential development has blocked fish passage through the system. Portions of the creek also show significant signs of incision, floodplain disconnection, and loss of large wood. The SB Watershed Council has corrected five fish passages in the lower portions of the watershed. This project will complete 65% permit-ready engineering designs for the remaining two fish barriers, assess the stream corridor above previously-corrected fish passages, develop enhancement alternatives, and complete a final design for stream function improvements, including a native vegetation plan. Partners include multiple landowners, ODFW, Lower Columbia Engineering, and the SBWC Native Plant Nursery volunteers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project design is technically sound and straight forward in addressing the two remaining fish passage barriers in Honeyman Creek.
- The resulting restoration project will open six miles of upstream spawning habitat that will benefit ESA-listed fish, including coho, Chinook salmon and steelhead.
- This application is well written and clear.

Concerns

- Upstream riparian and instream habitat condition may have limited quality.
- It is unclear from the application how the applicant plans to use proposed survey work; however, it appears from the application that ODFW will provide technical assistance to help the applicant create a restoration plan with this information.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed technical assistance will provide designs to replace the final fish passage barriers in the Honeyman Creek drainage, which will expand ESA-listed fish access to spawning habitat. While the quality of upstream habitat is unclear; proposed technical assistance builds in opportunity to develop future restoration opportunities to improve habitat conditions after fish passage is addressed.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$36,386

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$36,386

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3016-15636

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper North Santiam Side Channel Alternatives Analysis

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Linn

OWEB Request: $39,632

Total Cost: $49,658

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located 10 miles upstream of the Detroit Dam near the town of Idanha. This site has an old 750 foot long historical side-channel that used to connect with the Upper North Santiam River at River Mile 59. The property is currently owned by the Oregon Department of State Lands and is on the south side of the river in Linn County. Past stream cleaning and logging activities have removed riparian conifers and key pieces of large wood in the channel and floodplains. Side-channel development has been limited by the lack of in-stream large wood to re-direct flows off the mainstem and channel hardening and straightening activities from revetment installation. The project implemented from this technical assistance grant will primarily benefit juvenile spring chinook and cutthroat trout by increasing the availability and complexity of off-channel rearing habitat. River Design Group will be contracted to provide the following deliverables: 1) LiDAR datasets, historical air photos & hydrologic data 2) topographic survey with bathymetric data; 3) Hydrologic and hydraulic analysis for 1D HEC-RAS modeling 4) 30/60/90% design plans with cost estimate. Project partners include: ODFW, USFS, USGS, DSL, USACE, The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and two adjacent private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application is well-prepared and provides a strong presentation of restoration priorities and ecological needs to demonstrate why the proposed restoration action at the project location is important.
- Resulting restoration will benefit watershed process and function and provide habitat for ESA-listed Spring Chinook.
- This project is located two miles downstream from the salmon release site above Detroit Dam; therefore, it will likely be used for fish habitat.
- The project budget has reasonable costs for the proposed tasks.
- Landowner and partner project support is documented by letters of support.

Concerns

- Ecological benefit of restoration efforts is limited until fish passage at the Army Corps dams is fully addressed.

- The mainstem North Santiam River has an incised stream channel; therefore, project design needs to consider how changes in the main channel affect the side-channel. It is unclear from the application how the side-channel design will address challenges associated with maintaining side-channel reconnection in the long term.
- The application would be strengthened by including an alternatives analysis for considering other restoration actions that would benefit watershed process and function and Chinook salmon habitat besides reconnecting the side-channel.

Concluding Analysis

The proposed project is located two miles downstream from the site ODFW releases Chinook salmon and is in close proximity to stream restoration work completed by USFS; therefore, restored fish habitat has a high likelihood for fish use. Since the side-channel proposed for reconnection is the only side-channel above Detroit Reservoir with an inlet protected by bedrock, it is a reasonable candidate for reconnection. Resulting restoration will provide needed habitat for young ESA-listed fish.

The Review Team recommends a "Fund with Conditions" with the following condition: Resulting design report shall include an alternatives and design analysis that addresses change in bed level in the main stream channel and the impacts of this change to the side-channel, including: (1) what stream elements need to be addressed in a side-channel reconnection restoration project and how the project design addresses them; and (2) spawning/rearing habitat needs in the main channel and side-channel.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
2 of 2

Review Team Recommended Amount
$39,632

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Fund with Conditions: Resulting design report shall include an alternatives and design analysis that addresses change in bed level in the main stream channel and the impacts of this change to the side-channel, including: (1) what stream elements need to be addressed in a side-channel reconnection restoration project and how project design addresses them; and (2) spawning/rearing habitat needs in the main channel and side-channel.

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$39,632

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3017-15660

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: North Santiam River Lower Bennett Dam Alternatives Analysis

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Marion

OWEB Request: $44,354

Total Cost: $55,504

Application Description *(from application)*

The Technical Assistance grant will be used to complete an alternatives analysis and 30% design for improving fish passage and diversion dam function at the Lower Bennett Dam, located at RM 29 on the North Santiam River near Stayton, Oregon. Lower Bennett Dam is a critical component of the Bennett Dam complex, a surface water diversion network responsible for water delivery to the City of Salem, City of Stayton, and Santiam Water Control District (SWCD) water users. Lower Bennett Dam is approaching the end of its serviceable life and project partners are eager to evaluate alternative options for retrofitting or replacing the dam which is also a partial fish passage barrier, causes sediment deposition that affects diversions, and requires annual maintenance to ensure structural stability. A secondary dam, the Spillway Dam, will also be evaluated for fish passage improvement options. Fish ladders at both dams do not meet current fish passage criteria and may cause passage delays.River Design Group, Inc. is assisting the North Santiam Watershed Council (NSWC) and SWCD with the Project, and will oversee all project phases and be responsible for coordinating with project stakeholders. Project partners include the SWCD, City of Salem, City of Stayton and a team of regional technical experts. OWEB funds will be used for contracted services and for project administration. The proposed project parallels a similar effort the City of Salem is undertaking on Upper Bennett Dam, the upstream dam in the complex. The parallel projects will benefit from information sharing.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application describes project's tie to relevant plans, demonstrating how the project is a high priority need located within an area with active restoration and conservation efforts.
- This design proposal will result in a long-term fix to infrastructure impacting watershed process and function.
- The resulting technical assistance product could build collaborative partnerships and support from other funding sources to implement a future restoration project.
- Watershed benefits likely to result from the proposed project include improved fish passage for ESA-listed fish and improved water quality resulting from a design solution that will eliminate the need for regular channel dredging used to maintain infrastructure.

Concerns

- The application is unclear as to what the technical assistance product will be and how it will result in a restoration project, the number of restoration alternatives that could be considered, how the proposed technical assistance project for Lower Bennett Dam is tied to current work on the Upper Bennett Dam, and the status of the hydropower project connected to this site.
- Contractor cost seems high for the described technical assistance product.
- A diversity of partners will benefit from any planning and implementation efforts at this site; however, the application is unclear on how actively engaged these partners are in supporting restoration efforts that address key watershed limiting factors.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed technical assistance is an important first step for this location that is extremely complex due to the many factors at play, including drinking water and irrigation infrastructure, stream dynamics, and ESA-listed fish species. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to provide: (1) additional information describing contractor costs; (2) clear project objectives for expected technical assistance outcomes; (3) detailed description of technical assistance product and how it will result in a restoration project; and (4) documentation of active and engaged partner contribution and support for a product that addresses watershed limiting factors.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Willamette Basin (Region 3)

Application Number: 218-3018-15661

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: NCUWC 10-Year Restoration Action Plan

Applicant: North Clackamas Urban Watershed Council

Basin: Willamette Basin

County: Clackamas

OWEB Request: $36,969

Total Cost: $47,643

Application Description *(from application)*

The North Clackamas Urban Watersheds Council (NCUWC) proposes to hire an environmental consulting firm to assist in the development and adoption of a ten-year restoration action plan, developed in cooperation with regional partners and the public. The restoration action plan will build off of past assessment and monitoring efforts to identify restoration and project priorities for the Council's highly developed yet ecologically significant watersheds. The plan will not only focus on habitat and fish recovery on NCUWC's most prominent watershed, Kellogg/Mt. Scott, but will also provide a framework for NCUWC to identify priorities across the four tributaries in our service area which all drain directly into the Lower Willamette River, and identify projects and opportunities for the main stem of the Willamette River downstream of the Clackamas River and upstream of Johnson Creek. NCUWC's service area is known to provide crucial rearing habitat for migrating juvenile fish including this often-overlooked reach of the Lower Willamette River. However, the Council currently does not have a framework allowing for prioritization of projects along the creeks or at their confluences with the Willamette. Confirmed and pending partners for this project include the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oak Lodge Water Services District, Clackamas County Water Environment Services, North Clackamas Parks and Recreation District, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, the City of Milwaukie, the City of Gladstone, and the City of Happy Valley. OWEB funds will be used for consulting services, staff salaries, printing, and grant administration.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed technical assistance engages a diversity of appropriate partners.
- Future restoration actions will benefit ESA-listed fish.

Concerns

- Overall project cost is high compared to similar technical assistance projects given the smaller watershed size and scale. Application would be strengthened by more information explaining the consultant costs and how those rates were determined.

- The application lacks detail and is unclear on the following: (1) what relevant plans will be addressed; (2) how technical assistance will prioritize restoration opportunities to move the highest impact restoration projects forward over opportunistic projects; (3) what the data management tool is and how it will be used as part of the proposed project; and (4) what capacity the applicant has for implementing restoration recommendations from the technical assistance.

Concluding Analysis

Proposed technical assistance provides opportunity for the applicant to build on previous outreach efforts toward developing restoration projects. The application lacks enough proposal clarity to evaluate the proposed project for technical soundness, watershed context, capacity of the applicant, and cost effectiveness.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

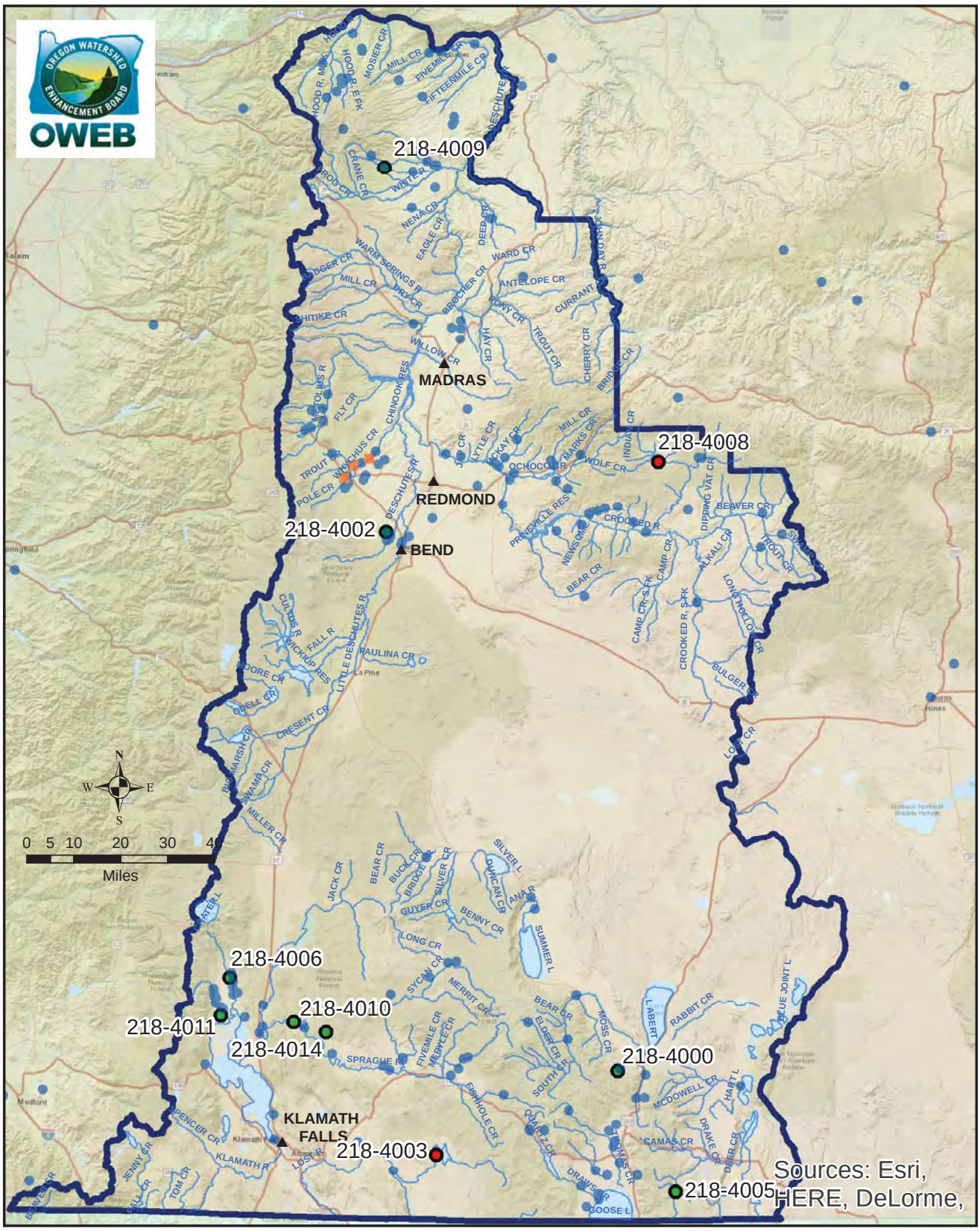
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Attachment C-4

Central Oregon - Region 4 May 2017 Application Funding Status



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ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1, NAD 1983 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl WKID: 2992 Authority:EPSG OWEB- PK Wills Sept. 2017

Spring 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding LIne (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer St, NE Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
(503) 986-0178
http://oregon.gov/OWEB/

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Region 4 - Central Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-4005	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	Upper Deep Creek Fish Passage Project	This project will restore fish passage at two barriers along Upper Deep Creek which will provide access to 20 miles of habitat upstream. Deep Creek is located in the Warner Mountains and drains into Crump Lake.	360,071	Lake
218-4000	Lakeview SWCD	Willow Creek Wetland Habitat Enhancement	This project will restore one mile of Willow Creek for improved fish and wildlife habitat. Willow Creek is a tributary to the Lower Chewaucan River near Lake Abert.	364,529	Lake
218-4006	Trout Unlimited Inc	Annie Creek Fish Passage and Screening Design and Implementation	This project will provide fish passage and screening at four diversions on Lower Annie Creek, a tributary to the Upper Wood River.	209,538	Klamath
218-4009	Wasco SWCD	Threemile Joint Fish Screen	This project will compile two existing points of diversion into one, provide fish passage and screening, and permanently protect 1 cfs of streamflow to Threemile Creek, a tributary to the White River.	243,319	Wasco
218-4002	Tumalo Irrigation District	Tumalo Feed Canal Phase V	This project will pipe 5,500ft. of open ditch canal that will allow the District to permanently protect 1.83 cfs in Tumalo Creek and 494 acre feet to Crescent Creek, both of which are senior water rights.	400,000	Deschutes
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,577,457**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended* but *Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-4008	Crooked River WC	Big Summit Prairie Restoration Phase 1	This project proposes passive and active restoration of fish and wildlife habitat at Big Summit Prairie, which will include the installation of native plants, roughened riffles, new diversion and fish screen, and livestock fencing.	488,613	Crook
218-4003	Klamath SWCD	Gerber Watershed Enhancement Project	This project will conduct Western juniper removal and Ponderosa pine thinning on 3,264 acres of private land in the Gerber Reservoir watershed to promote wildlife habitat and reduce wildfire threats.	328,965	Klamath
Total Restoration Projects Reccommended for Funding by RRT				**2,395,035**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Requested**	**County**
218-4001	Trout Unlimited Inc	Upper Loosley Fish Screen	103,073	Klamath
218-4004	Crooked River WC	Cold Springs Ranch Instream Restoration Project Phase 1	351,787	Crook
218-4007	Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council	KV Bar Ranch Fish Screen and Upper Floodplain Restoration	220,059	Lake

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
218-4011	Trout Unlimited Inc	Agency Lake Wetland Complex - Restoration Planning	This planning grant will account for looking at 14,000 acres of private and public land at Agency Lake with the focus of improving wetland and floodplain access and function.	50,000	Klamath
218-4014	Trout Unlimited Inc	Upper Klamath Basin Fish Passage Inventory and Prioritization	This project will develop an inventory, assessment, and prioritization of fish barriers in the entire Upper Klamath Basin for all native fish species.	28,049	Klamath
218-4010	Klamath Watershed Partnership	East Hills/Lobert Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project	This planning grant will support outreach, workshops, and forest management plan development to ultimately implement forest thinning and restoration treatments to over 19,000 acres to reduce wildfire severity and improve wildlife habitat.	33,058	Klamath
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**111,107**	

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
NONE				
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT			**111,107**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount**	**County**
218-4012	Crooked River WC	Crooked River Water Quality Evaluation & Report	22,098	Crook
218-4013	Trout Unlimited Inc	Lower Threemile and Crane Creek Reconnection and Restoration Design	50,000	Klamath

Region 4 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,688,564**	**19%**

Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**8,788,376**	

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4000-15595

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Willow Creek Wetland Habitat Enhancement

Applicant: Lakeview SWCD

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $363,485

Total Cost: $670,052

Application Description *(from application)*

The project area on Willow Creek is located approximately 8 miles west of Valley Falls, OR a community in Lake County. Willow Creek is a tributary of the Chewaucan River.The project area is a wet meadow complex within Sage Grouse Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH or Core). Wet meadows are critical for the brood rearing stage of the Sage Grouse life cycle, as well as numerous other wildlife and water bird species. The meadows within the project area have been incised, which has stopped the creek from accessing the historic flood plain. Stream incision also lowers the groundwater table of the meadows, leading to loss of wet meadow habitat. Incision of these meadows has reduced the meadow's capacity to hold water and provide a moderating influence on late season and drought flows. This project intends to return the stream to an elevation which will allow it to access the historic floodplain thereby returning the system to resilient process based ecosystem. This will be achieved using the pond and plug restoration method, this method fills (plug) the existing incised channel with material from the meadow (pond). In 2016 the U.S.F.W.S. in conjunction with Lakeview SWCD hired the firm Stream Wise to conduct a survey and design alternatives for the project site. The full report is uploaded as "Willow Creek 4 Sites Wetland Enhancement". Full design, alternatives, photos etc... are included in the document. Our budget has been built using the construction budgets from this document, with additional project costs added. Project partners include two landowners, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Lakeview SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project designs are complete and construction ready.
- Reconnecting Willow Creek to its historic floodplain will have numerous positive ecological effects for water quality, late season surface flow, and fish and wildlife habitat.
- The project as designed should increase habitat availability for sage-grouse, particularly brood rearing habitat.
- Floodplain reconnection along this stretch of Willow Creek is likely to result in increased wetland function.
- Landowners are committed, actively engaged in land management, and able to respond to issues if they arise.
- Reviewers appreciated the scale and dimension details that were depicted on the site photos in the attached restoration plan.

Concerns

- As depicted on submitted maps, the borrow area for pond and plug method is potentially located in a wetland. It would have been helpful if the application addressed any negative impacts and mitigation involved with material excavation.
- Landowner match was low given scale and anticipated benefits, no cash match.
- Project budget had several large lump sums making it challenging for reviewers to discern cost appropriateness.
- Reviewers noted the potential challenges associated with permitting, given the complexities of removal and fill near potential wetlands. The application lacked discussion on permit acquisition approach and current status.
- There was no grazing plan included in the application, it would have been helpful to understand what grazing practices will be employed post project to ensure the ecological outcomes stated in the goals and objectives for the project will be met long term.

Concluding Analysis

The project will reconnect roughly one mile of Willow Creek to a historic channel allowing for floodplain reconnection and inundation in this low gradient wet meadow complex environment. The project approach is a pond and plug method, filling in the current incised channel and creating a series of ponds which will be activated during spring runoff and maintain storage. The project is located within a priority area of conservation (PAC) for sage-grouse, providing critical brood rearing habitat adjacent to shrub steppe breeding habitats. The design team also leads the construction (design – build approach), and has completed a number of pond and plug projects in similar landscapes. The reviewers did note the lack of detail describing the permitting needs and approaches with regulatory agencies. In addition, there were concerns about potential wetland loss from excavation. These complexities may require a wetland delineation, which can add unanticipated costs and time for the project. However, given the anticipated benefits of wet meadow storage and sage-grouse habitat enhancement, the review team recommends this project for funding with the condition that the grantee submit a grazing plan, including a description of how riparian areas will be managed and how grazing will affect sage-grouse habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
2 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$363,485

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

Fund with conditions. Submit a grazing plan, including a description of how riparian areas will be managed and how grazing will affect sage grouse habitat prior to first payment.
Increase by $1,044 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$364,529

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4001-15598
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Upper Loosley Fish Screen
Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc
Basin: Central Oregon
County: Klamath
OWEB Request: $103,073
Total Cost: $190,633

Application Description *(from application)*

1) The Wood River originates from springs north of Fort Klamath, Klamath County and is a primary tributary of Agency Lake in the upper Klamath basin (UKB). 2) The Wood River has been heavily impacted by a century of agricultural land use. Numerous irrigation diversions were constructed along the Wood River channel to provide water to an extensive network of irrigation canals. Although Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) installed fish screens on a portion of the diversions, some diversions remain unscreened; therefore, native fishes are at risk of becoming entrained in the irrigation infrastructure. 3) The project proposes to install a fish screen on a 14 cfs diversion on the Wood River to eliminate entrainment of native fishes, including Endangered Species Act-listed Bull Trout and ODFW Sensitive Species-listed Redband Trout. 4) Project partners include ODFW, USFWS, USFS, TU, and the landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project location is critical habitat for ESA Threatened Bull trout.
- Canal screening at this point of diversion is a high priority for ODFW.
- US Fish and Wildlife service match funding is secured (listed as pending at time of application).
- The project area is suitable habitat for potential salmonid reintroduction, should downstream dam removal on the Klamath River proceed.
- The landowner is committed to the goals of the project.
- The project appears cost effective.
- The purchase of spare parts in advance is forward thinking.

Concerns

- The application did not include project designs.
- Without project designs, the reviewers felt it was challenging to understand the appropriateness of the proposed project costs.
- There is a lack of understanding of current fish use in the canal system. This information is needed to evaluate the project.
- While the landowner who owns the land at the point of diversion is supportive, there was no indication whether the water users are supportive. This information would be helpful to know.

Concluding Analysis

This project would screen a 14 cfs point of diversion on the Upper Wood River to eliminate the potential of native fish entrainment in associated canal ditches. The location of the diversion is a top priority for fisheries managers, and aids the recovery of listed Bull trout. A variety of habitat restoration actions and fish screening has taken place in adjacent Sun and Annie Creeks, nearby tributaries of the Upper Wood River. This project would complement those actions. The project has strong partners and match. Nevertheless, the lack of any designs was troubling for the reviewers. It is challenging to review and evaluate a project that has no design or technical detail regarding the proposed solution to the problem. The reviewers see the merit and ecological value in screening this point of diversion. The applicant is encouraged to either apply for technical assistance funding, or resubmit a restoration proposal with design details.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4002-15615
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Tumalo Feed Canal Phase V
Applicant: Tumalo Irrigation District
Basin: Central Oregon
County: Deschutes
OWEB Request: $750,000
Total Cost: $3,407,213

Application Description *(from application)*

Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River originate in the Cascade mountains in Central Oregon. Both suffer from low summer streamflows that have been identified as a major factor limiting fish habitat and water quality in the Deschutes River and tributaries. In addition to low flows, Tumalo Irrigation District (TID) experiences major loss of water due to basalt canals. TID has made a significant commitment to the health of the watershed and water conservation through the Tumalo Feed Canal Conservation Project. This phase of the project will eliminate 5,500 length-feet of the open Tumalo Feed Canal into leak-free piping; eliminating seepage losses and creating new senior instream water rights in Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River during the summer and Crescent Creek, the Little Deschutes River and the Upper Deschutes River during the winter. OWEB funds will be used to match Federal and District funds to purchase materials and support the implementation of the conserved water transfer. This project is the fifth phase of a multi-phase effort to pipe the entire Tumalo Feed Canal. Ultimately, this project will permanently protect 1.83 cfs of summer stream flow to Tumalo Creek and approximately 494.77 AF of storage releases to Crescent Creek, the Little Deschutes and Deschutes River placing 100 percent of the publicly funded water instream. The fully piped Tumalo Feed Canal with all phases in place will return 11.80 cfs to Tumalo Creek and the Deschutes River and 2,732 AF of storage releases to Crescent Creek.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The applicant addressed previous review team comments by outlining ecological outcomes and anticipated conserved water savings in a clear manner.
- The anticipated conserved water savings will have benefits to the ESA threatened spotted frog.
- The applicant has proven its ability and commitment to conserving water instream.
- The project builds on prior investment, which cumulatively will improve flow and temperature regimes instream.

Concerns

- High cost for project deliverables.
- Bid solicitation information in project timeline was confusing to understand.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a resubmittal by the applicant. This current phase includes 5,500 ft. of open ditch canal piping which will permanently protect 1.83 cfs to Tumalo Creek, and approximately 494 acre feet to Crescent Creek, both of which are senior water rights. The funding request was solely for pipe materials and construction; the reviewers noted and appreciated that. The applicant has a proven track record of filing and receiving conserved water allocation certificates of water savings through the Oregon Water Resources Department. The cumulative impact of previous phases has made a significant impact on stream flow in Tumalo Creek and the Upper Deschutes Basin. As with previous phases, the financial request to OWEB was high. That said, the reviewers recognized the significant amount of match contributed to the project along with the high cost the District is tasked with in purchasing and installing 84" HDPE pipe. The review team felt that the project did not have a favorable cost/benefit ratio at its full request of $750,000; however, reviewers acknowledged the significant ecological benefits of this project, and recommends funding at a reduced amount of $400,000.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced

Review Team Priority
5 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$400,000

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Fund with conditions. Reduce budget to $400,000

Staff Recommendation
Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount
$400,000

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4003-15617

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Gerber Watershed Enhancement Project

Applicant: Klamath SWCD

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $328,965

Total Cost: $1,432,764

Application Description *(from application)*

The Gerber Watershed Enhancement Project area encompasses the Gerber Watershed and additional portions of the Upper Lost River Watershed (HUC 10-1801020404, -05,-06) east of Klamath Falls in Klamath County, Oregon. Over the past 100 years, fire suppression and livestock management have resulted in overstocked forests and juniper encroaching into areas historically dominated by grasses and shrubs. Throughout the Upper Lost River Watershed these changes have impacted watershed health through altered nutrient and water cycling and availability, diminished ecosystem diversity, and increased vulnerability to disease, insects, wildfire, and competition. Woody biomass removal in overstocked/encroachment areas restores species diversity, improves stand resiliency, decreases wildfire potential, improves wildlife and range forage quality and quantity, and increases water yield. The Gerber Watershed Enhancement Project will leverage more than two years of outreach and planning by the NRCS and ODF to reduce overstocked forests and western juniper density on 3,264 acres of private lands. This private lands work will complement more than 60,000 acres of juniper clearing and other forest thinning on public land by the BLM and USFS in the region during the last 20 years (see Map 1). By increasing the connectivity of treated areas, management is more sustainable and effective. Corridors spanning ownership boundaries will enhance habitat available to sagebrush-steppe species, including the Interstate population of mule deer that can use this area year-round. This project is the result of collaborative efforts among Klamath SWCD, private landowners, Conservation Groups (Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and the Mule Deer Foundation) , USDA, NRCS, the Klamath Watershed Partnership, BLM, USFWS Partners Program, Oregon Department of Forestry, and other state and federal agencies working toward a common vision of improved watershed health.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has a strong set of partners and match contributions that are secured.
- Proposed forest management on private lands will complement previously completed forest management activities on public lands.
- The project area is a high priority for conservation of mule deer winter range.
- The approach is at a landscape and watershed scale, working across boundaries.
- There are fish species of concern in adjacent water bodies, with improved upland conditions; streams are likely to receive ancillary benefits.

Concerns

- There was no detail, description, or value provided for $1,500 effectiveness monitoring request.
- Invasive annual grasses were present, dense in some areas.
- There was no weed management plan provided. Past review team comments for this project specifically noted the importance of how invasive species would be addressed and desired a plan for weed management during and after project completion. The prior evaluation also requested a grazing plan, which was not included in this application.
- Landowner hourly rate used for match seemed high.
- It was unclear how priority areas for treatment were selected.

Concluding Analysis

The project is a resubmittal. Since the last submission, the project scope and partners have grown significantly and represents a landscape and watershed scale approach. In total, 3,264 acres on private lands are proposed for treatment, which will complement previous work done by BLM, USFS, and other private landowners. Momentum for this scale of forest restoration in Klamath County is growing, and will likely be the continuing trend. While the cost per acre for treatment seems high, the terrain and accessibility drive the higher costs. It was also noted that forest management objectives for mule deer are different than those for sage-grouse; the application was unclear on specific removal densities for the treatment units. Post-project grazing was discussed, and the landowner will work with the NRCS to visit the site annually post-treatment to determine the appropriate time frame for allowing livestock grazing. The proposal lacked a weed management plan, which would have been helpful given the presence of invasive annual grasses. Specifically, the reviewers are interested to know how invasive annual grasses will be managed during and post-treatment to ensure uplift in native perennial bunch grasses, forbs, and shrubs. This component is an essential key to a successful application.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
7 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$328,965

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Do not fund, falls below funding line.

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4004-15622

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Cold Springs Ranch Instream Restoration Project Phase 1

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $351,787

Total Cost: $502,997

Application Description *(from application)*

The proposed project is located at river mile 21 on the South Fork of the Crooked River, the primary tributary to the mainstem Crooked River and one of the largest spring fed river systems in the Crooked River watershed. the project is in Crook County approximately 65 miles southeast of Prineville, Oregon. The project is focused on instream restoration for redband trout addressing the limiting factors of habitat fragmentation and connectivity of aquatic habitats due to impaired fish passage. The project will implement fish passage, fish screens, and irrigation system improvements at one point of diversion. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) funds will be used to implement the fish passage and screening activities, including screening ~12 cfs of diverted flow and fish passage at a 4' high flashboard irrigation diversion structure that blocks all fish passage. This is Phase 1 of implementation, with 2 points of diversion planned in Phase 2 and 3 in Phase 3. Completion of Phases 1-3 will provide access to ~23 miles of habitat upstream and ~20 miles downstream in the South Fork of the Crooked River and screen ~18 cfs of water rights. This project builds upon the successful completion of a Technical Assistance grant from to complete the design and engineering for all 6 irrigation diversions in the reach. This project will be implemented with match funding and support from the Oregon Water Resources Department and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Addressing fish passage and screening at this project site will be beneficial for native redband trout, a species of concern for ODFW.
- The proposed phased approach of addressing all six barriers is appropriate and appreciated by the reviewers.
- Improved water delivery should result in improved benefits from late season flow.
- The project site is adjacent to priority areas for conservation (PAC) for sage-grouse; this project's flow benefit should increase habitat availability.
- The project is the result of a previous completed technical assistance grant that looked at all six diversions. The current diversion for treatment in this proposal included 30% designs.
- The design team is experienced and has a good track record of success.
- Reviewers appreciated the well-described project budget.

Concerns

- The calculated water savings from irrigation piping are not being conserved instream through any leasing program or certificate process. This section of stream has a history of going dry; protecting water instream would be ecologically beneficial.
- According to site photos, the leaky canal adjacent to the stream is leaking directly back into the stream. Given this hyrdologic condition, the reviewers saw little ecological value in irrigation piping.
- No landowner match was provided.
- Project cost for passage and screening for one diversion seemed high, compared to other projects of similar scope and scale.
- Designs included were only 30%, with a $30,000 lump sum budget for design completion; details are needed to describe how these funds will be spent.
- There is a lack of project partners.
- A letter from the ODFW screen shop documenting their support would have been beneficial, particularly given the site's location in a non-anadromous salmonid stream.

Concluding Analysis

This restoration project is a result of previous technical assistance funding to address fish passage and screening at six diversions on one ranch along the Upper South Fork of the Crooked River. The one diversion proposed for fixing includes 30% designs; this proposal would finish engineering and construct fish passage and screening. Irrigation piping was included as match through an Oregon Water Resource Department grant that was pending at the time of review. The irrigation piping would conserve roughly 2 cfs, however there was no commitment to conserve this water instream through any leasing or certificate process. Reviewers noted that there is little ecological value in the proposed irrigation piping given the site photos showing water from the adjacent leaky canal going back into the stream. The Upper South Fork of Crooked River is a redband trout stream and a priority for ODFW. The reviewers noted other natural resource improvements the landowner is participating in and appreciated these efforts. The project's impact to local fisheries is strong and was highlighted by the reviewers; however, the irrigation piping component doesn’t demonstrate an ecological benefit. Therefore, the project was not recommended for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount $0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4005-15628

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper Deep Creek Fish Passage Project

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $359,007

Total Cost: $506,007

Application Description *(from application)*

The Upper Deep Creek Fish Passage project is located in between Lakeview and Adel in Lake County, OR. The project area is located in Big Valley, a 5500 acre high elevation meadow privately owned ranch. Deep Creek and six tributaries headwater on the Fremont-Winema National Forest (USFS) and flow through Big Valley. These streams, which provide approximately 50 miles of high quality habitat for Warner Redband trout, a state listed sensitive species, were modified for agricultural purposes as early as the late 1800s. Diversion weirs prevent fish passage to the public headwater reaches that contain high quality spawning and rearing habitat. In 2014, the Lake County Umbrella Watershed (LCUWC) used OWEB funding to conduct a stream reconnaissance and fish passage assessment of the Upper Deep Creek watershed. The reconnaissance report provided an overview of the assessed streams, characterized limiting factors, and prioritized fish passage projects. This project proposal will address the two highest priority fish passage barriers in Big Valley, the Big Valley Diversion and the Upper Deep Creek Diversion. Both barriers are complete upstream fish passage barriers. Proposed fish passage designs will address the barrier heights and hydraulic conditions the diversions create. Future passage will be undertaken by USFS land to address culvert barriers on upper Deep Creek and tributary streams. Project partners include LCUWC, Robinson Ranch, USFS, U.S. Fish and Wildlife, U.S. BLM, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Western Native Trout Initiative, and Resource Advisory Committee.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project is a result of previous planning and prioritization for the Upper Deep Creek subbasin.
- Passage addressed at these two sites will open up approximately 20 miles of quality habitat upstream.
- This project will be complemented by planned work by the USFS to address fish barriers upstream, allowing for the 20 miles of habitat connectivity.
- Project match is secured.
- There are strong letters of support for the project.
- The project has clearly defined goals and objectives.
- The landowner is an active steward and is committed to improving the natural resource values on the ranch.

Concerns

- The project only addresses passage; no screens on either diversion are proposed. The application and overall project would have been stronger if screening was proposed.
- The Upper Deep Creek stream channel through the meadow is channelized and straightened; reviewers questioned the quality of habitat and the longevity of its channelized form.

Concluding Analysis

This restoration project will address two irrigation diversions by providing fish passage at both to access approximately 20 miles of habitat upstream in the Upper Deep Creek subbasin of the Warner Mountains. One diversion has a 65% design, the other a 10% design. This proposal will allow for completing the engineering and constructing passage at both locations. This work will by complemented by planned USFS culvert replacements upstream on the forest. The strong match and letters of support express the need and value of providing passage at both locations. The reviewers appreciated the landowner's commitment to stewarding for natural resources on the ranch. The applicant has a strong track record of completing similar projects as proposed. The channelized reach of Upper Deep Creek through the ranch concerned reviewers given the lack of habitat complexity; however, this reach acts more like a migration corridor to high quality habitat upstream. Additionally, the channelized nature of the creek is artificial and the longevity of its current course is uncertain; future flood events could have negative impacts on the bypass fish channel. Reviewers expressed concern over the fact that no screening will be associated with providing passage, and suggest the applicant plan for screening in the future.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$359,007

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $1,064 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount
$360,071

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4006-15630

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Annie Creek Fish Passage and Screening Design and Implementation

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $208,394

Total Cost: $445,405

Application Description *(from application)*

Annie Creek is located at the northern end of the Wood River Valley, in Klamath County near the town of Ft. Klamath. It originates from springs and snowmelt in Crater Lake National Park and is a tributary to the Wood River. Although the upstream portion of Annie Creek is in pristine condition, the downstream reach is on private property and has been degraded by decades of agricultural land use. There are eight irrigation diversion structures along the length of this reach that are barriers to upstream fish passage and pose a significant entrainment threat. Native bull trout (federally listed as threatened) have been expatriated from Annie Creek since the 1980s, however there is a recovering bull trout population in neighboring Sun Creek and Annie Creek is the top priority for bull trout reintroduction efforts. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Klamath Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout (Recovery Plan), identifies "Connectivity Impairment" as one of the primary threats to bull trout recovery in Annie Creek. The Recovery Plan identifies passage improvement and screening to address "Connectivity Impairment" on Annie Creek as critical bull trout recovery actions. To implement this recovery action Trout Unlimited along with partners from the USFWS, ODFW, the USFS and Crater Lake National Park (CLNP) are working to implement passage and screening restoration projects throughout the Annie Creek watershed. In this application TU is requesting funding to design and implement fish passage and screening improvement projects at the four lowest diversion structures in the Annie Creek system. These projects will reduce entrainment at four irrigation diversions totaling 25 cfs and will provide year round access to 3.1 miles of additional habitat that is currently blocked by the 4 passage barriers.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Addressing four barriers will be important for habitat connectivity of ESA threatened bull trout and redband trout.
- The project location is adjacent to previous completed restoration on Annie Creek, Sun Creek, and Upper Wood River.
- The landowner is committed to the project and is one of the water users for the diversions.
- Addressing these four barriers will demonstrate use and value for landowner consideration on the remaining four barriers upstream that are not part of this proposal.
- Upper Annie Creek has been shown to be a good candidate for steelhead habitat, should anadromous species have future access to the Upper Klamath Basin.

Concerns

- The proposal lacks design details on all four diversions.
- Given the lack of designs, the reviewers had a hard time discerning the funding request appropriateness, paritcularly with regard to the budget.
- The proposal lacked a letter of support and match from the landowner.
- There was no mention of operation and maintenance for the proposed new diversions; reviewers would have appreciated how this would be addressed once installed.

Concluding Analysis

This restoration project will address the lower four diversions on Annie Creek by providing fish passage and screening. The project will complement previous restoration completed along Annie Creek, Sun Creek and the Upper Wood River. Annie Creek has potential as a bull trout refuge; providing fish passage and screening will aid in their recovery in the Upper Klamath Lake basin. The correction of these four lower barriers could stand as successful demonstration for the landowners upstream where four barriers still remain that are not part of this project. While the lack of designs made it challenging to justify the costs of restoration, the design is currently underway, and the applicant is working with a well-qualified consultant with a proven track record. The applicant's budget is based on previous fish passage solutions in similar landscapes and stream size. The partners list is diverse and match contributions are both secured and pending. The lack of designs at the time of application did present a challenge to review team members; however, given the commitment and track record from the applicant and the landowner working with a qualified consultant the project is recommended for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$208,394

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $1,144 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

$209,538

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4007-15638

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: KV Bar Ranch Fish Screen and Upper Floodplain Restoration

Applicant: Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Lake

OWEB Request: $220,059

Total Cost: $301,803

Application Description *(from application)*

The KV Bar Ranch is located in southern Lake County, Oregon just west of Lakeview. The project area addresses the fishery and floodplain of Muddy Creek where it passes through the ranch. Muddy Creek, flows into Goose Lake in the wetter years. However, in dry years the creek does not make it to the lake, and Junipers Reservoir on KV Bar Ranch serves as the fishery nursery. The requested funds will be utilized to install a fish screen on the reservoir outlet to prevent fish from migrating down and out of the reservoir where they would isolated from the perennial nursery. Matching funds are being utilized to restore the flood-irrigation infrastructure and Muddy Creek channel, ultimately restoring floodplain hydrology that has been altered since the building of the reservoir. This will be valuable for the wetter years when the fish are able to pass down from the reservoir over the spillway and utilize lower Muddy Creek and reach Goose Lake. This is critical for maintaining genetic diversity in the Goose Lake Basin redband trout population, among other native species of interest. The Shine Brother Ranches, Ducks Unlimited, Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Natural Resources Conservation Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are partnering on this phase of the greater KV Bar Ranch restoration effort.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal included photos and letters of support, addressing previous review team comments.
- Given the poor conditions in Muddy Creek downstream of the reservoir, the proposed solution of screening to keep fish in the reservoir seems appropriate.
- This project would complement past restoration actions in the headwaters of the Muddy Creek basin.
- The project would provide improved water management that could potentially benefit both wildlife and agriculture.

Concerns

- There is low ecological value and return for a high cost project.
- Even though the screening approach is valid for this project, the overall fisheries value is low.

- The wildlife benefit was challenging to understand; the proposal could have benefited from a clearer description of how this would occur in the context of the project.
- No landowner match is provided.
- The application discusses the desire to allow fish to spill over into Muddy Creek, but also discusses the degraded habitat conditions of the Muddy Creek channel. The proposal could have benefited from a better description of how the operation of the spillway is beneficial to the fisheries.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a resubmittal, and is also a result of a previously funded technical assistance grant. The application seeks funding to install a fish screen at the outlet of the reservoir, in addition to replacing a dilapidated water control structure used for irrigation diversion. The fisheries value is challenging to understand, given the Muddy Creek channel below the reservoir is inhospitable to aquatic life most of the time. The proposal also encourages spillway operations that promote fish movement, which seems to contradict statements made regarding poor habitat quality and stream flow below the reservoir. Further elaboration on the fisheries benefit of this operation would be valuable to understand. The application states that 54 acres of improved flood irrigation delivery will improve wildlife productivity, but fails to provide detail on the importance of this acreage to wildlife. There is no landowner contribution; however, the landowner will benefit greatly from improved operations and water delivery. The overall project provides little ecological value as planned, and because of this, could not be recommended for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4008-15662

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Big Summit Prairie Restoration Phase 1

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $488,613

Total Cost: $767,403

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is the first phase of restoration property owned by Waibel Ranches on Big Summit Prairie (BSP) in Crook County approximately 40 miles east of Prineville. BSP is a low gradient, wide valley, which acts as a catchment for many of the short, steep streams which drain off the surrounding higher topography of the Ochoco Mountains: in total, there are 17 named streams which flow onto BSP, 6 of which flow onto BSP on the Waibel Ranch. The North Fork Crooked River (NFCR) enters the prairie from the south, joining many of these streams and increasing exponentially in size, before flowing east from the prairie back onto Ochoco National Forest land. Past management activities have resulted in an incised channel that is disconnected from its floodplain. In addition, the current irrigation diversion on the North Fork Crooked River does not provide fish passage or screening or the ability to actively control water intake through the use of water control structures. Lastly, the ranch has several riparian pastures (with plans in progress to create more), but the riparian pastures cannot be managed as such because there are no off-stream sourcess of water. Proposed activities will improve fish passage and screening, instream habitat, and floodplain connectivity on the North Fork of the Crooked River. Additionally, water developments and fencing will improve the grazing management within the project area, allowing for better opportunities for passive restoration. OWEB and Waibel Ranch funds will be used for all aspects of the project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The phased approach is strategic, appropriate, and well thought out.
- The grazing plan is detailed and is carefully thought out. The reviewers appreciated the inclusion of grass bank areas for utilization while other areas are on rest.
- The landowner is committed and has contributed a great deal of match.
- Improved hydrology and function of this portion of Big Summit Prairie will provie great benefit to the Crooked River system downstream.
- Restoring meadow hydrology and late season surface flow would improve habitat conditions.

Concerns

- Reviewers question whether the installed riffles would encourage beaver presence and activity; there

was little information on how this would occur.

- The project lacks partners.
- The project provides planting details, but no map to show where the plantings will be installed on the landscape, and how they complement other proposed treatments. There was also concern regarding the lack of plant stewardship, particularly given the large amount of fencing with livestock and elk use in the area.
- There was some question as to whether the installation of instream riffles would provide the stated restored hydrological function and habitat transformation to a wet meadow.
- Costs associated with well developments ($10k each) seemed high given that the landowner has a rig and equipment. More detail regarding all aspects of well drilling costs would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

This project is a resubmittal, and is a result of a previous technical assistance proposal that produced a restoration plan for Big Summit Prairie. This application is phase one in a three phase project to promote passive restoration through improved livestock management and fencing, restored floodplain connectivity and wet meadow hydrology, and improved fish passage and habitat throughout the project area. The reviewers appreciate the detailed grazing plan; however, it was unclear how long riparian pastures would be rested after use to achieve the desired ecological outcome stated. The application proposes the use of 28 instream roughened riffles that will promote floodplain inundation during runoff. Reviewers questioned the applicability of all 28 instream riffles, whether they would function as described, and whether they would be used as crossings to move livestock around during pasture rotation. There was no operation and maintenance plan associated with the riffles; reviewers had concerns the stream would scour around the roughened structures. It would be great to see other partners involved in the restoration of Big Summit Prairie. There is a lot of watershed restoration potential at Big Summit Prairie, and while the proposed approaches have questionable ecological return, the review team recommends the project for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$488,613

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Do not fund, falls below the funding line.

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4009-15670
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Threemile Joint Fish Screen
Applicant: Wasco SWCD
Basin: Central Oregon
County: Wasco
OWEB Request: $242,285
Total Cost: $1,477,248

Application Description *(from application)*

The primary water need that this project seeks to address is the over allocation of Threemile Creek, a tributary to the White River in Wasco County near the town of Wamic. While over allocation is a common resource concern in Eastern Oregon, Threemile Creek is one of the relatively few streams that are perennial in nature, but are seasonally dewatered by two Irrigation districts. This stream is 18.7 miles long, but it only flows 7.2 miles where it is dewatered four to six months during the irrigation season. This leaves the lower 11.5 miles dry. Of the water that is diverted, half goes to Round Prairie Irrigation District, and the other half goes to Rock Creek District Improvement Company. The Senior Water Rights are Dated 1870 (Rock Creek Cert 50935) and 1874 (Round Prairie Cert 5764). The Current Diversions are roughly 1200 feet apart from each other. This project will combine these two diversions, eliminating two unscreened fish passage barriers, install a new fish friendly diversion, with an FCA horizontal flat plate screen. 9,800 feet of pipe will be installed, replacing open ditch, saving 2 cfs of water, half of which will be converted to a senior in-stream water right in a currently dewatered perennial stream. Project partners include; Rock Creek District Improvement Company, Round Prairie Irrigation District, USDA NRCS, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and FCA (Formerly Farmers Conservation Alliance).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project would remove two fish barriers and open up seven miles of available habitat upstream that would provide habitat connectivity.
- Combining two existing points of diversion into one is a great practice for working land.
- The proposed monitoring includes stream flow and temperature, which will be valuable information, particularly the flow component and the impact of conserved water downstream of the new diversion.
- The application states that 1 cfs of conserved water will be permanently protected through Oregon Water Resource Departments (OWRD) Allocation of Conserved Water Program.
- The project partnership is good, two irrigation districts are working with the Soil and Water Conservation District for the benefit of improved stream flow.

Concerns

- This project will result in total water savings of 2 cfs; the commitment from the irrigation districts is to permanently protect 1 cfs. Protecting the full savings of 2 cfs would be preferred.

- The overall value of protecting only 1 cfs is uncertain given that the stream may go sub-surface at some point downstream of the diversion.
- The fisheries and biological value of 1 cfs to pass through the new diversion is relatively low.
- There was no agreement or discussion of mitigation requirements for the work to occur at ODFW's White River Wildlife Area.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal builds on an existing OWEB funded restoration proposal #213-4011. The original intent of project #213-4011 was to work with only one irrigation district to address passage and screening. After some misunderstandings of property ownership, the District went back to the drawing board to engage both irrigation districts to work together and agree to a mutual point of diversion for both districts. Under the current funded proposal, the grant is supporting final design and passage construction costs. This current proposal for review includes screening and match funding for piping that will result in 2cfs water savings. The irrigation districts will both permanently protect .5 cfs each resulting in 1 cfs total permanently protected under OWRD's Allocation of Conserved Water Program. The project will provide seven miles of passage upstream and allow for 1 cfs passing through the diversion into what was always a dry stream channel (during irrigation season) on Threemile Creek because the reach was over allocated. There were some concerns from reviewers that 1 cfs would have marginal fish and aquatic health benefit. In addition, reviewers questioned how far 1 cfs would travel before subbing out into the stream gravels sub-surface. The application does include monitoring post-project that will include stream flow and temperature, which should be valuable to understand the project's effectiveness on the lower portion of Threemile Creek below the new diversion. There is no agreement in place with ODFW; however, during the site visit with District staff, irrigation districts, and ODFW the agreement was discussed and all parties seem confident on an agreement being in place and amenable by all involved. The review team recommended funding with the condition that funding for piping is secured.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
4 of 7

Review Team Recommended Amount
$242,285

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Fund with conditions. Funding is contingent upon securing funding for piping prior to first payment. Increase by $1,034 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation Fund

Increased with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

$243,319

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4010-15575

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: East Hills/Lobert Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project

Applicant: Klamath Watershed Partnership

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $33,058

Total Cost: $131,058

Application Description *(from application)*

The East Hills/Lobert Multi-Ownership Forest Health Project (EHLMOFHP) encompasses 19,058 acres of private, non-industrial forestland in Klamath and Lake Counties associated with the Fremont-Winema National Forest's (FWNF) East Hills and Lobert Integrated Landscape Restoration Projects. Through a century of fire suppression, the forests of this region have increased in density, lost diversity, and altered the structure and hydrologic function of watersheds. This departure from historic conditions has increased the scale and risk of fire severity, and reduced forest resiliency to drought/insects/disease. High priority resources and habitat such as waterways and associated T&E species, homes and structures, ranch land, and private/industrial timberland are currently in jeopardy. The EHLMOFHP initiates a landscape-level forest management effort aimed at providing fire safe communities by reversing the trend and increasing ecosystem resiliency. Based on similar efforts in Lake County, EHLMOFHP uses a model founded on personal connections with informed and engaged private landowners. A matrix of characteristics has been used to prioritize private forested land in the Sprague and Williamson watersheds of the Upper Klamath Basin near Klamath Falls. A comprehensive outreach, mapping, and inventory effort will inform and facilitate cross-boundary planning and implementation of forest health practices. Technical Assistance will be used to conduct targeted outreach to 2,091 private landowners, including phone calls, brochures/mailings, site visits, and three public meetings. Landowner education efforts will include two OSU Extension workshops for forest ecology/management and fire science. Project partners include the FWNF, Oregon State University Extension, USDA NRCS, Oregon Department of Forestry, The Nature Conservancy, and other members of the Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project has strong and diverse partnerships, match is secured.
- The proposal will complement on-going efforts and help continue the needed planning.
- The approach is at a landscape scale, working across boundaries.
- The method chosen has proven to be a successful model.
- The resultant work to come out of the planning is much needed.
- Forest health and landscape resiliency to wildlife is an action documented in multiple plans.

Concerns

- The number of landowners targeted for this project is high; there were some concerns about capacity to reach them all, and about project planning and implementation being challenging with spotty landowner involvement.
- Two workshops may not be enough to inform and educate the large number of landowners targeted for this effort.
- It would have been helpful to understand how project prescriptions will account for wildlife habitat and what considerations will apply for the proposed forest health prescriptions.

Concluding Analysis

This technical assistance effort will fund a planning effort to develop forest health prescriptions across 19,058 acres reaching out to 2,091 private landowners. The project is located on both the east and west sides of the community of Chiloquin, Or. The results of the planning effort will produce landscape scale, cross boundary forest health treatments. The dry-type Ponderosa pine forests have become overstocked and pose significant risk to wildlife and heightened potential for catastrophic wildlife. The planning effort is hinged upon successfully reaching out and gaining access to private lands to develop site-specific plans. However, it was noted that windshield surveys and cross-boundary surveys can take place if all private lands cannot be accessed. Given the landscape and topography, some areas will be better set-up for cross-boundary surveys and/or windshield surveys from the road than others. The reviewers commend the applicant and its partners on the landscape scale approach for the much needed forest health treatments that will occur as a result of the planning effort. Outreach efforts and remote sensing is already underway as momentum continues to contact and gain access to the many private landowners targeted. The reviewers were concerned with the sheer number of landowners involved, and questioned the level of success in gaining access to all lands. In addition, there were concerns about whether spotted landowner involvement would change site prescriptions and how prescriptions would be implemented if permission is checkered on the landscape. Planning efforts should incorporate wildlife habitat needs and discuss how considerations for wildlife will be applied in forest health treatment plans. The applicant and partners are aware of the concerns and working to address these. A previous model implemented in Lake County has proven to be successful; the team has confidence this effort will also be successful.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Fund

Review Team Priority

3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount

$33,058

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$33,058

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4011-15593

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Agency Lake Wetland Complex - Restoration Planning

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $50,000

Total Cost: $114,299

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is in Klamath County, 3 miles south of Fort Klamath. The project site encompasses approximately 14,000 acres of federal and privately owned drained wetlands at the north end of Agency / Upper Klamath Lake, bordering the Upper Klamath National Wildlife Refuge (UKNWR) and including the lower reaches of the Sevenmile and Fourmile Creek systems. The Klamath Basin was once dominated by 185,000 acres of freshwater marshes. Today less than 25% of these historic wetlands remain, limiting critical habitat for fish and wildlife, degrading water quality, and reducing water storage capacity in Upper Klamath Lake. Historically, the full gradient of lake-fringe wetlands spanned across the UKNWR plus almost 5,000 acres of private lands in three privately held parcels. Existing dikes cannot be breached without flooding the three private properties, but the USFWS has secured options to purchase flooding and restoration easements across two of the properties, and NRCS holds a wetland easement on the third property, which is owned by The Nature Conservancy. The Nature Conservancy and Trout Unlimited will work closely with USFWS, NRCS, private landowners, and other stakeholders to develop a large-scale restoration plan for the wetland complex and stream systems, paving the way for the restoration of over 14,000 acres of wetlands as well as Sevenmile and Fourmile Creeks.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The scope and scale of the planning effort will result in restoring a variety of beneficial ecological outcomes for fish, wildlife, and water quality.
- This is the right place and scale to have meaningful wetland habitat and water quality improvements.
- Project partners have previous experience working on large scale wetland improvement projects.
- The planning effort will incorporate the appropriate agency involvement.
- Habitat improvements for migratory waterfowl and Oregon spotted frog are high priorities in the area.

Concerns

- State funds were being requested to fund plans on federal lands.
- It was unclear whether the applicant is the right leader for this effort and whether they will incorporate all stakeholders necessary to be poised for success in subsequent restoration.
- The timeline for meetings and review by all stakeholders was ambitious.

Concluding Analysis

This planning effort will account for looking at 14,000 acres of federal and privately owned land at the north end of Agency Lake near the Upper Klamath Lake. The plan's focus is wetland improvements and floodplain reconnection at a very large scale. Successful restoration of a plan of this magnitude would have huge impacts to wetland restoration, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat. It was unclear whether the USFWS will be a stakeholder, or simply a funding partner. It was noted that the NRCS owns an easement on the TNC-owned land, and that the NRCS has to be a part of the stakeholder meetings and development of the plan. The review team also wants the applicant to ensure that the private landowners are committed and included in the stakeholder group helping to frame the plan, as they play a key role in the overall success. In addition, reviewers also encouraged the applicant to consider all potential parcels and landowners, particularly the property west of the private lands parcel denoted on the attached map to the application. The opportunity for restoration and ecological uplift in a high priority area such as Agency Lake is significant; the review team recommends funding this proposal as its highest priority.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$50,000

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$50,000

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4012-15610

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Crooked River Water Quality Evaluation & Report

Applicant: Crooked River WC

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Crook

OWEB Request: $22,098

Total Cost: $30,260

Application Description *(from application)*

(1) Project is located in Crooked River watershed. Multiple sites comprise the projects extent as defined by locations that were used for water quality (WQ) data collection between 2010 and 2014. This five-year data set includes 32 fixed locations across the 2.9 million acres watershed, all draining into the Crooked River. (2) The problem centers on water quality as the resource topic that needs to be fully informed. Evaluation of existing information and the development of actionable priorities that will direct future work of the council and its partners will address the issue over a longer period. (3) Technical assistance will support a college-level intern's work to evaluate the WQ dataset applying rigorous statistical analyses under academic standards and generate a peer-reviewed report available to the public. (4) Portland State University, Portland General Electric, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Crook County SWCD, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Ochoco Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will analyze five years of water quality data into meaningful information that will be made available to interested entities.
- The analysis can be informative for future project development.
- The need to develop an understanding of the data is strong among many partners.
- The partnership with a university for a student intern is creative and provides real world practical experience.

Concerns

- The nine water quality parameters were not identified in the grant proposal.
- A nice basin wide map was included as an attachment to the application, but failed to identify the locations where the data was collected.
- The application only focused on data collected by the Council; reviewers questioned whether data collected by other watershed partners should be included in the analysis.
- Project management time seemed high given that the project would be completed by the student and his/her professor. Justification on the need for that many project management hours would have been helpful.
- Peer review is scheduled to be completed in two months, which seems too brief.

- It was unclear whether there was enough data collected over a long enough period of time to develop rigorous statistical analysis.

Concluding Analysis

This project would compile and analyze five years (2010 – 2014) of water quality data collected on nine parameters across 32 individual sites throughout the watershed. A college intern would apply rigorous statistical analysis to generate a peer reviewed report. The data is currently available in its raw format; however, without further analysis no story can be generated from it. The review team would really like to see this data analyzed and made into a meaningful format to inform interested entities. The main concern expressed by reviewers is that other water quality data collected by other entities exists, and if included would add more value to this exercise. The reviewers would have liked the rationale for why these data are not included in the proposed analysis. They felt the applicant missed an opportunity to consider relevant water quality data collected in the Crooked River basin by the USFS, OWRD, ODEQ, PGE, and Warm Springs Tribe. The review team strongly encourages the applicant to consider adding these data, or, if that is not possible, elaborate on the reasons why. This project was not recommended for funding; however, the applicant is encouraged to resubmit a monitoring proposal.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4013-15631

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Threemile and Crane Creek Reconnection and Restoration Design

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $50,000

Total Cost: $125,815

Application Description *(from application)*

Threemile Creek is a tributary to Crane Creek. Both creeks originate on the eastern slope of the Cascades and flow south to Fourmile Creek and ultimately Upper Klamath Lake. Both creeks are located in Klamath County near the town of Ft. Klamath. Threemile Creek is home to the only population of federally listed bull trout in the Cascade tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Upper Klamath Recovery Unit Implementation Plan for Bull Trout, identifies poor habitat quality in the lower section of both creeks as an impact that is limiting population recovery. The Recovery Plan identifies 1) restoring habitat in lower Threemile and Crane Creeks and 2) reconnecting them to nearby unoccupied habitat and Upper Klamath Lake as priority recovery actions. The restoration/reconnection project potentially involves multiple landowners and agencies, irrigation infrastructure, two federally listed species, and construction of a new channel and/or restoration of abandoned channels. Trout Unlimited and partners have been working with funds from OWEB and other sources to complete comprehensive planning and restoration alternatives analysis designed to identify project constraints, develop potential restoration solutions, engage stakeholders and landowners, and ultimately move forward with this complex project. Trout Unlimited and its project partners have made considerable progress on this work and feel that all stakeholders will be ready to move forward with the design phase of this project once the alternatives analysis is complete and a preferred alternative is selected in late summer of 2017. In order to capitalize on the momentum generated by the planning/alternative analysis phase, we are submitting this application to help fund full design analysis and development of final project designs beginning in fall/ winter of 2017. Project partners include the USFWS, ODFW, USBOR, and USFS.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project would result in improved habitat conditions and connectivity for bull trout, an ESA listed threatened species and a high priority for resource managers in the Upper Klamath Lake basin.
- This project in the lower portion of Threemile and Crane Creeks and would complement other work in the area, particularly a USFS-led floodplain restoration project on Upper Threemile Creek.
- The potential to better understand and improve conditions for the Oregon spotted frog, an ESA listed threatened species is exciting.
- The project has strong agency and partner support.

Concerns

- An existing planning grant is still in process; at the time of application multiple alternatives were still on the table. It is unknown which alternative will be chosen to use the proposed grant funds to complete final designs.
- This application is premature.
- The NRCS owns an easement on the private land proposed for restoration, yet they have not reviewed the various alternatives.
- There were no letter of support from the landowner.

Concluding Analysis

This proposed technical assistance project would build on an existing technical assistance planning grant to complete final designs for a chosen alternative to restore lower Threemile Creek and Crane Creek to improve habitat conditions and connectivity for bull trout. The existing planning grant has allowed the applicant to bring the various stakeholders to the table to develop baseline understanding and existing conditions for the two creek systems. Building on this, the stakeholders have come up with a few different alternatives to meet their project goals and objectives. However, at time of application the applicant had yet to complete the planning and choose a final alternative. Given the complexities of this project with various landowners, the review team had concerns about recommending the project for funding when the final alternative had yet to be chosen. Therefore, this application was not recommended for funding. The review team encourages the applicant to resubmit once the planning has been complete and the stakeholders have all agreed upon a final design alternative.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4014-15635

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Upper Klamath Basin Fish Passage Inventory and Prioritization

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $28,049

Total Cost: $48,049

Application Description *(from application)*

1) The project encompasses the UKB and will include all tributaries to Upper Klamath Lake in Klamath and Lake counties, Oregon. 2) Restoration of artificially obstructed sections of rivers can provide considerable ecological benefits. However, in order to implement effective restoration of these sections of river, the passage status of any potential artificial barriers needs to be assessed and these structures need to be prioritized for repair/removal. While the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) updates a state-wide priority list every five years, these data used in this prioritization effort are variable in their completeness. Additionally, these data are much more complete for anadromous fish species and less so for other native migratory species, such as suckers, Bull Trout, and Redband Trout, that are present in the UKB. Given these data gaps, a comprehensive sampling effort to evaluate passability at potential barriers in the UKB is necessary. This effort will allow for more accurate prioritization of barrier removal. Additionally, past prioritization models for barriers within Oregon rank barriers independently potentially leading to an inefficient set of barriers being selected for mitigation. We will use an optimization model, which considers the spatial relationships amongst barriers, to provide an objective framework for decision-making. 3) Comprehensive list of potential barriers in the UKB, an assessment of their passage potential, and a priority list. 4) ODFW; USFS; USFWS; The Klamath Tribes; TU; private landowners. 5) OWEB funds will be used for salary, travel, and contracted services.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project would significantly improve upon an existing fish passage data set.
- An advisory board with other agencies would help guide the effort, ensuring it to be an inclusive effort with broad support.
- Passage data would incorporate sucker species into the effort.
- This data set will play a key role for the upcoming Watershed Action Plan.
- The project had many letters of support.
- This effort could lead to future partnerships with private landowners that would be beneficial for species recovery.
- Data would be shared with partners and will include annual updates.
- The data would be extremely helpful if anadromous salmonid species once again have access to the Upper Klamath Basin.

Concerns

- It was unclear who would do and/or fund annual updates to the data set.
- Completing a priority list of barriers is good information, but does not ensure that the highest prioritized barriers will be addressed.
- The proposed data dictionary is very extensive and includes a lot of valuable information; however, the review team was concerned with the amount of time needed to complete this for every barrier. Additionally, some of the attributes to be collected required a lot more information and specific expertise for the data to be meaningful (e.g cost estimate for barrier removal). The review team questioned whether all the data proposed to be collected is necessary for this exercise.
- It was unclear what the output from the model was going to be. More information about evaluating a variety of tools and specific outcomes would have been helpful.
- Many barriers exist on private lands; securing access and permission could be challenging.

Concluding Analysis

This Upper Klamath Basin fish passage barrier inventory effort would use existing outdated passage information to develop a much more exhaustive and detailed inventory and prioritization of fish passage barriers for all native fish, including sucker species. This effort has broad support and would be driven by a collective of fisheries managers in the Upper Klamath Basin. This effort would be incredibly valuable if the lower Klamath River dams are removed and anadromous salmonids have access to this area. The data collection attributes listed in the proposal are extensive and would be very valuable, yet would also take a considerable amount of time and specific expertise to collect at each barrier location. The review team questioned whether all the attributes in the data dictionary were essential to this effort, and encourages the applicant and advisory board to evaluate each attribute's priority for this exercise. It was a unclear what the exact output of the suggested optimization model would look like. Furthermore, the reviewers questioned whether this was the best model and whether or not the applicant and partners considered other models. The results of this effort will be of great value to be used across the spectrum of entities engaged in fish recovery for the Upper Klamath Lake basin; the review team recommends this project for funding.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$28,049

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$28,049

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Central Oregon (Region 4)

Application Number: 218-4015-15671

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Fishhole Creek Channel Reconstruction Design

Applicant: Trout Unlimited Inc

Basin: Central Oregon

County: Klamath

OWEB Request: $50,000

Total Cost: $65,000

Application Description *(from application)*

Fishhole Creek is a tributary to the South Fork Sprague River, in Klamath County near the town of Bly OR. The watershed area is 102 square miles in area with 62 square miles of land under USFS management and hosts 52 miles of perennial streams. The streams and aquatic habitat in the watershed have been degraded by current and past land use activities, including grazing, logging, stream channel manipulation, diking, and damming. To address these impacts, TU is partnering with the USFWS and private landowners to develop and implement aquatic and riparian restoration projects throughout the watershed. As part of this effort, TU has engaged a private landowner and begun development of a restoration plan for their property. Historic agricultural development on this property removed Fishhole Creek from it's historic channel and placed it in an irrigation canal along the margins of the historic floodplain. These canals limit floodplain connectivity, fish passage and provide poor instream and riparian habitat for migrating and resident redband trout. This Technical Assistance project will develop restoration designs with the intent to guide implementation of a restoration project that will improve riparian habitat, instream habitat, floodplain connectivity and support future agricultural use. Specific design actions may include removing the creek from its current ditched channel, constructing a new channel that is connected with its floodplain, installing riparian fencing, riparian planting and improving fish passage. We also hope that this design effort will help engage other landowners in the watershed with similar land use impacts.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis

N/A

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Withdrawn

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

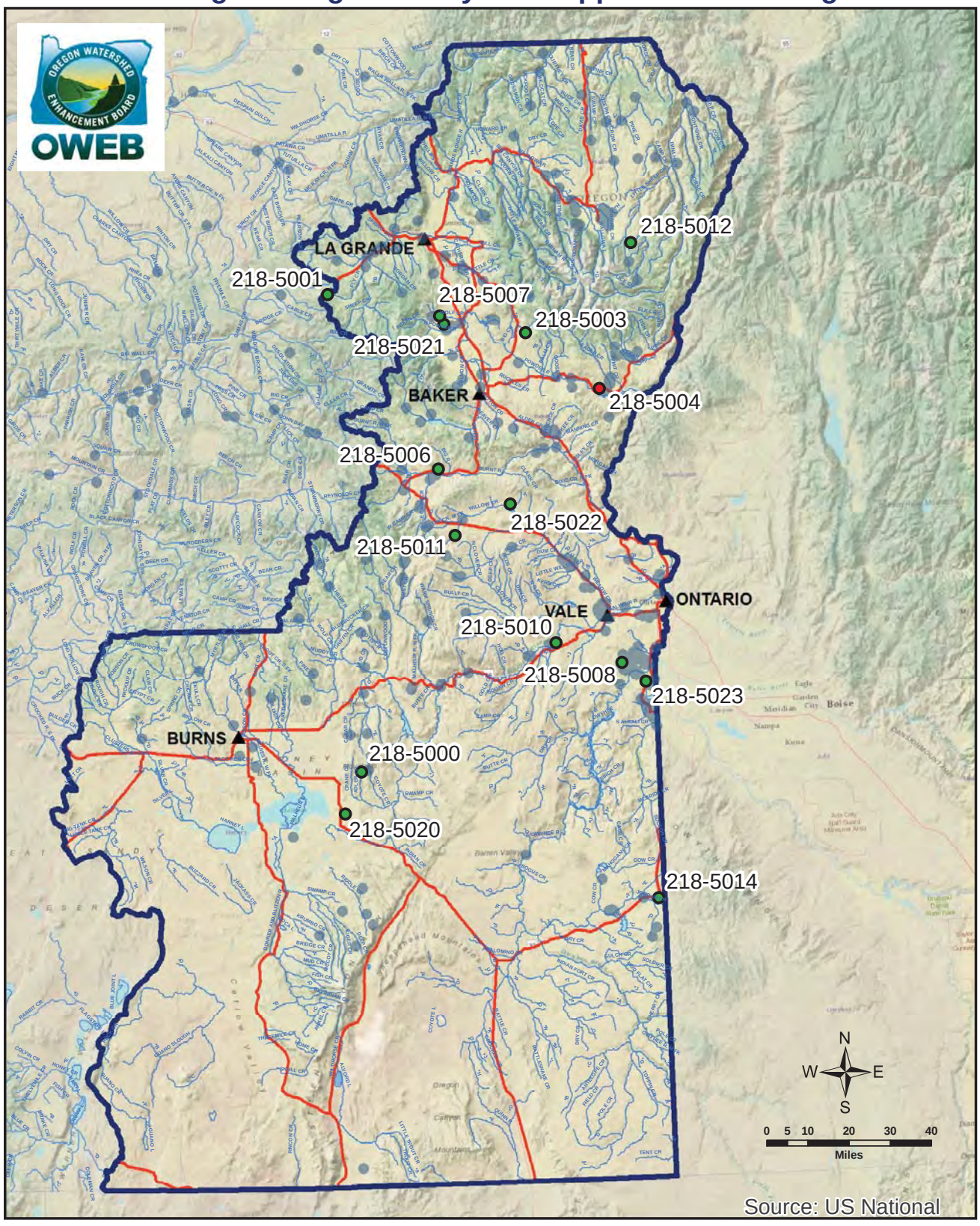
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Attachment C-5

Eastern Oregon - Region 5 May 2017 Application Funding Status



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Spring 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding LIne (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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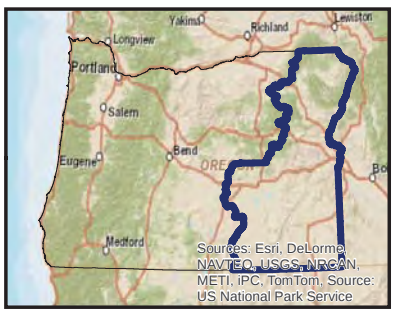


Region 5 - Eastern Oregon

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-5011	Malheur SWCD	Banks of Green: Let's git 'er dun	A 50-acre wet meadow complex in the headwaters of the Malheur River that was desiccated from channelization decades ago will be restored. Located near Ironside, this project benefits at-risk aquatic, terrestrial and avian species.	117,643	Malheur
218-5000	Malheur WC	Alder Creek Phase III: How Many Juniper Will Die?	Located near Crane in the upper Malheur River watershed, this project will remove juniper encroaching in mountain-mahogany and aspen stands that are critical habitat for many species. A fire break will remove additional juniper and help protect sage-grouse habitat.	124,900	Harney
218-5012	Wallowa SWCD	Wallowa Front Forest Health Improvement Partnership - The Divide	A multi-agency, multi-landowner partnership will reduce fuel loads by thinning over-stocked conifer stands near Joseph. Implementation reduces the threat of catastrophic wildfire spreading to nearby USFS land.	106,200	Wallowa
218-5010	Malheur WC	Let's Get Piping in Harper!	Located west of Vale in Little Valley, a 5,140-foot earthen ditch will be piped to improve irrigation water delivery to 590 acres. The project helps farmers improve irrigation and reduces the amount of soil deposited to the Malheur River.	109,715	Malheur
218-5020	Harney SWCD	Beaver Tables Medusahead	Located near Crane, several partners are collaborating to treat 16,550 acres of medusahead which spread after landscape-level fires affected the area. Proposed actions will help keep medusahead from sage-grouse habitat.	231,109	Harney
218-5006	Burnt River SWCD	Hereford Stockwater	Developing water sources on 716 acres of dry uplands near Hereford will improve vegetation and habitat for sage-grouse while providing water for wildlife and livestock.	37,051	Baker
218-5007	Powder Valley Water Control District	Powder Valley Connector	A 6,980-foot pipeline will replace an earthen ditch to improve irrigation water delivery for farmers in the North Powder area. Implementation will result in less water diverted from the Wolf Creek Reservoir and improves how farmers irrigate.	147,965	Union
218-5008	Owyhee WC	Chalk Butte Water Quality Improvement	This project improves the irrigation system on 72 acres near Adrian. Implementation will help reduce erosion that flows from the fields into nearby Owyhee and Snake Rivers.	58,619	Malheur
218-5014	Owyhee WC	War on Weeds in the Owyhees 2	Jordan Valley CWMA (Coordinated Weed Management Area) will continue its efforts to target noxious weeds adversely impacting riparian and upland habitat in remote areas of southeast Oregon. Approximately 4,600 acres will be chemically treated to help improve sage-grouse habitat and upland vegetation.	135,090	Malheur
218-5001	Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation	Fly Creek - Smith Riparian Fencing Project	An aging riparian fence in Fly Creek, critical habitat for steelhead in the headwaters of the Grande Ronde near Ukiah, will be replaced. A recent easement with ODFW will help protect riparian habitat for the next 20 years.	40,388	Umatilla

218-5003	Keating SWCD	Big Creek Stockwater	This project provides fencing, cisterns and troughs to enhance upland vegetation on 125 acres and provides water for wildlife and livestock. Important sage-grouse and mule deer habitat will be improved near Medical Springs.	37,992	Baker
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,146,672**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-5004	Eagle Valley SWCD	Dance Hall Stockwater	An upland water system including piping, cisterns and troughs will provide water for livestock and wildlife on 157 acres near Richland. This project will keep livestock away from streams that enter the Powder River.	39,024	Baker
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for funding by RRT				**1,185,696**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Requested	County
218-5002	Wallowa SWCD	Hurricane Pipeline Again	232,184	Wallowa
218-5005	Burnt River SWCD	Manning Creek Restoration	21,734	Baker
218-5009	Malheur WC	Mockingbird Complete Conversion to Sprinklers	190,680	Malheur
218-5013	Malheur SWCD	Overstreet Water Quality Implementation Project	575,480	Malheur
218-5015	Malheur SWCD	In For The Long Haul	48,775	Malheur
218-5016	Malheur SWCD	Lime-Aid	30,011	Baker
218-5017	Powder Basin WC	Lower Clear Creek Restoration (Phase 1)	146,246	Baker
218-5018	Malheur SWCD	Circling the Hyline	59,761	Malheur
218-5019	Malheur SWCD	Freddie the Fish Detour	121,452	Malheur

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
218-5022	Malheur WC	Northern Malheur Basin: Riparian, wet meadow assessment, planning and landowner recruitment.	This technical assistance will provide recommendations for restoration projects thatimprove riparian habitat in the Bully Creek and Willow Creek watersheds in the upper Malheur Basin. Future projects will restore habitat for red-band trout, Columbia spotted frog and wet-meadow complexes.	47,575	Malheur
218-5021	Baker Valley SWCD	Ellis Road T/A	A pipeline on the Coughanour Ditch that diverts water from Wolf Creek near North Powder will be designed to improve irrigation water delivery. The current earthen ditch experiences severe erosion and water loss.	9,350	Union
218-5023	Owyhee WC	OWC Project Round Up	A database will store details for over 200 projects. The ability to quickly access data will assist OWC when applying for future grants; help diversify their funding portfolio; and implement additional restoration efforts.	37,730	Malheur
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**94,655**	

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
NONE					
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**94,655**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Requested**	**County**
218-5024	Powder Basin WC	Lower Clear Creek Diversion Designs	41,414	Baker
218-5025	Powder Basin WC	Powder Basin SWAT Analysis	11,016	Baker
218-5026	The Nature Conservancy	Harney Basin Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems	49,035	Harney

Region 5 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,241,327**	**14%**

Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**8,788,376**	

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5000-15540

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Alder Creek Phase III: How Many Juniper Will Die?

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: $124,900

Total Cost: $295,674

Application Description *(from application)*

1) Project location: in the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem, Columbia Plateau, of Eastern Oregon's high desert. The project is located on BLM managed land between 5000' and 5500' elevation in the Stinkingwater Mountains of Harney County. It is approximately 7 air miles from the nearest town of Crane, Oregon; and 30 air miles from the city of Burns, Oregon. 2) Watershed issues: include juniper invasion into aspen, and mountain mahogany stands, and dense juniper stands resulting in heavy fuel loads, which creates the potential for catastrophic wildfire. Alder Creek Phases I and II addressed wet meadow restoration and stream protection. 3) Restoration components: We will use a chainsaw to remove invading juniper from 31 acres of aspen and 37 acres of mountain mahogany. We will create 4.2 miles (300 acres) of fuel break working in conjunction with the adjacent private landowner. Slash treatment will be machine/hand pile and burn. In the more sensitive places like the mountain mahogany stands we will ensure burn piles are well away. 4) Project partners: BLM (Fish, Wildlife, Range and Fire), Tree Top Ranches, Wildlife Conservation Society Climate Change Fund, and the Malheur WSC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application is in a unique area in the headwaters of the South Fork Malheur within the Stinkingwater Mountains. It is in the sagebrush-steppe ecosystem of the high desert.
- The application focuses on complex, spatially limited plant communities including aspen, mountain-mahogany, and a large wet-meadow complex which is habitat for the Columbia spotted frog.
- The proposed work complements previously implemented and planned work funded by BLM and OWEB. Previous restoration efforts will be protected and enhanced. There was a clear delineation of project phases. Previous projects will increase floodplain connectivity, provide habitat features, and add channel complexity in Alder Creek.
- The project will have benefits to redband trout.
- The ridgeline fire break could help to better manage or prevent large landscape-scale fires.
- The project treats juniper, which is expanding into aspen and mountain-mahogany stands.

Concerns

- There are many stressors beside juniper that are adversely affecting this site; it was unclear how effective the project will be without addressing other stressors.

- The location of the fire break does not provide for road access to fight fires.

Concluding Analysis

The project is part of a phased approach undertaken by the BLM addressing a headcut in a wet-meadow complex on Alder Creek. This section of Alder Creek has intact mountain-mahogany stands, bitterbrush and aspen that are being invaded by juniper. The area is critical winter range habitat for mule deer. BLM in Burns suggested the fuel break location as it would also provide fire fighters with a safety zone and burn-out point and help contain the size of a wildfire. The juniper removal will tie into nearby efforts with the adjacent ranch to create an effective fuel break to reduce the threat of a landscape fire in an area that has critical habitat for red-band trout, sage-grouse and the Columbia spotted frog. Removing juniper from aspen stands is essential to their survival. Aspen are an intolerant species whose range is declining from invading conifers as well as other stressors. The project is an important upland project that can aid in reducing the threat or expansion of a landscape-level fire. Implementation will also improve essential habitat for at-risk species. There is high ecological merit to the project and it is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$124,900

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$124,900

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5001-15541

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Fly Creek - Smith Riparian Fencing Project

Applicant: Grande Ronde Model WS Foundation

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $40,388

Total Cost: $69,697

Application Description *(from application)*

The Fly Creek-Smith Riparian Fencing Project is located at River Mile (RM) 13 of Fly Creek, a tributary to the Grande Ronde River, in Umatilla County, Oregon. In 1987, ODFW fenced 14.8 riparian acres along 1.2 stream miles of Fly Creek. In 2016, 3,000 feet of new fence, protecting an additional 15 acres of wetland and riparian habitat, was installed. Nearly three decades of weather and stress has weakened and rotted many wood structures supporting the original fence. Footer and rock tie down wires have also rusted out. In order for the fence to function properly, multiple structures need to be replaced. The limiting factors for ESA listed spring Chinook salmon and summer steelhead in Fly Creek include high summer temperatures, excess fine sediment, and impaired riparian conditions. Primary causes include livestock grazing, roads, and historic timber harvest. These limiting factors affect all life stages of spring Chinook salmon and juvenile rearing and spawning of summer steelhead. The area fenced in 1987 has had impressive restoration of riparian vegetation with passive restoration and livestock exclusion. We are requesting funding to replace structures and fence line installed in 1987 to continue protecting 30 acres of riparian area from livestock grazing. This will protect and improve riparian conditions, thereby reducing sediment input to Fly Creek and improve water quality and habitat diversity. The landowner has signed a 25 year easement with ODFW to maintain the project and protect habitat.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in the upper headwaters of the Grande Ronde which provides riparian habitat for salmonids.
- The landowner previously had a 15-year easement with ODFW along Fly Creek. When that easement was completed, a 25-year easement was then signed with ODFW. The landowner is committed to good stewardship and protecting the habitat values of Fly Creek.
- Pastures are lightly grazed and upland vegetation is vigorous and appears healthy. Grazing in the meadows is well-managed. There is no riparian grazing by livestock. The stocking rate is low usage, low-pressure grazing. The grazing manager is on-site frequently. Livestock are in the pasture from early June through the summer.
- ODFW has done a very good job on fence maintenance and inspects the site every 10 to 14 days to perform any needed repair.
- The before-and-after photos indicate significant improved vegetative conditions as a result of the previous fencing project.

Concerns

- The application did not provide a grazing plan.
- Fencing cost seems excessive. From the site visit it was evident that some fence posts are still functional and are not in need of replacement.
- The fence would not be moved further back from the riparian area; therefore, the benefit to the riparian area will not increase.
- The cost-share is minimal.
- Since this is not a new fence, but a replacement, the team questioned whether this maintenance was appropriate for OWEB funds.
- It was suggested to use steel fence pipes. While the cost is more initially, they can withstand a future fire.
- The overall per-foot fencing costs were high at $5.06 which also included the gates and water gap.
- While the before-and-after photos indicate positive recovery, the overgrazing in the riparian was most likely from elk and deer.
- Other landowners were not contacted.

Concluding Analysis

The initial project and easement funded by BPA and managed through ODFW has shown significant improvement and positive vegetative response. The pressure on the existing fence is from deer and elk. Individual willow copses are protected by small fences and show positive response to removal of grazing pressure. ODFW will then move those fences to other locations once the woody vegetation is above the browse line. Willow damage is from elk. Fly Creek is a steelhead stream with heavy use downstream and this site is important to protect. While no grazing plan was provided, from the site visit it appeared that pastures and the riparian area are healthy and not over-utilized. It was suggested that the applicant consider using as much salvageable fencing materials as possible and incorporate those materials into a new fence. However, they did not stipulate a reduction in the initial grant amount if awarded. Overall, the team agreed there is significant ecological merit and the project will help maintain the recovery of Fly Creek at this site. The project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$40,388

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$40,388

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5002-15563
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Hurricane Pipeline Again
Applicant: Wallowa SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Wallowa
OWEB Request: $232,184
Total Cost: $1,322,980

Application Description *(from application)*

This Wallowa County project is on Alder Slope located west of Joseph and Enterprise, Oregon. The lower sloped area of the Slope consists of rural homes, cropland, hay land and grazing lands. Irrigators on Alder Slope were the first in the county to install pipelines and sprinklers and many of those steel conveyance lines are over 55 years old. These lines are worn out and leaking significant amounts of water throughout the system and there is very inconsistent pressure throughout the system resulting from the leaks and the slope of the overall pipeline. Irrigation withdrawals, especially in the late season, significantly reduce in-stream flows in Hurricane Creek, which is detrimental to native red-band and bull trout. This project is to install 40,000 feet of new pipe, one diversion structure with gauge, 4 pressure reducing stations to improve the irrigation efficiency on 1500 acres under 27 ownerships. Designs were completed by NRCS, inspections will be done by NRCS and they will be cost-sharing this project with funds from RCPP and EQIP. The SWCD is working with landowners' to obtain other funding, estimate the cost to each landowner, agreements and bid solicitations. The landowners are working with a lawyer to get easements and agreements in place. The water master has verified the water rights and will offer technical help when the gauge on the diversion structure is installed.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is part of the Alder Slope Cooperative Partnership with NRCS and ODF that treats both irrigated agriculture and overstocked private forest lands.
- There were several letters of support from landowners who are highly interested in this project.
- The overall effort and coordination with the landowners is evident.

Concerns

- The pipeline installation cost seemed high. Typically OWEB funds are just targeted for materials.
- Much of the proposed pipe installation is for replacing antiquated pipelines. The team questioned replacing a system that landowners should have had reserve funding or a sinking fund account.
- The ecological merit was not explained. The water quality benefits were not articulated well in the application.
- There is not an immediate return on investment. It did not appear that water quality improvements would be evident when the project is completed.

- Leaving water in-stream below the diversion would help provide an ecological benefit, but is was unclear whether additional water in-stream would be used by others.

Concluding Analysis

The project was previously submitted and not recommended for funding. Most of the pipeline installation is for replacing existing old pipe. The team felt that this project was more of a “deferred” maintenance effort rather than a project with high ecological benefits. If water is able to be left instream to benefit salmonids, then the project would have merit. However, that is not proposed. Also, there are benefits in educating landowners with better irrigation practices which would result in less water applied to fields and therefore less water diverted from Hurricane Creek. Perhaps most of the ecological benefit occurs after the on-farm improvements are implemented. While the project is part of a comprehensive effort from the Alder Slope Cooperative Partnership that treats both forest fuels and irrigation inefficiency, there is not a clearly articulated watershed benefit. It is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5003-15565
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Big Creek Stockwater
Applicant: Keating SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $37,992
Total Cost: $49,492

Application Description *(from application)*

The lack of a reliable year round watering source on the landscape makes it infeasible to establish a rotational grazing plan, thus affecting livestock distribution across the rangeland. This project is located thirteen miles from Keating, Oregon and consists of upland sagebrush steppe and natural riparian areas. The project site consists of 125 acres split into four individual pastures. Currently, the only water available for livestock use is one spring-fed trough in a 36 acre pasture, a small pond in a 21 acre pasture (only containing water from March through June), and a perennial stream that is a tributary to Big Creek and then the Powder River. The project site is also located within ODFW's designated mule deer and core sage grouse habitat, located only three miles from the nearest lek. The landowner recognizes the current issues, as well as the importance of maintaining a healthy ecostate on the project site; that is why they contacted the Keating SWCD seeking assistance in developing a solar pumping station from a spring that would distribute livestock water evenly across the landscape.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses inadequate water on 125 acres in the Keating/Medical Springs area that is partitioned into four separate pastures.
- The site visit indicated that the riparian area and woody vegetation are vigorous.
- The application provided good detail and clear, concise maps that were easy to comprehend and follow.
- The rotational grazing system had good detail. Benefits to the pastures and upland vegetation were articulated well.
- Water quality benefits are apparent as well as benefits to the riparian areas.
- Budget line items had good detail. The budget was easy to follow for reviewers unfamiliar with upland restoration work.
- The project is in core sage-grouse habitat and also is located in critical mule deer habitat.
- The cost-benefit ratio is positive.

Concerns

- It would have been helpful to include an overlay of sage-grouse habitat to see the range of core habitat and general habitat.

- While the team had positive comments regarding the proposed water system, one of the cisterns and associated piping could be eliminated since the system only serves 30 head of cattle. It was suggested that pasture #4 does not require piping. Removing that pipe and trough will make the cost-acre more positive.

Concluding Analysis

The project was one of four upland watering projects submitted by the Baker County SWCDs. The review team was impressed by the quality of the maps and detail provided by the applicant. The project addresses inadequate water supply for four pastures in the Keating area. The solar-powered pumping station will ensure consistent flow to troughs in the four pastures. However, the team did note that some of the piping may be excessive. It was suggested that the applicant consider remove the piping and cistern into pasture four since there should be adequate water given the smaller size of the pastures. The applicant should discuss this possibility with NRCS to see if that recommendation is feasible prior to beginning the project. That will reduce the overall cost of the project while still meeting the ecological benefits. Overall, the team expressed that project will have positive benefits to sage-grouse and critical mule deer habitat and improve upland vegetation. It is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
11 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$37,992

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$37,992

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5004-15566
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Dance Hall Stockwater
Applicant: Eagle Valley SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $43,645
Total Cost: $56,203

Application Description *(from application)*

Currently there is no available water to livestock except for perennial streams and irrigation ditches that drain directly into the Powder River. By developing an offsite watering system, livestock will be encouraged to utilize the upland slopes of the pastures and spend less time grazing near perennial streams and irrigation ditches. The landowner is actively searching for restoration improvements on his property; he recognizes that he is within NRCS's designated mule deer habitat and has previously designated 12 acres of riparian area that excludes livestock grazing and provides a wildlife refuge. The next step towards restoration is to provide off stream watering locations in all pastures to encourage livestock grazing on the upland portions of his pastures. This project is located five miles outside of Richland, Oregon within the Powder River Basin. The landscape of this project consists of upland sagebrush steppe, irrigated pasture ground and a series of small streams and ditches that flow through riparian areas directly into the Powder River. The landowner is seeking assistance in the development of a solar pumping station from an unused existing domestic well producing 12 gallons per minute. This will provide water to two 5,000 gallon storage cisterns that will gravity feed three troughs, evenly distributed throughout four pastures on 157 acres of his property, serving roughly 60 head.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project addresses the need to provide off-stream water for livestock that utilize riparian areas of perennial streams that flow into the Powder River. Implementation will protect and improve riparian vegetation and condition.
- Due to a lack of water, uneven grazing is leading to an increase of invasive annual grasses which this project will address.
- The project provides the landowner the ability to implement a rotational grazing system to improve upland vegetation and decrease pressure on the riparian area.
- The landowner has previously fenced 12 acres for riparian habitat.
- The application was well-written with good descriptions, complete maps and detailed descriptions.

Concerns

- Some of the piping may be excessive. It was suggested to remove approximately 1,500 feet of piping from the budget. That reduction will save on material and installation cost.

- Since the project is close to an electrical power source, it was suggested to investigate using nearby electrical power as an alternative to the solar-powered system.

Concluding Analysis

The project includes upland water development and a grazing plan that implements rest-rotation which will have a positive impact on upland vegetation and riparian vegetation. During the site visit, reviewers felt that the proposed twin piping system was excessive. Project implementation will have a positive impact on upland vegetation. By eliminating the need for livestock to access the perennial streams that flow directly into the Powder River, streambank stability and riparian vegetation will improve. Water quality will also improve since bacterial inputs will be eliminated. The section of the Powder River below this property may benefit from improved water quality. There is sufficient ecological merit to warrant funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
12 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$43,645

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Staff contacted the applicant who worked with the landowner. The excessive piping was removed from the application.

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund; falls below staff-recommended funding line

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5005-15568
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Manning Creek Restoration
Applicant: Burnt River SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $21,734
Total Cost: $34,814

Application Description *(from application)*

Proper distribution and grazing management practices are the basic fundamentals in preserving Eastern Oregon's rangeland for wildlife habitat. The entire project site is located within ODFW's core sage grouse area with the nearest lek only seven miles away. The project site is also completely within ODFW's designated mule deer habitat zone. Early flight surveys show that this past winter took a major toll on mule deer populations in Baker County. Mule deer were spotted migrating to lower elevations than what they normally would; for forage and water. According to ODFW, "this year, 11 fawns per 100 adults on average were counted across the county, with some units being as low as 8 fawns per 100 adults." The landowners recognize the hardships placed on wildlife, as well as the importance of maintaining a healthy ecostate on the project site; that is why they approached the Burnt River SWCD seeking assistance to improve the rangeland for wildlife habitat. The project is located 24 miles south of Baker City near Durkee Oregon. The landscape of this project consists of one 4,051 acre upland sagebrush steppe pasture that is grazed for 45 days (April through May) by 140 yearlings; and one 180 acre irrigated alfalfa field under pivot. Two individual landowners are seeking assistance in developing a solar pumping station from an existing well to provide water to two troughs. The first trough will be located adjacent to the irrigated alfalfa field in the northwest corner of the 4,051 acre pasture; this trough will primarily be used for livestock. The second trough will be located in the corner of the pivot field with the primary purpose of providing water for wildlife use. The landowner would also like to develop a small wildlife habitat area in the pivot corner; the habitat area will be fenced and exclusive to wildlife, having no livestock access. It will be seeded with native perennial bunch grasses and include tree plantings along a natural intermittent stream.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- No project strengths were identified.

Concerns

- The applicant proposed to plant conifers in a small draw. However, without supplemental water, survival rates of those conifers are marginal at best. Also, the conifers will act as perches in the future for raptors to prey upon fledging sage-grouse. Since this is core sage-grouse habitat, those conifers will have a negative impact on sage-grouse survival.

- The 14 acres planted in bluegrass is detrimental to sage-grouse habitat.
- Since the pivot irrigates approximately six months, the need for additional water was unclear.
- The fencing locations were inappropriate.
- The grazing scheme on the 4,000 acres was unclear.
- Conceptually the project was hard to follow and the site visit did not provide clarity.

Concluding Analysis

Overall, the team was confused by the application. Some of the proposed components would not be beneficial to sage-grouse. The project is located in core sage-grouse habitat but some of the proposed actions would be detrimental to sage-grouse. It appeared from the site visit that additional cross fencing would be beneficial. The conifer planting in the draw would most likely not be successful and would provide future perches for raptors. Overall, the team could not ascertain the ecological merit and agreed that the project does not warrant recommendation.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5006-15570
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Hereford Stockwater
Applicant: Burnt River SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $37,051
Total Cost: $80,426

Application Description *(from application)*

Currently, there are limited watering sources and no cross fencing to separate the large pasture on this property; this has resulted in a three mile stretch between watering sources for livestock, with no means of implementing grazing management practices. Annual grasses and juniper have begun to dominate the site, threatening native vegetation and essential sage grouse habitat.This project is located near Hereford, Oregon within the Burnt River SWCD boundary. The site consists of one 716 acre pasture with three existing watering sources; two located at the northern end of the property, and one located at the southern end. The property is located within ODFW's designated low density sage grouse habitat, with two leks within four miles and five leks within ten miles of the project site.The landowner approached the Burnt River SWCD seeking assistance in developing a watering system that will distribute water evenly throughout the pasture. Cross fencing would be installed to allow for the development of a deferred rest rotational grazing management strategy, which is attached as part of the application (map 3).

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Will improve rangeland health by implementing rotational grazing practices that include the addition of reliable water sources for livestock and cross fencing.
- An upland watering system will be installed to improve livestock distribution and perennial bunchgrass conditions. A portion of the project site has bulbous bluegrass, cheatgrass and medusahead. Other areas have healthy native perennials.
- The application was previously submitted and was greatly improved from the last submission.
- The landowner has done a lot of pro-active work treating juniper, which eliminated predator perches in general sage-grouse habitat.
- The project approach is comprehensive and will improve upland vegetation and perennial bunchgrasses.
- The project will help keep wildlife on the north end of the property and away from the agricultural land which is frequently damaged.

Concerns

- Concern was expressed on a section of the lower pasture where there is currently high-intensity use. However, from the site visit the area in question is quite small and it is being trampled since it is the sole water source on that end of the property. Once the other troughs and fencing are installed, the grazing can be more evenly spread throughout the property and that area of concern should respond

Once the other troughs and fencing are installed, the grazing can be more evenly spread throughout the property and that area of concern should respond well.

Concluding Analysis

This application was the strongest proposal submitted by the Baker SWCD office and provided useful maps, a concise budget and clear descriptions of the proposed work. An application for this project was previously submitted but not recommended for funding. Suggestions made by the review team were followed and the applicant submitted an improved application. The site visit indicated the amount of work that the landowner has accomplished. The on-going juniper removal by the landowner at his own expense indicates his commitment to improve sage-grouse habitat. The project will treat 716 acres of general sage-grouse habitat in an area where two leks are within four miles. The potential to improve upland vegetation is very high. The proposed sites for the troughs are strategically located and cross-fencing will facilitate rotational grazing. The grazing plan will benefit wildlife habitat, improve watershed health, and provide for more efficient use of the pasture. Overall, the team was impressed by the quality of the application. The implemented project will have positive benefits to upland vegetation and general sage-grouse habitat. The project has high ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$37,051

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$37,051

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5007-15579
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Powder Valley Connector
Applicant: Powder Valley Water Control District
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Union
OWEB Request: $147,965
Total Cost: $1,453,615

Application Description *(from application)*

1. The PVWCD is an irrigation district located within the Powder Basin Watershed in the community of North Powder, Union County, Oregon. The PVWCD delivers water to irrigators in Baker and Union Counties. Water from Wolf Creek enters Wolf Creek Reservoir and exits the system in the MaHarry-Blevins Ditch, eventually flowing into the North Powder River. 2. This ditch piping project addresses several issues identified in the Powder River-Powder Valley Watershed Assessment. This project works to address water quality (temperature and bacteria), water quantity (flow and timing), and habitat improvement for fish and wildlife species. The MaHarry-Blevins Ditch experiences water loss through degrading banks, infiltration, soil absorption, and evaporation. A 2013 Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)-funded study, estimates water loss of up to 22 percent. If this water were conserved, additional late season water would be available in the Wolf Creek Reservoir, which would be beneficial to migratory birds, upland ungulates, and aquatic species including bull trout (a federally listed species). 3. The PVWCD proposes to replace the open ditch with approximately 6,980 feet of enclosed pipeline with flowmeters to track water use and automated control valves. The pipeline will result in the water conservation, reduction of water quality concerns, habitat improvements for fish and wildlife species, and enhanced recreation opportunities. 4. Project partners include all members of the PVWCD, who will provide matching funds to ensure this project is completed. The Farmer's Conservation Alliance (FCA) and Baker Valley Soil & Water Conservation District will provide technical support.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Replacing the open earthen ditch with a pressurized pipe will conserve up to 1,350 acre-feet of water in the Wolf Creek reservoir. The system will include an automated headgate system which will improve efficiency and the potential to save water.
- Implementation will lead to improving water quality by piping the earthen ditch and eliminating sediment transport. In addition, weed transport down the ditch will be eliminated which is important to the organic farmers.
- Powder Valley Water Control District's (PVWCD) management has a positive track record working with the local irrigators.
- PVWCD has obtained two previous technical assistance grants to help develop Systems Optimization Study which serves as a framework for improving the overall irrigation system to improve efficiencies and reduce water use. The project is technically sound and provided full design and significant detail. The attachments were helpful.

- PVCWD is working with Farmers Conservation Alliance (FCA) who has a good track record of implementing water conservation projects.
- By piping the ditch and providing a pressurized pipe, irrigators will be able to convert from flood to sprinkler irrigation and improve on-farm irrigation efficiency.
- There is a strong match and leverage. The cost-share ratio is impressive.

Concerns

- It was unclear how PVWCD quantifies saving 25 jobs.
- The in-stream benefits below Wolf Creek Reservoir were unclear and remain under negotiation with ODFW.

Concluding Analysis

The application was previously submitted but not recommended for funding. The site visit indicated the need for the project since the current system is inefficient. When landowners "call" for water, excess water needs to be delivered in order to satisfy the water right. The application provided excellent detail and high leverage. Implementation will leave up to 1,350 acre-feet in Wolf Creek which benefits bull trout as well as migratory waterfowl. In addition, with less water withdrawn from Wolf Creek reservoir, more water can remain in Wolf Creek later in the season which will benefit the Powder River. Converting from earthen ditches to a pressurized pipe will enable on-farm irrigation improvements. In addition, filling the ditches benefits migrating terrestrial wildlife, especially deer and elk, that are injured trying to cross the ditch and frequently cannot escape. Overall, the team expressed that this project has high ecological merit as well as strong economic benefits to local irrigators. It is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
7 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$147,965

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$147,965

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5008-15584

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Chalk Butte Water Quality Improvement

Applicant: Owyhee WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $58,619

Total Cost: $189,335

Application Description *(from application)*

The Chalk Butte WQ Improvement project is located about 6 miles NW of Adrian in the Twilight Water Quality Improvement Priority Area. The Twilight Water Quality Improvement area was established in cooperation with Malheur SWCD, NRCS, Owyhee Irrigation District and Owyhee Watershed Council to improve water quality in the Old Owyhee Canal, and the Lower Owyhee and Snake Rivers. This project compliments these efforts by converting 72 acres from flood to sprinkler irrigation and reducing sediment, nutrient, and bacteria from flowing through irrigation drainages into the Old Owyhee Canal and Lower Owyhee River. Project partners include NRCS and Owyhee Irrigation District.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will connect to a recent OWEB-funded lateral in the Adrian area which provides pressurized irrigation and enables landowners to convert from flood irrigation to sprinklers.
- Implementation will benefit multiple landowners.
- The project will improve water quality by eliminating soil loss caused as a result of furrow irrigation which can be as high as 20 to 60 tons per-acre, depending on slope.
- The application provided clear, concise maps that were easy to follow and understand.

Concerns

- The cost of pumps is in the OWEB budget, but could potentially be covered by future rebates on electrical pumps provided by Idaho Power.
- It was unclear whether using a larger half pivot could replace the two full pivots, eliminating some of the corners. It would also have been beneficial to note the slope of the fields.

Concluding Analysis

The application was well-written. Project implementation will connect to the previously funded lateral in NRCS's priority area, the Twilight Water Quality Improvement Zone. The OWEB-requested cost per-acre was reasonable. The project continues the ongoing effort by the Owyhee Watershed Council, Owyhee Irrigation District, and NRCS to improve water quality and implement beneficial on-farm improvements by

providing pressurized conveyance systems. The collaborative effort of this group has led to the implementation of many OWEB-funded projects in these priority areas.

The ongoing agricultural drain monitoring of the Brewer Drain by Malheur SWCD will provide relevant baseline data. Once more irrigators convert from furrow-flood to sprinkler, the effectiveness of conversion on water quality can be determined. The Chalk Butte project will continue that effort and help to reduce nutrient and sediment transport to nearby Owyhee and Snake Rivers. In addition to the ecological benefits realized, economic benefits to growers should increase by improved crop production through optimal application of irrigation water, annual energy savings and reducing the overall carbon footprint. The review team agrees there is positive ecological merit and the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$58,619

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$58,619

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5009-15585

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Mockingbird Complete Conversion to Sprinklers

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $190,680

Total Cost: $509,254

Application Description *(from application)*

1) The project is located in Harper, Oregon, 22 miles west of Vale along US Hwy 20 in Malheur County. The Malheur River cuts through 214 acres of flood irrigated farm ground. 2) The acreage is currently used as irrigated pasture throughout the growing season. All of the irrigation waste water flows directly into the river. Our main water quality issues are irrigation waste water flowing back into the river contaminated with massive amounts of e-coli bacteria. Flood irrigation is a very inefficient method. Up to 50% of the water applied can runoff the fields as waste water. 3) Convert the inefficient flood irrigation system to a sprinkler system by installing six pivots which will irrigate 171.7 acres, three wheel lines which will irrigate 21.5 acres and two solid set systems which will irrigate 7.3 acres totaling 200.5 acres This project fits the Council priorities, which follow: Proximity to stream or river: Steep slopes connect to existing piped lateral within a priority area. 4) Partners: Landowner and Malheur WSC

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in the Harper area where few water quality projects were previously implemented. Expanding projects here is a positive step in the process of improving water quality in that area of the Malheur River watershed.
- There is significant match provided by the landowner. Since the Harper area is not part of an EQIP priority area, all the match will be provided by the landowner. The proposed match is over $318,000 or 167% of the requested funds, which is substantial.

Concerns

- Converting land that has been dry pasture into an irrigated field may not have positive water quality benefits.
- While the landowner contribution is substantial, currently it is pending. Installing six pivots in one project seems excessive and challenging. This may be too large of a project for the landowner to undertake all at once.
- The water quality benefit was unclear since the river and groundwater may be connected.
- Including baseline data from nearby monitoring would have been beneficial to the application.

Concluding Analysis

Converting 172 acres from furrow irrigation to sprinkler irrigation will have water quality benefits to the Malheur River. The project is located in the Harper area and will have positive landowner outreach to other irrigators who may be considering converting their irrigation systems. The OWEB-requested cost per-acre was reasonable. Current flood irrigation practices contribute direct runoff into the Malheur River, especially during the first irrigation cycle when the irrigated acres are used as winter-feeding areas.

While the team expressed that there is high potential merit for implementation, the overall cost of the project is quite high. Also, installing that many pivots at once may be problematic for the landowner. The cost-share is pending. The team recommends that the applicant work with the landowner to determine which pivots have the highest ecological merit and consider submitting a smaller, phased approach. The team questioned whether the landowner has the financial and technical capacity to complete this project as presented. A future application needs to be more strategic and pivots need to be prioritized. The application is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5010-15589

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Let's Get Piping in Harper! VOID Lateral 111-20

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $109,715

Total Cost: $176,278

Application Description *(from application)*

1) Location: The project area is lateral canal #111-20 in the Little Valley area, 6 air miles from Harper and 14 air miles from Vale. The Little Valley Canal provides water to 590 acres of farm fields adjacent to the Malheur River. Our proposed pipeline provides us the opportunity to begin working in the Harper/Little Valley area. The Council and Irrigation District have focused on the WIllow Creek area since 1999, while there is still work to be done there, it is time to expand to new areas. Landowners from this area frequently request assistance. 2) Watershed Issues: a) Excessive sediment, nutrients, and bacteria being delivered to the Malheur River caused by irrigation induced erosion. The canal itself is a source of sediment to the river because of the steep slope (65 feet of fall) from the supply canal and to the end of the lateral. The Malheur River has the second worst water quality in the state. b) Lack of water for winter fish habitat. VOID maintains a minimum pool for federally listed bull trout winter habitat in Beulah Reservoir. 3) Restoration to be implemented: We are proposing to pipe the canal, which will entail laying 1,800 feet of 18" pipe, 1,800 feet of 12" pipe, 1,340 feet of 10" pipe and 200 feet of 8" pipe, installing a headwall and a debris screen in the water supply canal. This will provide gravity pressure to help producers convert to sprinkler irrigation, which will eliminate irrigation induced erosion and erosion from the canal itself. This will help improve water quality of the Malheur River. Piping the canal will prevent water losses from seepage and evaporation. Our experience indicates that this will be about 360 acre feet per year (2 acre feet per day for 6-months of irrigation season). This will help the Irrigation District maintain a minimum pool for winter habitat for the federally listed bull trout that reside in Beulah Reservoir. 4) Partners: Vale Oregon Irrigation District

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The proposal was clear with excellent cost-share and a reasonable budget.
- Once the pipeline is installed, the Harper area could become a priority focus area for NRCS to implement on-farm EQIP projects. Implementation will also lead to additional projects in the Harper area where landowners are beginning to implement on-farm conservation efforts.
- Vale Oregon Irrigation District (VOID) has installed over 100 miles of laterals in the last 10 years and has streamlined the process. They are efficient with their installation process.
- This is an excellent project for the cost. The lateral serves 590 acres and has 65 feet of fall which will enable landowners to have pressurized water.

- By piping the ditch, bank erosion will be eliminated. Livestock will not have access to the ditch once the pipeline is installed.
- This is a strong opportunity to result in water savings and the resulting on-farm improvements will provide additional water quality benefits.

Concerns

- Providing data from the nearby water quality monitoring would have been helpful.

Concluding Analysis

Implementation will improve water quality by reducing sediment transport into the nearby Malheur River from both the lateral and the 590 acres it serves once on-farm projects are completed. By piping the lateral, irrigators will be able to connect to a pressurized pipeline and convert from flood to sprinkler irrigation. Converting to the pressurized pipeline will encourage NRCS to make the Harper area a “priority” or focus area for future EQIP funding. There are good partners with a strong work ethic and successful track record with previous projects. The project is straightforward and continues the effort to improve water quality in the Malheur basin. It has excellent ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$109,715

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$109,715

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5011-15590
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Banks of Green: Let's git 'er dun
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $116,559
Total Cost: $148,430

Application Description *(from application)*

1) Project Location:The South Fork of WIllow Creek, which drains to the main Willow Creek, drains to the Malheur River. The nearest town is Ironside which is 3.82 air miles from the site. The entire site is in Malheur County. 2) Watershed problems: Poor wet meadow conditions: A drop in the water table resulted because of streambed downcutting. The channel was straightened in the past and was heavily grazed until the current owners bought the property. Poor fish passage: An old culvert at the top of the project and culverts under a ranch road at the bottom of the project impede fish especially at low flows. 3) Restoration Components- Result of design funded by OWEB TA grant:Wet Meadow: -- Install a "control riffle" to distribute water to the meadow, but maintain flow in the existing channel. The water split will vary depending on the flow in the main channel but at no time will it exceed 50% of the total. -- Construct 2,077 feet of channel immediately after the "control riffle"-- Install 8,430 feet of berms to help control and distribute the water in the meadow. We envision the water cascading through the berms much like a ball in a pinball machine. To raise the steambed and thus the water table and provide aquatic habitat:-- Install 10 riffles, 27 Vertical Post Structures (VPS), plant more than 1,000 willow whips with the VPS,and 34 whole trees in strategic places to stabilize the existing channel, control bank erosion, gradually raise the water table, and provide aquatic habitat. Fish passage: Remove the existing culvert at the top of the project site. Replace it with a 14'x4'8x24' bottomless arch culvert. Install a riffle to control the grade to be 2.7% or less. Remove the culvert at the bottom of the project site.-- Replace it with a 17'x7'2"x24 bottomless arch culvert.-- Install a riffle to keep the grade at 2%.4) Partners: Lance Greenbank --owner Gabe Williams -- Engineer RSIGary Faw -- Malheur SWCDKen Diebel -- Malheur WSC

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The landowner is actively engaged in improving habitat and restoring watershed function. He is addressing historic grazing issues that occurred prior to his owning the property.
- The project will greatly improve the riparian area of the South Fork of Willow Creek and provide strong water quality benefits. The project location has high potential for demonstration in an area where similar efforts are needed.
- Implementation will address two barriers on the South Fork of Willow Creek.
- Using willows in the stream will be effective without creating a barrier. The soft engineering approach will have little risk and has high potential for improved sediment, temperature, and bacterial levels in the creek.

- The project will restore a 50-acre wet meadow complex that was desiccated from channelization decades ago. This action will benefit aquatic, terrestrial, and avian species especially those at-risk. There is high potential for improved water storage and water table increases with small investment.
- The team was impressed with the engineer and the design plan.
- Project cost for the length of stream treated (. 8 miles) and resulting planned restoration was very reasonable.

Concerns

- The budget component on berms lacked detail.

Concluding Analysis

The team was impressed by this project as it will restore a wet-meadow complex in the headwaters of the Malheur River. Technical design resulted from a previously funded OWEB technical assistance grant in the fall of 2015. Team members familiar with the project engineer have favorable comments on his straightforward and low-cost approach to riparian restoration, which would be relatively easy for other landowners to emulate.

The South Fork of Willow Creek is near Ironside. Approximately 4,500 feet of the stream channel was straightened 50 to 60 years ago, causing the surrounding 50-acre wet meadow to dry up and lose its watershed function. Legacy grazing, channel straightening and previous high-flow events altered historic conditions. Water storage, safe release of cooler water, nutrient filtration and habitat are all compromised. The channel is down-cut 8 to 10 feet causing disconnection from the floodplain. By reconnecting the channel to wet meadows, essential habitat for many species can be restored. This project will reconnect the floodplain and provide cooler water later in the season. The project has significant ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$116,559

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase budget by $1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation

Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount

$117,643

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5012-15597

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Wallowa Front Forest Health Improvement Partnership-The Divide

Applicant: Wallowa SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Wallowa

OWEB Request: $106,200

Total Cost: $6,246,637

Application Description *(from application)*

The Wallowa Front Priority Area project is a multi-agency, multi-landowner effort to reduce fuel loads and improve the overall forest health of the Wallowa Front. Alder Slope, Divide, Lostine, and Bear Creek focus areas located on the north face of the Wallowa Mountains encompass the Wallowa Front. The Divide phase of the project is located near the towns of Joseph and Imnaha and is located in the headwaters of the Wallowa River and Little Sheep Creek and Big Sheep Creek in Wallowa County. In its current state, the Divide is at high risk for catastrophic fires, insect and disease infestations, and continued deteriorating health due to overstocked stands and high treatment costs. This project includes landowners and five partnering agencies: NRCS, US Forest Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, OWEB, and SWCD; concentrating funding and implementing on-the-ground projects over the next five years to improve the health of these stands. As more EQIP projects are completed it continues to be evident that due to the steep slopes and heavy fuels, higher rates per acre are needed to complete additional contracts. Greater landowner incentives are needed to help pay these increased rates. OWEB funds in this application will be used to provide additional cost share to complete forest thinning and slash treatments on 1000 acres in the Divide project area, as part of the greater Wallowa Front Priority Area.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This ties into existing efforts with USFS, ODF and NRCS that address overstocked stands.
- The project will also address a safety concern for wildfire and help to reduce fuel loads.
- The applicant has successfully implemented previous thinning projects on Alder Slope.
- There is positive watershed context. The planned approach looking at the whole area to have a greater overall impact.
- Assistance with the cost-share will help landowners improve forest management.
- The attached before-and-after photos of Weaver Creek which was previously funded by OWEB provided a good depiction of stand density improvement.

Concerns

- A map showing the location of the completed work on Alder Slope would have aided understanding

previous accomplishments and helped to measure success.

- It would be helpful to know how many acres were treated using OWEB funds and also the total treated acres funded by ODF and NRCS.
- Landowner match is unclear.
- The overall cost per-acre seemed high.
- It was suggested that low-level fire could be incorporated within the treatments.

Concluding Analysis

This project is part of a multi-agency, multi-landowner effort to reduce fuel loads and improve forest health along Alder Slope, the Divide, Lostine and Bear Creek drainages. Project partners are USFS, ODF and NRCS. NRCS funding is insufficient in certain locations to adequately provide cost-share due to topographic constraints, stand density, piling costs and mastication costs. Stand densities justify the higher cost per-acre. Reducing stand density to a more historic level will improve forest health and vigor. Lower stand density also reduces the threat of insect and disease outbreak. Improved spacing reduces the threat of a ground fire crowning. It will also improve hydrologic conditions by increasing snow accumulation which will improve groundwater recharge and reduce evaporation. If wildfire occurs on the steep, overstocked stands, high amounts of sediment would reach Sheep Creek and the Imnaha River. Impaired water quality will adversely affect habitat for ESA-listed steelhead and spring Chinook salmon. The team agreed that the project has high ecological merit and is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$106,200

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$106,200

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5013-15607

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Overstreet Water Quality Implementation Project

Applicant: Malheur SWCD

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $575,480

Total Cost: $3,750,910

Application Description *(from application)*

1. The Overstreet Water Quality Implementation Project (formerly known as the Newell Pipeline Project) project is located 1.5 miles northwest of Adrian at the bottom of the lateral and the top starts 5 miles at the north canal, and drains into the Owyhee River and the Snake River. 2. Water Quality – Surface Water The Malheur County local work group has identified irrigation induced erosion as a high priority that has been identified in the Malheur County Long Range Strategy. They include surface and groundwater degradation, furrow irrigation erosion, sediment deposition, and inadequate irrigation systems. 3. Approximately 30,320' of pipe will replace an earthen lateral on Phase III pipeline to pressurize 1239 acres. A automated cleaning screen will be at the canal to keep out debris and moss. Every take out will have a flow meter at point of delivery for on-farm usage. A pre-proposal RCPP application was turned in on April 21st for on- farm conversion from flood to sprinkler and best management practices along with Irrigation Water Management for 3150 acres that will incorporate Phase II and Phase III along with the first pressurized pipeline installed by OWEB, Owyhee Irrigation District and the Owyhee Watershed. A BOR Watersmart application will be submitted in the fall for 1/2 of pipeline cost. 4. Partners include landowners and producers, the Owyhee Watershed Council, Owyhee Irrigation District, NRCS, Idaho Power, and the Bureau of Reclamation. OWEB funds will be used for materials, project management, fiscal management, administration and post-implementation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This project complements a previously funded OWEB project to replace earthen irrigation lateral 1.5 miles from Adrian. The Overstreet lateral is adjacent to the recently completed Newell pipeline.
- Once the Overstreet lateral is installed, it will facilitate on-farm upgrades and the conversion from flood irrigation to sprinklers. The Overstreet lateral supplies water to 11 landowners on 1,239 acres.
- Project implementation will result in improved water quality by eliminating sediment runoff from flood irrigation and also animal inputs and on-farm chemicals. Eliminating flood irrigation will significantly reduce soil erosion runoff that annually contributes tons of sediment and other pollutants to the Owyhee and Snake Rivers. There is a high potential for water quality benefits to temperature, sediment, nutrients, bacteria and weed transport.
- Converting from an earthen lateral to pressurized piping eliminates water lost through seepage and evaporation.

- Implementation can possibly conserve 2,565 acre-feet annually that can remain in the Owyhee reservoir for a cool release later in the season which will benefit the lower Owyhee. There is a strong potential for increased in-stream flow.

Concerns

- Not all landowners on this lateral are committed to the project.
- The point-of-diversion changed after application submittal to the Kingman ditch. Also, the application was difficult to read and lacked clarity. Many essential details were missing and the budget lacked needed clarity.
- Due to the high cost, the applicant should consider a phased approach and separate future applications into smaller pipe sections to reduce cost while maintaining functionality.
- The RCPP is not secured. If RCPP funding is not obtained, overall funding will be inadequate to install the project.
- Including data from the on-going ag drain monitoring from Malheur SWCD would be beneficial and provide good baseline data to compare future monitoring data.
- The Idaho Power cost-share should not be included in the budget as cash match.
- It was unclear if Owyhee Irrigation District (OID) can do the installation in a timely manner since the Vista View pipeline needs to be installed over the winter and the siphon needs significant repairs work implemented this year.

Concluding Analysis

Malheur SWCD, Owyhee and Malheur Watershed Councils together with the irrigations districts have successfully implemented several lateral implementation projects. While this project complements previous efforts, it is premature. The project is very large and complicated. It is not clear if OID can install the project in a timely manner given other project obligations that need completion during the irrigation off-season. The budget will need further refinement since the point-of-diversion is different than what was submitted with the application. It would be helpful if the status of the RCPP project is known. The applicant may want to consider a phased approach and provide more detail on each separate phase. A future application will need more clearly articulated project components and maps. While implementation has the potential for high water quality benefits, the project is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff

Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority

N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount

$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount $0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5014-15609
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: War on Weeds in the Owyhees 2
Applicant: Owyhee WC
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $135,090
Total Cost: $491,502

Application Description *(from application)*

The Jordan Valley CWMA covers 4 million acres in southern Malheur County consisting of sparsely populated rangeland. The area includes the Owyhee River drainage in the Jordan Valley, Rome, Arock, Quinn and Rockville areas. Invasive species are a serious threat to the Owyhee Watershed and diminishes the watershed's ability to function properly. They dominate plant communities to the extent that plant diversity and ecosystem integrity is threatened. Weeds are encroaching on some of the most pristine high desert habitat remaining in the region. ODFW identifies the Owyhee Watershed as critical sage grouse habitat. The conversion of sage and native plant communities to invasive species reduces food and cover for wildlife. Invasive species affects the health of the watershed ecosystem. They impact plant and animal communities within the area. Infestations of noxious weeds can affect soil and erosion rates. Invasive annual grasses such as cheatgrass and medusahead rye can change the normal fire pattern. Large fires have long term impacts such as encroachment of noxious weeds, soil erosion, water quality, habitat loss, loss of forage, as well as the economic health to the community. Decreasing the spread of noxious and invasive species through weed treatments and education of the public will improve watershed health. Program partners include: private landowners, Jordan Valley CWMA, The Nature Consevancy, BLM, Malheur County Weed Control, Owyhee and Malheur County Sage Grouse Working Groups, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of State Lands, ODFW and the Owyhee Watershed Council. OWEB funds will be used to partially fund and support a weed coordinator position to implement the integrated weed management Program.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The Jordan Valley CWMA has been doing positive work in an isolated area of southeast Oregon for several years. This is important work in a very large, remote area with few sources for funding.
- Many organizations including BLM, DSL, ODOT, ODA and Malheur County Weed Department are working together for a common goal. There is high potential for water quality and habitat benefits.
- There is strong landowner and agency support.
- This is a needed program doing positive, beneficial work and is a real connector to the community.
- There were several letters of support provided.

Concerns

- While the team was complimentary of this program based on comments from other agencies, information regarding past efforts and outcomes as well as evidence of prior success was lacking in the application, such as including the acres previously treated chemically and with bio-controls.
- It was unclear if previously treated areas are on an upward restoration trend to a better functioning perennial bunchgrass community.
- It was unclear whether other funding sources were available or whether funding was being coordinated with ODA; continuing to fund programmatic needs with grants is not sustainable.
- The team questioned whether they were addressing whitetop and if so the rate of success.

Concluding Analysis

This effort from the Jordan Valley CWMA has been funded by OWEB for over eight years. The CWMA has been treating noxious weeds in the upper Owyhee watershed with several basin partners. While the CWMA did not clearly articulate their success rate, review team members familiar with their work noted their work has been very successful. While not articulated in the application, whitetop in the town site of Jordan Valley has been treated over the last several years and is showing success.

There is only one person responsible for completing all the various tasks. Funds are pooled from other sources to treat targeted weeds at a landscape-level. This is a programmatic effort. Jordan Valley CWMA covers an extensive, sparsely populated area in southeast Oregon, making coordination problematic with landowners and agencies. There are very few agency offices in the entire region. The area has a frequent fire-return interval with cheatgrass and medusahead rye increasing fire size. Due to the large amount of annual grasses in this area, several high intensity fires occurred over the last five years. Those fires resulted in degraded habitat and loss of sage-brush for sagebrush-obligate species such as greater sage-grouse. Being able to treat new satellite infestations is an important objective of the CWMA. By treating smaller satellite populations, the rate of noxious weed spread can be greatly reduced. The team felt that based on past performance, future success should continue. The project has significant ecological merit to warrant funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$135,090

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$135,090

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5015-15613
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: In For The Long Haul
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $48,775
Total Cost: $98,780

Application Description *(from application)*

1) Approximately 10 miles south of Ontario, above the Shoestring Canal, In For The Long Haul runoff drains into the Shoestring. 2) This project is located 10 miles SW of Ontario and sits on the edge of the bench ground. The 24-acre property is currently irrigated with broken concrete ditches on steep 5 to 12% slopes. The major cause of erosion and low irrigation efficiency is the irrigation of relatively steep furrow runs and steep slopes. Much of the irrigated acreage in the watershed has slopes exceeding 1.5%. Installation of pressurized pipeline along with on-farm irrigation system improvements will effectively treat low irrigation efficiency. 3) Install a pivot to treat 21 acres and three irropods pull lines for two corners and pasture in the pie shape of the pivot to irrigate the other 3 acres. 4) Partner will include landowner

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- No strengths were identified with this application.

Concerns

- The project has a high cost-acre of $1,951 for the OWEB-requested amount.
- The amount requested for electrical is 33 percent of the OWEB request amount which was quite high.
- The PISR amount requested was high given the short distance from Ontario.
- The application seemed rushed and lacked critical detail and also had errors.

Concluding Analysis

The application was not well-thought-out and seemed rushed. The project seemed to be more opportunistic rather than strategically planned. The relative need, importance and urgency for the project were not described. The overall acreage is small resulting in a high cost per-acre. The requested electrical cost was also high. However, there was good match provided by the landowner in an area that is not a NRCS priority area. Irrigation-induced erosion is occurring on steep slopes and therefore converting to sprinkler irrigation may have benefit. It was unclear where runoff would go and how far it was until sediment reaches the Shoestring Canal. The map did not provide needed clear detail. Overall, the project lacked essential detail to warrant funding consideration.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5016-15616
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Lime-Aid
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $30,011
Total Cost: $37,550

Application Description *(from application)*

The Lime-Aid project is based out of Lime, Oregon, along the Burnt River. This project is located in Baker County just 3 miles South of Dixie Oregon. The Lime Hill Fire of 2015 removed the majority of vegetation, and fencing within the Western pasture. Within the Eastern pastures, over utilization by the previous owner has left the meadows along the burnt river in poor condition. The lack of watering locations and fencing has slowed rehabilitation of the property. Proper distribution of cattle is difficult to achieve in its current state, and is compounded by the ruggedness of the terrain. The goals of this project is to provide additional fencing and watering locations to redistribute cattle away from over utilized areas and aid the rehabilitation efforts of the Owner and partner agencies. This will be accomplished by installing 3 fences and 2 troughs to pull cattle from the Burnt river and allow over utilized areas to be rested. It will also benefit on going rehabilitation efforts by the BLM and NRCS who have seeded and sprayed within the Burned areas. By installing fencing, it will allow the owner to rotate cattle within this new seeding. Two sections of fence will receive low pressure from cattle and will be four strand barb wire. The last section, of fence will receive high pressure from cattle near the river and will be a five-strand barb wire fence. Two gravity feed troughs will be placed at hardened sites near springs above the high pressure fence.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The new landowner has a strong commitment to improve upland conditions on a heavily overgrazed property along I-84.
- The proposed fencing will help to restore a dry meadow and enable future restoration projects.

Concerns

- The budget lacks clarity and detail. Project components need to be concise and split into understandable elements.
- Many of the of the equipment supply attachments were superfluous and not needed.
- It was unclear whether livestock will have access to the Burnt River riparian area. A more concise grazing plan or scheme needs to be provided.
- Project maps needed additional clarity with a better legend, labeling and detail.

- It is unlikely that the proposed rock will be sufficient to keep livestock out of the spring development; the applicant should consult with NRCS on the design.
- The cost of fencing ($2.15/ft.) appears low.

Concluding Analysis

The project location is highly visible from Interstate 84 near Lime. Both sides of this section of the Interstate were adversely affected by a rangeland fire in 2015. The previous landowners severely overgrazed the range. Remaining vegetation is sparse, creating conditions for invasive grasses and high potential for erosion. The property slopes directly into the Burnt River. The new landowner has participated in other OWEB projects in Willow Creek and has a strong desire to improve existing conditions including the upland vegetation and overall watershed health.

The application was not clearly written and would have benefited from additional detail. After the application was submitted, it was determined that some sections of fencing were recently improved by BLM staff in the spring. Some rock jacks were rebuilt. The applicant then lowered the total OWEB request. However, the team expressed that the overall cost per-foot for fencing seemed too low, especially given the steep nature of this property. While the team expressed that the project has high potential ecological merit, some proposed practices were unclear. A detailed budget with distinct project components is needed. Also, it was not clear if the livestock will be grazing in the riparian area of Burnt River. A grazing scheme or plan needs to be clearly articulated. Better maps of the project site with additional clarity are needed. The spring development design should be consistent with NRCS guidelines. The project is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5017-15645

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Clear Creek Restoration (Phase 1)

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: $146,246

Total Cost: $186,246

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is the first phase of a restoration project spanning six properties and 2 miles of critical bull trout habitat on Clear Creek. The first phase will include restoration on two properties along 0.6 miles of Clear Creek. It is located just above the confluence with Pine Creek, which flows into Brownlee Reservoir on the Snake River. It is in eastern Baker County, several miles southeast of the City of Halfway. The region has recently experienced several large floods which caused infrastructure damage, bank failure and loss of pasture. Residents are motivated to improve conditions on Clear Creek to prevent damage during future floods as well aid in bull trout recovery. The designs for this project address high stream temperature, bank instability, sedimentation, fish habitat simplification and livestock access. The restoration elements which will be implemented to address these issues are: revegetation of bare banks, fencing to protect new and existing riparian vegetation, installation of slash to support failing banks, installation of flow deflectors to reduce pressure on failing banks, installation of habitat structures for fish and establishing livestock driveways to limit the impact of livestock. Partners include landowners, US Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Wildlife Foundation.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- From the site visit, the riparian vegetation on the Matile property appears healthy.
- Using an elk fence on the Gulick property is appropriate due to the considerable damage caused by elk.
- Clear Creek is critical bull trout habitat.
- The review team agreed that installation of a riparian fence that protects current and potential vegetation will have the highest benefit.

Concerns

- The feed bunks on Gulick Road are located too close to Clear Creek. There is the potential for direct runoff into the stream.
- The project appears to be over-designed. Planting larger-sized potted trees and shrubs in a gravel bar has a low chance of success.
- Livestock should be removed from the pasture grass.

- One of the properties has a considerable amount of debris that needs to be cleared.
- The log structures seem underdeveloped and may need additional pieces of wood. Also, some of the habitat structures appear to be over engineered.
- The proposed planting density of 6,000 stems per-acre seems excessive. The overall vegetation strategy is questionable.
- The design should considered past occurrences on Clear Creek; fencing placed in the curves of Clear Creek will likely fail during a high-flow event.
- The proposed water gap is in an inappropriate location and is too steep.
- The consulting firm was unfamiliar to team members.
- The wet meadow should be fenced.

Concluding Analysis

Clear Creek is an important bull trout stream and will benefit from restoration efforts. Having willing landowners ready to participate is also positive. The application was a resubmittal; however, some recommendations suggested by the review team were not followed. The application still lacked essential detail and was not clear. The project seemed to be over designed. From the site visit, it was clear that installing a riparian fence will provide the highest environmental benefit. Riparian vegetation is well established in many areas and just needs protection from livestock and ungulates. The proposed elk fence is appropriate on the designated section of Clear Creek. The amount of planting proposed was excessive. It seemed to the reviewers that providing riparian fencing and off-stream water for livestock would be a positive start for this project. While future implementation has potential for ecological merit, the application is not ready to be recommended this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team

N/A

Staff Recommendation

Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount

$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5018-15648
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Circling the Hyline
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $59,761
Total Cost: $179,750

Application Description *(from application)*

(1) The landowner currently furrow irrigates about 75 acres 10 miles north of Ontario in the NRCS CIS Area which is entirely in Malheur County. With the current irrigation system of furrow irrigation, the drainage water goes into the Hy-line Canal (Owyhee Irrigation District) and subsequently into Sheperd Gulch and then into the Snake River. (2) Most irrigation district infrastructure was designed 75 to 100 years ago for furrow irrigation and depends on the reuse of irrigation water to supply patrons. These return flows contain fertilizers that contribute to algae blooms (chlorophyll a), bacteria from animal waste, and sediment from eroding fields and irrigation systems. The Snake River is listed on the Idaho and Oregon 303 (d) lists for bacteria, dissolved oxygen, mercury, nutrients, pH, sediment and temperature. The Snake River-Hells Canyon TMDL requires an 80% reduction in phosphorus. (3) The landowner will install about 3360 feet of pipe (replacing surface ditches) and two center pivots to convert to a zero runoff type of irrigation. This will reduce the loads of nutrients, bacteria and sediments that currently may end up in the Snake River. (4) Partners in this project are the landowner, the Malheur SWCD and possibily the NRCS when funding becomes available.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is located in NRCS' Hyline Bench Conservation Implementation Strategy (CIS) priority area and will leverage NRCS funds for the pivots.
- Site has fairly steep slopes and will benefit from a conversion to sprinkler irrigation, reducing erosion to improve water quality.
- The project had excellent match at 200% of the OWEB-requested amount.

Concerns

- The application needed clearer, more concise maps indicating where runoff from the field flows and the distance to reach the Snake River. The application was difficult to read and lacked clarity. Many critical details were missing. The relative need, urgency, and importance of this project were not clearly described.
- OWEB has been funding the agricultural drain monitoring in this area for several years. Including monitoring data with the application would have provided baseline information and provided context for the application.
- More information regarding the water quality benefits would have been useful.

- The cost of the bubbler seemed high.

Concluding Analysis

The project is located in the Hyline Bench CIS priority area. Runoff from this area eventually flows into Shepard's Gulch and onto the Snake River nearby. The project is located on the Oregon Slope east of I-84. This area is now a focus area for NRCS where other OWEB projects were recently implemented. The priority area was determined as a result of the ongoing ag drain monitoring by Malheur SWCD funded by OWEB and DEQ. However, including some of that data with the application would have been beneficial

The project site has fairly steep slopes and it appeared from the site visit that runoff can be significant. A better map showing where the runoff reaches Shephard's Gulch and ultimately the Snake River is needed. Information describing the take-out was not clear. It seemed that the project management and PISR requested amounts were high given the nature of this project and its close proximity to Ontario. The proposed actions potentially have merit; however, the application lacks essential detail and clarity to warrant funding. A future application should have improved maps, inclusion of data from ag drain monitoring on Shepard's Gulch, a concise budget, and additional detail describing the need for the project. The project is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5019-15652
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Freddie the Fish Detour
Applicant: Malheur SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $121,452
Total Cost: $152,628

Application Description *(from application)*

This project occurrs along the mainstem of Willow Creek approximately 2.5 miles north and east of Ironside,Oregon. The Willowcreek dumps into Malheur Resrvoir and then into the Malheur River near Vale, Oregon in Malheur County. The Fish Detour screen project will address improving fish passage and screening. Willow Creek has been recently (2014) determined by ODFW to possibly contain redband trout. Because of a diversion improvement for the Wilks Ranch, ODFW has required Wilks Ranch to install a fish screen on their irrigation water diversion on Willow Creek. There is currently no fish screens on Willow Creek. The irrigation diversion for the Wilks Ranch is located on a neighbor's property and the water is conveyed via pipeline to the Wilks irrigation system. It has been determined by the landowner and ODFW that the best site alternative would be location of the screen and fish return on the Wilks Ranch property by breaking the pipeline just inside the property boundary and inserting the screen there. Since the water travels by gravity, the screen should have little or no effect on the flows or levels. OWEB funds will be used along with cash and in-kind funding from project partners (landowner and ODFW) to implement project activities and monitor post-project responses. Project activities include screen design (ODFW), fish passage and screening installation, bank stabilization (around fish bypass pipe) treatments for fish return to Willowcreek, and monitoring post-project reporting will be done by the landowner and the SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This rancher is a proactive landowner and implemented many projects on this property since purchasing it. He has cut juniper, installed 2.3 miles of riparian fencing and consolidated diversions.
- When water is present, redband trout will use this area for migration.
- The ecological merit of the fish screen is clear.
- The project can be a positive outreach effort and aid in having additional fish screens installed in the upper Malheur watershed.

Concerns

- While fish would benefit from the fish screen, it was unclear if there actually are fish in this section of Willow Creek. It was expressed that there should be verification that fish are actually present prior to installing a fish screen.

- Flow in this section of Willow Creek is intermittent later in the year.
- The application was difficult to read and lacked clarity. The relative need, importance and urgency for this project were not clearly described. The resource benefit from this project seems small relative to the cost.
- The landowner was proactive in consolidating the diversion points; however, the point-of-diversion change triggered the need for the fish screen from OWRD.
- The proposed fish bypass pipe is 450 feet long. There was concern that sediment will clog that length of pipe making the fish screen non-functional and potentially detrimental to fisheries.
- The proposed design appears to be based on landowner needs rather than resource concerns.
- There is no construction engineering oversight.

Concluding Analysis

Currently there are no fish screens in this section of Willow Creek, which is above the Malheur Reservoir. The previous landowner began an OWEB-funded channel modification project on this property. The current landowner completed that effort. As a result of that channel re-design, a new consolidated point-of-diversion was installed which necessitates the need for a fish screen. Using OWEB funds for fish screens is permissible on non-anadromous streams; however, there were concerns with the proposed design. The team had concerns regarding the length of the bypass ditch and the potential for sediment to clog the ditch, which will make the fish screen non-functional. There needs to be engineering oversight during construction. While there is potential merit, additional analysis is required and it is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5020-15658
Project Name: Beaver Tables Medusahead
Applicant: Harney SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
OWEB Request: $231,109
Project Type: Restoration
County: Harney
Total Cost: $515,509

Application Description *(from application)*

Abstract:1. Located near Crane, in Harney County and South to highway 78, in the Beaver Tables area, in sage-grouse general habitat. Project is South and West of two core habitat areas with leks to the East & North. 2. Medusahead is adversely affecting sage-grouse habitat. The perennial bunchgrass and sagebrush community is being displaced. Medusahead is expanding onto private land due to recent landscape-level fires and the inability of the BLM until recently to use appropriate herbicides including Plateau. 3. The primary objective is to restore critical sagebrush-steppe heavily impacted by medusahead rye by aerial application of herbicide and upland seeding. Planned restoration includes aerially spraying Plateau on 1,700 acres of Medusahead on 8 landowners; seeding 1,200 acres of the 1,700 treated acres with crested or Siberian wheatgrass, where needed; DSL will aerially spray 350 acres; BLM will treat 5,000 acres and NRCS will aerially treat 3,125 acres twice over a two-year period. 4. Partners including Burns BLM, DSL, NRCS, Harney SWCD, Harney CWMA and landowners are providing 116% cost-share of the OWEB-requested amount.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- There is strong partnership including Burns BLM, DSL, NRCS, Harney SWCD, Harney CWMA and landowners are participating with this project and providing significant cost-share.
- This is a landscape-scale restoration project that will treat non-monoculture sites scattered throughout the Beaver Tables area. This area is lightly infested and recovery has a higher likelihood of success.
- The applicant is following a three-prong approach-- vector control, focus on recoverable areas that are not monocultures and multiple-year treatments. By prioritizing the remaining areas into smaller units, treatments should have a higher success rate.
- Some of the partners' work has already started. The cost-share is very strong.
- One of the project's objectives is to protect sage-grouse habitat by keeping the medusahead out of core habitat. The Harney County CWMA and project partners are trying to keep the medusahead from spreading to the sage-grouse leks to the north in the Otis PAC (priority area of concern) and east towards Crowley.

Concerns

- The amount of seed requested seemed high as well as the number of acres to seed, especially since the application stated that the treated sites were not monocultures.

- Grazing plans were not included in the application. The site visit indicated that there is a one-year rest plan.
- Team members were interested in knowing the post-treatment plan.

Concluding Analysis

The site visit indicated the importance of this effort and the amount of coordination occurring between the various agencies. The agencies coordinating this effort have been working with these landowners and are confident in their grazing practices. The project has strong partnership. The BLM and DSL are actively treating medusahead on nearby public lands. It is a well-coordinated effort. Medusahead has expanded due to the Buzzard complex fire a few years ago. The main objective of the project is to keep medusahead from spreading into core sage-grouse habitat, especially the Otis-Moffet PAC (priority area of concern) to the north and southeast into other core habitat. The primary objective is to restore critical sagebrush-steppe heavily impacted by medusahead rye by aerial application of herbicide and upland seeding. The three-prong approach of vector control, treating non-monoculture sites, and multiple-year treatments is advocated by scientists at the EOARC (Eastern Oregon Ag Research Center). Extensive research recommends various practices to effectively manage medusahead over time. This project will be implementing some of those practices. Overall the team felt there is significant ecological merit to sage-grouse habitat to warrant funding this grant cycle. However, the team also recommends determining if the amount of seed proposed is excessive.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
5 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$245,206

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Staff contacted the applicant. It was determined that the amount of acres needing seed should be reduced from 1,200 to 900 acres. The budget was modified accordingly.

Staff Recommendation
Fund Reduced

Staff Recommended Amount
$231,109

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5021-15564
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Ellis Road T/A
Applicant: Baker Valley SWCD
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Union
OWEB Request: $9,350
Total Cost: $11,987

Application Description *(from application)*

Two landowners are seeking assistance to develop a 100% construction ready design to pipe their open irrigation ditch that is attributing to severe erosion and down cutting to their irrigation system. This process is not only causing water loss, but is adding excess debris and sediment downstream, traveling only a little over 8 miles before emptying into the North Powder River. The landscape of this project consists of upland sagebrush steppe and 504 affected acres of irrigated farm ground, located in the Powder River Drainage near North Powder. Under the Powder Valley Water Control District the Coughanour ditch, beginning in Pilcher Creek Reservoir and emptying into Wolf Creek Reservoir, supplies irrigation water to the landowners through a measuring weir off of the Coughanour and into their open irrigation ditch; this ditch provides water to operate five wheel lines, one hand line, and one pivot on the property. From the irrigation weir, water travels through 2.18 miles of open ditch to two mainline intakes; the excess water is then diverted past the second intake and down a bypass ditch, returning unused water to the North Powder River.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The maps provided show the complicated system and were helpful to the team to understand the problems.
- Water right information was also provided.
- The team was confident that designs for the future restoration project will be beneficial to the North Powder watershed.
- The review team previously recommended that the applicant apply for a technical assistance grant when the original restoration application was submitted in 2016.
- Installation of the pipeline in a future implementation project will eliminate evaporation and seepage loss.

Concerns

- The team questioned the likelihood that the estimated 2.5 cfs will remain in the Coughanour Ditch to return to Wolf Creek.

Concluding Analysis

The review team appreciated that their recommendation for a technical assistance application was followed. The previous restoration application lacked essential technical designs to warrant funding. This technical assistance application provided clear maps, good details, and water right information. The site visit in the fall verified the need for restoration of the actively down-cutting ditch. The current irrigation system requires excess water to be conveyed through a by-pass ditch which results in excessive erosion. The team agreed that this project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$9,350

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$9,350

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5022-15588

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Northern Malheur Basin: Riparian, wet meadow assessment, planning and landowner recruitment.

Applicant: Malheur WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Malheur

OWEB Request: $47,575

Total Cost: $68,575

Application Description *(from application)*

1) We are proposing to work in the Willow and Bully Creek watersheds in northern Malheur County. Our priorities will be to study the HUC 12 sub-watersheds that contain habitat for red band trout, and the Columbia spotted frog. Our priority HUCs are in the Willow Creek system and are as follows: Alder Creek/ Willow South WillowJohnson Boulder Creek/ WillowJeff Davis Creek/ Willow Basin Creek/ Willow Our secondary priority HUCs are:Headwaters Bully CreekSF Indian CreekNF Bully Creek. 2) Watershed Issues: There is a need to conduct a systemic assessment of the habitat conditions of Willow and Bully Creek. It is vital for the Council and its partners to strategically address landowners concerns about the creek running though their properties, water quality, habitat conditions and wet meadows for redband trout and spotted frogs. Developing a scientific plan of action will allow those partners working on WIllow and Bully Creek to better understand the system we are working in. We will know its weaknesses and resiliencies, and develop appropriate restoration actions. 3) Deliverables: Project area selection will emphasis state and private land that provides habitat for redband trout, and spotted frogs or is adjacent to known populations and has the capacity to extend the range for these species. Our selected contractor will deliver the following in the final report. 1) Compile and review existing information, 2) Geomorphic analysis, 3) Hydrologic/hydraulic analysis, 4) Aquatic habitat assessment/limiting factor analysis, 5) Restoration recommendation, 6) Produce and present stakeholders assessment report, 7) Stakeholder ranking of restoration priorities, and 8) Development of projects. Our goal is to assess 43 miles of streams, inspect 10 barriers, and 520 acres of habitat. 4) Partners: ODFW, NRCS, SWCD, Trout Unlimited, BLM, DEQ, and private landowners.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The final product will result in identifying areas to prioritize actions.
- The objectives of the project are sound and will likely lead to the proposed outcomes of restoring wet meadows and riparian habitat.
- The partnership is a diverse mix of stakeholders.
- The High Desert Drought Resilient RCPP is supportive of this effort.
- Project objectives are ecosystem-driven. The project will identify habitat needs and will also coordinate future restoration efforts with landowners.

- The requested budget was reasonable.

Concerns

- No concerns were noted.

Concluding Analysis

The team was impressed with this application and expressed that this technical assistance should result in future restoration projects. Potential projects will restore riparian function and reconnect the floodplain. The applicant proposes to work in the Bully Creek and Willow Creek watersheds within HUC 12 sub-watersheds that contain habitat for red-band, Columbia spotted frog and wet-meadow complexes. Technical assistance will include geomorphic analysis, hydrologic and hydraulic designs and development and ranking of various restoration projects. The review team agreed the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$47,575

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$47,575

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5023-15625
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: OWC Project Round Up
Applicant: Owyhee WC
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Malheur
OWEB Request: $37,730
Total Cost: $47,170

Application Description *(from application)*

The OWC Project Round-up will allow the Owyhee Watershed Council to efficiently manage 16 years of completed restoration project information, through an in-house database system. Creation of a database will be a key component for future restoration project identification, and collaborative priority area planning.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The resulting database will provide useful context of previous projects, including information on the effectiveness of proposed projects, for the Owyhee Watershed Council.
- Information will assist the council when new staff are hired and aid in the transition. It will also aid staff when applying for various grants and project funding.
- A similar database has proven useful in the Grande Ronde watershed.

Concerns

- Current staff may not have the appropriate skills to build and maintain the data-base; continual tech support will be needed.
- The resulting database needs to be user-friendly to facilitate training of new staff.
- The amount of in-kind match (472 hours) provided by board members seemed excessive.

Concluding Analysis

The Owyhee Watershed Council (OWC) was formed in 2001. In 16 years they have successfully implemented over 200 large and small grants with various partners. Information from these completed projects are kept in various computer and paper files and not readily accessible. The ability to quickly access data from past accomplishments will assist OWC when applying for future grants from, or providing information to, other organizations. Designed properly, the database will contain information on the effectiveness of previous projects. This will help obtain funding from other organizations such as NRCS and BOR and enable OWC to diversify their portfolio and implement more restoration projects.

While it is unclear whether staff have the skills to create and maintain this database, the team has confidence in the ability of the coordinator to accomplish this task. The team agreed that the project is ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 3

Review Team Recommended Amount
$37,730

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$37,730

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5024-15646

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Lower Clear Creek Diversion Designs

Applicant: Powder Basin WC

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Baker

OWEB Request: $41,414

Total Cost: $51,914

Application Description *(from application)*

The three diversions within the project area are located on Clear Creek several miles southeast of the town of Halfway in eastern Baker County. Clear Creek is designated as critical bull trout habitat and is a tributary to Pine Creek, which flows into the Brownlee Reservoir on the Snake River. Based on a survey of agricultural diversions, Clear Creek, including all tributaries, currently has 6 barriers to fish passage caused by diversions. With the removal of two of them in this project only four will remain on 24 miles of critical bull trout habitat. This grant is intended to address the issue of fish passage barrier from two diversions, the in-stream disturbance caused by regular maintenance of all three current structures and the inability to control the amount of flow diverted by one diversion. Funds from this grant will pay for an engineering firm to upgrade current designs from 30% to 60%, which can then be reviewed by the ODFW fish passage office. Partners include landowners and ditch users.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Clear Creek is a high-risk creek and experienced significant flooding in 2007 and 2010.
- Replacing the proposed diversions is positive and has strong potential for water quality benefits for temperature, bacteria and nutrient reductions from the removal of push-up dam structures.
- Clear Creek is critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. Improving riparian conditions, bank stability and fish passage will be beneficial. Clear Creek is a major tributary to Pine Creek.
- This section of Clear Creek is in great need of improvement. The long-term goal of removing all passage barriers in Clear Creek is noteworthy.
- Powder Watershed Council's initial contact with the landowners was a positive start.

Concerns

- Multiple technical assistance applications may be needed to obtain full designs for this project; a piecemeal approach to obtaining full designs seems expensive, time-consuming and repetitive.
- Requested funding will bring the designs up to 60%, which may still be insufficient to obtain approval from ODFW.
- The council should consider reaching out to other agencies, particularly ODFW, to obtain input and technical suggestions.
- Obtaining designs for three diversions will not be cost-effective.

- Only one of the three diversions included a fish screen.

Concluding Analysis

Clear Creek, a tributary of Pine Creek in the Brownlee Subbasin near Halfway, has critical habitat for ESA-listed bull trout. In order to improve fish passage, PBWC proposed to advance the conceptual design for three diversion upgrades to the 60% design level so designs can be evaluated by ODFW. However, it was stated that 60% designs are often inadequate for permit evaluation. Sections of Clear Creek were artificially straightened and also experienced extreme high-flow events in 2007 and 2010. These events resulted in widespread bank failure, channel migration and wider channels with areas lacking in adequate riparian vegetation. Powder Basin Watershed council (PBWC) received a technical assistance grant to develop a restoration plan to improve hydrologic function, increase fish habitat diversity, remove fish-passage barriers and meet landowner needs along a two-mile stretch of Clear Creek.

The team visited one of the proposed sites prior to the review team meeting. The application was previously submitted but not recommended. The team agreed that the resubmitted application did not provide needed modifications to warrant funding. The overall design concept is not well-conceived. It was suggested that the applicant start a fresh approach by seeking additional technical input. While this section of Clear Creek will greatly benefit from future restoration work, the team agreed that this application did not provide the detail necessary to recommend funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5025-15647
Project Type: Technical Assistance
Project Name: Powder Basin SWAT Analysis
Applicant: Powder Basin WC
Basin: Eastern Oregon
County: Baker
OWEB Request: $11,016
Total Cost: $13,936

Application Description *(from application)*

The Powder Basin includes three subbasins, all of which drain into the Snake River: the Powder Subbasin, the Burnt River subbasin and the Brownlee subbasin. These subbains are drained by the Powder, North Powder and Burnt Rivers and Pine Cr., Wolf Cr., Eagle Cr., Antone Cr. and others and includes the towns of Baker City, Haines, Halfway, Unity, Sumpter and North Powder. Elevations range from 9,000 ft. in the Elkhorn and Wallowa Mtns. to about 1,700 at the Snake River. The region is semi-arid and precipitation is dominated by winter snowfall with some spring and summer rainfall. Climate change predictions for the region include a 2-5 degree farenheit increase in temperatures by the year 2100, a decrease in summer precipitation, a shift from snowfall to rain during spring and an increase in erosion from more frequent fires. Many communities do not have the tools to adequately prepare for these changes. The Soil Water Assessment Tool (SWAT) is a widely-used process-driven computer simulation model developed to compare different management scenarios in terms of potential impacts to watershed hydrology and erosion. By including climate change scenarios along with fire scenarios we can look at the interaction between the two. This can help the public understand the severity of the potential impact, the areas of highest impact and build a framework for preparing to help mitigate impacts. Faculty from Oregon State University have agreed to partner with us on this effort and help produce a report that will be accessible to natural resource professionals and the general public.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The requested OWEB amount is nominal.

Concerns

- The ecological benefits from this project are unclear.
- The end product is unclear.
- Climate models may provide useful long-term predictions about factors influencing habitat conditions, but are not likely to provide clear guidance to direct and prioritize habitat restoration in the near-term.

Concluding Analysis

The climate model will have little benefit especially to bull trout and other threatened species. The model is based on assumptions and looks too far into the future to provide specific restoration guidance. The resulting end product will have little merit for planning restoration projects in the near future. The project does not warrant funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Eastern Oregon (Region 5)

Application Number: 218-5026-15663

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Harney Basin Groundwater-Dependent Ecosystems

Applicant: The Nature Conservancy

Basin: Eastern Oregon

County: Harney

OWEB Request: $49,035

Total Cost: $61,550

Application Description *(from application)*

This project will take place in the Harney Basin, located principally in Harney County, which includes the towns of Hines, Burns, and Frenchglen. This watershed is a closed basin and drains the Silvies River, Donner und Blitzen River, and Silver Creek. Increased pumping over the last few decades has resulted in groundwater declines, potentially causing harm to senior water users and rivers, wetlands, and springs. Oregon Water Resources Department has initiated two projects to address these declines and develop solutions for sustainable water management: a USGS-OWRD collaborative groundwater study, and a place-based planning grant to the community. An important component of these two projects is to quantify how these declines have affected freshwater ecosystems and species, and determine which actions can be taken to protect them. This technical assistance grant would fund analyses to identify which ecosystems and species are dependent on groundwater discharge, how their groundwater supply has changed over the two decades of increased groundwater pumping, and what actions can be taken by private landowners to protect these ecosystems and species. Final deliverables will include maps of groundwater-dependent ecosystems and analyses of their change over time, plus a report describing actions that can be taken by landowners to protect these systems. Key project partners include the Harney County Watershed Council, Harney County Court, High Desert Partnership, U.S. Geological Survey, and Oregon Water Resources Department.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project seems very interesting and innovative.
- Drones will help to provide information about the confluence of surface water and ground water.
- The project will assist Oregon Water Resources Department's (OWRD) Placed-based Planning effort which is currently on-going in Harney County.
- Collected data will help inform potential recharge projects
- There is support from the Harney County Commissioners, including representation on the groundwater availability study board.

Concerns

- It was unclear how this effort would be coordinated with OWRD's groundwater study.

- The project seems premature; it was unclear whether the project should proceed after completion of the OWRD groundwater study.
- The application provided no indication of ownership in the project or support from landowners.
- More outreach for this project is needed.
- ODFW was not approached on this project from a wildlife perspective.

Concluding Analysis

The project can potentially provide data that benefits several on-going groundwater studies with OWRD, USGS, Harney County Watershed Council, Harney Council and landowners. However, it was unclear how the collected data benefits those efforts. It is also unclear how these studies are interconnected and how they tie into OWRD's Placed-Based Planning effort. The team expressed that more outreach needs to occur. Using drones over private property needs prior outreach to landowners before beginning such an effort. The team agreed that there may be merit to this project. However, more coordination and outreach is needed prior to recommending this project. It is not ready for funding this grant cycle.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

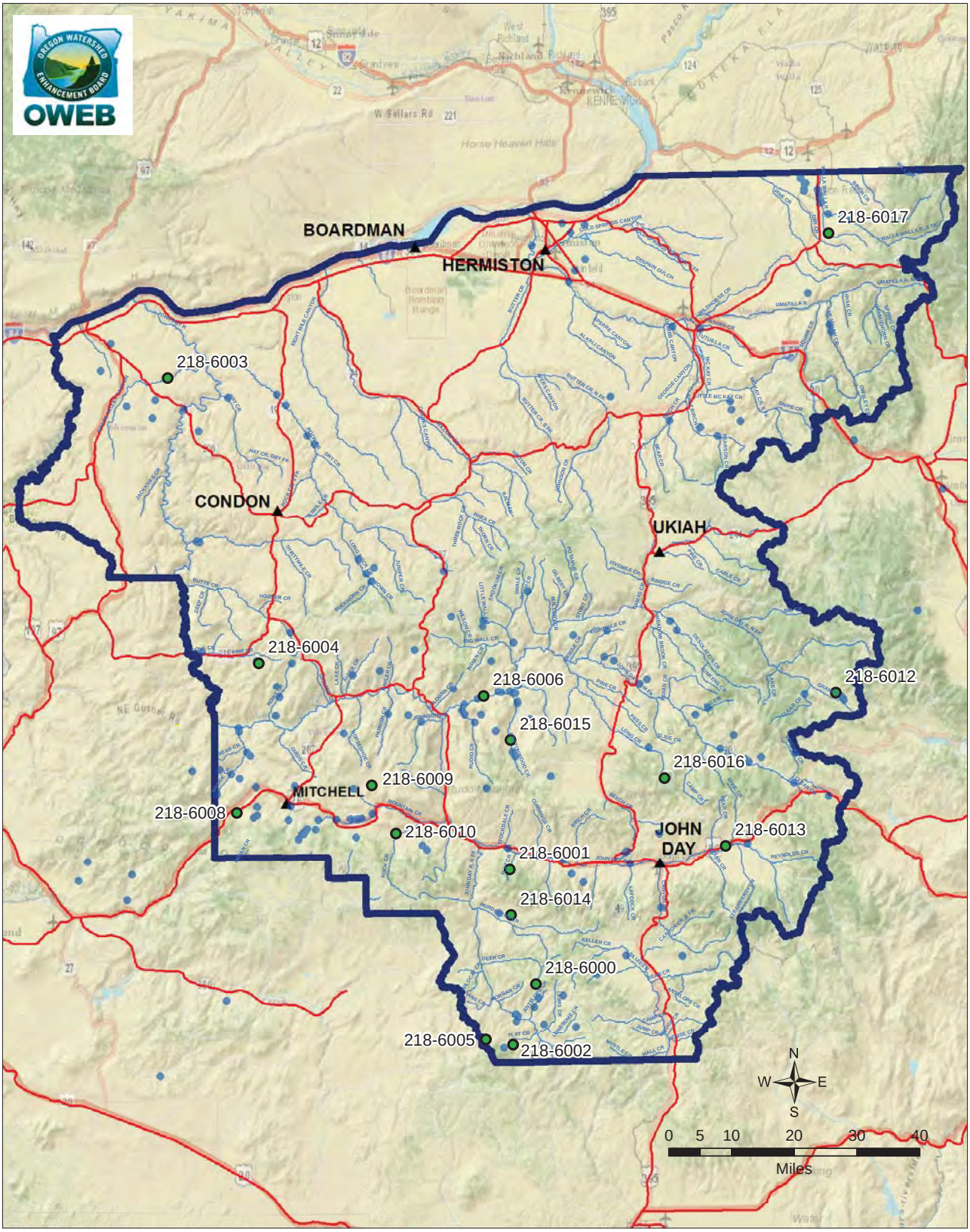
Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Mid-Columbia - Region 6 May 2017 Application Funding Status



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Software: ESRI ArcMap 10.3.1 NAD 83 Oregon Statewide Lambert Feet Intl OWEB- PK Wills Sept. 2017

Spring 2017 Applications

- Staff Recommendation For Funding (SRF)
- Below Funding LIne (BFL)

Previous Grants - 1998-2016

- Restoration
- Acquisitions
- Streams
- Region 1 Boundary

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer St, NE Suite 360
Salem, OR 97301-1290
(503) 986-0178
http://oregon.gov/OWEB/

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Region 6 - Mid-Columbia

Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Brief Description	Amount Recommended	County
218-6008	Wheeler SWCD	Circle Bar Ranch Restoration Project	This ridgetop-to-ridgetop project on a tributary of the John Day River will help keep streams clear, flowing and shaded by removing juniper where it doesn't belong, planting and fencing along streambanks, providing water troughs up in the hills, and fencing aspen groves.	65,359	Wheeler
218-6009	Wheeler SWCD	Juniper Butte Systematic Restoration	This project increases cool, clean water by removing juniper, increasing and protecting plants along streams that ultimately flow into the John Day River, providing places for both wildlife and livestock to get water along dry ridges, and protecting important wildlife habitat in aspen groves.	57,811	Wheeler
218-6004	Bridge Creek WC	Pine Creek Upland Improvement 2	This project, building on previous restoration done on this ranch, improves both wildlife habitat and livestock management on property bordering Pine Creek, an important native fish tributary of the John Day River. Removing juniper where it shouldn't be growing, developing water sources in dry areas and installing cross fences to improve livestock rotation and grass management are all components of this large scale project.	58,977	Wheeler
218-6013	Grant SWCD	Upper John Day River Fish Passage Improvement Project	As a first phase, this project will improve just under two miles of fish passage and water quality by eliminating the need for two irrigation push-up dams on the John Day River by installing two fish-friendly headgate structures.	244,072	Grant
218-6006	Monument SWCD	Smith POD Transfer and Riparian Restoration	This project, located along 1.2 miles of the North Fork John Day River, will improve habitat and water quality by eliminating a push-up dam used for irrigation, and replacing it with a downstream pumping station that efficiently measures water use and protects fish.	35,207	Grant
218-6012	North Fork John Day WC	Boundary Creek Fish Passage Enhancement	Five miles of high-elevation habitat for native fish will be opened up by replacing three culverts on streams flowing into the North Fork John Day River near Ukiah.	234,328	Grant
218-6005	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Snow Mtn. Ranch Restoration	At the headwaters of the South Fork John Day River, this project will improve wildlife habitat and sensitive ecosystems by thinning juniper and conifers, restore wetlands, enhance and protect aspen stands, and increase diversity and resiliency to both old growth ponderosa pine and bitterbrush communities.	29,425	Grant
218-6002	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Izee Allotment Improvements - 2018	This project, located in Malheur National Forest, protects streams and sensitive plants, improves water quality and encourages livestock away from springs while providing water for both wildlife and livestock on dry ridges.	45,814	Grant

218-6001	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Flat Creek Juniper Removal	This project, located in the Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area along a tributary of the John Day River, will restore historic bitterbrush and native grassland habitat and improve fish and wildlife habitat by removing junipers growing in areas they shouldn't and complementing previous work done to improve this watershed.	60,429	Grant
218-6000	Cascade Pacific RC&D	Rosebud Allotment Enhancements	This project will protect and enhance four spring sites located in the uplands of tributaries flowing into the South Fork John Day River, improving both water quality and wildlife habitat.	15,470	Grant
218-6010	Wheeler SWCD	Lower Pine Hollow Bridge and Diversion	This project will open up a mile and a quarter of native fish habitat on a tributary of the John Day River by replacing two culverts perched high above the stream bed with a bridge; and one irrigation push-up dam with a fish-friendly headgate that will help track water use and prevent fish from being stranded in irrigation ditches.	104,300	Wheeler
218-6003	Sherman County Area WC	Lower Grass Valley Canyon Upland Restoration	Located in the uplands of a tributary of the lower John Day River, this project reduces the amount of soil washing out of fields during storm events, improves wildlife habitat with native grass seeding, and provides water for both wildlife and livestock in arid, upland ridges.	113,402	Sherman
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**1,064,594**	

Restoration Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount Recommended	County
NONE				
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT			**1,064,594**	

Restoration Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT

Project #	Grantee	Project Title	Amount	County
218-6007	Umatilla County Weed Control	UCWD Russian Olive 2017	45,032	Umatilla

Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Brief Description**	**Amount Recommended**	**County**
218-6016	North Fork John Day WC	BRAT in the John Day River Basin TA	This project will do an in-depth analysis of the entire John Day Basin identifying best locations for restoration mimicking instream beaver dams.	45,909	Grant
218-6015	Monument SWCD	Cottonwood Creek Sediment Control	This project will produce designs used to catch soil and water during storm events and help improve water quality and fish habitat on a tributary of the North Fork John Day River.	49,982	Grant
218-6017	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Couse Creek Watershed Assessment	This assessment will provide critical information for future restoration project planning on a tributary of the Walla Walla River, an important stream for native fish.	49,415	Umatilla
218-6014	Cascade Pacific RC&D	South Fork John Day Aspen & Spring Inventory	This project inventories aspen groves and springs in the lower South Fork John Day River Basin resulting in projects that improve wildlife habitat.	18,524	Grant
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT and OWEB Staff				**163,830**	

Technical Assistance Projects *Recommended but Not Funded* in Priority Order					
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**		**Amount Recommended**	**County**
NONE					
Total Technical Assistnace Projects Recommended for Funding by RRT				**163,830**	

Technical Assistance Applications *Not Recommended* for Funding by RRT				
Project #	**Grantee**	**Project Title**	**Amount**	**County**
NONE				

Region 6 Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**1,228,424**	**14%**

Regions 1-6 Grand Total OWEB Staff Recommended Board Award	**8,788,376**	

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6000-15548
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Rosebud Allotment Enhancements
Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D
Basin: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $15,470
Total Cost: $35,285

Application Description *(from application)*

The Rosebud Grazing allotment is located in the southwest corner of the Blue Mountain Ranger District, in Grant County, near the town of Izee. Tributaries of this allotment drain into the Upper South Fork John Day River. The allotment is at the southern boundary of the Murderer's Creek Wild Horse Territory, and Murderers Creek Mule Deer Initiative Focus Area. Along with summer grazing by permitted livestock, the allotment has the presence of an unknown number of wild horses and wildlife. Currently there is no active management of wild horses in this allotment. The combined use of these animals has been having an adverse effect on some spring sources within the allotment. These effects include soil compaction in soft hydric soils, and excessive grazing of riparian vegetation. Both lead to sedimentation and decrease in water quality. Where necessary, development of the sites can provide access to water that has been removed for protection efforts. We are proposing to protect 3 spring sites by strategically falling and placing present trees, or constructing protective fencing; either buck and pole, or wildlife friendly wire fencing. We are also proposing to develop and protect one of these spring sites. Project partners include the Malheur National Forest, the Permittee, and the South Fork John Day Watershed Council.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant answered all questions noted on the previous evaluation.
- Proposed project is technically straight-forward.
- Match increased from the last application submission, which reduced the OWEB request.
- The game camera photos provided clearly show springs are degraded by multiple wildlife, feral horses, and cattle.
- Grazing management information is included in the application.
- The project is a low cost for the expected ecological benefits.

Concerns

- The application map does not clearly show which spring site is being developed.
- The application is unclear on the number and location of other water sources in this allotment.

- It is unclear whether there could be negative impacts on other water sources in the area by protecting these three sites.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended in a previous cycle but ranked below the funding line. The applicant addressed all concerns noted in the prior evaluation, as well as reducing the OWEB request. The game camera showed a variety of animals visiting one of the sites, including feral horses. Water quality will be improved, an aspen clone protected, and a spring developed for both domestic livestock and wildlife for a relatively low cost.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
10 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$15,470

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$15,470

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6001-15549
Project Name: Flat Creek Juniper Removal
Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D
Basin: Mid Columbia
OWEB Request: $60,429
Project Type: Restoration
County: Grant
Total Cost: $85,329

Application Description *(from application)*

The Flat Creek Sub watershed is a listed critical steelhead habitat tributary of the Upper Mainstem John Day River, 5 miles east of Dayville, Oregon. The proposed project area lies within ODFW's Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area; which is a popular area for recreation, with the Aldrich Ponds located at its headwaters. Historically, habitat types consisted primarily of large stands of bitterbrush and native bunchgrasses that provided excellent forage for wintering deer. These key habitats have undergone landscape changes resulting from western juniper encroachment and invasion of annual grasses. The South Fork John Day Watershed Council and the ODFW Phillip W. Schneider Wildlife Area are partnering to perform a watershed scale restoration effort for the Flat Creek Watershed. We are requesting support from OWEB to perform 330 acres of Juniper removal.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The application includes both a grazing management tool and long term juniper maintenance plan.
- Specifications for juniper removal sites are included and the application provides clear detail.
- Flat Creek is an ODFW identified steelhead stream.
- This project builds on multiple restoration sites, both completed and planned for the future, which will improve terrestrial and aquatic habitats.
- The applicant addressed all concerns noted in the prior submission evaluation.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by information on how sites were prioritized.
- Characterization of the sites would have helped the review. Some of the photos included in the application show areas with invasive annual grass encroachment.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended in a previous cycle and ranked below the funding line. This proposal is one of many efforts to improve habitat on both riparian and upland sites on wildlife management areas. For many years, ODFW has worked to reduce juniper and annual grass encroachment, enhance mule deer habitat, and improve water quality and forest health.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
9 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$60,429

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$60,429

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6002-15550
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Izee Allotment Improvements - 2018
Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D
Basin: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $45,814
Total Cost: $70,984

Application Description *(from application)*

The Izee Allotment is located approximately 33 miles northwest of Burns, Oregon, and includes Grant and Harney Counties, and within the South Fork John Day Watershed. The allotment is 18,444 acres of National Forest lands administered by the Emigrant Creek Ranger District (ECRD) of the Malheur National Forest. There are five pastures within the allotment: Corral Creek, Utley, Flat Creek, Whiskey Flat, and Caribou. The Forest Service interdisciplinary team (IDT) defined desired conditions for riparian conditions and streambanks in the project area, and it was determined that there is a need to improve riparian and aquatic resources through change in livestock management. These changes include: improve livestock dispersal by minimizing access and concentration within stream channels, discourage livestock access or use and protect sensitive plant habitats, encourage livestock use away from springs while continuing to provide water for wildlife and livestock use, and allow for ease of livestock movement to promote grazing distribution. OWEB funds are being requested to compensate for contracted services in order to install a head box, pipeline and trough as well as fencing of the spring source (1/8 acre) at Alder Spring. Construct approximately 2 miles of wildlife friendly fence on the ridge above Latigo Creek (Utley pasture). Construction of the fence will prevent Izee livestock from accessing Latigo Creek. Construct wildlife friendly enclosure fence around a large meadow complex on the western section of Latigo Creek in Flat Creek. Construct a wildlife friendly fence exclosure around Whiskey Spring (Utley Pasture) (.08 mile)

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Restoration design is appropriate for site locations.
- The explanation as to “why” project is needed and how site locations were chosen is good with sound reasoning.
- Lay-down fence is a technically sound choice for this site because of heavy snow loads.
- The application provides grazing information.
- Proposed restoration will protect riparian areas and improve the water quality of this perennial stream by reducing sediment, bacteria, and water temperature; and benefit redband trout.
- Project is a priority identified in the Izee Allotment Management Plan Environmental Analysis.
- Permittee is committed to completing all actions noted in the USFS action plan; and has funded and implemented a lot of the project work.
- This application is a resubmitted project and applicant addressed all previous evaluation comments.

Concerns

- The project does not provide benefit to steelhead because of a waterfall on the South Fork John Day River that creates a natural barrier to upstream fish passage. However, Latigo Creek does support a community of redband trout.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended in a previous cycle but ranked below the funding line. All previous concerns noted on the evaluation were addressed in this application. There is a sense of urgency for implementing this project because match funds timing is limited; and the environmental analysis covering this project, along with many other actions, expires in 2020. The permittee has shown commitment by funding implementation of many of the plan's identified restoration actions and this project builds on those actions. Protecting riparian zones and spring sites will significantly improve water quality and habitat.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
8 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$45,814

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$45,814

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6003-15567

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Grass Valley Canyon Upland Restoration

Applicant: Sherman County Area WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Sherman

OWEB Request: $113,402

Total Cost: $173,450

Application Description *(from application)*

Location: Sherman County near Moro & specifically located in the 12th field HUC: Lower Grass Valley Canyon. Lower Grass Valley Creek runs right through the middle of this HUC & drains into the John Day River. Issue: Cropland can be vulnerable to sheet and rill erosion during the production of small grains on wheat fallow rotations. The upper portions of crop fields termed "headlands" where the sheet and rill erosion occur, drains into lower elevations where runoff gathers into natural draws or swales creating concentrated flow erosion. These conditions are deemed limiting factors in this watershed. In addition, the absence of perennial grasses increases the chance of erosion and for invasion by weedy annuals such as medusa head rye and other noxious weeds. Recovery of rangeland/upland habitat is hampered by the uneven distribution of domestic livestock and wildlife due to lack of available water/forage causing congregation of animals in undesirable areas.Solution:1 Grass Waterway, 32 Water and sediment control basin reshapes and 32,202 ft of terrace reshapes will be implemented on unprotected cropland to reduce soil erosion to "T", the soil loss tolerance that can be sustainably maintained on that particular soil type on all project sites. 6 Wildlife watering facilities/Water Developments will also be placed in areas that wildlife/livestock exist. By installing clean watering facilities it will increase the habitat in those areas as well as create even distribution of animals. 540ac of Upland/Range seeding can help restore a healthy rangeland by increasing soil stability and hydrologic function. Native/Introduced Pasture & Wildlife grass mixes will be seeded into areas that are lacking proper vegetation. By introducing grasses back into these areas it would prevent weed infestation, erosion, runoff, possible stream contamination, increase water infiltration, increase palatable forage and wildlife habitat. Partners: OWEB, Sherman SWCD, Sherman WC, Landowners

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Applicant is doing a good job with landowner outreach in this watershed that is resulting in high participation in this landscape-scale upland proposal.
- This project is supported by secured landowner match.
- Project location is in the Sherman SWCD ODA Focus Area where the District is focused on implementing work in the riparian zone; and this proposed project builds on these ridgetop-to-ridgetop efforts.
- Project components will address overland sediment movement and benefit wildlife.

- Sites for range seeding are appropriate for using range drills for more successful implementation.
- The farm-over terrace design on no-till fields causes less impacts to the watershed than taking terraces out completely.

Concerns

- The project has a low ecological benefit compared to the investment.
- Grass Valley Creek is not listed steelhead habitat and is intermittent on most reaches.
- The application would be stronger if it included a map identifying wetted reaches of Grass Valley Creek and a valuation of the cost per acre of reducing soil loss.
- Sheep fescue is an introduced aggressive perennial grass that provides no to low forage value to wildlife. Applicant is encouraged to replace this with more beneficial native grass species.

Concluding Analysis

This proposal shows good landowner outreach and participation, which will result in landscape-scale treatments of several identified resource concerns. Many of the farmers in this drainage have already converted to no-till or direct seeding farm practices. There is a concern that many farmers will simply remove the outdated, existing terraces because of difficulties associated with the larger no-till equipment. This alternative cost-share to redesign these terraces as “farm-over”, construct strategically placed water and sediment control basins, seed upland fields to native grasses, and develop off-channel water sources all will help reduce the amount of sediment coming off the fields during extreme weather events. Review team recommended "fund with the conditions" as follows: remove sheep fescue from seed mix, and the applicant shall consult with NRCS on replacement native seed species.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
12 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$113,402

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Fund with Conditions: Remove sheep fescue from seed mix, and applicant shall consult with NRCS on replacement native seed species.

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount

$113,402

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6004-15591
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Pine Creek Upland Improvement 2
Applicant: Bridge Creek WC
Basin: Mid Columbia
County: Wheeler
OWEB Request: $58,977
Total Cost: $76,459

Application Description *(from application)*

1. This project is located in the Pine Creek watershed in northwestern Wheeler County. The watershed drains to the John Day River near Clarno. 2. The area has been inundated with western juniper and is facing threats from annual grasses as well. Limiting factors in the watershed include water quantity and quality. The project complements several previous projects on this and neighboring properties, including the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation's Pine Creek Conservation Area. 3. The project will cut 167 acres of juniper on north facing slopes, develop four springs to provide off channel water sources for wildlife and livestock, treat 28 acres of annual grass infestation, reseed 28 acres, and install 5280 feet of cross fencing to help the landowner to better manage grazing impacts on the property, specifically the treatment and reseeding areas. 4. Project partners include the landowner, NRCS, Mid John Day-Bridge Creek Watershed Council and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Motivated landowner has successfully completed previous restoration projects; as well as invested funds to expand the ecological impacts of restoration work.
- This well-designed project builds on previous restoration completed on the ranch, and includes appropriate sites selected to maximize ecological results and investment.
- Diverse and abundant native plant species were noted on the project review site visit, which indicates a high likelihood of success on the selected treatment sites.
- The application includes information on the timeframe for deferring grazing to support range planting success.
- The project site visit included completed spring developments, juniper removal, and range seeding that demonstrate strong examples of effective design and implementation.

Concerns

- The application would be strengthened by details on next steps for the project or whether this current grant application will complete restoration plans on this ranch.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended in a previous cycle but ranked below the funding line. This is the second phase of restoration on this ranch and the ranch manager has a proven track-record of successful projects, many of which were funded by the landowner. Pine Creek, which flows on the north side of the ranch, is an important steelhead spawning and rearing stream. Investments to wildlife habitat enhancements and connectivity on this ranch will be multiplied by the proximity of the neighboring Pine Creek Conservation Area, protecting lands all the way to the confluence with the John Day River.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$58,977

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$58,977

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6005-15602
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: Snow Mtn. Ranch Restoration
Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D
Basin: Mid Columbia
County: Grant
OWEB Request: $29,425
Total Cost: $46,903

Application Description *(from application)*

Snow Mountain Ranch, owned and managed by the Kee family, is a 680-acre property at the headwaters of the South Fork John Day River about 30 miles south of Dayville, Oregon in Grant County. The property contains the headwaters of Flat Creek and feeds large volumes of cold water into the trout-bearing system. Due to fire suppression, juniper and conifers are encroaching into uplands and wetlands on the property and depleting water resources, biodiversity, and ecological resilience. The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) and Kee family are proposing to thin one hundred forty-nine acres of juniper and conifer encroachment to restore water flow to the wetlands, productivity to the aspen stands, diversity to the bitterbrush communities and resiliency to the maturing Ponderosa Pine stand. Restoration of these headwater resources is critical to ongoing water retention and ecological restoration efforts in the watershed. Project partners include Oregon Wildlife Heritage Foundation and the Kee family, with funding pending from the National Wild Turkey Federation and Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. OSU Extension foresters will be contacted to consult on forest management decisions. OWEB funds are requested to cut and pile encroaching trees from 35 acres of wetland, 15 acres of upland aspen, and 7 acres of non-wetland riparian area and to conduct a juniper salvage trial on 20 acres of bitterbrush shrubland. This totals 77 acres of the 149-acre project. Funds will also be used to establish photo monitoring points within project units and at untreated control sites that will be monitored for at least 2 years following treatment.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project site includes wet meadow, wetland, and old growth ponderosa pine habitats; and includes multiple aspen clones with some of the largest trees in the region.
- This is a unique location adjacent to a USFS roadless area and BLM land.
- The property is used only for recreation and wildlife habitat, and includes a large resident elk population.
- This project will provide good habitat benefit for the investment.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with additional site characterization detail on the upland juniper component. It is unclear how the 20-acre upland site was identified as a high priority for treatment.

- It is unclear whether the use of brush fence will effectively protect the aspen.
- The application does not include a long-term juniper management plan as requested by the prior evaluation; however, the applicant provided one after the site visit.
- Application would be strengthened by additional detail and justification relating to the value of the economic study.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project from the prior two cycles that ranked below the funding line. The high-elevation project location provides unique and varied ecosystems utilized by wildlife, avian, and wetland species. The application did not provide enough information to indicate how the 20-acre upland site was determined to be a priority for treatment. The Review Team recommends this project as "fund reduced with condition" as follows: remove the 20-acre upland juniper and test plot component.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund Reduced with Conditions

Review Team Priority
7 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$25,865

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Staff contacted applicant for information to determine how the upland 20-acre site was prioritized, what portion of the grant application budget was for costs to treat this 20 acres, and whether reducing the project amount would reduce overall ecological benefits realized from this investment. Staff received a comprehensive explanation from grantee demonstrating this 20-acre site was selected because it will achieve the highest ecological benefit at a reasonable cost. This site provides big game forage, could result in an enhanced shrub-land habitat, and soon will be at a tipping point at which this site will transition to phase 3 juniper if it is not treated, which will eliminate important habitat benefit. Given this information on the potential opportunity lost, staff determined that as $3,560 of the project budget, this 20-acre portion of the project is cost-effective while providing significant ecological gains for the investment.

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$29,425

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6006-15620

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Smith POD Transfer and Riparian Restoration

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $35,207

Total Cost: $48,102

Application Description *(from application)*

This proposed restoration project is located in Grant County between the towns of Kimberly and Monument on property that has 1.2 miles of frontage along the North Fork John Day River (NFJDR). This reach of the NFJDR provides critical migrating habitat for spring Chinook as well as ESA listed bull trout and Mid-Columbia River steelhead. Since 2005, a transient gravel bar within the river has cut off access to the landowners' existing irrigation point of diversion (POD) creating the need for heavy equipment to be used within the riparian zone and stream channel in order to maintain a push-up dam to divert water. These annual in-stream activities have impaired riparian vegetation and channel from, while increasing local sediment inputs. This project will transfer the existing POD downstream to a permanent scour pool through an official Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) transfer application. It will install a new pumping station, fish screen, and flow meter; bring power to the new pump site; and link the existing irrigation infrastructure to the new pumping system. Eliminating the annual riparian disturbance will allow desirable vegetation to reoccupy the site and reduce the potential for weeds to spread. This will complement a separate, multi-year project being conducted along the lower NFJDR through an ODA-Oregon State Weed Board grant to control leafy spurge. Partners for this proposed Restoration project include the landowners, OWEB, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW), and Monument SWCD.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application is a resubmitted project and the applicant addressed all concerns from the previous evaluation.
- Removing this push-up dam and the resulting disturbance will provide strong water quality benefits and improved riparian vegetation.
- Proposed project is technically straight-forward and has strong landowner interest, which is demonstrated by increased landowner match that reduced the OWEB request from the prior submission.

Concerns

- There are no significant concerns.

Concluding Analysis

This project will result in improved water quality and riparian vegetation establishment along this reach of the North Fork John Day River, which is an important migratory corridor for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
5 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$35,207

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$35,207

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6007-15621
Project Type: Restoration
Project Name: UCWD Russian Olive 2017
Applicant: Umatilla County Weed Control
Basin: Mid Columbia
County: Umatilla
OWEB Request: $45,032
Total Cost: $56,586

Application Description *(from application)*

The project is located in Umatilla County south west of Hermiston about 8 miles. The approximate center coordinates for the project are W119 25' 12.9" N45 46' 19.8" along county road 1334 Col Jordan. The closest major water system would be the Columbia River. The wet land neither drains nor fills from a major water system. Seasonal drainage fills the the pond and remains throughout the year. The current wetland is being impacted and drying up due to the volume of russian olive trees. This is impacting the native vegetation and wildlife that utilize this area for cover, feed, and nesting habitat. Partners include 3 land owners, Umatilla County Weed Depart, Soil Water and Conservation District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and CTIUR Tribal Nursery. The project is approximately 350 gross acres with 250 upland, 125 riparian acres, and 25 wetland acres.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project is leveraged by secured landowner match, and supported by partners.
- Russian olive is an invasive species that encroaches on and out-competes native wetland and riparian plants, so controlling its population is needed.
- Since Russian olive is a significant resource concern in this area, successful results from the proposed project techniques could be replicated to other locations.
- Treatment results will be shared at the local Farm Show and county fair.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with some sense of prioritization explaining “why here, why now”, more detailed maps, and a budget reflecting the whole project.
- Follow-up treatment to control re-establishment of Russian olive could require up to ten years to be effective. If resubmitted, the application should explain how Russian olive emergence will be dealt with in the future.

Concluding Analysis

This applicant is new to the OWEB Open Solicitation Grant process and is more familiar with the State Weed grant applications where only one year of funding is allowed per an application. As a result, this application was submitted with a one-year budget and a project narrative and metrics for a three-year project. Overall, this project was deemed worthy but not ready to fund at this time because of this conflicting information. If the application is resubmitted, applicant is encouraged to (1) represent the entire project with a complete budget; (2) provide detailed maps; (3) include an overview of Russian olive infestation in the basin; and (4) provide additional information about the wetland site, including wildlife species using this habitat and the source of water flow that creates the wetland.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Do Not Fund

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Do Not Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6008-15623

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Circle Bar Ranch Restoration Project

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: $65,359

Total Cost: $237,240

Application Description *(from application)*

1. This project is located southwest of Mitchell in the Bridge Creek Watershed in southern Wheeler County. West Branch Bridge Creek runs through the property and drains into Bridge Creek. Bridge Creek drains into the John Day River. 2. The area has been heavily encroached by Western Juniper. This has had a negative effect on water quality, quantity, and upland and riparian habitat. Of the seven limiting factors in the Bridge Creek Watershed, this project proposes to address flow, sediment load, and temperature, and key habitat quantity. 3. The project has elements from stream to ridgetop. Elements include riparian planting, riparian exclusion fence, brush management (juniper removal), spring developments, aspen protections and restoration. 4. Project partners include FSA, NRCS, CTWS, Wheeler SWCD, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project application is well written with good maps and useful information provided as attachments.
- West Branch Bridge Creek provides habitat for steelhead.
- This applicant has a successful track record with large-scale projects.
- The project is a ridgetop-to-stream-to-ridgetop approach that will provide multiple ecological benefits.
- Highly motivated landowner provided both a long-term juniper maintenance plan and comprehensive grazing management strategy with the application.
- Concerns mentioned in the past evaluation were addressed.
- As seen on the site visit, this ranch is well managed and the landowner is committed to improving the ecological health of the landscape.
- This branch of Bridge Creek has not had restoration implemented in a very long time; proposed project could result in additional work on neighboring properties.
- The project is highly leveraged by funds from diverse partners.

Concerns

- The budget includes a line item for aerial application of bacteria as a tool to control medusahead. ODA has not approved releasing these bacteria as a biocontrol agent at this time; however, it may occur during the life of this project.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended in a previous cycle but ranked below the funding line. The applicant put together a comprehensive, landscape-scale restoration package on a ranch that has a strong history of commitment to restoration on their land. Ecological benefits resulting from this application stretch from upland ridgetops down to important steelhead streams.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$65,359

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$65,359

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6009-15626

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Juniper Butte Systematic Restoration

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: $57,811

Total Cost: $176,937

Application Description *(from application)*

1. This project is located east of Mitchell in the Mountain Creek Watershed in southern Wheeler County in the area known locally as Waterman Flat. Willow Creek runs through the property and drains into Mountain Creek. Mountain Creek drains into Rock Creek and Rock Creek into the John Day River. 2. The area has been heavily encroached by Western Juniper. This has had a negative effect on water quality, quantity, and upland and riparian habitat. Of the seven limiting factors in the Mountain Creek Watershed, this project proposes to address flow, sediment load, and temperature, and key habitat quantity. 3. The project has elements from stream to ridgetop. Elements include riparian planting, riparian exclusion fence, brush management (juniper removal), spring developments, aspen protections and restoration, and prescribed burning. 4. Project partners include FSA, NRCS, CTWS, Wheeler SWCD, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The CREP project component adds to existing protected stream reaches.
- This applicant has a successful track record implementing complex, landscape scale projects; and provided a strong, well-written application with good maps and site characterization.
- The prescribed burn component is well designed and site appropriate; and the landowner has successful commercial experience in managing fire as a tool.
- This project will be a great example for encouraging other landowners to consider whole landscape-scale restoration.
- Willow Creek is a steelhead stream that is a tributary of Rock Creek, which ultimately flows into the John Day River.
- The project is well leveraged with match from the landowner, partnering agencies and organizations.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with additional detail on how juniper removal and spring development sites were prioritized.

Concluding Analysis

This comprehensive project of ridgetop-to-stream restoration is a cost-effective investment for the high level of ecological benefit. The project builds on prior successful restoration actions on the ranch, and improves multiple riparian and terrestrial habitats.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
2 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$57,811

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$57,811

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6010-15634

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Lower Pine Hollow Bridge and Diversion

Applicant: Wheeler SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Wheeler

OWEB Request: $103,216

Total Cost: $182,070

Application Description *(from application)*

1) This project is located on Pine Hollow, a tributary to Rock Creek (which flows into the John Day River at Picture Gorge) located approximately 18 miles E-SE of Mitchell and 15 miles due west of Dayville on a property known as the Antone Ranch. The lower 3.4 miles of Pine Hollow is identified by ODFW as spawning and rearing habitat for steelhead. 2) This project will correct two closely spaced passage barriers near the lower end of Pine Hollow. One is an unscreened diversion that requires annual maintenance and construction of a push up dam to extract the water right. The other barrier is a road crossing with a multi thread channel and two perched culverts. 3) The diversion will be corrected through the installation of a stream simulation diversion with a concrete headwall. A fish screen will be installed to prevent entrainment. The existing culverts will be replaced with a pre-fabricated steel bridge. Large woody debris will be added to the project area along with 100 riparian plantings. The area around the diversion and fish screen will be fenced to prevent livestock access. 4) The project partners are ODFW, the landowner, and US Fish.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- The project will improve steelhead passage to upstream quality spawning habitat on a tributary of Rock Creek.
- Engineer has successfully implemented similar projects in the past.
- Proposed project builds on previous OWEB Technical Assistance grant and restoration planned upstream.

Concerns

- The connectivity of Pine Hollow with Rock Creek, and whether flows are sufficient during critical fish movement, is unclear in the application.
- This application would be strengthened by a design package with more detail that includes hydrology/peak flows for this drainage and how the bridge will handle those flows. Bridge designs are not provided, nor was it explained why these designs were not included.
- The application would be stronger if the water right was quantified by timing of use, priority date and cfs, the POU acreage noted on the map, and whether a flow measuring device will be included as a project component.

- The project would be stronger with more detail about future upstream habitat improvements.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project from a previous cycle where it ranked a do not fund because of a lack of project designs. This submission includes designs for the diversion but lacks bridge designs. The engineer contracted for this project is known for successful restoration implementation on similar project types, but the application would be stronger with completed designs on all components. However, correcting this major fish passage barrier will result in strong ecological benefits, and serve as a gateway project for habitat enhancements planned directly upstream.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
11 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$103,216

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
The engineer working for the applicant on this project provided OWEB staff information and photos of Pine Hollow Creek's connectivity with Rock Creek; confirmed that a flow measuring device will be a part of the fish screen construction; and confirmed the bridge designs will come from the bridge vendor based on project engineer specifications.

Increase by $1,084 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs)

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount
$104,300

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6011-15654

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Desolation Creek Wet Meadow Restoration- Phase III

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $81,673

Total Cost: $180,887

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is located on the Desolation Creek, LLC (DCLLC) property in Northern Grant County, approximately 1.5 miles northeast of Dale, Oregon. The DCLLC property takes in the lower 10 miles of Desolation Creek before flowing in to the North Fork John Day River. DCLLC occupies a high number of sensitive wet meadow ecosystems. Livestock have severely degraded many of the wet meadows across the DCLLC property. This is a result of their favorability to these sensitive systems, and decades of intensive use. Several wet meadows have been trampled and are “hummocked” to the extent that water is pooling in hoof-prints rather than flowing freely across the meadows. Water contained in hoof-prints that is unable to permeate the soil due to the level of compaction will be subsequently lost to evaporation. What doesn't evaporate, is warmed significantly before re-entering ground water flow. Additionally, springs and gullies have been removed of soil holding vegetation, causing down-cutting, channel incision, and riparian degradation. Grazing in riparian meadows has been shown to considerably reduce soil pore space, and as a result soil water storage, impacting ecosystem productivity, biogeochemistry, stream temperature, and flows (Hammersmark 2008). The "Moderate" and "High" OWEB Limiting Factors that this project will address are: Altered Species Composition, Habitat Connectivity, Loss of Shade/Cover, Altered Habitat Structure, Altered Thermal Regime and Altered Sediment Regime. This project will hire a contractor to install 4.11 miles of NRCS guided livestock exclusion fence on 4 priority wet meadows. Additionally, at the 4 meadow locations, watershed council youth crews will place small branches and woody debris in gullies to help arrest further erosional forces. Materials will be gathered from previous logging debris remaining on the property. The partners for this project include Eco Trust Forest Management, OWRD and NFJDWC.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- N/A

Concerns

- N/A

Concluding Analysis

N/A

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Withdrawn

Review Team Priority
N/A

Review Team Recommended Amount
$0

Staff Recommendation
Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Withdrawn

Staff Recommended Amount
$0

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6012-15656

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Boundary Creek Fish Passage Enhancement

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $234,328

Total Cost: $439,058

Application Description *(from application)*

Located in the Wallowa-Whitman National Forest, east of the rural town of Granite in NE Grant County, Boundary and Corral Creeks are tributaries to Bull Run Creek, which joins Granite Creek before flowing into the North Fork of the John Day River in Grant County. Three undersized culverts currently impede fish passage to potential spawning and rearing habitat. Two of these culverts are located on Boundary Creek, and one is on Corral Creek. Identified as priorities in the 2012 Wallowa-Whitman National Forest Bull Run Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WRAP), these culverts will be replaced will be replaced with open-bottom arch culverts that incorporate natural streambed configuration. In addition, sections of the road near the culvert replacements will be improved to reduce sediment input to the streams. This work builds upon previous restoration work prioritized within the 2012 WRAP. Combined, 5 miles of high-elevation steelhead, bull rout, redband trout, and Chinook salmon habitat will be opened up by this project. The NFJDWC is partnering with the Wallowa Whitman National Forest, who is providing secured matching funds for this project.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This application is a technically sound and straight-forward project.
- Applicant provided additional information addressing concerns noted in the previous evaluation.
- Proposed project will address velocity barriers blocking fish passage at all three culverts.
- The application includes comprehensive designs and good maps.
- This project leverages secured funds from USFS.
- Project is timely for implementation now because the availability of match dollars is limited.
- These culverts are some of the last priority projects identified in the Bull Run Creek Watershed Restoration Action Plan (WRAP.)

Concerns

- Application would be stronger with an explanation on whether overflow dips were considered as a design component; and if not, why they are not site appropriate.
- Application would be strengthen by detail on the budget line item for 15 cross drain culverts and how they relate to the project scope and success.

Concluding Analysis

This application is a resubmitted project that was recommended as a do not fund; and the applicant clearly addressed all concerns from this prior evaluation. The project builds on completed restoration work identified by a USFS watershed restoration action plan; the three culverts to be replaced are some of the last of those priority projects. This upper reach of the North Fork John Day River contains high-elevation steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout habitat, which is especially valuable given predicted changes in climate and precipitation cycles. The project designs were complete and provided good detail.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
6 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$234,328

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$234,328

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6013-15657

Project Type: Restoration

Project Name: Upper John Day River Fish Passage Improvement Project

Applicant: Grant SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $242,939

Total Cost: $304,858

Application Description *(from application)*

This project is located in the Upper John Day Basin between John Day and Prairie City. Two annually constructed gravel push-up dams are installed each year: the Hall Ditch is used to divert 5.4 cfs of water from the John Day River to serve 210 acres of irrigated lands with a priority date of 1867; the John Day River Ditch irrigates 288 acres of 1863 ground with 7.2 cfs of water. These diversions can impede fish passage for some life stages of salmonids under low flow conditions. The proposed project will replace them with low head structures consisting of engineered rock riffles and submerged inlet boxes creating natural fish passage for all life stages year round. Large wood features will be incorporated to provide fish habitat. Project partners include the landowner, BOR and the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation John Day Basin Office.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Project location provides important juvenile habitat for steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout with extensive Cottonwood galleries along the river.
- Removing push-up dams and eliminating the need for repeated instream disturbance will improve water quality and riparian vegetation.
- Project design is site appropriate and moves in the direction towards more natural diversion structures in the channel.
- These two diversions are the first phase of correcting a total of six push-up dams on this lower reach of the Upper John Day River; successfully correcting these diversions will foster future projects on the remaining four dams on the lower reach and ultimately the diversions on the upper reach as well.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger with more complete designs relating to the roughen riffle on each site; however, this applicant has a successful track record for designing and implementing complex instream projects like the proposed restoration work.
- The water right changes could be difficult and impede the permitting process.

Concluding Analysis

This project is the first step in improving passage and habitat for several important fish species on a significant reach of the upper main stem John Day River, including steelhead, Chinook, and bull trout. The landowner has shown interest in eventually improving fish passage and riparian health at all ten push-up diversion structures on his property. This first phase will address two points of diversions that were prioritized as the best locations to begin addressing these structures. The applicant not only has a successful track-record for implementing complex restoration, but has also established trust in the community as a good partner.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 12

Review Team Recommended Amount
$242,939

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Increase by $1,133 to cover unanticipated DEQ permit fees ($985 + indirect costs).

Staff Recommendation
Fund Increased

Staff Recommended Amount
$244,072

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6014-15569

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: South Fork John Day Aspen & Spring Inventory

Applicant: Cascade Pacific RC&D

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $18,524

Total Cost: $37,724

Application Description *(from application)*

The South Fork John Day Watershed Council (SFJDWC) is proposing to perform Phase II of an aspen stand inventory and stand prioritization analysis for all accessible aspen groves in the South Fork John Day River Watershed, located in Grant County, Oregon. The Council has completed Phase I of the Aspen Inventory in the upper South Fork watershed. Inventory data includes stand location, stand size, stand vigor, conifer encroachment severity, existing structural protections, and photo documentation. Populus tremuloides, or Quaking Aspen, is one of the most widely spread tree in North America, and they are disappearing from the western United States. They are estimated to have declined by 60% in eastern Idaho, and 90% in Arizona (Eddingsaas, 2014). Aspen are considered a keystone species, which have a disproportionately large effect on the communities in which they occur. Distribution of livestock and other wildlife away from riparian areas and other sensitive habitats is identified in the Upper South Fork John Day River Watershed Assessment as a critical factor in achieving habitat improvement objectives. Upland water developments assists in livestock distribution away from these sensitive areas. The SFJDWC has had numerous requests for updating existing spring developments on the Malheur National Forest Grazing Allotments. Many of these spring sources are in direct relation to Aspen stand locations. We are proposing to use the Blue Mountain Ranger District's ArcGIS shapefile of spring development lcoations, and have SFJDWC staff in partnership with Forest Service staff, ground truth these spring development locations, and create a similar digital map for spring developments, that we create for Aspen. This inventory will follow Forest Service spring development inventory protocols, documenting location, development type (pond or spring), existing structures, and needed improvements.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- This straight-forward habitat inventory will result in a helpful tool to prioritize restoration.
- The project budget is reasonable for the proposed deliverables.
- Appropriate partners are engaged in the project.
- Resulting data set will be accessible and user-friendly to a broad audience.
- Proposed project incorporates multiple agency data, builds on existing relationships, and aligns with ongoing basin projects.
- Photo points will be taken to track changes over time and linked with a GIS layer.

- Project likelihood of success is high as evidenced by a successfully completed phase one of this inventory.
- Feral horse use of springs will be documented, which may aid in future herd management to protect resources.

Concerns

- Attachments are lengthy and difficult to understand, and did not add relevance to the application.
- The application would be stronger with an explanation of what data will be collected, and perhaps presented in an easy-to-read spreadsheet.

Concluding Analysis

This is the second phase of a well-designed inventory process documenting aspen stands in the South Fork John Day River watershed. The first phase, completed on lands above the falls on the South Fork, provided detailed information, photos, and GIS layers. This work has been well received by both public and private stakeholders interested in using this information as they prioritize aspen restoration on their lands. For a small amount of OWEB investment, this second phase will provide useful information on the lower section of the South Fork that will help to prioritize aspen restoration and spring developments.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
4 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$18,524

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$18,524

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6015-15633

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Cottonwood Creek Sediment Control

Applicant: Monument SWCD

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $49,982

Total Cost: $76,205

Application Description *(from application)*

This project aims to develop 100% engineering designs, technical specifications, and cost estimates for a pilot project aimed at reducing sediment loads within the lower Cottonwood Creek watershed. Cottonwood/Fox Creek drains into the North Fork John Day River near Monument, Oregon within Grant County. Cottonwood Creek's productivity is limited by sediment loading and high temperatures, effecting ESA listed adult spawning and juvenile rearing steelhead habitat. The Monument SWCD is seeking funds for technical assistance to design Water and Sediment Control Basins (WASCOB's) and to identify key sites within dry draws and gullies throughout the Cottonwood Creek basin for their installation. WASCOB's are used extensively in agricultural settings to limit erosion and capture runoff. This project will see to a Feasibility Report and 100% Final Design including drawings, technical specifications, and cost estimates to implement a pilot project. Project partners include the Monument SWCD, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, OWRD District 4 Watermaster's office, US Bureau of Reclamation, and OWEB.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Capturing runoff and sediment will provide high ecological benefit to Cottonwood Creek, which flows through a heavy sediment source area.
- The applicant has already hosted several meetings with partners and state/federal agencies in preparation for this application; for example, to address potential permitting ramifications.
- This is a good pilot project that could be replicated in other parts of the region.
- Applicant's history of detailed reporting indicates that technical assistance will result in a quality product with useful information.

Concerns

- The application would be stronger if it included detail on the final product, such as whether it will include maps, metadata, and potentially identify sites to test the methodology.
- If a restoration project results from this technical assistance, any restoration grant applications should include site specific information on maintenance required to keep WASCBs functioning and a basic monitoring plan to determine success.

- Data collected for each site should include land use, percentage of juniper cover in affected drainage, road density, soil types, and grazing management.

Concluding Analysis

Cottonwood Creek is an appropriate location for assessing feasibility and design for sediment reduction structures because it provides important spawning and rearing habitat for ESA-listed steelhead. The Cottonwood watershed is also a Monument SWCD ODA Focus Watershed, as well as the site of many instream fish passage and juniper removal projects. The applicant hosted pre-application meetings with partners and regulatory agencies to prepare for the OWEB application submittal, and has a record for successful project implementation. With this information, these designs and information could be replicated to other appropriate and sediment-challenged sites.

The review team recommended funding "fund with conditions" as follows: Final report will include narrative on current condition and limiting factors of the watershed impacting sediment delivery. Relevant to identified restoration sites, data will be collected on percentage of juniper cover, road density, soil types, current land use, maintenance plans, and pre-restoration photo points.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund with Conditions

Review Team Priority
2 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$49,982

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
Fund with Conditions: Final report will include narrative on current condition and limiting factors of the watershed impacting sediment delivery. Relevant to identified restoration sites, data will be collected on percentage of juniper cover, road density, soil types, current land use, maintenance plans, and pre-restoration photo points.

Staff Recommendation
Fund with Conditions

Staff Recommended Amount
$49,982

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6016-15653

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: BRAT in the John Day River Basin TA

Applicant: North Fork John Day WC

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Grant

OWEB Request: $45,909

Total Cost: $75,985

Application Description *(from application)*

The John Day River Basin covers an area of 8,100 square miles, reaching from the Columbia River 284 miles upstream to the headwaters. The project will take place in Grant, Umatilla, Union, Crook, Deschutes, Wheeler, Gilliam, Sherman, Wasco, and Harney Counties. There is a critical need to locate likely beaver restoration locations by providing information on potential and limited beaver restoration areas in the John Day River Basin. The Beaver Restoration Assessment Tool (BRAT) is used to identify stream reaches that are of high value to beaver based on multiple criteria, including: water source, riparian vegetation, vegetation within 100m of the stream, likelihood that dams could be built during low flows, likelihood that dams will survive high flows, suitable stream gradient, and appropriately sized river. These factors will be assessed throughout the John Day River Basin via GIS analysis and ground-truth. Currently there is a preliminary BRAT analysis in place, but it has not been calibrated or validated. This project seeks to complete this important step of the analysis.Resulting deliverables for this project include, ground-verified, calibrated and confirmed GIS data files of: existing and historic beaver dam capacity, potential for human-beaver conflict, preliminary beaver management and conservation predictions, and a census of current beaver dam locations. All data will be widely and publicly available via an easy to use website as well as through the office of any of the participating watershed councils.Partners involved in this assessment include, but are not limited to: North Fork John Day Watershed Council, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, Mid John Day and Bridge Creek Watershed Council, Gilliam East Watershed Council, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Malheur National Forest, Wallowa Whitman National Forest, Umatilla National Forest, and the Ochoco National Forest.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- BRAT is a proven assessment tool that results in useful information for both private and public use.
- Using the BRAT tool to determine where beaver restoration sites are appropriate will likely result in more successful stream and floodplain restoration.
- The project is supported by appropriate partners across a large landscape.
- Utah State analysis examples in the application provide clarity in understanding the protocols.
- Proposed project has already sparked statewide interest in using BRAT.

Concerns

- On private lands, it is important that landowners are made fully aware of potential impacts of structures and beaver colonization.
- The application would be stronger with more detail on the level of ground-truthing that will occur and partners' involvement in that process.
- The application would be stronger if it included information on protocols and timing for future data collection.

Concluding Analysis

With the increasing number of Beaver Dam Analog projects and beaver habitat restoration in the John Day Basin, this tool will benefit stakeholders as they consider alternative restoration techniques and locations.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
1 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$45,909

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$45,909

Open Solicitation-2017 Spring Cycle: May 1, 2017
Mid Columbia (Region 6)

Application Number: 218-6017-15667

Project Type: Technical Assistance

Project Name: Couse Creek Watershed Assessment

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation

Basin: Mid Columbia

County: Umatilla

OWEB Request: $49,415

Total Cost: $81,651

Application Description *(from application)*

Couse Creek enters the Walla Walla River just upstream of the City of Milton-Freewater. Watershed issues in Couse Creek include limited flow (including months where the creak is dry in the lower reaches), high water temperatures, channel incision, turbidity, fish passage obstructions and inadequate riparian function. Couse Creek has been identified as an important area for steelhead production within the Walla Walla subbasin, and degradation of this system would have a particularly harmful impact on the Walla Walla population (Walla Walla Subbasin Plan). The proposed watershed assessment would conduct geology surveys (using existing well logs and other info), assess potential for floodplain connectivity enhancements, conduct stream and habitat surveys, map sections of Couse Creek and develop an action plan for the watershed. The proposed watershed assessment would build upon an existing project which is working to address fish passage limitations at the mouth of Couse Creek. Project partners include the private landowners within the watershed. In addition, ODFW, CTUIR, DEQ, ODA and other basin stakeholders will be included in the action plan development and review.

Review Team Evaluation

Strengths

- Proposed project will assess a watershed to identify and preserve areas with intact habitat; and prioritize restoration opportunities.
- Applicant has established community partnerships, strong landowner outreach, and the capacity to successfully complete the project.
- The application is well written and detailed.
- Compiling water use information on this stream will be useful for effectively planning future restoration.

Concerns

- Not all the landowners have been contacted at time of application; however, the technical assistance project will incorporate this action in the process.

Concluding Analysis

Couse Creek provides important steelhead habitat and currently does not have a comprehensive watershed assessment. This inventory and assessment process will provide critical information that will help guide prioritization of future restoration and protection opportunities. The applicant has a good track record of engaging landowners in restoration; and this tool will aid them in their efforts along these rural residential and agricultural lands.

Review Team Recommendation to Staff
Fund

Review Team Priority
3 of 4

Review Team Recommended Amount
$49,415

Staff Recommendation

Staff Follow-Up to Review Team
N/A

Staff Recommendation
Fund

Staff Recommended Amount
$49,415

Oregon
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item F –Request for Winter Lake Restoration Project Award Adjustment
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Background

The China Camp Creek/Winter Lake Restoration Project aims to replace failing tide gate infrastructure and restore 400 acres of tidal wetlands. Approximately 10 different funding sources are supporting this first-of-its size restoration project, including funding from two U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Coastal Wetlands grants and two OWEB grants. A combination of project delays due to permitting, weather, site conditions, and procession to the final design, combined with increasing materials costs, resulted in an increase to the overall project cost. To accommodate the cost increase, fund transfers were approved by the board in April and by USFWS in June. These transfers allowed for completion of the first phase of the project this fall, which includes the tide gate and associated infrastructure.

II. Current Situation

To allow for completion of the second phase of the project, including channel construction, planting, and other restoration activities, OWEB and project partners, including Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), The Nature Conservancy, the Coquille Watershed Association, and the Beaver Slough Drainage District, sought funding from a variety of sources. One source was a 2018 National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant. Another source was a partnership with the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to use a portion of the site as mitigation for a nearby highway improvement project. While the Coastal Wetlands Grant was successful, in September 2017, the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) informed project partners that they would no longer be pursuing the mitigation project that was to contribute $550,000 toward Winter Lake's restoration activities. To complete the channel construction and planting necessary to restore the tidal wetland, an additional $550,000 of funding must be secured. At this time, the partnership has exhausted all other funding opportunities.

III. Request

Successful implementation of the Winter Lake Restoration Project is important to the State of Oregon to demonstrate that large scale tidal wetlands restoration can occur along with tide gate infrastructure improvements in a working lands setting. In order to proceed, an additional $550,000 is needed to complete the phase 2 restoration portion of the project, including channel construction, planting, and other activities necessary to achieve the habitat and ecological project benefits. Because of the significant investment of OWEB funding and staff resources to date, staff request that the board contribute half of the funding shortfall ($225,000), with the remaining funds to be provided by ODFW.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board award $225,000 from the Open Solicitation: Restoration spending plan line item and authorize the Executive Director to enter into agreements with The Nature Conservancy, the Coquille Watershed Association, and the Beaver Slough Drainage District to complete the restoration phase of the Winter Lake Restoration project, with an effective date of April 28, 2015.

Attachment

A. Funding Summary

WINTER LAKE FUNDING SUMMARY

Source	Description	Date	Amount
Private	Partner & Donor Contributions (TNC, Wild Rivers Coast Alliance, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Beaver Slough Drainage District)	2017	$353,000
NOAA	Restoration Grant & Resiliency Grant	2016, 2017	$1,960,000
PCSRF	Coquille Tribe & Ducks Unlimited Contributions	2016, 2017	$670,914
USFWS	Coastal Wetland Grants (through OWEB) Matching funds	2011, 2015	$2,015,000
ODFW	Pittman-Robertson and Waterfowl Stamp & Fish Passage funds	2014-2017	$1,765,192
OWEB	Open Solicitation Grants	2011, 2014	$1,234,750
ODOT	Mitigation Project	withdrawn	$550,000
USFWS	Coastal Wetland Grant (through OWEB)	pending	$1,168,000
		TOTAL	$9,716,856

ATTACHMENT A

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, Executive Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item G – Strategic Plan
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

OWEB's staff will provide the latest versions of the "Who We Are" and "Strategic Priorities for Impact" documents, as well as providing the board an update on the process for developing strategies to be presented at the January 2018 meeting.

II. Background

OWEB approved its last strategic plan in 2010 during a time when the agency and its associated funding were set to sunset in 2015. However, at the same time, a campaign had begun to make the agency's funding permanent through Constitutional Ballot Measure 76. After the strategic plan was completed, Oregon voters overwhelmingly approved Ballot Measure 76.

As a result of the approval of permanent funding, the board then undertook an effort in 2012-13 to develop a Long-Term Investment Strategy (LTIS) for granting. This extensive process engaged stakeholders from across Oregon to set a vision for how the agency's strategic plan would be "operationalized" through its granting investments. The LTIS was approved by the board in 2013 and has become the framing through which the board develops and approves its two-year spending plan in support of the strategic plan.

It has now been seven years since the board approved its last strategic plan and 2018 will be five years after board approval of the LTIS.

III. Strategic Plan Process Steps to Date

Who We Are: In January 2017, the board formally initiated its strategic planning process. Under the guidance of Steve Patty, the facilitator with Dialogues In Action, both the board and OWEB staff began developing the "Who We Are" portion of the strategic plan. This includes work on the agency's Ultimate Aims, Premises, Intended Impact, and Best Means.

Interviews: Also in January, the board began the process of interviewing a range of OWEB stakeholders about their experiences and work with OWEB. Each board member and Staff Process Team member (see below) interviewed at least one stakeholder.

Staff Process Team: Staff have established a "Staff Process Team" to coordinate with the board throughout the planning process. Those team members also interviewed stakeholders, resulting in over 30 interviews with individuals across Oregon.

Full Staff Involvement: In addition to the staff process team, all agency staff met in January with the board and in August at a staff meeting to provide input to the process.

Listening Sessions: In March 2017, OWEB staff traveled with Steve Patty to six locations across Oregon to hold strategic planning listening sessions. These face-to-face meetings were held in Pendleton, Ontario, Bend, Medford, Clackamas and Newport, in addition to one virtual listening session webinar. In total, approximately 80 individuals attended, including grantees, regional review team members, agency partners, and others.

Stakeholder Surveys: In April, surveys were sent broadly stakeholders and partners to identify what is working well in their interactions with OWEB, as well as areas for improvement. That information was finalized for board review at their June strategic plan meeting.

External Advisory Group: In May and June, the board's established External Advisory Group met to synthesize and expand on information from interviews, listening sessions, and stakeholder surveys. In October, the group will provide their input to the strategy development. The External Advisory Group membership is found in Attachment A.

Board Strategic Plan Discussions: In January, April, June and July, the board met to vet the ideas proposed through the many processes identified above, which has resulted in the drafts of "Who We Are" (attachment B) and "Strategic Priorities for Impact" (attachment C).

Strategy Development: Throughout the fall, staff are meeting with key opinion leaders with expertise across the eight strategic priorities to receive input and ideas for strategies the board may want to consider in its plan. Once strategies are captured, staff and the External Advisory Group will each complete a prioritizing process to assist the board in considering strategy options.

In January 2018, staff will bring a prioritized suite of strategies to the board to consider for inclusion in the strategic plan. It is assumed the plan will not be approved until either the April or June 2018 board meeting. See Attachment D for a full strategic plan timeline.

IV. Recommendation

This is an information item only. Staff will outline next steps at the meeting.

Attachments

A. External Advisory Group Member List
B. Most recent version of "Who We Are" (tracked changes)
C. Most recent version of "Strategic Priorities for Impact" (tracked changes)
D. Timeline

OWEB Strategic Plan External Advisory Group

Jason Kesling	**Natural Resource Director, Burns Paiute Tribe**
Bruce Taylor	Pacific Birds / Intermountain West Joint Venture
Mark Trenholm	Wild Salmon Center
Cathy McDonald	The Nature Conservancy
Doug Krahmer	Landowner and Former Board Member
Todd Reeve	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Kelly Timchak	Lower Rogue Watershed Council
Shilah Olson	Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District
Brad Chalfant	Deschutes Land Trust
Jeff Oveson	Grande Ronde Model Watershed
Doug Decker	PSU Executive Seminar Program and Dept. of Forestry Director
Karl Morgenstern	Eugene Water and Electric Board
Eric Quaempts	Former Board member and Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

OWEB

– Who We Are

Draft ~~6/27/2017~~8/24/17

Preamble

Everyone in the world lives in a watershed. Everyone. Watersheds encompass every square inch of land on the planet, starting at the very top of the highest ridge. They include every place from which water flows as it enters creeks, then streams, then rivers, then the ocean. A watershed is as much about the land across and through which water flows as it is about the water itself. Urban, rural, desert, rainforest – every part of the landscape is in a watershed, and every part of the landscape matters when we talk about watershed health.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's job is to care about and invest state funding in the health of the land in Oregon's watersheds and the water that flows through it. A healthy watershed provides enough food, water, and shelter for the people, plants, fish and wildlife that inhabit it – not just for Oregonians now, but for future generations as well.

Healthy watersheds work hard. They move sediment from the mountains to the beaches and bays, sorting it along the way to create diverse landscapes and habitats. They cycle nutrients and convert them into forms that living organisms can use. They purify and store water, and then meter its release into streams to reduce flooding and damaging erosion in the winter and to sustain flows and cool temperatures during the dry season. Watersheds even improve air quality by absorbing pollutants and greenhouse gases (2014 Marin County Department of Public Works).

Beyond the environment, healthy watersheds matter for our state's economy and communities. How? Well, a watershed that is healthy can grow big trees. When managed with care, those trees support a sustainable timber harvest. At the same time, they provide homes for owls and support habitat for salmon in the streams. A healthy watershed grows sagebrush where birds nurture and protect their young, and allows ranchers to raise cattle that thrive. Water that runs through lands that are cared for and managed is cleaner, requiring less treatment for a family's drinking water. And clean water and healthy forests and deserts create spaces for those families to swim, camp, hike, fish, and hunt.

We care about watersheds. Those lands and that water sustain us. They provide our food and fiber, our shelter and enjoyment. Not just for us. Watersheds do the same thing for our native fish and wildlife as well.

When the watershed and its water are vibrant and healthy, we are too.

A. How we show up

We are committed to exemplifying the values we hold to be important in this work. These are the ways we are dedicated to showing up. These ideas are about our conscience, our convictions, and the commitments about our ethos and ethic.

In all things, we will…

Be bold
We believe in pursuing the greatest potential, not the easiest path. To be bold means to go be unafraid to listen to and explore new ideas even if they run counter to established processes. It means that we will focus on opportunities and strive to overcome the barriers we face. Practicing boldness pushes us to think in new ways and try new and innovative strategies. We will encourage each other and stakeholders as we go through the growing pains of improvement.

Be open and transparent
Being open and transparent means being committed to active, two-way communication internally and externally as a means for developing and maintaining strong partnerships. We will ensure that all decisions are transparently made and their reasoning is clearly communicated. We will consistently check in with partners to make sure they understand what we've communicated.

Consider future Oregonians
Everything we do now will impact the Oregonians of the future. We will be thoughtful about helping stakeholders develop sustainable watersheds. We will be informed by Oregon's legacy of watershed restoration and cooperative conservation while developing a vision for cooperative conservation in the future that is equitable and inclusive.

Be curious
Being curious means not just accepting the status quo but asking "why," "how," and "what if?" We will approach all situations with curiosity, encouraging staff and stakeholders to ask questions as they think about our watersheds and our practices. When we are curious, we are more apt to be responsive and flexible, adapting to the opportunities and challenges around us. We will seek to listen, learn, and think about watershed health and cooperative conservation in new ways and through fresh perspectives.

~~A.~~B. What we believe in

We hold fast to a set of ideas that provide a fundamental and underlying rationale for our work. These are our foundational perspectives. They keep us oriented. These are the core ideas that guide us.

Dedicated to the idea that…

Healthy watersheds sustain healthy communities now and in the future.
~~The~~Oregon's watersheds are intertwined with its people – the land is a part of our culture, our food and water, our work and our recreation. As a result, the well-being of all Oregonians depends on the health of our watersheds. ~~Communities are nourished and supported by the watershed in which they live, work, and play. The ability to recreate, meditate in quiet next to the water, drink clean water, and swim~~Current and ~~fish in those same waters is essential to a vibrant community. We believe Oregonians derive economic, social,~~future generations need access to whole and ~~spiritual benefit from our~~ healthy watersheds. People and communities are an integral part of their watershed, just like fish and wildlife. A community's economic and social health comes from the health of the lands that surround them and the ability to draw enjoyment from clean water, open spaces, and natural habitats.

Every Oregonian plays a role in the health of our watersheds.
We are committed to being profoundly inclusive because we believe every person of every background – whether urban or rural, rich or poor; regardless of age, ethnicity, education, beliefs, or politics – has something valuable to contribute to a healthy watershed. When people connect with their watershed, they will care for their watershed. The roles in each watershed are many and overlapping: planner, funder, doer, enjoyer, and communicator, among others. We encourage every citizen, staff, and stakeholder to find their niche and to help others find theirs.

It takes broad partnership to support resilient watersheds.
The Oregon way is unique. In Oregon, no individual landowner or community needs to grapple with watershed challenges alone. Cooperative conservation is built from broad, diverse partnerships that collaborate to develop and implement enduring watershed solutions. It is the Oregon way to invest in ~~the~~ restoring and sustaining healthy, resilient ~~watershed~~watersheds. Public investment in watersheds is a value and commitment of Oregonians.

~~Future generations need whole and healthy watersheds.~~ The work to improve our watersheds requires we take the long view.
~~To tackle watershed restoration projects without adopting long-term sustainable practices is short-sighted. We believe that future Oregonians have the right to enjoy the benefits of healthy watersheds without having to start from scratch. Watershed scale change, especially change that addresses the root causes of watershed problems, takes time and crosses generational boundaries.~~
Healthy watersheds require the stewardship of generations. With permanent

funding, we have the opportunity to test approaches that get to root causes. The challenges we must address came from generations of impacts, and will require we and our partners take the long view in determining the best approaches to address them. We are engaging in work we might not see the end of; it requires patience, persistence, discipline, and a vision for the future that embraces the long view.

~~B.~~C. The impact we want to achieve

Our ideas of intended impact are the areas of the change we would like to see in Oregon as a result of our work. These ideas describe how Oregon will be different as a result of all that we and our partners accomplish. Everything we do is designed to achieve results in the following areas of impact.

Our work is in service to…

1. **Healthy, resilient watersheds (Ecological)**

   What we mean: A healthy, resilient watershed provides clean water and a vibrant place to live for people, fish and wildlife, now and in the future. OWEB's investments will result in measurable improvements that lead to healthier streams and upland habitat, while ensuring that the work of our grantees is resilient to long-term impacts to the environment.

   - Plentiful, clean water for all
   - Enhancing, protecting, and restoring watershed process and functions
   - Healthy watersheds that sustain the health of people, their culture and their communities
   - Protection and restoration of healthy watersheds and natural habitats
   - Biological – Fish, wildlife, and native plant recovery; biodiversity
   - Strengthened natural ecosystems
   - Greater sustainability of water resources and improved water quality throughout Oregon
   - Measurable improvement toward ecological outcomes
   - Monitoring, evaluation, and learning embedded in watershed work throughout Oregon

2. **Broad care and stewardship of watersheds by Oregonians (Social)**

   What we mean: Broad care and stewardship of Oregon's natural places can come about only by greater understanding, awareness, and appreciation by each Oregonian of the impact of their everyday actions on the health of their watersheds. Working with partners, OWEB will make special effort to meaningfully engage each Oregonian, based on their unique connection with the land – whether cultural, spiritual, economic or recreational.

   - Greater understanding and awareness of, and appreciation for watersheds

- People are meaningfully connected to their watersheds
- Engagement of underserved and under-represented populations ~~around the state~~
- Tribal involvement, contribution, and leadership for watershed health
- People believe in the abundance possible through watershed stewardship
- Oregonians consider the impact of their everyday actions on watersheds
- Awareness of watershed issues to become more mainstream
- Involvement of the next generation in the conservation effort
-

3. **Adaptive capacity of communities to support ~~resilient~~their watersheds (Community)**

What we mean: OWEB seeks to ensure all communities ~~are empowered to engage~~empower diverse stakeholders to design, implement, and evaluate collaborative conservation actions. Engaged community members are better able to adapt to new ideas, address new challenges and design new approaches to improve their watershed. When landowners, land managers and local citizens are actively involved in shared learning and leadership within local organizations, the capacity of communities to improve the health of their watersheds is expanded.

- Empowered communities through partnership and shared knowledge
- ~~Monitoring, evaluation, and learning embedded in watershed work throughout Oregon~~
- ~~Engaged~~Diverse members of communities engaged in in conservation ~~efforts~~
- ~~Engaged landowners and land managers~~
- Greater empowerment of local residents to action
- ~~Farmers~~Landowners and ~~ranchers~~land managers are better able to achieve conservation goals
- Local leaders who endeavor to improve the health of their watershed and communities
- Building social capital in communities around the state (i.e., building blocks for participatory engagement around a shared community

vision)

- ~~Empowered communities through partnership and shared knowledge~~

4. **Strengthened economies ~~emerge~~emerging from healthy watersheds (Economic)**

   What we mean: Oregon's natural resource industries – agriculture, forestry, fishing, recreation – are dependent on healthy watersheds to be sustainable. The work of restoring natural areas creates jobs in communities, and the impact of a healthy watershed extends to all segments of Oregon's economy and is essential for the economic vitality of the State. When communities understand the link between healthy watersheds and a strong economy, they are more likely to invest in improving both.

   OWEB will support the capacity of local organizations to engage their community in cooperative conservation while benefiting Oregon's diverse economies.

   - Enhanced benefits for a sustainable economy built on natural resources, restoration, ecosystems, and the broader economies throughout Oregon
   - Healthier, more sustainable opportunities to live off the land
   - People see that watershed health and economies are in alignment
   - Fostering and growing economic opportunities in voluntary restoration
   - Engage communities in a restoration economy
   - Organizational capacity to advance conservation missions
   - Direct benefit to citizens from municipal watersheds that supply drinking water

5. **Strong and diverse partnerships that promote and sustain healthy watersheds (Sectoral)**

   What we mean: Strong and diverse partnerships include the meaningful involvement of local, regional, and statewide organizations, public and private investors, government partners and experts from across Oregon. By understanding the needs of the watershed and community, OWEB is uniquely positioned to help to connect resources with communities. Collaboration allows the opportunity for cross-pollination of ideas, cross-boundary work, adaptive learning, and heightened fidelity to science. OWEB will encourage partners to develop a common vision and objectives to

improve their watershed.

- United conservation efforts throughout Oregon
- Common vision and objectives shared by stakeholders
- Cross-sector action to improve watersheds
- Interconnectivity among watershed enhancement agencies
- Integrated, interagency efforts
- Cross-boundary work to maximize the benefits of conservation investments
- More collaboration and cross-pollination of ideas among natural resource agencies
- Advancement of watershed science and practice
- Progress and learning around watershed management practices
- Evidence/science-based practices utilized
- Promotion and education of best practices in watershed management
- Increased knowledge in the field
- Heightened fidelity to science throughout those interacting with watersheds

~~C.~~D. The approach we take

We believe that every endeavor is guided by a set of commitments not just about the "why" and the "what," but also the "how." These are the ways we are committed to engaging in our work. This is our approach. These principles modify everything we do.

Our work is characterized by…

Involving stakeholders broadly and in partnership

- Involving the ~~whole~~ community members at all levels
- Promoting community ownership of ~~the project~~watershed health
- Collaborating and authentically communicating
- Bringing together diverse interests
- Building and mobilizing partnerships
-

Using best available science supported by local knowledge

- Basing approaches on the best available science
- Advancing efficient, science driven operations
- Addressing root sources and causes
- Incorporating local knowledge, experience, and culture
- Catalyzing local energy and investment
-

Investing with long-term outcomes in mind

- Maintaining progress into the future
- Stewarding for the long term
- Taking the long view on projects and interventions
-

Demonstrating impact through meaningful ~~measurement~~ monitoring and evaluation

- Providing evidence of watershed change
- Measuring and communicating community impact

- Increasing appropriate accountability
- Incorporating flexibility, adaptive management - when we see something that's not working we do something about it

Reaching and involving ~~underserved~~underrepresented populations

- Seeking to include the voice and perspectives that are not typically at the table
- ~~Involving the underrepresented~~
- Specific, targeted engagement
- ~~Doing what we can to make~~Ensure information available ~~to everyone~~and accessible to diverse audiences

OWEB - Strategic Priorities for Impact

July-October Comparison

1. **Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness**

   What we mean

   OWEB will develop greater capacity throughout the system of watershed stakeholders to monitor progress, learn from projects, track effectiveness, gather data, respond to data, and advance the cause of healthy, resilient watersheds through the practice of monitoring and evaluation. OWEB will work with partners to ensure frameworks for information receiving and sharing exist that take advantage of the best scientific thinking and latest methods and technology in and outside the restoration community. OWEB and partners will develop monitoring 'networks' to which organizations in all parts of the state can contribute.

   Characteristics of the future

   - Seamless interaction of data and learning among broader audiences and agencies
   - Information and learning is current, meaningful, accessible, and available
   - Loops of learning become habitual throughout the sector
   - Understanding of science and science-based practice continues and is elevated
   - Insights derived from data and results drive decision making at all levels
   - Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly
   - Impact on multiple factors—including ecological, economic and social—are considered
   - Information learned is broadly communicated

2. **Strategic partnerships to achieve healthy watersheds**

   What we mean

   OWEB will be a statewide champion for partnerships in watershed health. OWEB will help develop the environment and provide guidance that will allow strong and effective partnerships of all sizes and at all levels to grow and flourish. Partnerships that are more inclusive, equitable, effective, consistent, reliable, purposeful, and innovative will amplify the impact of watershed work and develop resilience and capacity in the organizations seeking to improve and sustain healthy watersheds.

   Characteristics of the future

   - Consistency in the practice of partnership formation and governance, while recognizing that every partnership should be a reflection of its community

- Resource sharing among and between partners for a common goal
- Leveraging of resources in regions for the benefit of all organizations
- Increase of effective and strategic partnerships throughout the State
- ~~Diversity, equity and inclusion in partnerships~~
- Coordination among partners to achieve measurable outcomes

~~**Increase citizen**~~

3. **Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds**

What we mean

OWEB ~~will catalyze the influence of~~serve as an information source and catalyst for partners ~~to~~as they carry messages to their stakeholders about the importance of watersheds to the health and vitality of all Oregonians. This will include the development of story-telling and community engagement as an intervention with dual goals. First, to help Oregonians ~~recognize their~~take an active role in the health of their watershed and second, to increase awareness of the role watersheds play in improving the well-being of the people who reside in them~~ and contributing to economic activities within them.~~. This will result in a growing care and stewardship of local watersheds and a deeper commitment to watershed work throughout the State.

Characteristics of the future

- Populations not typically involved in the care of watersheds become interested and active
- ~~Increase in appreciation throughout the State for~~ Oregonians appreciate the importance of watersheds~~ to all Oregonians results~~, resulting in shared care and concern ~~among Oregonians~~ for ~~their~~those watersheds
- Broad-based understanding of the plight of watersheds
- Recognition that the current investment Oregonians make in the health of their watersheds pays dividends in their community and local economy
- Awareness of OWEB as the steward of measure 76 fund investments in their watersheds

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

What we mean

OWEB will catalyze, support and encourage the design and implementation of watershed ~~restoration~~health innovations by grant applicants. These innovations can reach beyond project implementation to touch all areas of OWEB's granting that support ~~restoration~~healthy watersheds – from capacity and partnership development to technical assistance, implementation and monitoring. OWEB will continually weigh the agency's investment risk to encourage design and experimentation in watershed work while ensuring public benefits from our investments.~~-~~

Characteristics of the future

- Risk of innovation is shared among diverse partners

- OWEB has ~~an~~ established ~~process~~approaches for gauging the risk and weighing it against the potential gain of proposed innovative ~~restoration~~watershed work.
- OWEB has ~~an~~ established ~~process~~approaches for evaluating the benefit of implemented innovative practices so as to inform decisions about future proposed innovations
- OWEB has increased nimbleness and adaptability as grantees propose and do adaptive restoration work

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

What we mean

OWEB will develop strategies to engage broader participation among those who own and manage working lands. This will include working broadly with partners ~~in both agriculture~~who own or manage working lands and conservation communities to develop intentional approaches that fully embrace the value of well-managed working lands to habitat, water quality, and local economies.

Characteristics of the future

- Farmers, ranchers and forestland owners are fully engaged in decisions about the health of their watersheds
- Tribes are fully engaged in decisions around working lands and healthy watersheds
- Owners and managers of working lands understand the value of conservation; communities understand the value of working lands
- Working landowners continue to build a culture of conservation
- Landowner involvement includes and extends beyond the agriculture and forestry communities to rural and other landowners
- Oregon has a diverse cohort of engaged working lands opinion-leaders and proven methods to reduce mixed use conflicts
- Funders offer more meaningful incentives to involve broader, more diverse landowner participation

6. **Community capacity ~~is enhanced to support~~supports resilience in watersheds**

What we mean

OWEB will work with partners at all levels to design resources and deploy tools to enhance the capacity of communities to participate in cooperative conservation. ~~As a result of this partnership effort, conservation leaders at all levels will design and implement strategies for broad citizen engagement in watershed health.~~ Local partnerships will have the support they need to develop and implement strategic, science-based approaches to improve watershed health. OWEB will support watershed organizations and associated watershed work at all levels in pursuit of a statewide restoration network that is resilient and sustainable, and capable of achieving ecological outcomes.

Characteristics of the future

- Greater investment in high-performing ~~partnerships of~~organizations at all ~~types~~levels
- Shared learning and resources exist for ~~partnerships~~organizations to assess and improve their effectiveness
- Strong local organizations are better resourced to accomplish their mission
- ~~Funding~~Organizational funding and other technical support is available for planning and implementation of watershed health strategies
- Effective networks exist among local conservation organizations and between those organizations and other community groups for information sharing and awareness
- ~~Communities~~Community organizations have the skills needed to adapt and respond to the challenges of a changing environment

7. **Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio**

What we mean

OWEB will ~~seek to develop strong and diverse partnerships~~ work with traditional ~~(agency/foundation)~~ and non-traditional ~~funding sources. These partnerships will~~ funders to support the work that watershed organizations ~~at all levels~~accomplish in ~~pursuit of a statewide restoration network that is resilient, sustainable, and achieves ecological outcomes.~~communities. At the same time, OWEB and partners will work ~~to empower grantees~~ with these same organizations to strengthen their ~~capacity~~ability to seek and secure more diverse funding sources~~.~~ for watershed work. This two-pronged approach will provide communities the resources to ~~create more durable conservation and restoration organizations at all levels, allowing them to act more boldly and~~move forward strategically~~.~~ and boldly in addressing watershed restoration needs.

Characteristics of the future

- Locally supported organizations will have access to more diverse funding sources
- Stable, resilient funding for restoration through OWEB~~,~~ and other funders ~~and local watershed practitioners~~
- ~~Strong local organizations are better resourced to accomplish their mission~~
-

8. **Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of ~~Oregon~~ all Oregonians**

What we mean

OWEB's board and staff will engage with partners and grantees to develop models and approaches that actively involve all Oregonians in improving the health of our watersheds. In its own practice, OWEB will ~~actively~~ seek out and develop leaders that reflect the diversity of Oregon to engage them in the rewarding work of watershed restoration. OWEB will ~~strive to serve Oregon's diverse population by~~

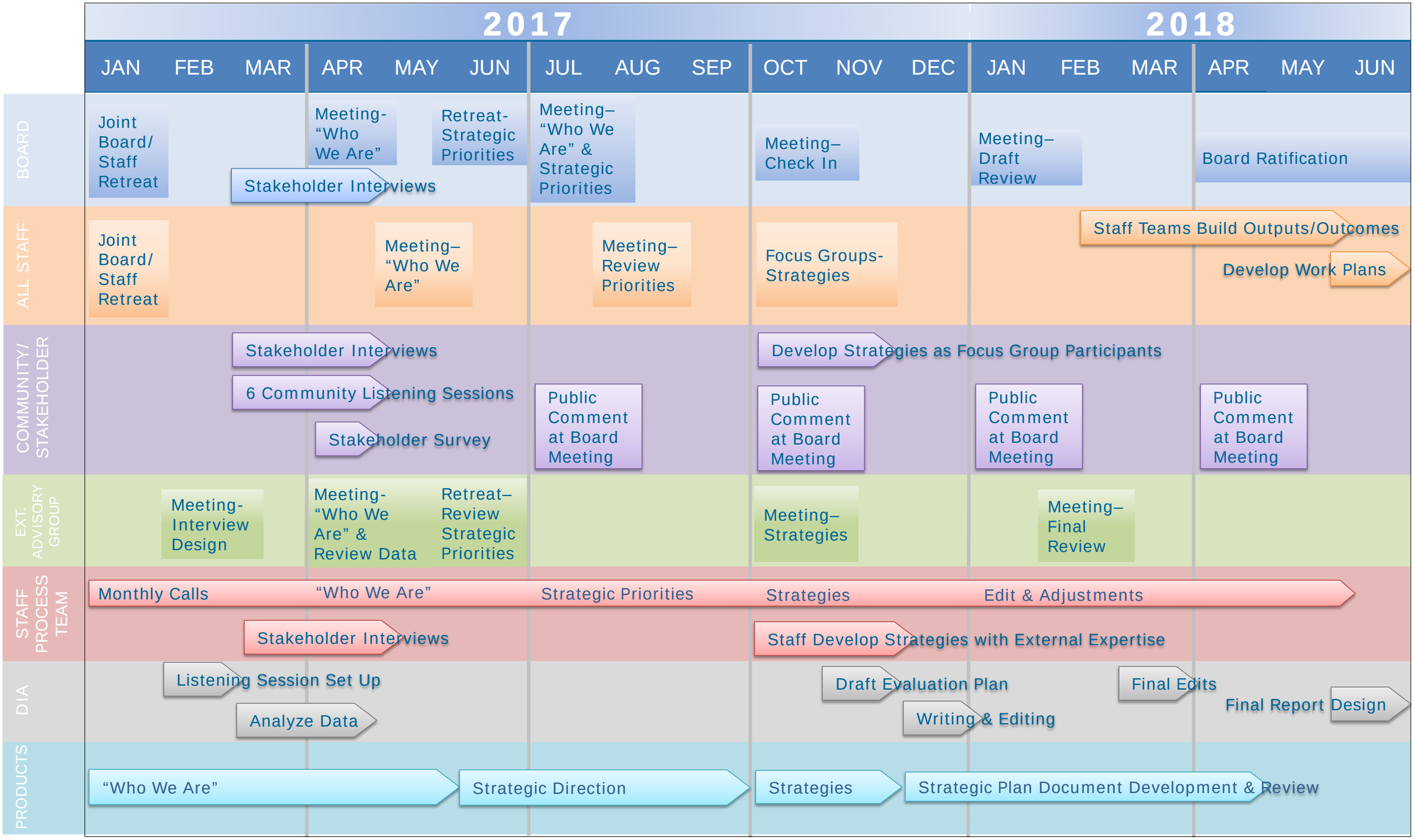
~~adopting~~adopt practices that support diversity in our own work and encourage equity in our grant-making ~~in partnership with our stakeholders~~through training, peer-to-peer learning, and other awareness-increasing approaches. This will shape the culture of the watershed work over time, developing a restoration system that is diverse and inclusive.

Characteristics of the future

- Healthy watersheds are supported by partnerships that reflect the diversity of their communities
- Greater diversity of involvement in all aspects of watershed work
- New, diverse individuals and partnerships elicit more out-of-box thinking
- ~~Increased opportunities exist for all Oregonian's to engage with and contribute to watershed work~~ Better insight for watershed strategy resulting from diverse perspectives representing all aspects of Oregon population and culture

OWEB Strategic Planning Timeline 2017-2018

ATTACHMENT D



October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update H-1: OWEB's Online Grant Application System

This report provides the board an update about the agency's online grant application system that was launched in July 2016.

Background

The need for an online grant application system was one business-practice improvement identified during development of OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy in 2013. The intent of an online system was to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the agency's grant-making processes for applicants, reviewers, and OWEB staff.

Components of the Online System

In advance of the online application system, grant applications were streamlined to focus on gathering the key information needed to support the review/evaluation process and to meet federal reporting requirements. Scoping of the online system components involved applicants, reviewers, and staff to ensure the system met the multiple and diverse needs of these different user groups. The online application system is directly connected to OWEB's Grant Management System (OGMS), the agency's enterprise database.

At present, the online system contains multiple components:

1) online applications for OWEB's primary four application types: restoration, technical assistance, monitoring and stakeholder engagement;
2) an interface to create and manage various grant offerings;
3) a reviewer module through which staff and review team members can search for and review grant applications;
4) an interface used by staff to record review results and develop evaluations, which are ultimately provided to the board to inform its funding deliberations; and
5) an interface for creating grant agreements.

At the October meeting, board members will hear feedback about the online system from an applicant, and staff from OWEB's Technical Services Program (TSP) and Grant Program will provide the board a demonstration of the system's components.

Next Steps

Users are invited to provide feedback about the system on a continuing basis. This input is used to identify and implement necessary refinements to the online application system.

OWEB TSP currently are developing an 'application builder tool' that will provide staff with the ability to create new grant application types within the online system. Early in 2018, a cross-section team of OWEB staff will initiate scoping for improvements to the agency's reporting processes, leveraging existing technology while streamlining processes to benefit both grantees and staff.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Renee Davis at renee.davis@oregon.gov or 503-986-0203.

October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting
Executive Director Update H-2: Lower Columbia River Watershed Council Update

This report provides the board an update on the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council's progress towards meeting OWEB's funding requirements associated with the 2017-2019 Council Capacity grant award.

Background

At the July 2017 OWEB Board meeting, the board discussed and awarded Council Capacity grants for the 2017-2019 biennium. After deliberation, the board elected to fund the Council at a reduced level ($47,347.50) for a period of one year. A second year of funding is contingent upon the Council demonstrating that it has met the necessary merit criteria, as demonstrated through progress reports, council meetings, and an interview and review process with OWEB.

Grant Agreement Special Conditions

The Council's grant agreement includes a list of special conditions that the Council must fulfill during the grant period. Progress reports are required on a quarterly basis documenting the Council's work on each of these five criteria: effective governance, effective management, progress in planning, progress in on-the-ground restoration, and progress in community engagement. The first progress report is due on October 13, 2017 and will be provided to the board at the meeting.

Evaluation Process

The Council's progress toward meeting the merit criteria over the next year will be evaluated through:

1) Review of the quarterly progress reports;
2) Attendance at Council meeting;
3) Meetings with Council staff and board members; and
4) Council staff and board member participation in an interview and review process.

OWEB staff will present the results of the evaluation process and the board will make a decision on the second year for capacity funding at the June 2018 board meeting.

Progress to date

OWEB's North Coast Representative Katie Duzik and Capacity Programs Coordinator Courtney Shaff met with the council coordinator in Salem on September 7, 2017. Katie Duzik and Courtney Shaff also attended the Council's September 12, 2017 meeting. At both meetings the conditions of the grant agreement were discussed, as well as opportunities and challenges the Council will face moving forward.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Courtney Shaff at courtney.shaff@oregon.gov or 503-986-0045.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Capacity Building FIP Grant Awards
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2017 Capacity Building Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant offering, and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards. Staff request the board consider additional funding for financial plans for Capacity Building FIPs and also consider a future grant offering.

II. Background

At the July 2017 meeting, the board adopted its 2017-2019 spending plan and allocated $1.0 million for Capacity Building FIP grants. The funding is intended to support existing partnerships in their pursuit of building their capacity to partner at a high-performing level, and/or to generate a new strategic action plan (SAP), enhance an existing SAP, or build partnership capacity for an OWEB Focused Investment Priority.

III. Solicitation Process

In January 2017, staff solicited for Capacity Building FIP applications. Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants were required to consult with FIP staff and the Capacity Programs Coordinator. Thirteen consultations with potential applicants were held between March and April. During the consultations, staff discussed the purpose of the program, allowable activities, evaluation criteria, and timing.

IV. Review

Seven applications were received by the June 12, 2017 deadline. Applications were evaluated on 1) readiness of the partnership, 2) capacity of the partnership to implement the proposal, 3) leadership within the partnership, and 4) clarity of proposal. Reviewers provided a "Fund" or "Do Not Fund' recommendation, and ranked applications.

V. Current Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend funding four of the five projects recommended by the review team. Recommendations are based on the evaluation process with consideration for the overall goal of the program. There are generally two reasons projects were not recommended for funding.

The first reason was the partnership's current and future capacity and commitment to partner. Lessons learned from both the Partnership Learning Project and working with the current Capacity Building FIPs emphasized the need for partnerships to commit to working together for the long-term prior to the development of the SAP. Partnerships without that commitment may have difficulties achieving their shared goals.

The second reason relates to the partnership's plan for stakeholder engagement. Stakeholder engagement is a required component of the application. Both OWEB staff and the reviewers believe, since projects must ultimately be implemented with and through local stakeholders, it is a necessary component for successful SAP development and future project implementation. All three applications not recommended for funding were missing some critical component of stakeholder engagement.

VI. Financial Plan Development

Through OWEB's Partnership Learning Project, it became clear that, in addition to the development of a Strategic Action Plan, partners needed a clear strategy for how to fund the plan. At the July 2017 meeting, the board approved funding for the 2015-2017 Capacity Building FIPs to support development of financial plans. Because the 2017-2019 grant process had already begun, staff were unable to incorporate the financial plan questions into the application and believe it is important to offer this same opportunity to the projects recommended for funding for this cycle. Staff recommend the board approve funding to develop financial plans for Capacity Building FIPs awarded at the October meeting. All future applications will incorporate financial plan questions.

VII. Future Capacity Building FIP Grant Cycle

As approximately $590,000 remains in the 2017-2019 spending plan for Capacity Building FIP, OWEB staff request to offer another round of Capacity Building FIP grants in 2018. Staff would conduct outreach related to the program through the winter, focusing on partnerships that participated in the consultation process and did not apply, applications recommended for do not fund from this cycle, and other emerging partnerships that have approached OWEB since the application deadline has passed.

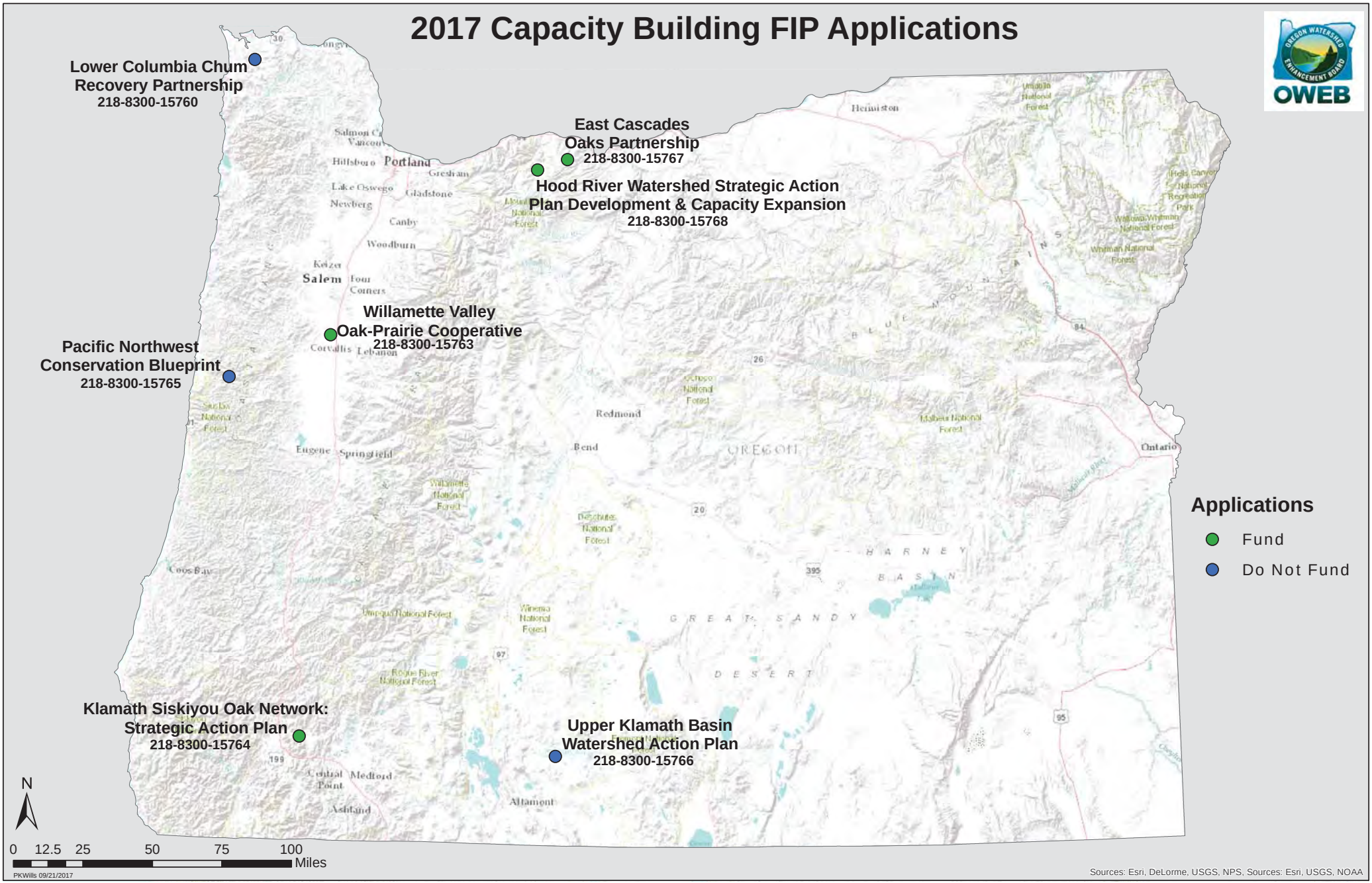
VIII. Recommendations

- Staff recommend the board award Capacity Building FIP grants as described in Attachment B.
- Staff recommend the board delegate to the Director up to $60,000 to be allocated from the Capacity Building FIP spending plan item to be used for developing financial plans for the recommended applications described in Attachment B.
- Staff recommend the Board approve an additional Capacity Building FIP grant offering in 2018.

Attachments

A. Map
B. Staff Funding Recommendations
C. Evaluations

2017 Capacity Building FIP Applications



Staff Funding Recommendation
2017 Capacity Building FIP Applications

Project Number	Applicant	Project Title	OWEB Request	Amount Recommended	Brief Description
218-8300-15767	Columbia Land Trust	East Cascades Oak Partnership	$102,286	$102,286	The goal is to develop an adaptive, strategic, collaborative, multi-scale approach to conservation. With Capacity-Building funding we will produce a guidance document, developing thoughtfully and intentionally into a formal partnership. We will also produce a comprehensive strategic action plan in which any person can see accessible, powerful roles he or she can play in the conservation of Oregon white oak.
218-8300-15763	Greenbelt Land Trust	Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Cooperative	$82,920	$82,920	The partnersip is working to develop a Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Strategic Action Plan (SAP) and formalize an organizational partnership structure to achieve goals, objectives, and tasks identified in the SAP. With Capacity Building funding the partnership will develop a SAP and strengthen the Cooperative's operational structure. The overarching ecological outcomes are protection, restoration, and maintenance of a functional, resilient network of oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley.
218-8300-15764	Klamath Bird Obsevatory	Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network	$100,185	$100,185	The Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network partners seek to develop a strategic action plan (SAP) using Open Standards for Conservation. This will strengthen our ability to achieve ecological outcomes significant to the state, outcomes which are critical to reverse declining trends of oak-associated plants and wildlife. The SAP will serve as a road map for oak habitat restoration actions and will establish short-, medium-, and long-term goals to achieve our ecological outcomes over the entire southern Oregon landscape.
218-8300-15768	Hood River Working Group	Hood River Watershed Strategic Action Plan	$105,381	$95,006	The Partnership proposes to develop a strategic action plan (SAP) and elevate the Partnership's current level of performance. Capacity building funds will be used to support partner staff and hire several outside contractors, including a strategic planning facilitator and a science consultant. The goal of developing the SAP will ultimately support restoration of priority streams in the Hood River Watershed.
218-8300-15760	North Coast Watershed Association	Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership	$107,995	$0	The partnership seeks capacity-building funds to create a strategic action plan, attract new partners to our partnership, and engage with landowners through public meetings. Increased capacity will allow our partnership to prioritize and pursue restoration actions toward the goal of reaching delisting criteria for Chum Salmon in the Coastal Stratum.
218-8300-15765	Ecotrust	Pacific Northwest Conservation Blueprint	$150,000	$0	The consortium of organizations seeks to refine the governance structure of the consortium, fill any remaining gaps in our strategic plan, and take steps to spatially map Oregon-specific conservation priorities, emphasizing aquatic and terrestrial connectivity.
218-8300-15766	The Nature Conservancy	Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan	$147,232	$0	The Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan Team intends to enhance and publish the Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan, develop an outreach strategy to facilitate broader Klamath Basin regulatory and restoration community buy-in to the Action Plan, and develop an MOU for the partnership.
Total Capacity Building FIP Reqest			**$795,999**		
Total Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**$380,397**	

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15767

OWEB Region: 4

Partnership Name: East Cascades Oak Partnership

Requested Amount: $102,286

Board Priority Addressed: Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:
Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:
The East Cascade Oaks Partnership's goal is to develop an adaptive, strategic, collaborative, multi-scale approach to conservation that will improve the pace, scale, and effectiveness of oak conservation efforts in the East Cascades Ecoregion. As a result of our efforts, structurally-diverse, functional and intact Oregon white oak habitats across the East Cascades ecoregion will continue to support impressive biodiversity, demonstrate climate resilience, and persist despite population growth, conversion, active management, and rapid ecological change. With Capacity-Building funding we will produce a guidance document, developing thoughtfully and intentionally into a formal partnership. We will also produce a comprehensive strategic action plan in which any person can see accessible, powerful roles he or she can play in the conservation of Oregon white oak. The partnership's steering committee includes USFS, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Yakama Nation, ODFW, WDFW, WA DNR, Wasco SWCD, Underwood Conservation District, National Wild Turkey Federation, Pacific Birds, Deschutes Land Trust and Columbia Land Trust. Other partners include Oregon State Parks, Columbia River Gorge Commission, Oregon Department of Forestry, Central and Eastern Klickitat Conservation Districts, The Nature Conservancy, Friends of the Gorge, the Native Plant Society, and a number of private landowners, stakeholders, and oak enthusiasts.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- Clearly identified project leader.
- Good data sets and GIS capabilities.
- Partnership group is diverse and working early to engage stakeholders and create buy-in.
- Strong organization leading this effort with the technical capabilities to lead the process.
- Partner roles and responsibilities are clearly described in the application.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- No final decision on desired future conditions, this may cause process to take longer than proposed.
- Compressed timeline.

Concluding Analysis: The application demonstrates a strong, committed partnership that has the capacity to complete the SAP and engage stakeholders throughout the process. Considering the size of partnership and scope of work, the project will likely take longer than proposed.

Review Team Ranking: 1 of 5

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $102,286

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15763

OWEB Region: 2

Partnership Name: Willamette Valley Oak Prairie Cooperative

Requested Amount: $82,920

Board Priority Addressed: Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:
Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:
The Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (Cooperative) is working to develop a Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Strategic Action Plan and formalize an organizational partnership structure to achieve goals, objectives, and tasks identified in the Strategic Action Plan. The Cooperative is applying for funds from OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership Capacity-Building Program to assist in the development of the Strategic Action Plan and strengthen the Cooperative's operational structure. The overarching ecological outcomes proposed by the Cooperative are protection, restoration and maintenance of a functional, resilient network of oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley through a coordinated and strategic approach that leverages resources, focuses on priority project areas and species, and produces substantial ecological returns. The Cooperative has representatives from the middle and upper sub-regions of the Willamette Valley. The key partners in the Cooperative have extensive experience in planning and implementing on-the-ground work to protect, restore and maintain native oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley. The Cooperative's Steering Committee (Core Partners) is comprised of a subset of the key partners and includes City of Eugene - Parks and Open Space Division, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, the Institute for Applied Ecology, Willamette Partnership, and Greenbelt Land Trust.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership is already engaging with landowners.
- A partnership declaration of cooperation has been developed.
- Partnership plans to communicate with other Oak Networks operating around the state.
- The partnership includes the right technical experience.
- Partners have the capacity to accomplish the work.
- The timeline it clear and realistic.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- No mention of OSU Extension, how will they be engaged in the project?
- Unclear how the partnership will reach out to and engage with tribes.

Concluding Analysis: There is significant partnership commitment to this project and they have developed a realistic timeline and well thought out SAP development process. Outreach will be key to the long-term success of the partnership and implementation of the SAP. The partners have already begun to engage landowners. The partners should engage with both OSU Extension and local tribal governments early in outreach and SAP development.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 2 of 5

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $82,920

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15764

OWEB Region: 2, 4

Partnership Name: Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network

Requested Amount: $100,185

Board Priority Addressed: Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:
Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:
The Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network has a history of implementing multi-million dollar investments with a programmatic approach to oak woodland conservation. With this demonstrated capacity, we are in need of greater strategic focus for future restoration efforts. The partners seek to develop a Strategic Action Plan using Open Standards for Conservation - this will strengthen our ability to achieve ecological outcomes significant to the state, outcomes which are critical to reverse declining trends of oak associated plants and wildlife. The Strategic Action Plan will serve as a road map for oak habitat restoration actions and will establish short, medium, and long term goals to achieve our ecological outcomes over the entire southern Oregon landscape.

The partnership consists of the following core partners: BLM, Klamath Bird Observatory, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, NRCS, The Nature Conservancy, USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, and USFS. Through the partnership, these agencies and organizations have formed a high-performing partnership with a proven track record of partnership building, landowner engagement, on-the-ground restoration, monitoring, and adaptive management focused exclusively on oak conservation and restoration.

Ecological outcomes identified include improved function, resiliency, connectivity, and habitat value of oak habitats in southern Oregon. These ecological outcomes align directly with the OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership seems ready to move forward with both an MOU and Charter in place.
- The partnership includes partners with the right technical experience to develop a SAP.
- Partners have the capacity to accomplish the work and have committed a lot of time via match to the project.
- Clear roles and responsibilities of partners.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Timeline seems condensed.
- The geographic scope is large, the partnership will have to be conscious of coordinating across this geography during the project.

Concluding Analysis: This project builds off other efforts in the region and demonstrates a strong commitment and leadership among partners. The proposed outreach approach seems to rely heavily on one partner, NRCS, the final outreach plan should engage all partners and be implemented throughout SAP development.

Review Team Ranking: 3 of 5

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $100,185

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15768

OWEB Region: 4

Partnership Name: Hood River Watershed Partnership

Requested Amount: $105,381

Board Priority Addressed: Inland Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:
Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:
The Hood River Watershed Partnership (Partnership) consists of nine core partners-The Hood River Watershed Group, Hood River SWCD, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Farmers Irrigation District, Middle Fork Irrigation District, East Fork Irrigation District, USFS, ODFW, and NRCS. All of these organizations have been working together in the Basin for 20 years and possess ample experience to implement programmatic conservation work into the future. Ecological outcomes that have been identified by core partners include improved streamflows and instream habitat to support the recovery of threatened populations of Lower Columbia River steelhead, spring Chinook, and coho. The Partnership will develop a strategic action plan (SAP) and elevate the Partnership's current level of performance. Capacity building funds will be used to support HRWG and SWCD staff and hire several outside contractors, including a strategic planning facilitator, science consultant, and website developer. The goal of developing the SAP will ultimately support restoration of priority streams in the Hood River Watershed.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- Good mix of partners that are bringing match to the partnership.
- Nice proposed engagement with the Latino community.
- Partnership group is diverse and demonstrates commitment great landowner connections.
- Strong organization leading this effort with the technical capabilities to lead the process.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Schedule seems compacted.
- The purpose and structure of the website was unclear.
- No partnership operating principles or MOU was submitted.

Concluding Analysis: The partnership consists of a diverse group of stakeholders working broadly in the basin. The application demonstrates partnership commitment; however they are lacking any formal agreements, which will be developed as a part of this process. There is great landowner engagement in the basin and this effort will build on the current level of engagement. The partnership needs to clearly define itself through the process and how implementation of the SAP will build on other partnership efforts occurring within the basin.

Review Team Ranking: 4 of 5

Review Team Recommendation: Fund reduced, remove funding for website development and hosting.

Staff Recommendation: Fund reduced, remove funding for website development and hosting.

Amount: $95,006

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15760

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership

Requested Amount: $107,995

Board Priority Addressed: Coastal Estuaries

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:
Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:
The Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership includes the North Coast Watershed Association, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, The Columbia SWCD, and ODFW.

Our partnership seeks capacity-building funds to (1) create a Strategic Action Plan detailing locations and projects required to address Chum Salmon limiting factors related to spawning habitat and estuary rearing habitat, (2) attract new partners to our partnership, and (3) engage with landowners through public meetings to educate the public regarding chum salmon recovery and garner support (and potentially identify additional projects) for restoration and recovery efforts. Columbia River Chum Salmon are a federally-listed species and their recovery is a top priority of the state. Increased capacity will allow our partnership to prioritize and pursue restoration actions toward the goal of reaching delisting criteria for Chum Salmon in the Coastal Stratum.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The Strategic Action Plan process is well described.
- There is leadership in the form of a project manager at the watershed council.
- The partnership includes partners with the right technical experience to be successful.
- There is significant data available to incorporate into the plan.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Not enough time built into timeline for landowner engagement.
- Outreach is focused at the end of the project; it also needs to be incorporated into the beginning of the SAP development.
- Not enough emphasis on partnership development.
- Unclear how drainage districts will be engaged during the SAP development process, which will be critical for future project implementation.
- Partnership proposes to only meet once a year after SAP development, this approach did demonstrate the application would result in a high-functioning partnership.

- Partnership development pieces need more detail; a strong partnership will be needed for overall success.
- Timeline seems condensed.

Concluding Analysis: The proposed SAP has a very narrow, single species focus, but the partnership has the right technical expertise for the proposed project. However, the partnership does not propose adequate partnership development or community engagement to balance the technical aspects of the proposal. With future implementation focused on private land, there is concern that the approach proposed will not lead to community buy-in and any SAP developed without targeted and purposeful community engagement will not be successful.

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Review Team Ranking: 5 of 5

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Amount: $0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15765

OWEB Region: 1, 2, 3

Partnership Name: Pacific Northwest Conservation Blueprint

Requested Amount: $150,000

Board Priority Addressed: Coastal Estuaries, Inland Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species, Oregon Coastal Coho Habitat and Populations

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:
Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:
The consortium of organizations seeks to achieve a network of healthy, connected ecosystems and working landscapes, along the coast of Oregon and in the Lower Columbia River, capable of providing a full suite of ecosystem services that can absorb, respond, and adapt to climate change and other key stressors through collaborative, science-based strategies and spatially explicit products that identify priority conservation areas and actions necessary to achieve conservation goals and targets.

This effort will a) identify valued resources and ecosystem services, consider the impacts of individual and cumulative stressors, and align shared landscape-scale goals and objectives b) understand how local/regional management decisions made by entities fit into a larger landscape-scale context of conservation goals c) assess the impacts of landscape-scale or systems-level factors and stressors on management-relevant issues at smaller spatial scales and under future scenarios.

We will refine the governance structure of the consortium, fill any remaining gaps in our strategic plan, and take steps to spatially map Oregon-specific conservation priorities, emphasizing aquatic and terrestrial connectivity. Production of a spatial tool will inform OWEB's and the region's protection, restoration and enhancement strategies in coastal estuaries, inland aquatic habitats, and Oregon coastal coho habitats.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- Innovative approach.
- Partners have the right technical background to be successful.
- Could provide a great learning opportunity.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Scale is very big, unclear how the partnership will truly partner at the proposed scale.

- Application does not demonstrate they have engaged with local implementers prior to application submittal and no community engagement is proposed to be implemented with these funds.
- Proposed geographic scope is primarily private lands, but the application does not describe how the partnership will engage private landowners.

Concluding Analysis: The application proposes an integrated approach to planning across a large geography and at a high evaluation. The final SAP will significantly involve work on private lands; however the proposal does not include any landowner engagement. Outreach seems to be at a much higher level, to coordinating, not implementing agencies. Though interesting, and likely of value to the proposed geographic area, the application does propose to develop a SAP and partnership collaboration as intended through the FIP Capacity Building grant program.

Review Team Ranking: N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Amount: $0

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8300-15766

OWEB Region: 4

Partnership Name: Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan Team

Requested Amount: $147,232

Board Priority Addressed: Inland Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:
Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:
This partnership of Klamath Basin entities, called the Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan Team (the Project Team), includes The Nature Conservancy, Trout Unlimited, The Klamath Tribes, Klamath Watershed Partnership, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the US Fish and Wildlife Service Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program . New to the Project Team, from the California side of the Klamath Basin, is The North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board.

Ecological outcomes include: 1) water quality improvements in Upper Klamath Lake, its tributaries, the Lost River, and the mainstem Klamath River; 2) habitat improvements for Lost River and Shortnose Suckers; and 3) habitat improvements for Redband Trout, Bull Trout, and anadromous salmonids anticipated to return after removal of 4 mainstem Klamath River dams. We will meet these outcomes by restoring key processes and watershed function, increasing coordination or restoration actions, and leveraging resources for increased implementation. The partnership intends to enhance and publish the Upper Klamath Basin Watershed Action Plan, develop an outreach strategy to facilitate broader Klamath Basin regulatory and restoration community buy-in to the Action Plan, and develop an MOU for the partnership.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- Partnership has a strong scientific perspective and the right skills for future SAP implementation.
- The restoration components seem strong and would develop a platform for future restoration.
- They have an existing strategic action plan.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Landowners are not mentioned as stakeholders in the planning.
- Approach does not seem like it will lead to buy-in for the final SAP.
- The application did not demonstrate the project would result in a high performing partnership. The partnership proposed to contract for minimal partnership development activities in the application. Most contracted activities would focus on communication and not on developing and sustaining a high functioning partnership.

- The process and timing for engaging stakeholders was minimally described in the application and did not demonstrate how outreach would be used to help the partnership achieve future ecological outcomes. Specifically the application proposes to begin outreach at the completion of the SAP development process with the initiation of implementation. In addition the application does not identify the role of the partnership in outreach and which stakeholder groups will be engaged and how that engagement will occur.
- There is very little information provided on the proposed publication strategy.

Concluding Analysis: The partnership has an existing strategic plan which they propose to update through this application. The partnership has the right partners to complete the technical work proposed. However, the partners do not provide adequate information on how they will engage with the diverse stakeholders in the basin to get buy-in on the plan and move forward toward implementation.

Review Team Ranking: N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Requested Amount: $0

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – FIP Gathering
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides information on a gathering of the Implementation and Capacity Building Focused Investment Partnerships (FIP) and requests the board award funding for the gathering to the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF).

II. Background

In 2016, the board awarded FIP grants to 14 partnerships. Eight partnerships received two-year Capacity Building FIP grants, and six partnerships received Implementation FIP grants for up to six years to support landscape-level restoration. After the grant awards, OWEB staff convened the Implementation FIPs for an in-person kick-off meeting and the Capacity Building FIPs via conference call. The Capacity Building FIPs have continued to meet quarterly via conference call and have expressed appreciation for these interactions. The partnerships have also requested additional opportunities to network and learn from each other and from other partnerships.

OWEB staff have been meeting regularly with BEF staff since 2016 to discuss both Effectiveness Monitoring of Implementation FIPs (Agenda item O) and opportunities to learn from OWEB's initial FIP investments, including the Partnership Learning Project. The idea of the gathering was generated through these conversations and the desire to provide additional learning opportunities to the partnerships.

III. FIP Gathering

BEF proposes to host a gathering of all Capacity Building and Implementation FIPs at Menucha Retreat and Conference Center, March 13-14, 2018. The objectives for the gathering include sharing lessons learned, training, and networking. Additional

details will be worked out over the next several months and staff will provide an update to the board at the January 2018 meeting.

IV. Recommendation

OWEB staff recommend the board award up to $11,500 from the Capacity Building FIPs spending plan line item to grant number 216-8390-12951 for the Bonneville Environmental Foundation to implement a FIP Gathering in March 2018.

Oregon
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB Executive Director
Lisa Hanson, Oregon Department of Agriculture Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item L – Coordinated Streamside Management
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will provide an informational briefing about the State of Oregon's work on Coordinated Streamside Management, led by both the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and OWEB. The presentation will include a description of the program, lessons learned through piloting of strategic implementation areas, use of OWEB's $1 million technical assistance investment, and next steps.

II. Background

The State of Oregon, working with federal and local partners, has developed a coordinated approach to streamside management that will ensure that riparian vegetation will provide for water quality protection. The approach will initially focus on agriculturally influenced areas.

Details about the program are provided in Attachment A to the staff report, including specific information about the program's three distinct, but overlapping components. First, watershed-level **monitoring** will be deployed at all selected areas to track water quality improvements and to learn and share the most effective approaches. Next, the State will work with local soil and water conservation districts (SWCD), watershed councils and others to increase voluntary and **incentive-based conservation** in riparian areas on all lands in the identified areas. This will help partners attain the goals identified in their area plans. Finally, for those lands that are subject to the requirements of the state's Agricultural Water Quality Management Act, ODA will ensure **compliance with the area rules**. This cooperative strategy will ensure a clear 'firewall' between those assisting landowners with incentive-based approaches while providing a regulatory backstop.

To initiate this program, **Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA)** will be selected based on need (e.g., water quality, habitat, etc.), and the capacity and willingness of local organizations to deliver on-the-ground assistance (including potential OWEB funding). It

is expected that all areas of the state will eventually have a SIA over time, but initial success will be based on selecting areas that combine the above three characteristics. Details about this process are provided in Attachment A .

III. Use of OWEB SIA Technical Assistance Funds

To support this work through the Coordinated Streamside Management Program, once a SIA has been selected, the state agency partners will work with the local SWCD and other local partners to develop an implementation strategy for the selected area as a companion to the agricultural water quality management area plan. Implementation strategies will identify voluntary and incentive-based approaches to improving streamside management across all lands in the identified area, whether agriculturally influenced or not. Additional landowner information will also be used to complete strategy implementation.

Once the implementation strategy has been developed, the SWCD or other identified partner may apply to OWEB for a technical assistance grant for SIA implementation. Funding can be used for landowner outreach, monitoring, and project design. Implementation funding is accessible through a variety of funding sources, including both OWEB restoration and small grants.

IV. Next Steps

Across the state, SIAs will be selected each year to participate in the program. OWEB and partner agencies will continue to coordinate and identify improvements for the program's monitoring, incentive, and compliance components of the program.

V. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

A. Coordinated Streamside Management Overview and Components
B. Related article in Capital Press dated September 29, 2017

Coordinated Streamside Management on Rural Lands in Oregon

Summary

The State of Oregon, working with federal and local partners, will implement a coordinated approach to streamside management. The State believes this coordinated approach will improve water quality and make available more habitat for fish and streamside-dependent plants and animals. The approach will initially focus on agriculture-influenced areas.

Initially, six areas will be selected per year to enter into a four year process (with monitoring for five-ten years) that begins with the identification of a targeted area in which to focus monitoring, incentive-based implementation regulatory measures. The State will purposefully select target areas in different geographic areas to maximize the potential for this investment to be a "learning opportunity" for local organizations that can then implement their own coordinated streamside management work beyond the state-selected areas.

This approach combines the benefits of three distinct, but overlapping, components. First, watershed-level **monitoring** will be deployed at all selected areas to track water quality improvements and to learn and share the most effective approaches. Second, the State will work with local soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), watershed councils, and others to increase **incentive-based conservation** in riparian areas on all lands in the identified areas. This will help local areas attain the goals identified in their area plans. Third, for those lands that are subject to the requirements of the state's Agricultural Water Quality Management Act, the Oregon Department of Agriculture will ensure **compliance** with the area rules where necessary. This cooperative strategy will ensure a clear "firewall" between those assisting landowners with incentive-based approaches while providing a regulatory backstop.

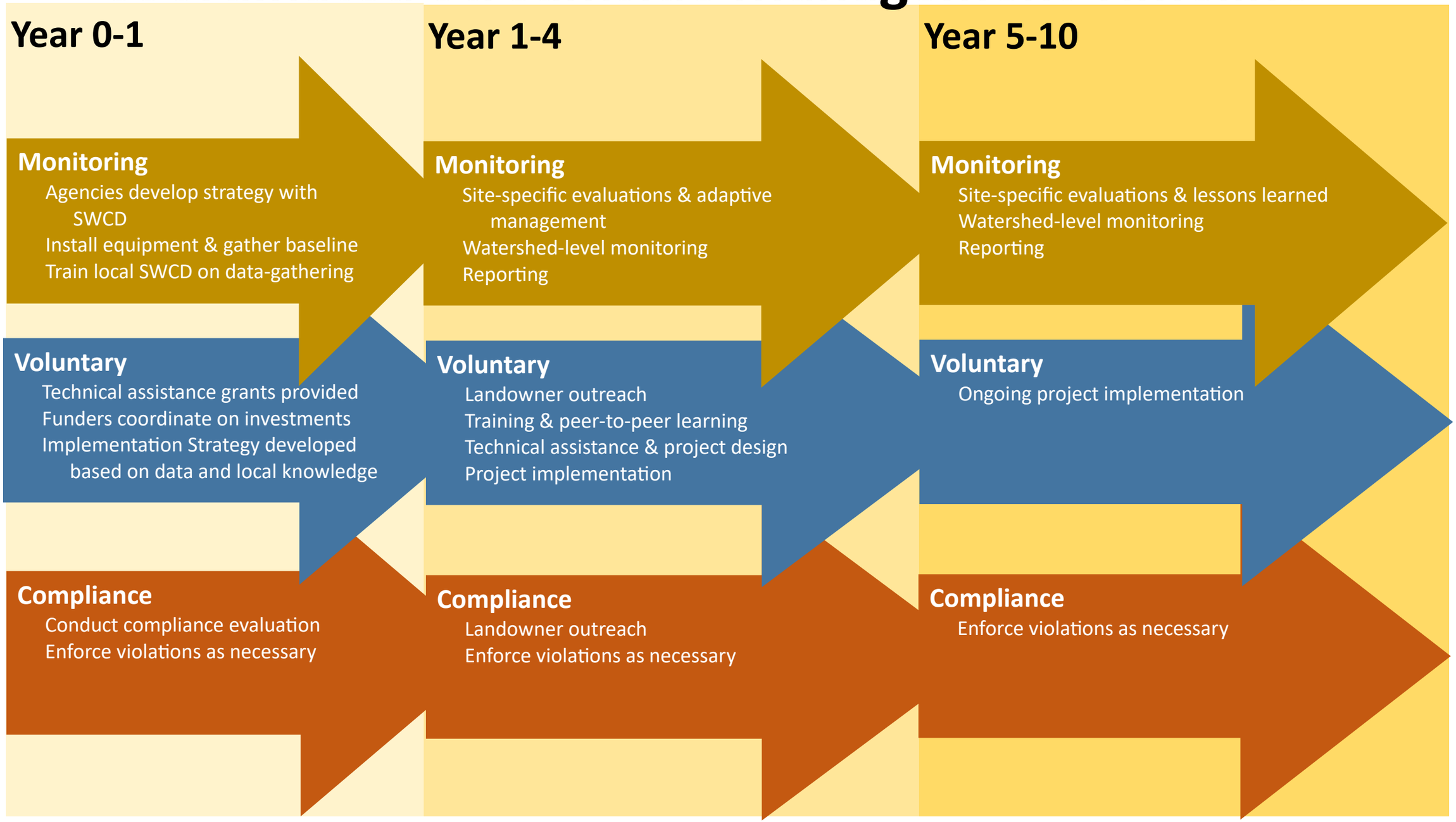
To initiate this program, **Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA)** will be selected based on need (water quality, habitat), and the capacity and willingness of local organizations to deliver on-the-ground assistance (including potential OWEB funding). It is expected that all areas of the state will eventually have an SIA over time, but initial success will be based on selecting areas that combine the above three characteristics.

Once an SIA is selected and before the program is initiated, state agencies will help the local SWCD or other lead partner to identify key areas to work with landowners. This will include information from the Oregon Department of Agriculture's compliance evaluation, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's general habitat assessment including limiting factors, and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's analysis of shade along streamside areas.

The goal of this strategic implementation approach is to develop a framework that can be used across Oregon counties that combines both voluntary and regulatory measures in a way that provides the greatest uplift to water quality. This approach is intended to support and encourage innovation and local solutions while ensuring landowners comply with the state's agriculture water quality program requirements.

Over time, it is anticipated that this approach can be used as a basis to develop other tools that ensure both effective implementation and monitoring of non-point source water quality improvements and increased regulatory certainty for landowners.

Coordinated Streamside Management Timeline



Coordinated Streamside Management on Rural Lands in Oregon

Voluntary, Incentive-Based Conservation Overview

As designed under Oregon's SB 1010 (Agricultural Water Quality Management Act), Oregon's agricultural water quality program is built around voluntary, incentive-based conservation with a compliance and enforcement backstop. Part of SB 1010 includes Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans in 38 areas across the state which identify both water quality problems and opportunities for improvement. Local Advisory Committees (LAC) made up of farmers, ranchers, community leaders, and other stakeholders establish goals based on identification of local agricultural water quality problems and opportunities for improvement.

To support this work through the Coordinated Streamside Management Program, once a Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) has been selected, the state agency partners will work with the Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), the LAC, and other local partners to develop a specific implementation strategy for the selected area as a companion to the agricultural water quality management area plan. Implementation strategies will identify voluntary and incentive-based approaches to improving streamside management across all lands in the identified area, whether agriculturally influenced or not. Additional landowner information will also be used to complete strategy implementation.

Incentive-Based Conservation Components in Year 0-1

1) **Technical Assistance Funding -** The SWCD or other identified partner will apply to OWEB for a technical assistance grant for SIA implementation. Funding can be used for landowner outreach, monitoring, and project design. Implementation funding is accessible through a variety of funding sources, including OWEB restoration grants, small grants, and NRCS EQIP and other funding.
2) **Funding Coordination -** All potential funding partners (typically NRCS and OWEB, but may include others) will be made aware of the strategy to ensure it is built into local strategic processes already in place (local work group and conservation implementation strategy through NRCS, as an example).

Incentive-Based Conservation Components in Year 1-4

1) **Landowner Outreach -** Extensive outreach will occur to make landowners aware of the identification of their area for coordinated streamside management. Outreach will ensure landowners are aware of the program and their opportunity to work with local conservation organizations to improve their streamside management. Landowners will have the opportunity to implement voluntary conservation measures.
2) **Training and Peer-to-Peer Learning –** OWEB, ODA, NRCS and the Farm Service Agency will coordinate to provide opportunities for training and peer-to-peer learning about effective streamside management, innovative approaches, program funding opportunities, and technical design for all local practitioners, including those with SIAs.
3) **Technical Assistance and Project Design –** The SWCD and other local partners work with landowners to design projects that improve habitat and water quality based on the landowner's goals and funding priorities. Funding is provided through the OWEB SIA technical assistance grant.
4) **Project Implementation –** Landowners and local partners work together to implement streamside improvement practices with landowners in agriculture-influenced areas throughout the process, either at their own cost or in partnership with funding from OWEB, NRCS, or other sources.

Coordinated Streamside Management on Rural Lands in Oregon

Monitoring Overview

Monitoring is an essential component of coordinated streamside management. Watershed-scale monitoring can tell the story of whether and how the actions landowners take result in the intended improvements to water quality. Depending on the stream, parameters targeted for improvement may include stream temperature, sediment, nutrients, and/or bacteria. In addition to watershed-scale monitoring, evaluation of specific actions helps local groups learn and share information about the most effective implementation strategies and approaches. ODA and OWEB will engage DEQ and ODFW to develop scientifically and technically robust monitoring strategies, working with local partners to identify the parameter(s) of interest, and providing the necessary training for local partners to collect data and report results. Implementation of the monitoring strategy will document uplift to water quality through time, and provide information to support adaptive management.

Monitoring Components in Year 0-1

1) **Monitoring Strategy –** ODA and OWEB will coordinate with DEQ and ODFW—the agencies with extensive expertise and experience with water quality and biological monitoring, respectively—to develop a monitoring strategy. This approach will ensure that accurate baseline information about stream temperature, sediment, bacteria, and/or nutrient levels are available and can be used to show post-implementation progress. The plan will address two scales of monitoring:
    a. Watershed-level monitoring to identify trends in water quality, and
    b. Site-specific evaluation to learn and share information about how to implement the identified conservation practices in a way that has the best chances to achieve the intended impact.

    The strategy will be coordinated with the local SWCD and/or other local partners prior to implementation. Local partners will be trained in data collection and can charge those costs to a technical assistance grant to be provided by OWEB. DEQ will complete placement of monitoring equipment and baseline data gathering.

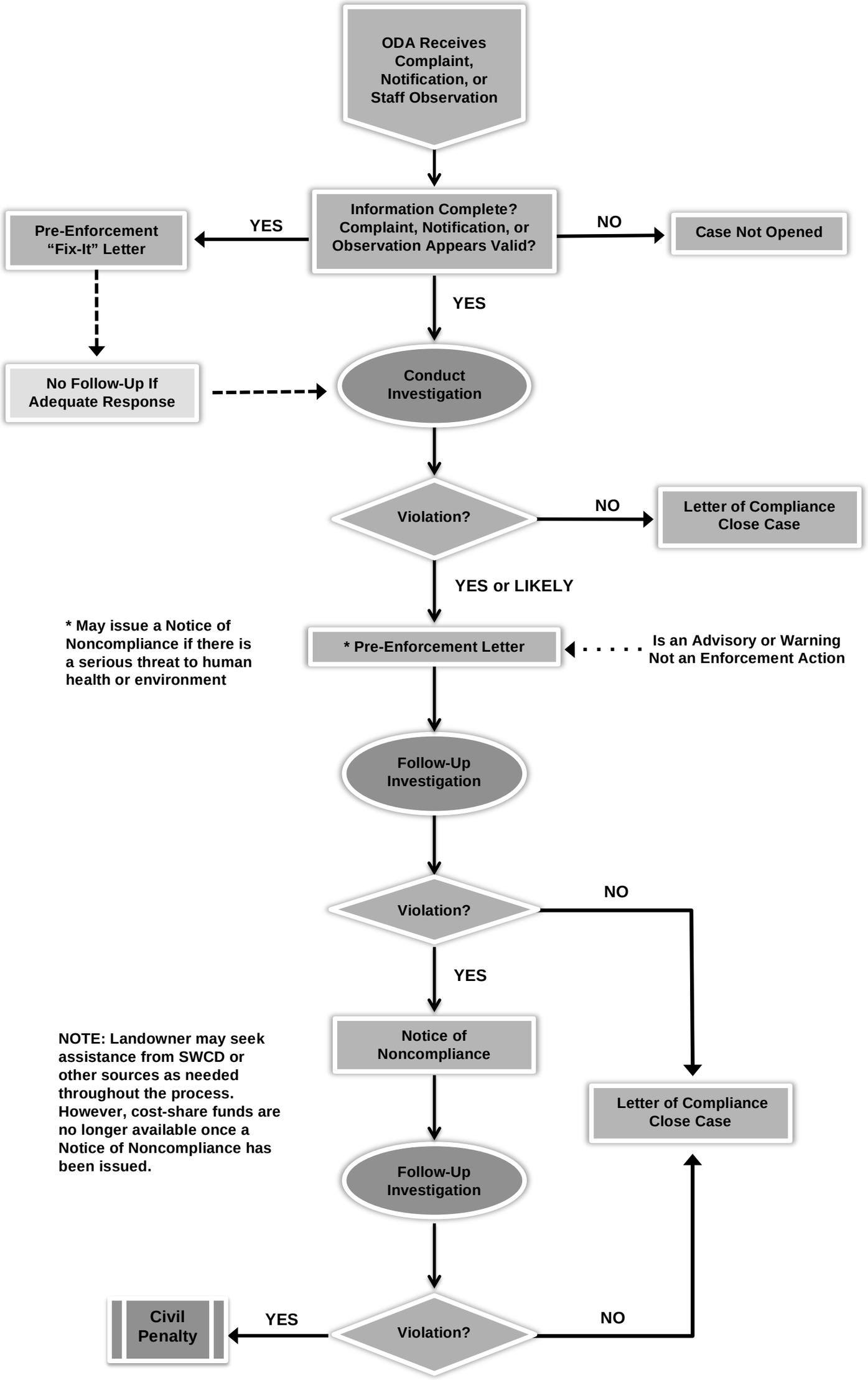
Monitoring Components in Years 1-4

1) **Implementation of Site-Specific and Watershed Monitoring -** Monitoring will continue throughout the implementation process.
2) **Reporting –** Information about actions completed by local partners will be paired with monitoring data to determine if improvements have been made as a result of implementation. Note: In-stream signals of water-quality effects may not be seen until a few years after implementation is complete.
3) **Adaptive Management -** Adaptive management will be a priority for partners, using information from landowners about the effectiveness of the approach, along with data from the ecological monitoring implemented at the beginning of the program.

Monitoring Components in Years 5-10

1) **Implementation of Site-Specific and Watershed Monitoring -** Monitoring will continue for 2-5 years after the completion of coordinated work in the identified area.
2) **Reporting –** Information about actions completed by local partners will be paired with monitoring data to determine if improvements have been made as a result of implementation.
3) **Adaptive Management -** Adaptive management will be a priority for partners, using information from landowners about the effectiveness of the approach, along with data from the ecological monitoring implemented at the beginning of the program.

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Water Quality Program Compliance Process



Capital Press
The West's Ag Website

Changes planned for Oregon ag water quality oversight

Regulators are implementing a new approach to ensure Oregon farmers comply with agricultural water quality standards.

Mateusz Perkowski • Capital Press
Published on September 29, 2017 1:27PM

Oregon's farm regulators aim to increase the impact of their agricultural water quality program by shifting how grant money is allocated, among other changes.

Ensuring that farmers comply with water quality standards is within the purview of the Oregon Department of Agriculture, which traditionally focused its attention on waterways subject to complaints.

In recent years, ODA has moved beyond the complaint-driven process to determine for itself which streams and rivers should be scrutinized for water quality problems.

Based on aerial photos and other data, the agency each year selects several "strategic implementation areas," or SIAs, where waterways are examined more closely.

During the 2015-2017 biennium, roughly $1 million from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board was spent on compliance projects in the SIAs, such as planting vegetation near denuded streams or moving manure piles away from waterways.

Under the agency's new "coordinated streamside management partnership," this funding will be dedicated to planning rather than on-the-ground work.

In the 2017-2019 biennium, another $1.2 million in OWEB money will be available, but now the funds will be directed toward technical assistance for local soil and water conservation districts and watershed councils.

The change is expected to help smaller districts and councils — some of which only have a single employee — with tasks such as grant-writing and paying for engineering plans, said John Byers, manager of ODA's agricultural water quality program.

Aside from rectifying specific problems so landowners comply with water quality standards, the program will also identify additional measures to "uplift" water quality, Byers said.

Paying for the projects themselves will require separate OWEB grants, he said. "We feel they're going to be as competitive or more competitive because of that uplift."

Once it annually chooses six "strategic implementation areas," ODA will consult with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife about the best methods for improving water quality.

"Let's make sure we're looking at this from a coordinated perspective," said Byers.

Historically, efforts to improve agricultural water quality were akin to "random acts of conservation," said Lisa Hanson, ODA's deputy director.

Now, ODA will provide local groups with information from DEQ and ODFW up front, helping them to understand where projects will be most effective for fish and environmental health, Hanson said.

"If we work with these 10 landowners, we can have a big impact," said Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB's executive director.

The agency will also be monitoring aspects of water quality, such as sedimentation and temperature, to see whether its efforts are proving effective.

Monitoring has already occurred in some Oregon waterways, but systematically analyzing SIAs will provide state agencies will a more expansive perspective, said Loftsgaarden.

"We're able to get a very different story for agriculture than we've had in the past," she said. "It tells a broader, more statewide story."

Rather than focus on individual landowners, the monitoring component will encompass the larger waterway.

"The monitoring is going to be at the watershed scale and it's going to be in-stream," she said.

While ODA ultimately has the authority to issue civil penalties to landowners, so far it hasn't been necessary under the SIA approach, Byers said.

Landowners have been responsive to warning letters informing them that water quality problems need to be fixed, he said.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Hartstein, Senior Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item M –Focused Investment Partnership Rulemaking Update
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report will update the board on the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) rulemaking process.

II. Background

FIP grants are currently authorized under the Division 5, OWEB Grant Program administrative rules, which is a broad rule division that encompasses all of OWEB grants. With FIP entering the second biennium of the program's existence, there are lessons learned that will inform administrative rules developed specifically for the program.

At the July 2017 meeting, the board authorized FIP rulemaking. The rulemaking process involves the establishment of a rules advisory committee (RAC) to vet ideas and provide feedback in the development of rules. RAC members are either involved in a current FIP or have a good understanding of the program. The membership of the FIP Rulemaking RAC is found in Attachment A.

Following the RAC process, draft rule language will be provided to the board Focused Investments subcommittee for feedback. In December, a revised draft of the rules will then be posted online for public comment. Staff will address public comment received, and a final draft of the rules will be provided to the board to consider for adoption at the January 2018 meeting.

III. Rulemaking Update

The initial RAC meeting occurred on September 27th. At the meeting, the RAC discussed ideas and concepts to potentially incorporate into rule language. As of the writing of this staff report, a first draft of the rules is anticipated to be provided to the RAC for feedback on October 12th. Staff will incorporate this feedback into a revised draft of the rules which will be provided to the board Focused Investments subcommittee on October 18th.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

A. RAC Members

FIP Rules Advisory Committee Members

Dan Bell, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Portland

Amy Charette, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Warm Springs

Liesel Coleman, Curry SWCD, Gold Beach

Justin Cullumbine, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, Ashland

Andrew Dutterer, OWEB Partnerships Coordinator, Salem

Bernadette Graham-Hudson, ODFW, Clackamas

Mark Grenbemer, OWEB-Southwest Oregon, Medford

Eric Hartstein, OWEB Senior Policy Coordinator, Salem

Ryan Houston, Upper Deschutes WSC, Bend

Denise Lofman, Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, Astoria

Brad Nye, Deschutes Land Trust, Bend

Michael Pope, Greenbelt Land Trust, Corvallis

Courtney Shaff, OWEB Capacity Coordinator, Salem

Brenda Smith, High Desert Partnership, Burns

Jesse Steel, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, La Grande

Marty Suter-Goold, Harney SWCD, Hines

Mark Trenholm, Wild Salmon Center, Portland

Eric Williams, OWEB Grant Program Manager, Salem

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Meta Loftsgaarden Executive Director
Nellie McAdams, OAHP Program Manager

SUBJECT: Agenda Item N – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Update
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will update the board on final approval of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) and outline next steps for program implementation. Staff will request board approval for rule-making and establishment of a rules advisory committee.

II. OAHP Background

Oregon's rich agricultural heritage and diverse farm and ranch lands have drawn people to the state for more than 150 years. These "working lands" are the cornerstone of the state's rural communities and provide myriad benefits to the natural environment. More than one quarter of Oregon's 63 million acres are private working lands that create agricultural production valued at $5.4 billion—the state's second-largest economic driver.

For over 40 years, Oregon's unique land use system has helped protect the working landscape. Even with a strong economic position and state protections, farms and ranches are increasingly challenged by rising production costs, loss of processing facilities, fragmentation through new land uses, complex regulations, and planning for generational transfers.

In 2016, Governor Brown's office convened a work group of landowners, tribal governments, agencies and interested organizations to identify voluntary tools to help landowners support both agricultural values and values that maintain or enhance fish, wildlife or other natural resources on working lands. Called the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Work Group (Attachment A), this group developed proposals for a legislative concept presented during the 2017 Legislative Session as HB 3249 (Attachment B).

The bill passed the 2017 legislative session with bipartisan support and funding was provided to develop rules and finalize program design.

III. OAHP Implementation

In September, OWEB brought on board Nellie McAdams to manage program implementation for OAHP. At the October board meeting, staff will provide detailed information about the next implementation steps for the program. These include:

1. Establishment of the Commission: The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is established as a part of HB 3249. This commission is made up of members appointed by various boards and commissions. Once established, and when funding becomes available, the commission will make recommendations to OWEB for project funding. Staff will update the board on the process for establishing commission membership, including the OWEB Board's involvement in that process.
2. Rules Advisory Committee and Rule-Making: Staff will request the board initiate the rule-making process at the October board meeting and will provide details on the attached outline of steps for the program (Attachment C).

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board initiate rule-making for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

Attachments

A. Work Group Membership
B. HB 3249
C. Commission process timeline

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

Workgroup Members

Meta Loftsgaarden, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Eric Williams, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Nellie McAdams, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Doug Krahmer, Oregon Farmer

John O'Keeffe, Oregon Rancher

Kelley Beamer, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

Jerome Rosa, Oregon Cattlemen's Association

Mary Anne Cooper, Oregon Farm Bureau

Derek Johnson, The Nature Conservancy

Mike Gerel, Sustainable Northwest

Dylan Kruse, Sustainable Northwest

Jay Udelhoven, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts

ATTCHMENT B

Enrolled
House Bill 3249

Sponsored by Representatives CLEM, WITT, BUEHLER; Representatives FAHEY, GOMBERG, HELM, HUFFMAN, JOHNSON, KENNEMER, LININGER, LIVELY, MARSH, MCLAIN, NEARMAN, NOBLE, POWER, SMITH DB, SMITH G, SOLLMAN, WHISNANT, Senators BEYER, FREDERICK, HANSELL, ROBLAN, THOMSEN

CHAPTER .....

AN ACT

Relating to land conservation; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas Oregon's rich agricultural heritage and diverse farm and ranch lands are the cornerstone of Oregon's rural communities and support a variety of natural resource functions; and

Whereas the economy of Oregon developed through a long tradition of land stewardship that supports both agricultural and natural systems; and

Whereas over one-fourth of Oregon's 63 million acres are private working lands creating agricultural production that is valued at $5.4 billion and is the second largest economic driver in Oregon; and

Whereas well managed agricultural land supports valuable fish and wildlife habitat and enhances other natural resources; and

Whereas, despite Oregon's unique land use protections, Oregon farms and ranches and the social, economic and ecological values supported by those farms and ranches are increasingly challenged by fragmentation through new land uses, conversion to nonfarm use and the complexity of regulations and planning for generational transfers; and

Whereas the protection of Oregon agricultural lands and their associated natural resource values can be enhanced by flexible voluntary tools tailored to the needs of individual farmers or ranchers; and

Whereas the use of voluntary tools can leverage federal moneys to protect and enhance working lands while maintaining or enhancing valuable fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. As used in sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act:

(1) "Agricultural owner or operator" means a landowner, operator, manager or other person having responsibility for exercising control over the day-to-day operation of a farm or ranch.

(2) "Working land" means land that is actively used by an agricultural owner or operator for an agricultural operation that includes, but need not be limited to, active engagement in farming or ranching.

(3) "Working land conservation covenant" means a nonpossessory interest in working land for a fixed term that imposes limitations or affirmative obligations for the purposes that support the use of the land for agricultural production and for the maintenance or en-

hancement of fish and wildlife habitat, improvement of water quality or support of other natural resource values.

(4) "Working land conservation easement" means a permanent nonpossessory interest in working land that imposes limitations or affirmative obligations for purposes that support the use of the land for agricultural production and for the maintenance or enhancement of fish and wildlife habitat, improvement of water quality or support of other natural resource values.

SECTION 2. (1) The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund is established in the State Treasury, separate and distinct from the General Fund. Interest earned by the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund shall be credited to the fund. Moneys in the fund are continuously appropriated to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for the purpose of carrying out sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act.

(2) The board may accept contributions to the fund from any public or private source and may agree to any conditions for the expenditure of those contributions that are consistent with the purposes of the fund.

SECTION 3. (1) The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board may expend moneys from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund to:

(a) Carry out the programs described in section 6 of this 2017 Act;

(b) Pay reimbursements and staff support expenses associated with the activities of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission established under section 7 of this 2017 Act;

(c) Provide succession planning programs with funding recommended by the commission under section 10 of this 2017 Act; and

(d) Pay the administrative expenses of the board for carrying out sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act.

(2) The amount paid from the fund during a biennium for reimbursements and expenses described in subsection (1)(b) and (d) of this section may not exceed 12 percent of the moneys credited to the fund during that biennium.

SECTION 4. (1) An agricultural owner or operator may enter into a conservation management plan with an organization for working land to be managed in a manner that supports one or more natural resource values. The conservation management plan may be composed of multiple components addressing different natural resource values as identified in subsection (2) of this section.

(2) A conservation management plan must be for the purpose of developing and implementing conservation measures or other protections for maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values in a manner consistent with the social and economic interests and abilities of the agricultural owner or operator. The plan may include provisions for addressing particular priorities related to natural resource values, including but not limited to soil, water, plants, animals, energy and human need considerations.

(3) A conservation management plan must:

(a) Meet the standards established by Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board rules;

(b) State the duration or terminating event for the plan;

(c) Be specific to the land, and account for the needs of, the agricultural owner or operator;

(d) Provide for the parties to review the plan on a regular basis;

(e) Provide for flexibility and allow for mutual modification as necessary to reflect changes in practices or circumstances;

(f) Provide for regular monitoring by the organization to ensure that the agricultural owner or operator is adhering to the plan;

(g) Make any receipt by the agricultural owner or operator of annual payments for carrying out the plan contingent on adherence to the plan; and

(h) Limit any annual payments for carrying out the plan to a term of not less than 20 years or more than 50 years.

(4) An organization that enters into, or proposes to enter into, a conservation management plan may apply to the board for a grant to fund the purchasing, implementing, carrying out or monitoring of the plan if the organization is:

(a) A holder, as defined in ORS 271.715, other than a state agency;

(b) A watershed council; or

(c) Tax exempt under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code.

SECTION 5. (1) An owner of working land may enter into a working land conservation covenant with or grant a working land conservation easement to an organization that is a holder, as defined in ORS 271.715, other than a state agency. The covenant or easement must be for the purpose of ensuring the continued use of the land for agricultural purposes while maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values on the land. A working land conservation covenant must be for a term of years that is established as permissible in Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission rules.

(2) In addition to the purposes required under subsection (1) of this section, a working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement may provide for carrying out any purposes of a conservation easement, as defined in ORS 271.715. The covenant or easement must provide for carrying out those additional purposes in a manner consistent with ORS 271.715 to 271.795.

(3) A working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement must:

(a) Provide for regular monitoring by the organization accepting the covenant or easement to ensure that the owner of the working land is adhering to the covenant or easement provisions; and

(b) If identical in duration to a conservation management plan for the working land, refer to the conservation management plan in the text of the covenant or easement.

(4) An organization that enters into, or proposes to enter into, a working land conservation covenant or accept a working land conservation easement may apply to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for a grant to fund the purchasing, implementing, carrying out or monitoring of the covenant or easement.

(5) An application under subsection (4) of this section may be combined with an application under section 4 of this 2017 Act for a grant to fund a conservation management plan associated with the working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement.

SECTION 6. (1) The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board shall establish programs to provide grants from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for the purposes of:

(a) Assisting owners of working land with succession planning for those lands;

(b) Funding the purchasing, implementing, carrying out or monitoring of conservation management plans, working land conservation covenants or working land conservation easements described in sections 4 and 5 of this 2017 Act; and

(c) Providing development funding or technical assistance to organizations that enter into or propose to enter into agreements resulting in conservation management plans, or that accept or propose to accept working land conservation covenants or working land conservation easements.

(2) The board, after consultation with the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission established in section 7 of this 2017 Act, shall adopt rules that establish a process for submitting and processing applications for grants under sections 4 and 5 of this 2017 Act. To the extent practicable, the board shall design the process to:

(a) Allow flexibility and responsiveness to program participant needs; and

(b) Ensure compatibility with federal working land conservation easement programs and other programs for the conservation of working land.

(3) The board and the commission, shall jointly appoint one or more technical committees to evaluate and rank conservation management plans, working land conservation covenants and working land conservation easements described in applications filed under sections 4 and 5 of this 2017 Act. The system used by the technical committee or committees shall provide for the ranking of conservation management plans to be separate from the ranking of working land conservation covenants and working land conservation easements. The ranking for a plan, covenant or easement shall be based on criteria that include, but need not be limited to:

(a) The extent to which the plan, covenant or easement would protect, maintain or enhance farming or ranching on working land;

(b) The extent to which the plan, covenant or easement would protect, maintain or enhance fish or wildlife habitat, improve water quality or support other natural resource values;

(c) The extent to which the plan, covenant or easement would protect agricultural outcomes, benefits or other investment gains;

(d) The capacity of the organization that filed the application to enter into a conservation management plan, accept a working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement, and the competence of the organization;

(e) The extent to which the benefit to the state from the investment may be maximized, based on the ability to leverage grant moneys with other funding sources and on the duration and extent of the conservation management plan, working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement; and

(f) The extent and nature of plan, covenant or easement impacts on owners or operators of neighboring lands.

(4) The criteria for ranking conservation management plans, working land conservation covenants or working land conservation easements under subsection (3) of this section may not include a consideration of the type of agricultural operation conducted on the working land.

(5) An applicant must demonstrate to the satisfaction of the board that the participants in a conservation management plan, working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement to be benefitted by a grant under this section understand and agree to their roles and responsibilities under the plan, covenant or easement.

(6) The board may issue a grant to fund a conservation management plan, working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement described in sections 4 and 5 of this 2017 Act only if:

(a) There is a contribution of cash for the plan, covenant or easement, a contribution of in-kind services or another form of investment in the plan, covenant or easement from a funding source other than the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund;

(b) The plan, covenant or easement is reviewed by a technical committee that has expertise relevant to the described plan, covenant or easement; and

(c) The commission reviews and recommends funding of the plan, covenant or easement.

(7) Except as provided in this subsection, an organization that receives a grant from the board for a conservation management plan, or an agricultural owner or operator receiving payments of moneys from an organization grant regarding a conservation management plan, may receive cash contributions, other financial assistance, in-kind services or investments, rental or easement payments, tax benefits or other benefits from a federal, state or private entity in return for practices related to the purchasing, implementing, carrying out or monitoring of the conservation management plan. The board or an organization grant may not, however, provide payments that duplicate any federal, state or private payments for the same measures directed to maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values within the plan.

(8) An organization that receives a grant from the board for a working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement, or an owner of working land that enters into a working land conservation covenant or grants a working land conservation easement, may receive cash contributions, other financial assistance, in-kind services or other forms of investment from any public or private sources for purposes of purchasing, implementing, carrying out or monitoring of the covenant or easement.

SECTION 7. (1) The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is established, consisting of 12 members appointed by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The board shall appoint one board member to serve on an ex officio basis as a nonvoting member of the commission. The board shall appoint 11 voting members from among persons recommended as provided in subsection (2) of this section.

(2)(a) Four members shall be persons recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who are actively engaged in farming or ranching. The members must represent diverse types of agricultural commodities and be from geographically diverse areas of this state.

(b) One member shall be recommended by the Director of the Oregon State University Extension Service.

(c) Two members shall be persons recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission who have expertise regarding fish and wildlife habitat.

(d) One member shall be a person recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who has expertise in agricultural water quality.

(e) One member shall be a person recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission who has expertise in conservation easements and similar land transfers.

(f) One member shall be a person selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of natural resource value interests.

(g) One member shall be a person selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of Indian tribal interests.

(3) The term of office of each voting member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is four years, but the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board may remove a member if requested by the authority that recommended the member. Before the term of a member expires, the authority that recommended the member shall make recommendations to the board regarding the appointment of a successor. An authority may recommend the reappointment of a member, but a member may not serve more than two consecutive terms. If there is a vacancy for any cause, the authority that recommended the vacating member shall make recommendations to the board regarding the appointment of a successor to serve for the unexpired term.

SECTION 8. (1) The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission shall select one of its voting members as chairperson and another voting member as vice chairperson, for terms and with duties and powers necessary for the performance of the functions of the offices as the commission determines.

(2) A majority of the voting members of the commission constitutes a quorum for the transaction of business.

(3) The commission shall meet at least once every 12 months at a time and place determined by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The commission also may meet at other times and places specified by the call of the chairperson or of a majority of the voting members of the commission.

(4) Members of the commission are not entitled to compensation but, at the discretion of the board, may be reimbursed from funds available in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by the members in the performance of official duties in the manner and amount provided in ORS 292.495.

(5) The board shall provide staff support for the work of the commission.

SECTION 9. **(1) In accordance with applicable provisions of ORS chapter 183, the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission may adopt rules necessary for the administration of the laws that the commission is charged with administering.**

(2) The commission may establish any advisory or technical committee the commission considers necessary to aid and advise the commission in the performance of its functions. The committees may be continuing or temporary committees. The commission shall determine the representation, membership, terms and organization of the committees and shall appoint the members of the committees. The commission chairperson shall be a nonvoting member of each committee.

(3) Members of advisory or technical committees established by the commission are not entitled to compensation but, at the discretion of the commission and with the consent of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, may be reimbursed from funds available to the board for actual and necessary travel and other expenses incurred by the members in the performance of official duties in the manner and amount provided in ORS 292.495.

SECTION 10. **(1) The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission shall:**

(a) Assist the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board with the development of rules for the administration of programs under sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act;

(b) Adopt rules establishing three or more permissible terms of years, that are not less than 20 or more than 50 years, for working land conservation covenants formed under section 5 of this 2017 Act;

(c) Recommend policies and priorities for use by the board in evaluating the farm or ranch values, and the fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values, on working land described in a grant application filed under section 4 or 5 of this 2017 Act;

(d) Review and consider the recommendations of technical committees appointed under section 6 of this 2017 Act;

(e) Consult with the board concerning grant applications;

(f) Provide conservation management plan, working land conservation covenant and working land conservation easement funding recommendations to the board based on the availability of funding from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund; and

(g) Provide funding recommendations to the Legislative Assembly, or recommendations for grant funding to the board, to provide training and support to owners of working land, or persons advising owners of working land, regarding succession planning for the lands.

(2) The commission's recommendations for funding under subsection (1)(g) of this section may include recommendations for funding succession planning programs through the Oregon State University Extension Service only if the university has presented the commission with a program proposal for review. If a commission recommendation for funding succession planning programs through the university extension service is adopted, the university shall provide the commission with an annual report regarding each program.

SECTION 11. **(1) As used in this section "working land" has the meaning given that term in section 1 of this 2017 Act.**

(2) The Legislative Policy and Research Director, in consultation with the Department of Revenue and the State Department of Agriculture, shall conduct a study examining financial incentives, incremental tax reduction and tax elimination with regard to land transfer and succession planning for working land. The study must include, but need not be limited to, the identification of potential tax incentives and financial management tools that may improve the likelihood for land transfer and succession planning that supports the continued use of working land for agricultural operations while maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values of the land.

(3) In conducting the study, the director shall consult with state agencies and members of the public that have an interest in policy considerations related to the identification and proposal of potential tax incentives and financial management tools.

(4) The director shall complete the study and report findings and any recommendations to an interim committee of the Legislative Assembly related to natural resources, in the manner provided by ORS 192.245, no later than September 15, 2018.

SECTION 12. Notwithstanding the term of office specified by section 7 of this 2017 Act, of the members first appointed to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission:

(1) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2019.

(2) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2020.

(3) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2021.

(4) One of the members recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who is actively engaged in farming or ranching shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2022.

(5) One of the members recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2019.

(6) One of the members recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2021.

(7) The member recommended by the Director of the Oregon State University Extension Service shall serve a term ending January 1, 2020.

(8) The member selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of natural resource value interests shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2020.

(9) The member recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who has expertise in agricultural water quality shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2021.

(10) The member recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2022.

(11) The member selected by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board who is a representative of Indian tribal interests shall serve for a term ending January 1, 2022.

SECTION 13. Notwithstanding section 3 of this 2017 Act, the amounts paid from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for the administrative expenses of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board and the reimbursements and staff support expenses of activities associated with the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission incurred on or before June 30, 2019, may exceed 12 percent of the moneys credited to the fund during the biennium ending June 30, 2019.

SECTION 14. Sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act apply to agreements and interests in land that:

(1) Are created on or after January 1, 2018; or

(2) Are the subject of an application for funding from the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund.

SECTION 15. Sections 1 to 10 and 12 of this 2017 Act become operative January 1, 2018.

SECTION 16. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2017, out of the General Fund, the amount of $190,000 which may be expended for carrying out sections 1 to 10 of this 2017 Act.

SECTION 17. This 2017 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2017 Act takes effect July 1, 2017.

Passed by House July 5, 2017

.....
Timothy G. Sekerak, Chief Clerk of House

.....
Tina Kotek, Speaker of House

Passed by Senate July 7, 2017

.....
Peter Courtney, President of Senate

Received by Governor:

.....M.,....., 2017

Approved:

.....M.,....., 2017

.....
Kate Brown, Governor

Filed in Office of Secretary of State:

.....M.,....., 2017

.....
Dennis Richardson, Secretary of State

ATTACHMENT C

OAHP Work Group Process & Membership Timeline

2017

September
- Hire temporary employee to manage process
- Initiate selection of commission members – meet with boards and commissions
- Initiate selection of RAC members
- Work Group meeting

October
- Meet with boards and commissions to discuss commission membership
- Continue RAC and commission membership development
- RAC process approved by OWEB board
- OWEB board meeting update
- Work Group meeting

November
- Continue RAC and commission membership
- Work Group meeting

December
- Finalize RAC/Commission membership for OWEB January Board Meeting
- Work Group meeting - Finalize 'love letter' for January meeting

2018

January
- OWEB board meeting – formally approve commission
- RAC/commission initiation/onboarding meeting with work group

February
- RAC/Commission meeting

March
- RAC/commission meeting (2?)
- First rules draft

April
- Public comment on rule draft
- OWEB board meeting update

2018 (continued)

May
- RAC/commission meeting – rule public comment review

June
- RAC/commission meeting – finalize rules for board approval
- Public comment period
- OWEB board rule approval *if we don't make June board meeting, approve in October
- Begin drafting application

July
- Application drafting complete

August
- Announce Application Cycle

September/ October
- Application consultations

November
- Applications due
- Site visits
- Technical team application review

December
- Technical review team application review
- Site visits
- Staff report to commission

2019

January
- Commission meeting to review application list
- OWEB Board receive report on application list

February
- Start of 2019 Legislative Session

Oregon
Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Renee Davis, Deputy Director

SUBJECT: Agenda Item O – Implementation Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Monitoring Update
October 24-25, 2017 Board meeting

I. Introduction

The team from Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) will join OWEB staff to provide the second of two presentations (the first occurred in July) about the Implementation FIP monitoring work. BEF will report on the application of a progress monitoring framework to each of the six Implementation FIPs, outline products of BEF's work with the FIPs and, with OWEB staff, discuss next steps for the monitoring.

II. Background

OWEB's investments in FIP Implementation and Capacity Building support restoration at a strategic scale and build resilient, sustainable partnerships able to plan and implement effective restoration strategies.

In April 2016, the board awarded $302,823 to BEF for FIP monitoring, including a progress monitoring framework for Implementation FIPs and the Partnership Learning Project (findings for which were reported to the board in July 2017). The FIP monitoring approach approved by the board in April 2016 is a unique opportunity to identify effective ways to measure progress toward outcomes under six-year investments in Implementation partnerships. Information will be used to adaptively manage partnership investments. OWEB staff meets regularly with the BEF team to develop the progress monitoring framework and track application of the framework within the six Implementation FIPs.

III. Progress Monitoring Framework for Implementation FIPs

BEF's work is developing a practical and consistent framework for measuring and communicating progress toward achieving implementation objectives (outputs) and predicted ecological results (outcomes). In addition to tracking and communicating progress, the framework is intended to be an effective tool to inform adaptive management of restoration initiatives by FIP partners.

The key elements of the progress monitoring framework are a results chain and a cross-walk matrix . The results chain is a graphical representation or model of the partnership's theory for how strategies are expected to produce long-term ecological impacts. The cross-walk matrix details key objectives related to implementation and ecological outcomes, along with associated indicators, to measure progress toward meeting those objectives.

At the July board meeting, the BEF team presented the elements of the framework and the process of developing unique versions of the framework for each of the Implementation FIPs. The team also discussed initial observations of how the process was proceeding to that point. As reported in July, the BEF team has engaged with each FIP to collaboratively construct and vet unique initial drafts of the frameworks.

At the October board meeting, the BEF team will share the results of developing FIP-specific progress monitoring frameworks with each of the six Implementation FIPs. They also will describe reflections on the process, lessons learned, and opportunities for meaningful integration of the frameworks into the OWEB funded FIP initiatives.

As part of the framework development, the BEF team is reviewing and overlaying existing monitoring plans and approaches. This work will help lay the foundation for subsequent discussions between OWEB and the FIP partners to identify potential monitoring gaps or needs. If such gaps or needs are able to be addressed, it could strengthen each FIP's ability to describe and communicate a more holistic and accurate narrative about progress being achieved by their work. Ultimately, the progress monitoring framework results may lead to refinements to existing monitoring approaches and modest requests for resources from the Implementation FIPs.

IV. Next Steps

BEF will continue to engage directly with each of the Implementation FIPs to refine the content of the individual progress monitoring framework. BEF will identify ways to adapt them to the unique circumstances and needs of each FIP, identify additional monitoring needs (if they exist), and work with OWEB staff to facilitate discussions about potential future funding requests to support implementation of the progress monitoring frameworks.

V. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachments

A. BEF report about the Implementation FIP monitoring initiative (blue folder)

Focused Investment Partnerships

A Framework for Monitoring Progress

A project update prepared for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board by the Bonneville Environmental Foundation.

October 10, 2017

Background

In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded its first Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) investments to six landscape-scale restoration initiatives.

The Partnership Investment Program is a means by which OWEB works closely with partners and utilizes a different process to invest in longer-term activities intended to result in larger-scale ecological outcomes. Ideally, a Partnership Investment contributes to a historic change or surge of progress in the recovery of a species, the restoration of an ecosystem, or the launching of an initiative that addresses widespread issues.

Partnership	Initiative
Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Partnership	Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration
The Deschutes Partnership	Habitat Restoration for Resident and Anadromous Fish in the Deschutes
Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership	Upper Grande Ronde Initiative
Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Partners	Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Focused Investment
Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee	The Oregon Model to Protect Sage Grouse, All Counties
Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group	Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats

Table 1

To accomplish this goal the FIP program offers substantial levels of funding over a six-year timeframe to support both implementation of on-the-ground projects and the capacity of the partnerships to coordinate and lead their work.

The focus on partnerships and programmatic restoration versus individual organizations or projects is based on the premise that high-performing partnerships with well-

integrated strategies will benefit from stable funding to implement initiatives in landscapes with complex land ownership and management regimes. It is theorized that organizations working together on portfolios of restoration actions can accomplish more than if they were to operate independently or in isolation of each other, especially when they know that stable funding is available over an identified time period.

Soon after the FIP investments were committed, the Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) received a grant to help OWEB actively learn from and adapt the FIP funding approach and to help the FIP partnerships document and communicate progress toward achieving their desired ecological outcomes. BEF assembled a team that included staff from Upper Deschutes Watershed Council and Reciprocity Consulting LLC to design and complete a project with two main elements: 1) the **Partnership Learning Project** to focus on learning what partnerships need to be resilient and the role that OWEB can play to increase and maintain their performance and effectiveness and 2) the **Progress Monitoring Framework** to design and begin applying a consistent, effective, and practical way to measure and communicate the partnerships' progress toward the ecological outcomes they are striving to achieve. This overview document is focused on the **progress monitoring framework** element of the project.

Progress Monitoring Framework

The progress monitoring framework ("framework") is intended to be a tool for tracking and communicating progress toward achieving long-term desired ecological outcomes the FIP partnerships defined in their Strategic Action Plans.

The framework seeks to deliver value at multiple levels of the FIP initiatives. Internal to a partnership, the framework can foster continuous learning, dialogue, and adaptation, and help partners hold each other accountable for the objectives and goals they set for themselves. Externally, the framework can be the basis for communicating progress to partner constituents, funders, decision-makers, and other interested parties.

The development of a clear theory for how actions are predicted to lead to outcomes and an associated approach for tracking outputs (projects) and outcomes (ecological results) can also facilitate integration with regional-scale restoration and monitoring efforts where they overlap with FIP efforts. Because all of the FIP partnerships are working in complex ecological systems where root causes of problems are often decades in the making and high-level ecological outcomes will take decades to materialize, the framework can also help communicate intermediate measures of progress.

Approach

In order for the framework to be used to track progress, the restoration strategies of each FIP were articulated in the form of a "results chain." Results chains, developed with guidance from the Conservation Measures Partnership's Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation (CMP 2013), are designed to graphically illustrate a specific "theory of change" in an ecological system. They describe how strategies are expected to lead to ecological outcomes and form the strategic foundation for an entire restoration initiative. Key results within the chain, when measured, provide an important opportunity to track progress, validate or invalidate underlying assumptions, and build understanding that then feeds back to inform the adaptive management of strategies. Communication strategies built around these results chains can then focus on how intermediate levels of progress are "moving the dial," even when the achievement of a long-term ecological outcome may be decades away.

Figure 1 contains a generic results chain that has been the basis for developing results chains for each of the FIP initiatives. Each geometric shape and color represents actions or results and interconnecting arrows represent "if…then" relationships. In a FIP's result chain, a ***strategy*** denotes a set of related actions or interventions, ***implementation results*** are strategy-related outputs, ***near-term intermediate results*** are predicted reductions of limiting factors and ***long-term intermediate results*** are predicted habitat process or species responses to the reduction of limiting factors. Together these elements define a partnership's theory of change and the assumptions that underlie their predicted results and outcomes.

The process of developing a results chain also creates the opportunity to define specific measurable objectives for key implementation or ecological results. The FIP progress monitoring framework includes accompanying ***cross-walk tables*** that contain those detailed objectives and associated metrics that can be measured over time.

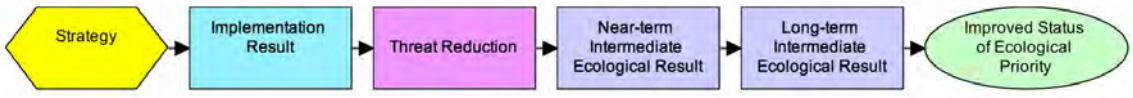


Figure 1: Generic results chain adapted from Open Standards for the Practices of Conservation (CMP 2013)

Process

We used the following steps to establish the progress monitoring framework:

1. Develop draft results chains and crosswalk tables

We reviewed the FIP applications, strategic action plans, monitoring plans, and other relevant materials and translated the contents of these documents into initial draft

results chains and crosswalk tables. We then distributed these drafts to each of the FIPs and presented the drafts at one of their scheduled meeting for discussion and feedback. During these meetings we recruited members of the partnerships that had desire, interest, and time to participate in the further development and refinement of framework elements to ensure the products accurately represented their initiative.

A note about timing for developing results chains: Although we built the results chains based on the existing documentation provided by each FIP, results chains are typically developed early in the planning process so they can inform strategy development and monitoring plans.

2. Collaboratively refine draft results chains and crosswalk tables

We scheduled one or more workshops with interested members of each partnership to refine or further develop their results chains and crosswalk tables. This step was intended to promote greater ownership of the frameworks by the partnerships, gain a deeper understanding of the partnerships and their ongoing work to plan and implement projects, and begin discussion to understand and explore alignment of the framework with existing monitoring plans.

Once results chains were complete, participants prioritized implementation results or intermediate ecological results for possible inclusion into a monitoring strategy and approach. Key results were selected based on the following:

- Results where the greatest uncertainty exists about the relationship between project implementation results and ecological outcomes;
- Results that will best tell the story of ecosystem response and restoration across the landscape; and
- Results for which changes are expected to be detectable and measurable within the 6-year FIP timeline.

3. Finalize elements of the progress monitoring frameworks

We delivered and presented updated and refined results chains and crosswalk tables to each of the partnerships for review, discussion, and agreement that they accurately represent their theories of change and that associated objectives and proposed metrics are accurate and appropriate.

4. Develop FIP summaries

Summaries that contain basic contextual information about the initiatives, along with updated versions of the results chains and crosswalk tables are contained in the FIP summaries.

The FIP initiative summaries are meant to be a concise description of each initiative containing basic attributes including members of the partnership, vision, ecological priorities, geographic scope, and operational context (see p. 6 for additional information). The core elements of the progress monitoring framework are included as well – the situation, theory of change, and key implementation and ecological results

with associated objectives and possible metrics. Also included are the ecological priorities with the potential to identify key attributes that would be measured over the long term to determine ecological impact.

Observations

The following observations illustrate some of the opportunities and challenges of using this framework more systematically in the future. Although the testing of the framework has not yet been fully completed (see Next Steps below), these initial observations are intended to offer insight into our ongoing learning and inform continued dialogue with OWEB and partnerships.

Results Chains as Tools

Results chains are powerful tools for the development, refinement, communication and adaptive management of strategic restoration plans.

Results chains offer a standardized approach that can be used by restoration partnerships to conceptualize and understand their integrated strategies, make decisions about interventions and their potential results, and establish a framework for tracking, measuring and communicating progress. The collaborative exercise of creating a results chain is an effective way to help partnerships think through, discuss, and come to agreement on the circumstances of their effort and how they expect their interventions to produce desired change. When complete, results chains serve as clear, explicit tools for the communication of restoration strategies and the intended results and outcomes. However, the process of creating a results chain is complicated and the product itself often has limitations because it simplifies highly complex natural systems into fewer than 20 or 30 elements. The process requires participation of the right people, and experienced facilitation to ensure participants achieve a balance of usefulness and accuracy and to minimize the risk of getting bogged down in process.

Partnership Diversity

Each FIP is unique in terms of the composition and capacity of its members, its interest in monitoring vs. implementation, the focus of its work, the character of its communities, and the regional conservation context of its efforts.

The diversity of partnerships creates a challenge for applying one-size-fits-all structures for organizing, planning, and implementing projects, monitoring results, and communicating progress. A framework for measuring and communicating progress needs to be consistent across FIPs to help OWEB measure its investment impact at a program level, but flexible enough at the partner level to respond to its specific needs and circumstances. With this in mind, core principles of this approach (e.g., the process or questions that are used to build results chains) may ultimately be pertinent to all FIPs, while the specific ways it is applied may need to vary between partnerships. The Conservation Measures Partnership's Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation are scalable and can serve as a good reference for this effort.

Strategic Planning Evolution

It will take time for this type of framework to more fully influence implementation objectives and project selection.

As noted previously, the best use of a tool like the results chain is in the early stages of an initiative because it helps the partners discuss, understand, and identify all critical elements of a conservation initiative before defining strategies and actions. In most existing FIPs, partners have come to the FIP with "shovel-ready" projects they have been developing for years prior to the launch of the FIP program. As a consequence, implementation objectives can sometimes be informed more by already identified projects or opportunities than by the emergent strategies developed in results chains. Given that it can take many years to identify, develop, and tee up projects for implementation, it will take time before the results chain drives not only monitoring, but also implementation objectives and the process of project selection and implementation.

Operational Context

The operational contexts for each FIP vary significantly in size and scope, requiring careful consideration of geographic and programmatic boundaries for the FIP, and the implications of defining any specific operational context.

All of the six FIPs are nested within (and contribute to) larger restoration or conservation initiatives as described in the FIP summaries. While the FIPs contribute in important ways to these larger-scale efforts, they also benefit from (or depend on) the actions of others operating outside the FIP scope to achieve the ecological outcomes defined in their Strategic Action Plans or results chains. Depending on how a FIP defines its scope, it may be difficult for them to account for and report on work that contributes to their desired outcomes, but that is being done by others external to the partnership.

The Mechanics of Monitoring

Given the nested operational context described above, monitoring of outcomes must also be nested, creating a high degree of complexity and uncertainty for some FIPs.

For most FIPs, measuring implementation progress can be relatively straightforward, assuming there are 1) processes and structures in place for gathering, managing, analyzing, and communicating implementation data and 2) specific measureable implementation objectives. However, effectiveness monitoring focused on measuring ecological outcomes is much more challenging and may require expertise or sustained capacity that does not currently exist among the core members. To solve these issues, some FIPs are relying on outside agencies, academia, or other organizations to conduct assessments and effectiveness or long-term status and trend monitoring. This approach of partnering with external entities to fulfill monitoring needs requires very robust communication channels and clear agreements to ensure that these partnerships are successful over the long term.

Integration with OWEB Strategic Action Planning

There are opportunities to integrate the Strategic Action Planning (SAP) guidance and this Progress Monitoring Framework to support strategic planning.

The current Strategic Action Planning (SAP) guidance from OWEB is largely complementary to the approach described here. The OWEB guidance focuses on questions that support development of a robust theory of change and measurable implementation and ecological outcomes objectives. Given this, we were able to develop draft results chains and crosswalk tables in a fairly consistent way across all FIPs. Nevertheless, there are opportunities to develop and integrate guidance that would bring together the core elements of this progress monitoring framework with the existing elements of the SAP guidance to create a refined guidance that encompasses facets of both. Over the long term, this approach could simplify processes for the FIPs and provide an effective tool for adaptive management. We suggest offering partnerships the flexibility to develop progress monitoring frameworks that meet their specific needs.

Framework Development and Stewardship

Conceptualizing, developing, stewarding and managing a partnership's progress monitoring framework is a complex role, requiring a specialized skill set, unique training, technical and financial resources, and sustained buy-in from an entire partnership.

Given that most FIPs formed with a focus on implementing "shovel-ready" projects, the time-intensive work of planning, funding, coordinating, and implementing on-the-ground restoration or conservation actions typically dominates the work of each partnership. The pressing need to carry out projects may leave the important work of coordinating monitoring, facilitating adaptive management, and communicating neglected. In addition, the work of developing and stewarding this framework often requires skills and expertise that are different than those that have been optimized for on-the-ground project implementation.

Integrating More Social Science

While all FIPs expressed a strong desire to integrate social, community and economic outcomes into their results chains, most FIPs are staffed by physical and biological scientists, have been formed with an emphasis on ecological outcomes, and need access to specialized social science expertise.

In every FIP there was a desire to integrate social aspects into their initiative. This desire was usually expressed in the following ways:

1. To gain community or landowner support necessary to advance critical strategies.
2. To broadly increase awareness and understanding of the initiative and the goals the partners are striving to achieve; and
3. To integrate social values as part of the set of goals or desired long-term outcomes.

Some of the FIPs requested that we spend time with them to begin identifying what these social values or outcomes could be and how they are linked to the ecological outcomes they are working to achieve (see FIP summaries). When the partnerships do not already have social scientists engaged, this kind of work will likely require new expertise through new partners, consultants or other resources.

Communications

The framework provides the basis for enhanced communications associated with the overall vision, goals, and strategies of the initiative as well as telling the story of recovery and restoration.

At their most basic level, results chains tell a visual story of the partnership's strategic plan, with opportunities to highlight key programs (strategies) and emphasize important outputs and outcomes. These make up some of the key ingredients of good storytelling and, as a result, these tools can help empower partnerships to expand their communications. All of the FIPs have expressed a desire to improve and expand their communications, and have been interested in leveraging this framework to achieve enhanced communications results.

Reporting

The framework offers an opportunity to improve reporting by promoting a more holistic approach to communicating progress. However, this comes with added complexity and the need for more time and resources to be invested in reporting.

Most reporting to funders at the project implementation level is an administrative requirement that is disconnected from a partnership's holistic progress monitoring efforts. Systems for collecting and processing implementation data can be complex and challenging, especially where multiple funders are contributing to each restoration or conservation action and reporting requirements vary between funders. Furthermore, the scope of FIP work is not always inclusive of the actions contributing to desired ecological outcomes (see Operational Context above) because non-FIP partners may be providing important restoration outputs that contribute to outcomes. The results chains could be used to clarify some of these reporting challenges because it provides a framework upon which progress can be illustrated within the scope of each FIP.

Partnership Capacity and Human Capital

Many of the opportunities brought by the framework – enhanced strategic planning, monitoring, communications, or the addition of social outcomes – require added capacity and expertise.

Many of the opportunities created by this framework will bring value only with the addition of specific, targeted resources designed to add capacity for local partnerships because of the new, unique skills and expertise required. The development and stewardship of the framework, enhanced reporting, integration of communications, and potential addition of social elements all require extensive time, diverse skills and specific expertise that may not be present in local partnerships. Much of the expertise and

capacity in local partnerships is focused on project implementation so successful implementation of the above opportunities may require that new disciplines be brought into the partnerships through added personnel, consultants or leveraged partnerships that can provide shared services.

Next Steps

To date we have worked with the FIPs to develop, refine, and complete results chains, operational context and crosswalk tables, gaining a deeper understanding of each partnership and initiative. The next important task is to begin testing the framework more rigorously by overlaying or integrating existing monitoring efforts of the FIPs or helping to inform further development of their monitoring plans in a way that links to the progress monitoring framework.

References

Conservation Measures Partnership (CMP), 2013. Open Standards for the Practice of Conservation, Version 3.0. April.

Ashland Forest All-Lands
Restoration Partnership

Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Initiative (AFARI)

VISION

AFARI partners envision a rich and resilient dry-type forest landscape of both open and complex, closed old-growth habitats, along with thriving oak woodland and prairie in appropriate settings. The partners are cultivating a community that is deeply invested in all-lands management, which allows them to proactively engage with wildland fire for the benefits to sustained ecosystem function, terrestrial and aquatic biodiversity, and delivery of desired ecosystem services to communities.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Core Implementing Partners:
- City of Ashland
- US Forest Service
- Lomakatsi Restoration Project
- The Nature Conservancy

Additional Core Partners:
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Jackson Soil and Water Conservation District
- Natural Resources Conservation Service

New Partners:
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- OSU Extension Forester
- Bureau of Land Management
- Watershed Councils

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Dry - Type Forest Habitat

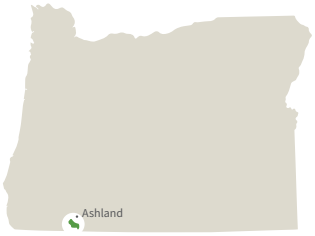
Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Fisher

Northern Spotted Owl



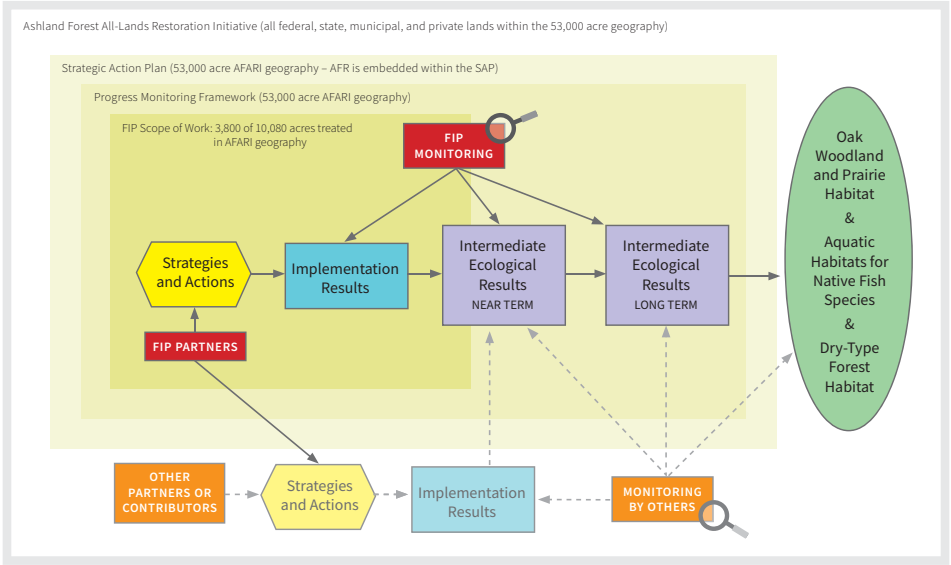
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The 58,000 acre Ashland Forest All-lands Restoration Initiative area is located in the eastern Siskiyou Mountains of the Klamath Mountains Ecoregion. The site is centered on the Ashland Creek watershed and adjacent watersheds and sub-watersheds of the Upper Bear Creek Basin including Wagner, Wrights, Hamilton, Tolman, Clayton, and Neil Creeks and upper branches of Emigrant Creek, all outlined on the south by the Siskiyou Crest, east to the western edge of the Cascade-Siskiyou National Monument and west to Wagner Creek.

Operational Context

The initiative represents an expansion of the existing federal Ashland Forest Resiliency project occurring on US Forest Service lands - growing the 22,000-acre planning area focused on federal lands to 53,000 acres where treatments are applied on all land ownerships, including private and non-federal public lands. The FIP scope of work focuses on treatment of 3,800 acres and complements 4,500 acres already treated and 2,900 acres scheduled for treatment under the Ashland Forest Resiliency project, 380 acres anticipated to be treated by landowners, and 2,000 acres funded for treatment by the Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration Partnership.

Figure 1: *Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative*



Theory of Change

SITUATION

A century of fire exclusion and large-tree timber harvest has allowed forests to become uncharacteristically dense, but without the needed natural species diversity at a landscape scale – both of which are important to a healthy forest system. As a result, the forest system is less resilient. In addition, the accumulation of leaf litter on the ground, combined with denser understory in the forest has left the system more prone to higher-intensity, higher-severity, stand-replacing fires.

Without action, fuel loads will continue to accumulate, risk of catastrophic wildfire and associated destruction of natural resources will increase, large tree mortality rates will continue to accelerate and a vital component of the forest ecosystem will be lost. These forests will be replaced by younger, dense, volatile forests that are less resilient to natural disturbances and to anticipated climate change. The overall health of the forest ecosystem – dry-type forest with late-successional wildlife habitat, oak woodlands, and aquatic habitat for native species – will continue to degrade and become increasingly dense, and the remaining open, fire-resistant forest will be compromised by encroachment.

APPROACH

The results chain *(Figure 2)* articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to restoration of the FIPs ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in *Figure 2* are those the partnership has highlighted as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g. 6-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan *(Tables 1 and 2)*. For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measureable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain *(Figure 2)* and measuring progress tables *(Tables 1 and 2)*.

STRATEGIES

The partnership proposes strategies and actions that focus primarily on needed forest thinning and fuels reduction. The work is designed to restore a balance between open and closed forest that approaches a desired range of variability. This will result in fuel conditions and stand composition and structure that mitigate the threat of severe wildfire, and promote low intensity fire. The work also reduces density of small trees, which supports growth of old legacy trees of by reducing competition and returns tree vigor and resistance to insects and disease. Successful implementation of strategies will benefit oak and late successional forest dependent wildlife.

STRATEGIES

1 Ecological thinning, fuels reduction, and prescribed fire

This strategy includes mechanical thinning and fuels reduction and subsequent prescribed burning to reset the stage for beneficial long-term maintenance with controlled fire.

Theory of Change.
Thinning in strategically identified and prioritized potential open canopy forest habitat sites[1] will result in the removal of vegetation that impedes development of large oaks that typically have wide branches[6] and will reduce the density of smaller, understory plants[12].

- Strategic thinning will increase the overall proportion of open canopy[13] at the landscape scale, increase the recruitment and vigor of fire-resistant species[14], and increase the resilience of forest ecosystems to drought, extreme fire, insects, and disease.
- These landscape scale results will lead to an overall improvement of habitat supporting forest dependent wildlife species[15].

The process of prioritizing areas with opportunities to optimize restoration and fire management on non-industrial private forests[2] results in the engagement and education of private landowners[8], and the implementation of actions to reduce fuel density in these areas[10].

- These identified fuel-reduction actions in turn will increase the landscape proportion of open canopy[13], result in a shift in the frequency and severity of wildfire risk towards an acceptable range of variation[16], and reduce risk of fire in the wildland urban interface[11].
- The reduction in fuel density will also reduce the occurrence of severe outbreaks of forest insects and diseases, thereby reducing tree mortality and potential for sediment inputs into aquatic environments from soil erosion and landslides.

The process of identifying forest thinning or fuels reduction treatment sites will also identify areas where no action is needed to protect existing sensitive resources[4].
The identification of fire management opportunities in the wildland urban interface associated with open forest habitat restoration[3] will result in opportunities to use prescribed fire as a tool[9] to manage fire risk in these areas[11].

2 Foster development of engaged citizenry

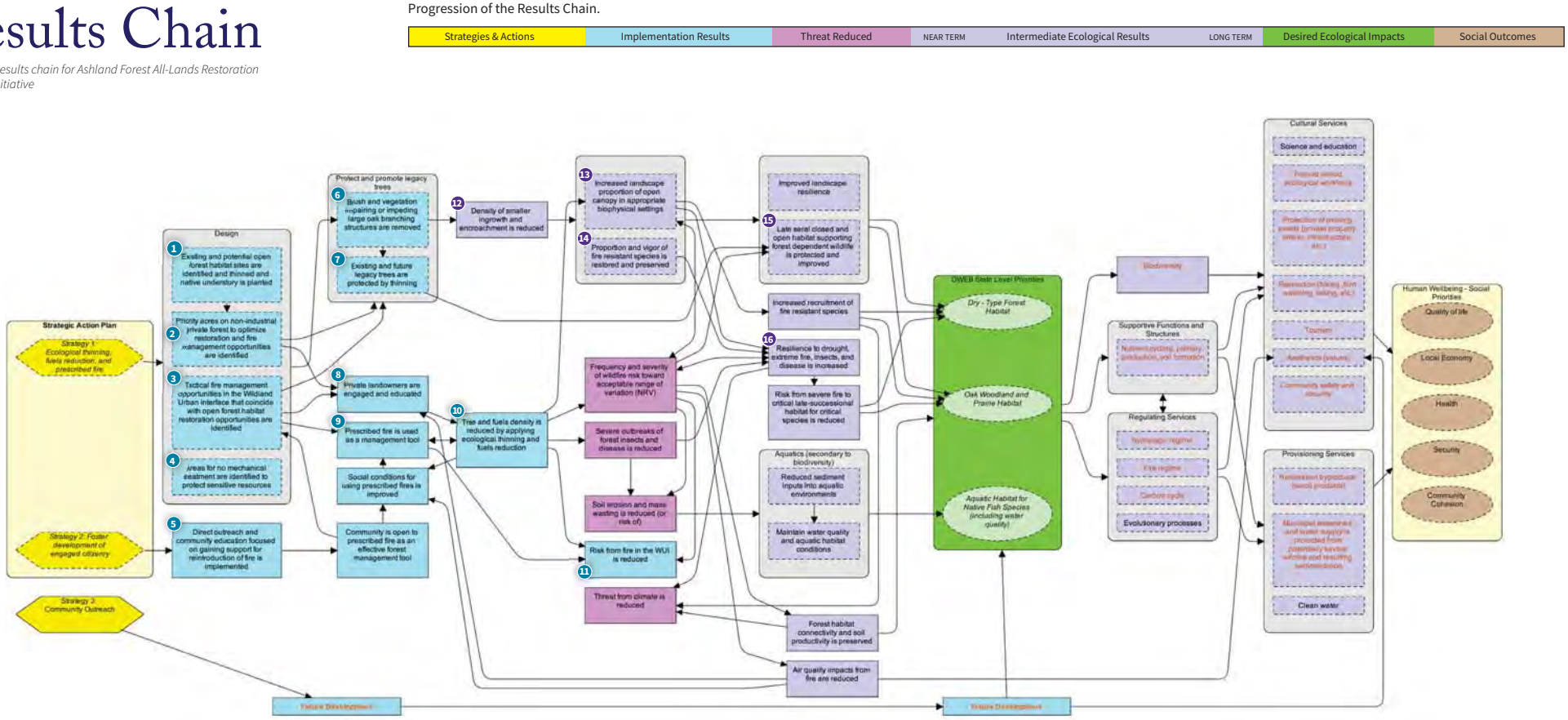
The partners will increase community outreach by organizing guided tours, delivering youth education programs, hosting workshops, and coordinating media coverage of their efforts. These outreach efforts educate interested citizens, establish an understanding of the ecological rationale and foundation of the partnership's strategies, and promote face-to-face opportunities to ask and answer questions.

Theory of Change.
Community outreach and education focused on the benefits of prescribed fire[5] will increase public understanding and expand community openness to using prescribed fire as a management tool. An expansion of public openness and support will allow the partnership to more fully act on identified opportunities in the wildland urban interface to apply prescribed fire treatments[9].

Superscript numbers [1-17] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Partners Initiative



Measuring Progress

The partnership's monitoring approach is based on the 2013 Ashland Forest Resiliency Stewardship Project Monitoring Plan (The Nature Conservancy) and seeks to track treatment implementation, evaluate success at restoring desired habitat conditions where treatments occur, and evaluate change in potential wildfire spread and intensity as a result of treatments. The Partners are also tracking changes in public perceptions of the partnership's strategies and goals.

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

	IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1	Existing and potential open forest habitat sites are identified and thinned and native understory is planted	Through spatial analysis and field assessment, identify both existing open forest habitat and sites with open habitat potential and apply ecological thinning, appropriate planting and native understory restoration.	Area of existing open forest habitat for protection Area of open habitat potential thinned/planted/restored
2	Priority acres on non-industrial private forest to optimize restoration and fire management opportunities are identified	Identify 3,800 strategic priority acres on non-federal land within the initiative area to optimize restoration of open forests and landscape fire management opportunities.	Area of non-federal lands identified as strategic restoration priorities
3	Tactical fire management opportunities in the wildland urban interface that coincide with open forest habitat restoration opportunities are identified	Identify tactical fire management opportunities in the Wildland Urban Interface that coincide with open forest habitat restoration opportunities to protect residential areas from severe wildfire and allow opportunities for safe reintroduction of fire through controlled burning.	Number of opportunities for safe controlled burning in the WUI
4	Areas for no mechanical treatment are identified to protect sensitive resources	Identify areas to avoid mechanical treatment to protect sensitive species and habitats.	Area to receive no mechanical treatment
5	Direct outreach and community education focused on gaining support for reintroduction of fire is implemented	Through direct outreach and community education, gain public support for reintroduction of fire on at least 2,000 acres in the initiative area.	Not identified
6	Brush and vegetation impairing or impeding large oak branching structures are removed	Retain and promote large oak branching structures, cavities, acorn production, and other critical oak habitat features through removal of brush and competing vegetation to reduce severe fire threat and set the stage for reintroducing low intensity fire.	Proportion of brush removed in areas identified through assessment activities (1-4 above)
7	Existing and future legacy trees are protected	Protect legacy trees and future legacy trees by thinning encroaching smaller trees, competing species, and fuel accumulations.	Proportion of identified legacy trees protected by thinning
8	Private landowners are engaged and educated	Engage and educate private landowners through direct marketing, neighborhood meetings, events, and social media.	# of landowner contracts (AFAR); Field tour attendance; Website use Grant reporting; Website content; Tours and presentations
9	Prescribed fire is used as a management tool	Ameliorate risk to the forest from human-caused ignitions in the wildlife urban interface by treating	Area or proportion of planned fuels reduction treatment
10	Trees and fuels density are reduced by applying ecological thinning and fuels reduction	Ameliorate risk to the forest from human-caused ignitions in the wildlife urban interface by treating.	Density of fuels in treated areas
11	Risk from fire in the wildlife urban interface is reduced	Not defined	Fuel model; Canopy base height; Ladder fuel hazard rating; Modeled wildfire hazard

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

	LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
12	Density of smaller ingrowth and encroachment is reduced	*Reduction in density of smaller ingrowth achieved through restoration treatments will be identified on initial projects and inform specific objectives for future treatments.*	Understory cover Abundance and diversity of native species
13	Increased landscape proportion of open canopy in appropriate biophysical settings	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	Stand structure *(tree species, diameter, density, basal area, canopy closure)* Seral structural state *(Haugo et al. 2015)* Cut tree lists *(commercial thinning units only)* Understory cover Treatment mapping
14	Proportion and vigor of fire resistant species is restored and proportion of open canopy in the landscape is increased	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	Stand structure Fuel model Treatment mapping Modeled wildfire hazard
15	Late seral closed and open habitat supporting forest dependent wildlife is protected and improved	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	Stand structure *(tree species, diameter, density, basal area, canopy closure)* Seral structural state Understory cover Legacy presence and species Photo monitoring Pre-post legacy condition Understory cover Ladder fuel hazard rating
16	Resilience of forest and old growth to drought, extreme fire, insects, and disease is increased	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	Treatment mapping Modeled wildfire hazard

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES

Dry-Type Forest Habitat
Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
Aquatic Habitat for Native Species

Status & Trends

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

The Deschutes Partnership

Habitat Restoration for Resident and Anadromous Fish in the Deschutes

VISION

The Deschutes Partnership envisions successful community-supported restoration that results in floodplain, riparian and aquatic conditions sufficient to support sustainable spawning and rearing of salmon and steelhead in the Metolius River, Whychus Creek, and the Crooked River.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

The core partners of the Deschutes Partnership:

- Deschutes Land Trust
- Deschutes River Conservancy
- Crooked River Watershed Council
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council

Other supporting partners (partners that provide needed help and support in the form of providing scientific data, feedback on the design of projects…)

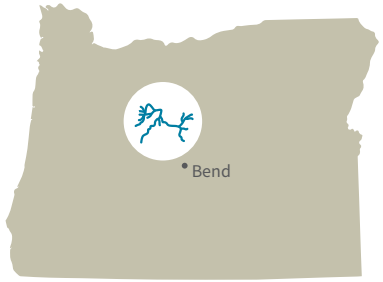
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Portland General Electric
- US Forest Service
- US Fish and Wildlife Service

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Summer steelhead
Chinook salmon
Sockeye salmon
Bull trout
Redband trout



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The Deschutes Partnership is focusing its efforts on the 226 miles of historic habitat for salmon and steelhead in the Whychus Creek, Metolius River (primarily Lake Creek and the mainstem Metolius) and lower Crooked River systems.

Operational Context.

The regional context for the Deschutes FIP is the Upper Deschutes River Basin, which is included within the Mid-Columbia spring salmon Ecologically Significant Unit (ESU) and Mid-Columbia steelhead Distinct Population Segment (DPS). The FIP is implementing actions of the Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Steelhead Populations in the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (ODFW 2010). The restoration work is supporting the effort led by PGE, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, and ODFW to reintroduce salmon and steelhead to the upper Deschutes River. Monitoring under the FIP is focused primarily on habitat results (although partners are also monitoring macroinvertebrate communities); fish response monitoring will be carried out by the other contributors involved in the reintroduction effort.

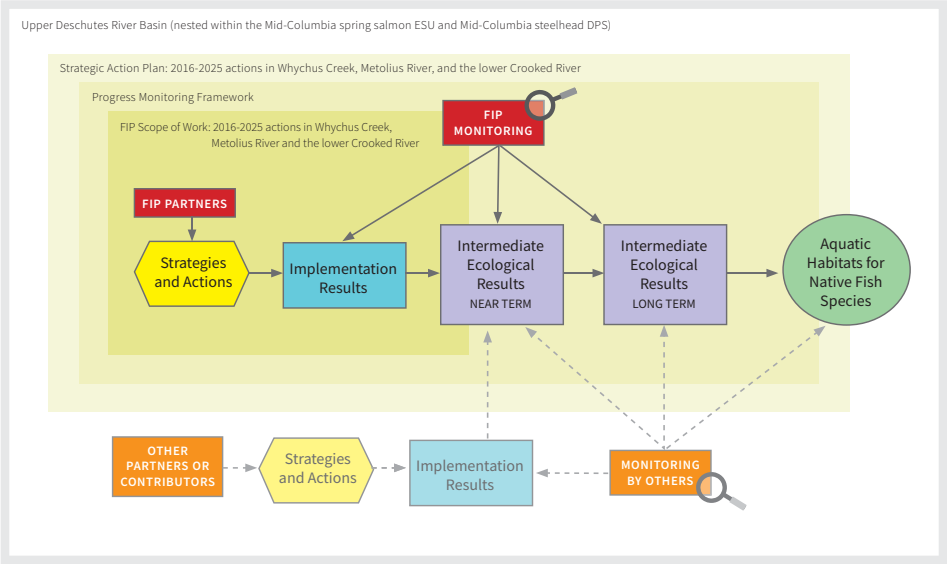


Figure 1: *Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative*

Theory of Change.

SITUATION

By the late 1990s, over a century of stream modifications including diversion of stream flow, construction and maintenance of diversion dams and other irrigation infrastructure to divert flow away from stream channels, and alterations to floodplain areas created conditions that impacted critical fish habitat.

These conditions include:

- Altered and simplified stream habitat
- Reduced flows and stream dewatering
- Floodplains disconnected from stream channels
- Altered riparian areas
- Elevated stream temperatures
- Barriers to fish passage
- Entrainment of fish through unscreened irrigation diversions

APPROACH

The results chain *(Figure 2)* articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation. Intermediate ecological outcomes resulting from strategy implementation are, in the long term, expected to culminate in restoration of the FIP's ecological priorities.

Numbered results are those the partnership determined would be important to highlight as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g., six-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results *(Figure 2)*.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan *(Tables 1 and 2)*. For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measureable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain *(Figure 2)* and measuring progress tables *(Tables 1 and 2)*.

STRATEGIES

Deschutes Partnership strategies aim to ameliorate the limiting factors identified in the Conservation and Recovery Plan for Oregon Steelhead Populations in the Middle Columbia River Steelhead Distinct Population Segment (ODFW 2010). ***The strategies are:***

- Strategy 1: Protect spawning and rearing habitat through **land conservation** easements and fee purchases
- Strategy 2: **Restore stream habitat** conditions necessary for successful spawning and rearing
- Strategy 3: **Restore stream flow** sufficient to support successful spawning and rearing
- Strategy 4: **Restore fish passage**
- Strategy 5: **Reduce or eliminate risk of entrainment** in irrigation infrastructure
- Strategy 6: **Engage the community** in the focal watersheds to promote increased awareness about reintroduction and to recruit support

STRATEGIES

1 Land Conservation

The partners will work cooperatively to purchase land or enter into conservation easements in critical areas of Whychus Creek and the Metolius and Crooked Rivers. Restoration actions will be planned and carried out on acquired or easement properties as needed.

Theory of Change.
Protection of spawning and rearing habitat through land purchases or conservation easements[1] will prevent development and further degradation of stream and floodplain habitat in areas of the watersheds that are critical for supporting fish. Protected lands will become available for stream channel, floodplain and riparian restoration where it is needed.

2 Stream Habitat Restoration

The partners will design and implement stream habitat restoration projects to restore stream, riparian and floodplain habitat including the suite of channel and floodplain conditions required for successful spawning and rearing in historic floodplain and wet meadow reaches.

Theory of Change.
Stream habitat restoration projects[2] set the stream channel and floodplain system on a trajectory toward self-sustaining function. These projects interrupt degradation of stream and floodplain habitat structure and function and create the necessary conditions for geomorphic processes to resume.
These include:

- floodplain inundation[7], groundwater storage[7], and groundwater recharge and cooling of base flows;
- functioning sediment transport, deposition, and erosion (fine suspended sediment reduced[10]); and
- an abundant and diverse native riparian plant community[8] that slows floodwaters, stabilizes soil, shades the stream, and contributes plant material, from leaves and twigs that become food for aquatic insects to large wood that provides cover.

These processes in turn create and maintain stream channels with a diversity of habitats and flow velocities[9].

3 Stream Flow Restoration

Restoration partners will implement infrastructure projects and transfer or lease water rights instream to restore stream flow sufficient to support successful spawning and rearing in Whychus, McKay, and Ochoco Creeks and the Crooked River.

Theory of Change.
Stream flow restoration[3] increases the amount of water left in the stream (restored hydrograph[11]) rather than diverted for irrigation.

- More stream flow means more stream habitat: as flows rise, stream reaches formerly fragmented through drying up sections of the stream are reconnected and wetted width and depth increase.
- With more water, the stream stays cooler[12], bringing down the unnaturally high temperatures that result from diminished flows, and making the stream more livable for fish.[13, 14]

4 Restore Fish Passage

The partners will work with irrigators and landowners to remove or remediate dams in Whychus Creek and the Metolius and Crooked Rivers that are believed to impede the free upstream or downstream movement of trout and salmon. It is believed that important spawning and rearing habitat is currently left unused by trout and salmon because it is not accessible to them.

Theory of Change.
Removal of diversion dams[4] will increase the availability of critical spawning and rearing habitat (habitat connectivity[15]) which currently limit the overall productivity and spatial distribution of trout and salmon in Whychus Creek and the Metolius and Crooked Rivers.

- With dam removal, fish will access and use newly available spawning and rearing habitat.
- With increased access to spawning and rearing habitat, productivity and population size and resilience of trout and salmon will increase.

5 Reduce or Eliminate Risk of Entrainment

The partners will work with irrigators and landowners to screen active diversions or decommission defunct diversions suspected of entraining juvenile trout and salmon into irrigation canals or other water diversion structures.

Theory of Change.
Installation of fish screens on active diversion structures[5] will reduce entrainment of juvenile trout and salmon and decrease mortality rates.

- Reduction in mortality rates of juvenile trout and salmon from entrainment will increase fry/parr/smolt to adult survival.
- Increased adult survival will increase productivity of trout and salmon populations associated with Whychus Creek and the Metolius and Crooked Rivers.

6 Engage the Community

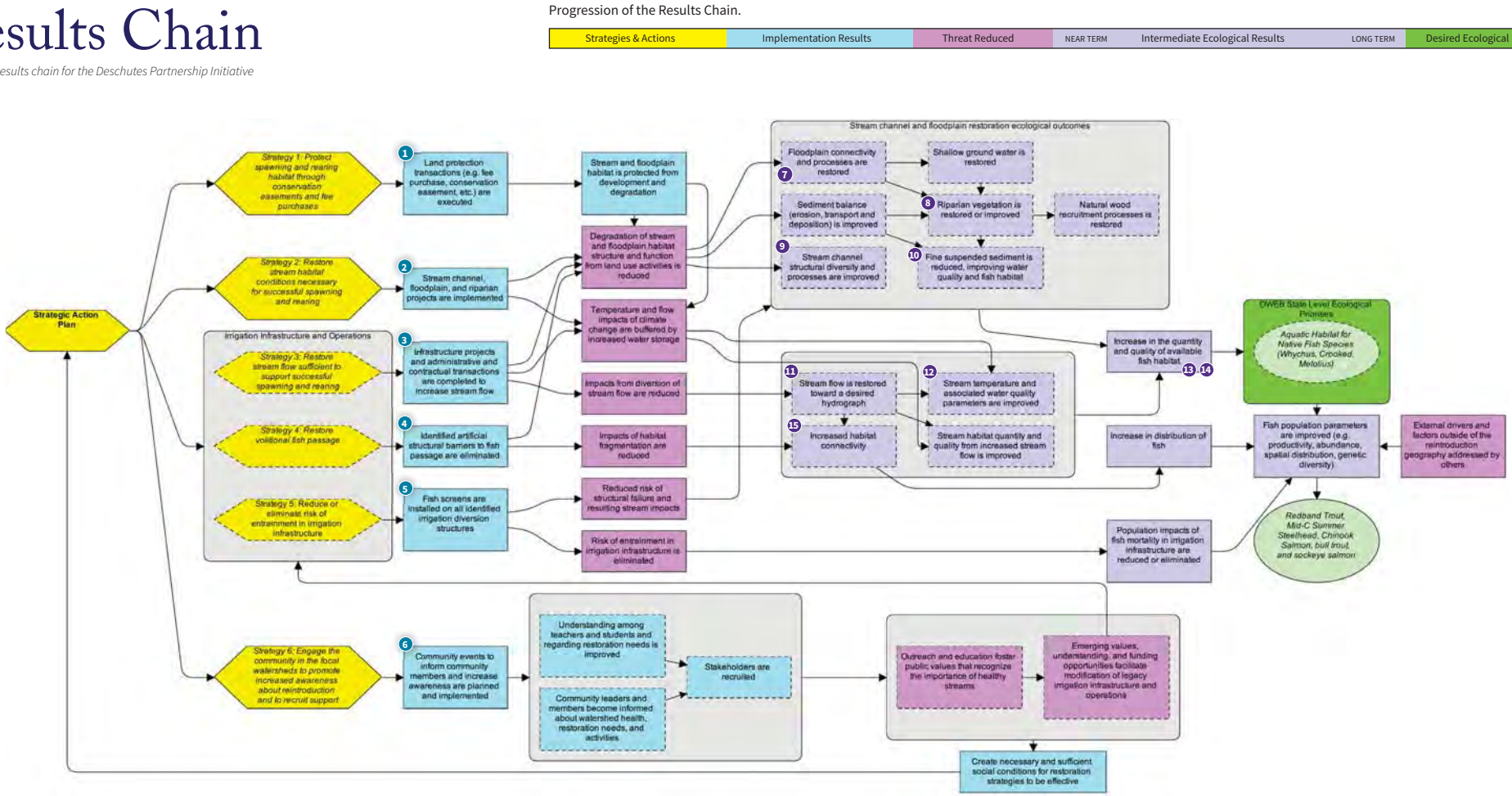
The partners will conduct a series of outreach and engagement activities including community presentations, stewardship projects for students, watershed education activities for elementary schools, stewardship hikes, and restoration tours.

Theory of Change.
Delivery of information[6] via a diverse array of approaches will improve the level of understanding and competence of the community regarding the need and approach for stream and river restoration. In turn, an increased level of understanding of the need and approach for stream restoration will increase engagement and participation in restoration activities on private lands.

Superscript numbers [1-15] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for the Deschutes Partnership Initiative



Measuring Progress

Deschutes Partnership core partners draw on multiple sources to collect or obtain implementation and effectiveness monitoring data. Core partners collect or contract with consultants to collect implementation and some effectiveness monitoring data specific to the projects they implement. Where other subbasin partners are already collecting data useful for evaluation of Deschutes Partnership projects, core Deschutes Partnership organizations obtain subbasin partner data and evaluate it within the context of Deschutes Partnership projects. While core partners have been using this approach to monitoring since 2009, the approach will be formalized in the Deschutes Partnership Integrated Monitoring Plan currently in development.

Implementation objectives are those identified in the 2015 Deschutes Partnership Strategic Action Plan. Ecological objectives have been developed to describe the specific desired ecological condition or trajectory. In some cases target values for ecological objectives will necessarily be project-specific (e.g. ecological result [9], Stream channel structural diversity and processes are improved), or potential metrics may not be cost-effective to measure (e.g. ecological result [15], Habitat connectivity is increased).

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

	IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1	Stream and floodplain habitat is protected from development and degradation	**1.1 Whychus Creek:** Permanently protect 3.6 river miles and 173.95 floodplain acres between the City of Sisters (RM 21.3) and the Deschutes River (RM 0) by 2025 **1.2 Metolius River:** Permanently protect 3.9 miles and 198.1 floodplain acres of high priority spawning and rearing habitat on Lake Creek and the Metolius River mainstem by 2025 **1.3 Crooked River:** Work cooperatively with willing landowners to permanently protect 19.6 miles of stream habitat and 734.2 floodplain acres along McKay Creek, the lower Crooked River, and Ochoco Creek by 2025	Stream miles and floodplain, wetland, and upland acres protected
2	Stream channel, floodplain, and riparian projects are implemented	**2.1 Whychus Creek:** Restore stream, riparian and floodplain habitat along 8.5 miles and on 410 floodplain acres of Whychus Creek on the lands permanently protected by the Deschutes Land Trust. **2.2 Metolius River:** Restore stream habitat along Lake Creek and Metolius River by 2029. **2.3 Crooked River:** Restore stream habitat along 16 miles of McKay Creek, the lower Crooked River, and Ochoco Creek by 2040.	Post-project stream channel length Post-project acres planted
3	Infrastructure projects and administrative and contractual transactions are completed to increase stream flow	**3.1 Whychus Creek:** Protect a minimum of 27 cfs of instream flow (wet water) in Whychus Creek along its entire length from headwaters to the confluence with the Deschutes River by 2025. **3.2 Crooked River:** Protect spring and early summer stream flows of 11.2 cfs in McKay Creek, summer stream flows of 5 cfs in Ochoco Creek, and late spring through early fall stream flows of at least 26.1 cfs in the Crooked River through water transactions to meet target flow rates during critical times of year by 2035.	Streamflow (cfs) protected instream
4	Identified artificial structural barriers to fish passage are eliminated	**4.1 Whychus Creek:** Restore year-round fish passage along the entire length of Whychus Creek from RM 0 (confluence with the Deschutes River) to RM 39 (the upstream most natural barrier) by 2018. **4.2 Metolius River:** Restore year-round fish passage along the 5.5 miles of Lake Creek between Suttle Lake and the Metolius River by 2018. **4.3 Crooked River:** Restore year-round fish passage at all existing artificial barriers in the lower Crooked River by 2022.	Artificial structural barriers to fish passage retrofitted or removed
5	Fish screens are installed on all identified irrigation diversion structures	**5.1 Whychus Creek:** Eliminate the risk of fish entrainment in irrigation canals or other diversions by fully screening all diversions along Whychus Creek to meet state and federal criteria by 2022. **5.2 Metolius River:** Eliminate the risk of fish entrainment at diversions by fully screening all diversions along the 5.5 miles of Lake Creek between Suttle Lake and the Metolius River by 2018. **5.3 Crooked River:** Eliminate the risk of fish entrainment at diversions by fully screening all diversions in McKay Creek, lower Crooked River and Ochoco Creek by 2030.	Proportion screened of total number of points of diversion
6	Community events to inform community members and increase awareness are planned and implemented	**6.1 Expand community awareness and engagement** in native fish reintroduction and restoration efforts in Whychus Creek, the Metolius River, and the Crooked River.	Number and type of outreach and engagement activities in Prineville, Sisters, Redmond, and Camp Sherman

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

	LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
7	Floodplain connectivity and processes and shallow groundwater are restored	*Raise water table to ~2-3 ft below the surface to support riparian vegetation*	Depth to groundwater
8	Riparian vegetation is restored or improved	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	% increase in acres of riparian vegetation from GIS polygons
9	Stream channel function is improved	*Reduce stream velocity*	Stream velocity at channel cross-sections
10	Fine suspended sediment is reduced, improving water quality and fish habitat	*Number of DEQ high sediment indicator taxa decreases and number of low sediment indicator taxa increases (range)*	Macroinvertebrate sediment optima and other macroinvertebrate sediment metrics
11	Stream flow is restored toward a desired hydrograph	*Instantaneous flow averaged over 60-minute intervals meets or exceeds target flow numbers (see Implmentation Progress Objectives above)*	60-minute average instantaneous stream flow
12	Stream temperature and associated water quality parameters are improved	*Seven-day moving average maximum (7DADM) stream temperature does not exceed 18°C; Number of DEQ high temperature optima taxa decreases and number of low temperature indicator taxa increases*	Percent of days meeting 18°C state temperature standard at WC 006.00; Macroinvertebrate temperature optima
13	Fish habitat quality is increased	*Depth, cover and velocity values are within ranges suitable or optimal for all life stages of resident and anadromous fish*	Depth, cover, and velocity criteria; habitat attribute criteria
14	Fish habitat quantity is increased (rearing)	*Stream channel area (wetted extent) is increased*	Wetted extent at x flow
15	Habitat connectivity is increasing	*Fish move between formerly fragmented reaches*	Fish movement between formerly fragmented reaches

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

Grande Ronde
Restoration Partnership

Upper Grande Ronde Initiative

VISION

The Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership envisions creating a healthy ecosystem with abundant, productive, and diverse populations of aquatic and terrestrial species, which will support sustainable resource-based activities that contribute to the social, cultural, and economic well-being of the communities within the subbasin and the Pacific Northwest.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Core implementing members:

- Grande Ronde Model Watershed
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Union Soil and Water Conservation District
- US Forest Service

Other active partners that support the Initiative:

- NOAA Fisheries
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- The Freshwater Trust
- Natural Resource Conservation Service
- Watershed Councils

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

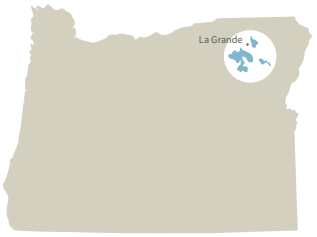
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Summer steelhead

Chinook salmon

Bull trout



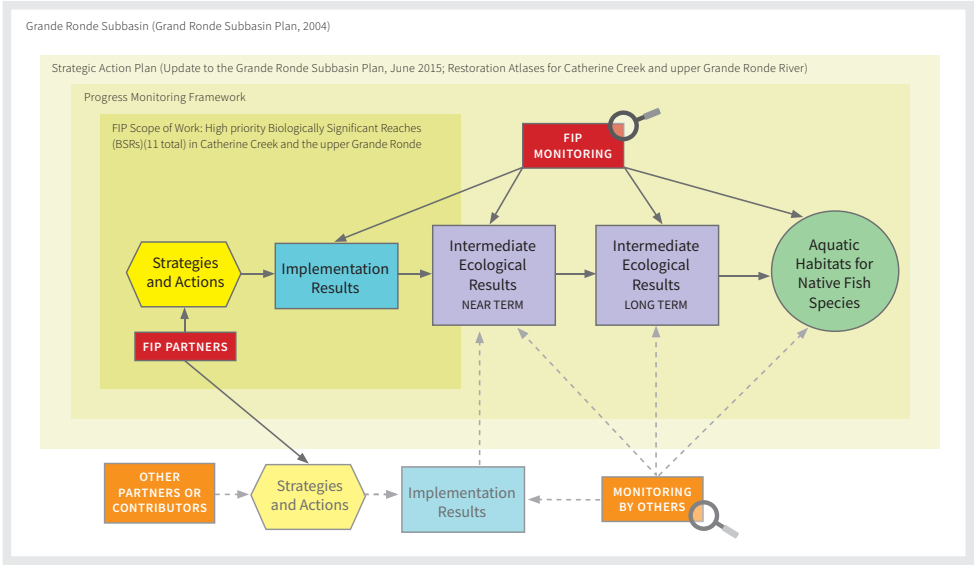
GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The Partnership is focused on eleven prioritized reaches of the upper Grande Ronde subbasin, which includes the Grande Ronde River and all its tributaries upstream of the confluence with the Wallowa River. These reaches contain approximately 33 percent of the total acres in the upper Grande Ronde subbasin.

Operational Context

The Initiative is nested within a larger regional effort to recover ESA listed Snake River spring/summer run Chinook salmon and steelhead in the Grand Ronde Subbasin. Strategies and actions are contained in the Strategic Action Plan which is encompassed in both the 2015 Update to the Grande Ronde Subbasin Plan and Restoration Atlases for Catherine Creek and the upper Grande Ronde watersheds. These strategies and actions are funded by OWEB and others, including the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) within the Initiative geography as well as the larger Grande Ronde Subbasin. These actions contribute to and are required to achieve the desired near and long-term ecological outcomes contained in the results chain *(Figures 1 and 2)*.

Figure 1: *Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative*



Theory of Change.

SITUATION

Land use in the upper Grande Ronde subbasin since the late 1800s, including poorly managed logging and grazing, construction of roads and railroads, and urbanization, as well as irrigation withdrawals, has resulted in degraded stream and floodplain conditions and fish habitat. Specific factors limiting fish populations and their habitat are:

- Reduced channel complexity and sinuosity and increased width-to-depth ratios
- Increased sediment resulting in reduced spawning habitat quality
- Increased stream temperature and suspended sediment
- Low late-season flows
- Reduced habitat quantity resulting from fish passage barriers and stream channelization
- Degraded riparian conditions
- Disconnected floodplains and floodplain infrastructure (roads, railroad grades, levees).

APPROACH

The results chain *(Figure 2)* articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to restoration of the FIPs ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in *Figure 2* are those the partnership has highlighted as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g. 6-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan *(Tables 1 and 2)*. For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measureable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain *(Figure 2)* and measuring progress tables *(Tables 1 and 2)*.

STRATEGIES

Strategies in the 2015 Grand Ronde Subbasin Plan Update address the limiting factors listed above and reduce historical, current, and future threats that have and will impact health of both aquatic species and ecological functions. The long-term desired ecological outcome is increased habitat quality supporting all life stages of spring Chinook, summer steelhead, and other native species including lamprey, freshwater mussels, and resident trout, among others. This outcome will be accomplished by protecting and restoring watershed processes and function, cold-water refugia, and diverse, complex instream and floodplain habitats. It also will be achieved by improving habitat quality and diversity (large wood structures, side channels, pools) for all life stages of spring-summer Chinook, summer steelhead, and other native species. *Strategies that are designed to produce these outcomes include:*

- Strategy 1: **Conduct research** to fill knowledge gaps regarding juvenile fish mortality and wild and domestic mammal impacts on riparian restoration
- Strategy 2.1: **Remediate partial fish passage barriers** to connect habitat
- Strategy 2.2: **Create additional aquatic habitat**
- Strategy 3.1: **Restore flow** during critical periods
- Strategy 3.2: **Restore natural habitat complexity and processes**
- Strategy 4: **Inform, educate and engage relevant landowners and residents** in the Grande Ronde subbasin

STRATEGIES

1 Conduct research to fill knowledge gaps

The partnership will assist the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in identifying causes of mortality of out-migrating juvenile salmonids, and will assist US Forest Service Pacific Northwest Research Station staff in studying the impacts of ungulates, small mammals, and pollinators on riparian restoration.

Theory of Change.
Funding and implementation of an ungulate study[10] and installation of PIT tag arrays[11] will improve understanding of factors:

- impacting restored riparian areas, and
- affecting survival of wild spring-summer Chinook salmon, summer steelhead, and bull trout.

This knowledge will help to inform the development and implementation of restoration strategies to address those factors.

2.1 Remediate partial barriers

The partners will remove or replace existing partial fish passage barriers associated with road networks, railroad grades, and levees to improve the ability for native fish to access habitat.

Theory of Change.
Removal of artificial aquatic species passage barriers[1] reduces the impact of roads and associated stream crossings, increasing aquatic species access to formerly inaccessible habitats.

Increased aquatic species access to formerly inaccessible habitats results in increased spatial distribution of native aquatic species[12], which helps those populations become more viable, e.g., through increased food resources, increased rearing habitat, and reduced competition.

2.2 Create additional aquatic habitat

Implementing partners will recreate stream channel and floodplain/wetland habitat on Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde River in areas where these habitats have been lost due to channel straightening, draining and/or filling wetlands, and removing beavers.

Theory of Change.
Construction of new main and side channels[2] and floodplain/wetland complexes (3) in areas historically impacted by railroad infrastructure, agricultural practices, or urbanization promotes:

- re-establishment of floodplain connectivity,
- recovery of channel and floodplain structure, complexity, and function, and
- improved riparian plant community structure.

Restoration of processes that increase the extent, structure and function of aquatic and riparian habitats[13], and the resulting use of restored habitats by aquatic species, ultimately increases their spatial distribution[12], improving their viability.

3.1 Restore Flow

Members of the partnership will work with core partners to improve irrigation efficiencies and secure water rights to restore flow during critical months (July-September) of the year.

Theory of Change.
Implementation of irrigation efficiency projects[4] and purchase or lease of water from willing water rights holders[5] will result in more retention of water in stream channels and increase late season flow[15].

Higher late season flow will result in reduced stream temperature[16], improve access to habitat for aquatic species, and contribute to an increase in their spatial distribution[12] which helps those populations become more viable, e.g., through increased food resources, increased rearing habitat, and reduced competition.

3.2 Restore natural habitat complexity and processes

Restoration partners will construct or enhance high-quality pools and habitats along the stream edge, install large wood and boulder habitat structures, install bioengineered stream bank stabilization features, and restore and protect riparian plant communities.

Theory of Change.
Construction of habitat function and structural elements[6] will increase habitat complexity, contributing to the restoration of habitat forming and maintaining processes historically interrupted by road and railroad infrastructure, agricultural, livestock grazing, and timber harvest practices, and urbanization.

Improved habitat complexity and connectivity will contribute to:

- increased spatial distribution of native aquatic species and salmonids[12], which provides increased food resources, increased rearing habitat, and reduced competition, and
- improved channel structure, form, and processes that maintain habitat[13].

Improved condition and complexity of aquatic habitat will increase critical rearing, holding, and spawning habitat for aquatic species.

Construction of habitat function and structural elements[6] will also promote bank stabilization and reduce sedimentation rates, resulting in improved spawning habitat quality[14]. Improved spawning habitat will increase the reproductive success of aquatic species.

Improved riparian plant community structure and function resulting from riparian vegetation planting will contribute to reduced stream temperatures[16] and serve as a filter to reduce fine sediments in streams.

4 Inform, educate, and engage relevant landowners and residents

The partnership will increase outreach to the public on watershed health by hosting education/outreach events, presenting to civic groups, and establishing new working relationships with landowners through coordinated outreach with core partners and by attending agricultural meetings.

Theory of Change.
New and strengthened relationships with landowners[7] and presentations delivered to students and communities[8] increase awareness and engagement of stakeholders and community members regarding aquatic ecosystem and salmon recovery[9]. Stronger relationships and increased awareness and understanding of restoration efforts help build trusting relationships with private landowners and public land managers and promote long-term ecologically-based conservation ethics.

Increased awareness and engagement of stakeholders and community members regarding aquatic ecosystem and salmon recovery[9] creates and strengthens relationships with landowners[7].

Increased awareness and engagement of stakeholders and community members regarding aquatic ecosystem and salmon recovery[9] contributes to new agricultural, livestock grazing, and timber harvest practices and recreational activities that are grounded in a conservation ethic and are compatible with stream and floodplain function.

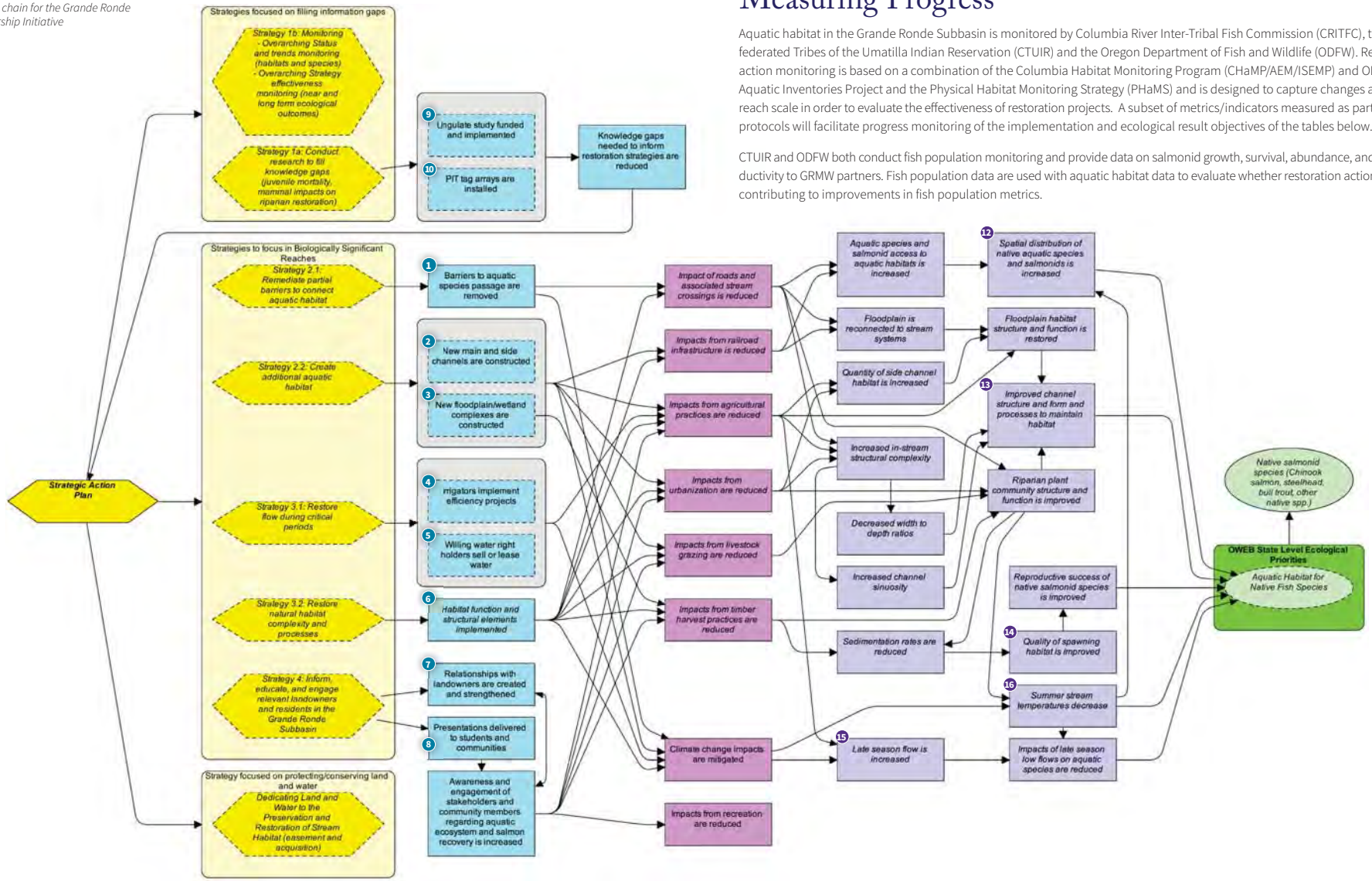
Superscript numbers [1-16] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for the Grande Ronde Partnership Initiative

Progression of the Results Chain.

Strategies & Actions	Implementation Results	Threat Reduced	NEAR TERM	Intermediate Ecological Results	LONG TERM	Desired Ecological Impacts



Measuring Progress

Aquatic habitat in the Grande Ronde Subbasin is monitored by Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Restoration action monitoring is based on a combination of the Columbia Habitat Monitoring Program (CHaMP/AEM/ISEMP) and ODFW's Aquatic Inventories Project and the Physical Habitat Monitoring Strategy (PHaMS) and is designed to capture changes at the reach scale in order to evaluate the effectiveness of restoration projects. A subset of metrics/indicators measured as part of these protocols will facilitate progress monitoring of the implementation and ecological result objectives of the tables below.

CTUIR and ODFW both conduct fish population monitoring and provide data on salmonid growth, survival, abundance, and productivity to GRMW partners. Fish population data are used with aquatic habitat data to evaluate whether restoration actions are contributing to improvements in fish population metrics.

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

	IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1	Barriers to aquatic species passage are removed	By 2021, eight existing partial barriers to aquatic species passage have been removed or replaced.	Number of barriers removed
		By 2021, 1000 feet of railroad grade along the Grande Ronde River between river miles 144 and 145 have been removed	Linear feet of railroad grade removed
2	New main and side channels are constructed	By 2021, at least 13,500 feet of new main and side channel alignment have been constructed.	Linear feet of new main and side channel constructed
3	New floodplain/wetland complexes are constructed	By 2021, at least 15 acres of new floodplain/wetland complexes have been constructed	Acres of new floodplain/ wetlands created
4	Irrigators implement efficiency projects	By 2021, 1.0 cfs of water savings for in-stream use is secured through upgraded irrigation efficiency projects.	Water savings (cfs) from irrigation efficiency projects
5	Willing water right holders sell or lease water	By 2021, at least an additional 3 cfs of flow have been secured within the initiative area during July-September	Flow (cfs) secured during July-September
6	Habitat function and structural elements implemented	By 2022, 70 additional high-quality pools have been constructed along 20 miles of stream.	# of high-quality pools
		By 2022, 13 units of alcove (peripheral) habitat have been constructed or enhanced.	# of alcove units constructed or enhanced
		By 2022, large wood and boulder habitat structures have been installed along 33 miles of stream.	# or density of large wood and boulder structures installed
		By 2022, six sections of bank along 1 mile of stream have been stabilized.	Sections of bank stabilized
		By 2022, native trees, shrubs and grasses have been planted along the upper Grand Ronde River and basin tributaries.	Linear miles of riparian area planted
		By 2022, riparian fences have been built and are maintained along 20 miles of riparian area.	Linear miles of riparian fenced
7	Relationships with landowners are created and strengthened	By 2018, contact is initiated and frequent communication is maintained with 15 landowners in high-priority restoration areas, and core partners have collaborated with all funding sources to develop funding for projects on private lands.	# of landowners contacted in high-priority restoration areas
8	Presentations delivered to students and communities	By 2018, presentations have been delivered to six grade-school classes, three civic groups and commodity groups annually.	# of presentations made to each target audience
9	Ungulate study funded and implemented	By 2018, funding for Starkey Experimental Forest ungulate exclusion study is provided.	% funding secured
10	PIT tag arrays are installed	By 2018, six PIT tag arrays are installed in the basin	# of PIT tag arrays installed

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

	LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES[1]	POTENTIAL METRICS
12	Spatial distribution of native aquatic species and salmonids is increased	*By 20__, spatial distribution of native aquatic species and salmonids will increase by __*	Stream miles of available habitat occupied (snorkel surveys)
13	Improved channel structure and form and processes to maintain habitat	*By 20__, channel structure and form and processes to maintain habitat are restored in treated reaches*	CHaMP and Aquatic Inventory Project indicators for the following attributes in treated BSRs: channel morphology, habitat, substrate, and wood
14	Quality of spawning habitat is improved	*By 20__, quality of spawning habitat in treated biologically significant reaches is improved by __*	CHaMP and Aquatic Inventory Project indicators for substrate
15	Late season flow is increased	*By 20__, late season flow is increased by __ cfs*	Post water right/lease transaction flows
16	Stream temperature is decreased	*By 20__, stream temperature in treated biologically significant reaches falls within desired range of __ degrees C*	Year round temperature monitoring

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES

Aquatic Habitat for Native Species

Native salmonid species
(Chinook salmon, steelhead, bull trout, other native spp.)

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

[1] *Years and degrees of change that have not been specified will be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring.*

Harney Basin Wetlands
Initiative Partners

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Focused Investment

VISION

The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Partners' vision is to conserve and enhance the health of Malheur Lake by managing in harmony with ecological forces in collaboration with our neighbors, partners, and friends and to learn from our efforts, successes and failures. The surrounding flood irrigated wet meadows are managed using science-based management practices that are common to public and private lands. There is a cooperative relationship between local ranching families and the Malheur National Wildlife Refuge staff working to build understanding of how to manage the flood irrigated wet meadows in a manner that reduces carp reintroduction, provides food for migrating waterbirds, and provides a sustainable economic return for ranching families.

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetlands Habitat
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Water and land birds that depend on wetlands
Redband trout and other native fish species

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Initiative Coordination / Cooperation:

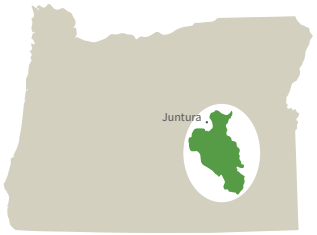
- High Desert Partnership
- Harney County Court
- Harney Soil and Water Conservation District
- Harney County Watershed Council
- Private landowners
- Burns Paiute Tribe
- Universities

Implementing Partners – Malheur Lake:

- Malheur National Wildlife Refuge
- Ducks Unlimited
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Friends of Malheur Refuge
- Oregon Wildlife
- Portland Audubon Society

Implementing Partners – Floodplain Wet Meadow / Pasture:

- The Wetlands Conservancy
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Intermountain West Joint Venture
- Portland Audubon Society
- Ducks Unlimited
- OSU Extension Service
- USDA, Agricultural Research Service



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

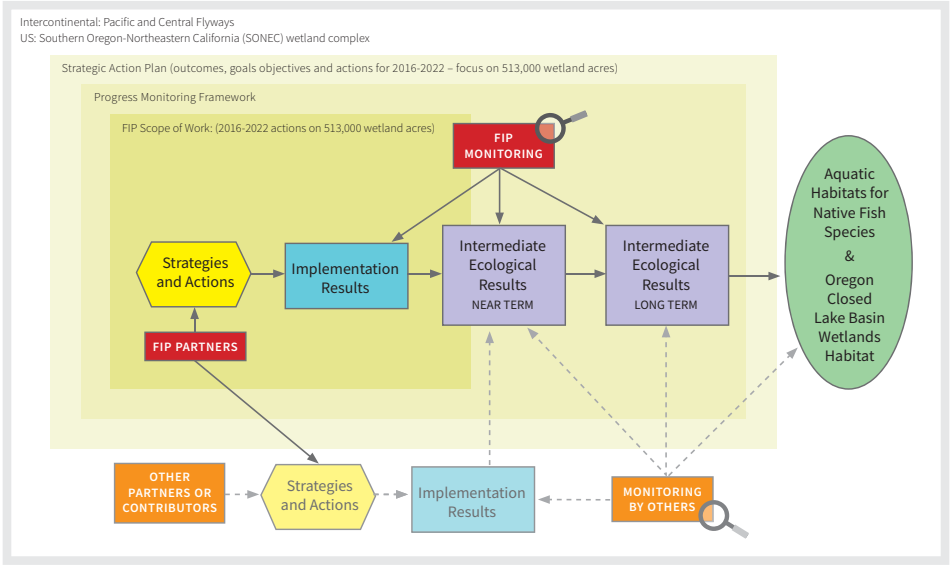
The Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative focus area encompasses Malheur Lake and adjacent wetlands, the tributary floodplain wetlands of the Silvies River, the Donner und Blitzen River, Silver Creek and associated tributaries that drain into Malheur and Harney Lakes. The focus area contains 513,000 wetland acres that includes the 187,000-acre Malheur National Wildlife Refuge.

Operational Context

This Initiative has local, regional and international significance for the conservation of wetland dependent fish and wildlife species. It is an important part of efforts to manage and conserve the Southern Oregon-Northeastern California wetland complex with an even broader continental significance for migratory birds of the Pacific and Central Flyways.

The Strategic Action Plan is focused on goals, objectives, and actions the Partnership will strive to accomplish within the six-year time frame of the FIP funding program. The Strategic Action Plan represents an effort to integrate the most immediate objectives and actions from three existing plans that most directly address the goals of the Initiative (Malheur National Wildlife Refuge Comprehensive Plan, the Conservation Implementation Strategy for Harney Basin Aquatic Health Improvement, and the Conservation Implementation Strategy for Working Lands Waterbird Habitat Conservation in the SONEC Region).

Figure 1: Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative



Theory of Change.

SITUATION

In recent decades, the use of Malheur Lake by resident and migratory waterbirds, redband trout, and other native fish has declined dramatically with changes in the shallow lake ecosystem from a clear lake with abundant submerged aquatic vegetation and invertebrate fauna to a turbid lake with nearly no submergent vegetation. This change has resulted from the expansion of the non-native common carp population.

There is also a growing threat to spring migratory bird habitat posed by the conversion of flood irrigation to sprinkler irrigation of the wet meadows in the Harney basin and the conversion of these working lands to development. The flood irrigated pastures and wet meadows are critical staging and feeding areas for migratory birds.

APPROACH

The results chain *(Figure 2)* articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to restoration of the FIPs ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in *Figure 2* are those the partnership has highlighted as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g. six-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan *(Tables 1 and 2)*. For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measureable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain *(Figure 2)* and measuring progress tables *(Tables 1 and 2)*.

STRATEGIES

The Strategic Action Plan contains two primary strategies intended to address the situation described above - carp control to improve water quality and the ecological health of wetlands and rivers, and the design and implementation of conservation measures to maintain the spring flooded wet meadow conditions of the tributary floodplains.

STRATEGIES

1 Control carp populations in Malheur Lake and surrounding aquatic systems

This strategy includes assessments and modeling to fill information gaps regarding carp distribution and population dynamics, identification and testing of carp control methods and locations to implement them, and continuation of ongoing carp control measures including commercial harvest and operation of fish traps.

Theory of Change.
Life history assessments of carp will improve the partners' understanding regarding the distribution and behavior of carp and the relationship between carp density and water quality[1]:

- This knowledge will aid in establishing target densities[2] necessary to achieve ecological outcomes and control measures to achieve those densities, and
- Implementation of control measures in targeted locations[3] will result in a reduction in the spatial distribution and density of carp;
- These results will reduce the overall impacts of carp, leading to an increase in water clarity and other water quality attributes[12];
- Improvements in water quality will promote recovery of aquatic vegetation[13] and associated invertebrates[14].
- Together these results increase retention and abundance of breeding and migratory wetland obligate water and landbirds[15].

2 Manage wetlands / flood irrigated wet meadows on refuge and private lands

The partnership will address the limiting factors of aging infrastructure, changes in water management and agricultural patterns and land development by implementing the following actions:

- Assessing water table and plant community dynamics in wet meadows;
- Designing and constructing diversion replacement systems;
- Implementing of management practices to improve on-farm water delivery and habitat values on flood-irrigated wet meadows;
- Investigating hydrology, vegetation, management scenarios, and bird use to evaluate and adapt restoration treatments;
- Outreach to third-party land trusts to recruit willing easement holders; and
- Establishing conservation easements on privately owned flood-irrigated wet meadows to maintain existing land management practices and secure habitat values.

Theory of Change.
Improved understanding of flood irrigated wet meadow systems and methods to enhance and maintain them will result in the implementation of effective conservations actions on privately owned wetlands[4] that deliver ecological outcomes as well as continue to support traditional haying and grazing activities[6]. The partnership will provide needed assistance to landowners to ensure these objectives are achieved[5].

Improving the ability for the water table to support emergent wetlands[16] across a larger area[11] will increase the habitat available for water and land birds that depend on wetlands for part of their life cycle. Birds will stay in these habitats longer and in larger numbers[15]. This can be accomplished by developing and implementing projects on privately owned flood-irrigated wetlands[4].

These water management methods will also reduce the extent of non-native reed canary grass and result in the enhancement of native meadow plant communities [17].

3 Community and partner outreach and communications

The Partnership will carry out strategies and actions outlined in the 2015 Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative Communications Plan to:

- contribute to advancing strategies 1 and 2;
- leverage funding;
- demonstrate success;
- increase public and constituent understanding; and
- change behaviors and perceptions where necessary.

The focus of communications strategies will be on improving internal communications within the partnership and bringing attention to external audiences with call-to-action messages to support the vision and goals of the Initiative. Target audiences include:

- Initiative Partners and their constituents;
- Harney County communities and landowners;
- the regional conservation and scientific communities; and
- regional decision and policy makers, funders, and the interested general public.

Theory of Change.
As the communications plan is implemented[7], the awareness and support of stakeholders, partners, and the general community is enhanced, resulting in their increased interest and support[9]. This result supports successful implementation of wet meadow enhancement and maintenance projects with private landowners and other agricultural interests.

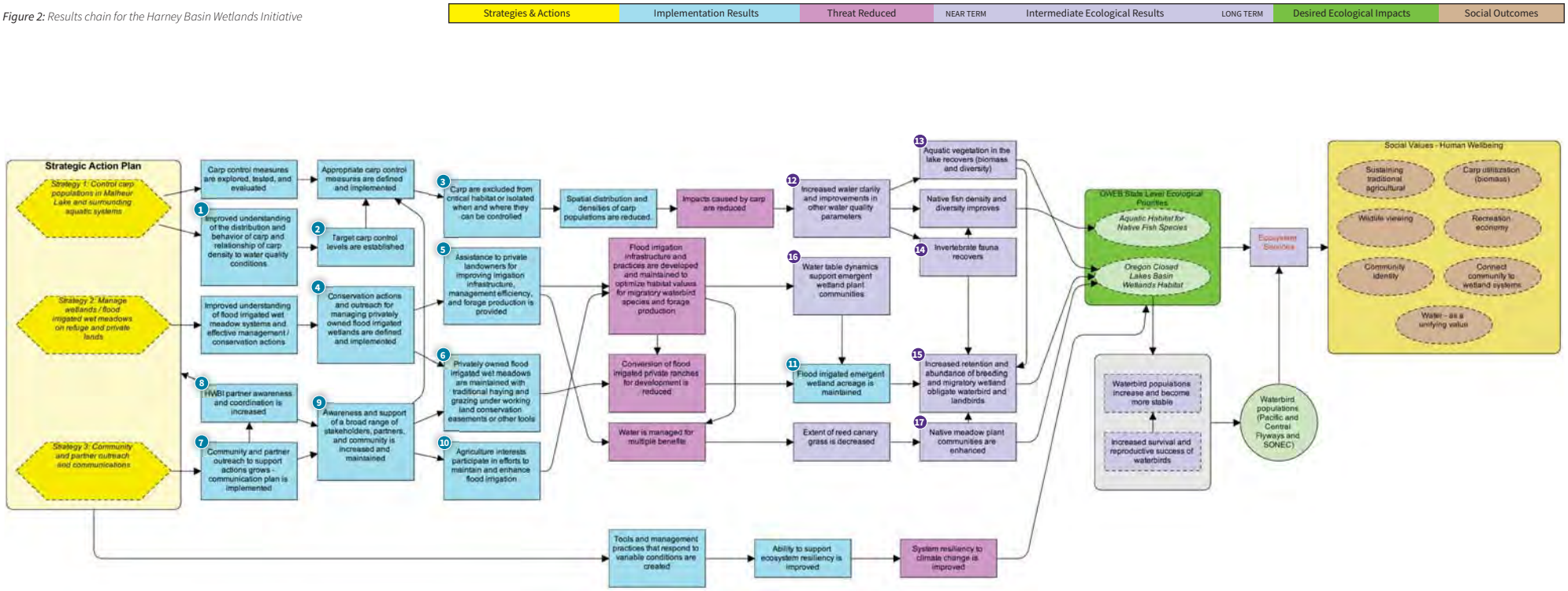
Successful implementation of the communications plan[7] also supports partner awareness within the Initiative, and coordination is improved and maintained[8]. Improved communication and coordination within the Initiative improves the successful implementation of all strategies and long-term ecological outcomes.

Superscript numbers [1-17] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for the Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative

Progression of the Results Chain.



OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

	IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1	Improved understanding of the distribution and behavior of carp and relationship of carp density to water quality conditions	Determine carp population range and age/size distribution by 2018. Identify carp populations and movements within the basin by 2020.	Assessment completion Assessment completion
2	Target carp control levels are established	Determine the threshold carp population for lake change.	Target density of carp population
3	Carp are excluded from critical habitat or isolated when and where they can be controlled	Identify strategic locations to restrict carp movement within the hydrologic system by 2020.	Areas to restrict carp movement
4	Conservation actions and outreach for managing privately owned flood irrigated wetlands are defined and implemented	Evaluate management practices and irrigation infrastructure changes and improvements on wet meadow systems as reflected by plant community changes	Description of management practices and associated changes in plant communities upon implementation of the practices
5	Assistance to private landowners for improving irrigation infrastructure, management efficiency, and forage production is provided	Assist private landowners in improving irrigation infrastructure, management efficiency and forage production on 5,000 acres of wet meadow habitat within the focal investment priority area.	Instances of assistance delivered to private landowners Acres where private assistance has facilitated improvement to irrigation infrastructure and management
6	Privately owned flood irrigated wet meadows are maintained with traditional haying and grazing under working land conservation easements or other tools	By 2020, secure 1,500 acres of privately owned wet meadow habitat under working land conservation easements.	Acres of privately owned wet meadow habitat brought into working land conservation easements
7	Community and partner outreach to support actions grows - communication plan is implemented	Develop communications strategy and tools to increase partners' awareness and coordination to achieve goals.	Communications strategies and tools developed
8	HWBI partner awareness and coordination is increased	HBWI partners understand the role of High Desert Partnership	Level of partner understanding regarding the role of the High Desert Partnership
9	Awareness and support of a broad range of stakeholders and partners is increased and maintained	Use various communication tools and outreach events to increase awareness and deliver products and messages to local community and land owners in Harney County.	Communications tools and outreach events successfully implemented
10	Agriculture interests participate in efforts to maintain and enhance flood irrigation	5,300 acres by 2020	Acres or working lands where flood irrigation enhancement actions are implemented
11	Flood irrigated emergent wetland acreage is maintained	10,300 acres are maintained	Acres of flood irrigated emergent wetlands maintained

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

	LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
12	Increased water clarity and improvements in other water quality parameters	*To be determined through continued assessment and planning*	Water quality parameters including Secchi depth, pH, T, DO, specific conductivity, salinity
13	Aquatic vegetation in the lake recovers (biomass and diversity)	*To be determined through continued assessment and planning*	Species diversity and percent ocular estimates
14	Invertebrate fauna recover	*To be determined through continued assessment and planning*	Macroinvertebrate abundance and species diversity
15	Increased retention and abundance of breeding and migratory wetland obligate waterbirds and landbirds	*To be determined through continued assessment and planning*	Abundance, species richness, species composition
16	Water table dynamics support emergent wetland plant communities	*To be determined through continued assessment and planning*	Depth to water table / soil water-holding efficiency Plant species composition
17	Native meadow plant communities are enhanced	*To be determined through continued assessment and planning*	Vegetation surveys (biomass and diversity)

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES

- Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetlands Habitat
- Aquatic Habitat for Native Species
- Waterbirds and landbirds
- Native fish

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

Oregon All Counties

Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) Steering Committee

The Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse, All Counties

VISION

Oregon's private rangelands sustain abundant populations of sage-grouse, where threats of wildfire, exotic annual grasses, conifer/juniper encroachment, injurious grazing practices, and open space fragmentation have been reduced in a manner that supports and promotes local economic and social needs.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

Steering Committee and Core Partners:

- Harney Soil and Water Conservation District
- Lakeview Soil and Water Conservation District
- Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
- US Fish and Wildlife Service
- Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Bureau of Land Management

External Partners:

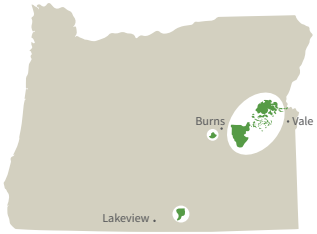
- County governments of Harney, Lake, and Malheur counties
- Cooperative Weed Management Areas
- US Department of Agriculture Research Service
- Oregon State University Extension
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat

FOCAL SPECIES

Greater sage-grouse



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The Steering Committee is focusing its efforts on privately-owned Preliminary Priority Habitats (PPH) for sage-grouse occurring within Harney, Lake, and Malheur counties (approximately 500,000 acres). The scope of work of the six-year OWEB Focused Investment Partnership program is to implement strategies and actions on 40% of these privately owned PPHs (approximately 200,000 acres).

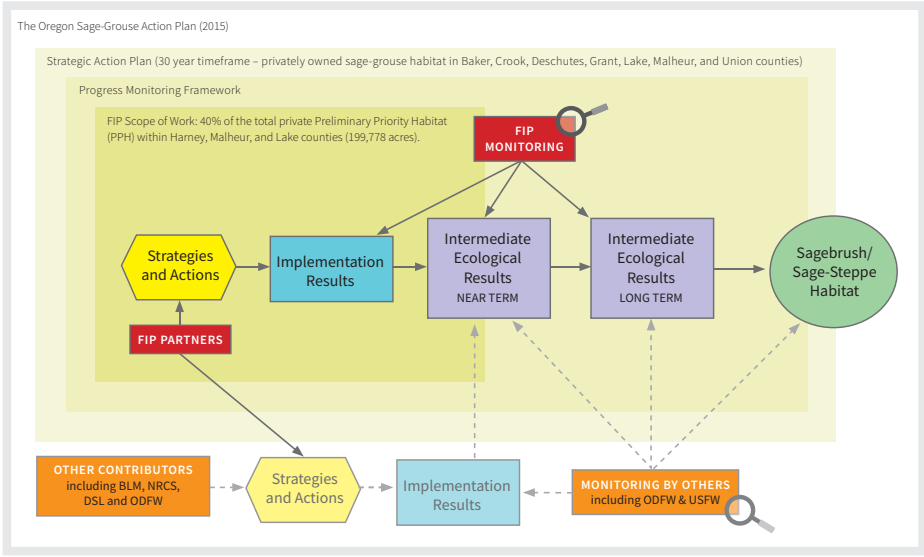
Operational Context

Greater sage-grouse conservation efforts are taking place across a 165-million-acre expanse of sage-grouse habitat that includes areas within eleven western states. The Oregon context for the Steering Committee's initiative is defined in the Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan – covering approximately 18 million acres of habitat.

The partnership's Strategic Action Plan is focused on privately-owned sage-grouse PPH in seven Oregon Counties and defines strategies and objectives that cover a 30-year timeframe (2015-2045). Complementary actions on public lands are being led by federal and state agencies including the Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of State Lands, and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, with complementary funding on private lands provided by the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Together, the Steering Committee and partner agencies will contribute to the ecological outcomes shown in the results chain.

Figure 1: *Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative*



Theory of Change.

SITUATION

Sage-grouse habitat across Oregon is threatened by historic and ongoing changes to native plant communities and the impact of increasingly catastrophic wildfires. Native shrubs and grasses have largely been replaced by invasive annual grasses and historical fire suppression has encouraged expansion of juniper. The invasive grasses provide inadequate cover for sage-grouse nesting, and are highly flammable, promoting more frequent and more severe wildfire. Both the abundance of invasive grasses and the increased incidence and severity of wildfire prevent the re-establishment and persistence of native plant species.

APPROACH

The results chain *(Figure 2)* articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to restoration of the FIPs ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in *Figure 2* are those the partnership has highlighted as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g. 6-year FIP timeframe) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan *(Tables 1 and 2)*. For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measureable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the six-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to theresults chain *(Figure 2)* and measuring progress tables *(Tables 1 and 2)*.

STRATEGIES

The Initiative's theory of change is that the strategies and actions described in the Strategic Action Plan will reduce or eliminate factors limiting sage-grouse and their habitats within privately owned PPHs of Harney, Malheur, and Lake Counties. This work represents an important contribution to the larger regional-scale efforts to recover and conserve sage-grouse.

The strategies focus primarily on reducing the spatial extent of undesirable plant communities dominated by juniper and exotic annual grasses. It is predicted that a reduction in the extent of undesirable plant species will promote an increase in the extent and connectivity of the desired plant communities necessary to support all life stages of sage-grouse. It is also predicted that the strategies will reduce the frequency and severity of wildfires and allow the establishment and long-term stability of desired plant communities.

OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES

1 Complete Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAAs) for private lands

This strategy involves the development of CCAAs for privately owned sage-grouse habitat through recruiting landowner participation and developing Site Specific Plans for those interested in participating. CCAAs are agreements between private landowners and the US Fish and Wildlife Service in which landowners agree to take actions on their lands to reduce or eliminate threats to sage-grouse in exchange for assurances from USFWS that they will face no further regulatory requirements should the species become listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) at a future time.

Theory of Change.

The opportunity to avoid future regulatory requirements associated with the possible ESA listing of sage-grouse will encourage private landowners with PPH sage-grouse habitat on their lands to enroll in CCAAs[1] in sufficient numbers to achieve the Steering Committee's objectives. Once landowners enroll in CCAAs the partners will complete Site Specific Plans[2] and provide guidance to apply for and receive technical and financial assistance to carry out appropriate conservations actions[3] on their land.

2 Provide the opportunity for private landowners to enroll in conservation easements

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements between a landowner and a specifically qualified conservation organization that place long-term restrictions on the use of property in order to protect certain natural values. Conservation easements are uncommon and not well accepted within the geographic scope of the Steering Committee so the Steering Committee will provide the opportunity for one or two interested landowners to participate in a conservation easement as a way to generate community dialogue about the role this strategy could play in the future.

Theory of Change.

Focused and strategic outreach with private landowners about the potential benefits of conservation easements will improve the understanding of how easements work and the benefits they can provide landowners and sage-grouse and their habitat. This more complete understanding will increase interest and encourage implementation of initial measurements.

Partners anticipate successful implementation with early adopters will promote additional participation and expand opportunities for Partners to provide support for applying and receiving technical assistance to carry out appropriate conservations actions[3].

CONSERVATION STRATEGIES

3 Apply conservation measures to address the threat of wildfire

This strategy involves taking actions to reduce the threat of high frequency severe wildfires[6].

Theory of Change.

A reduction in the frequency of severe wildfires will promote:

- establishment of connected plant communities composed of desired species[12], and
- structure and function[14] across sufficient spatial extent.

Both outcomes will support all life stages of sage-grouse at a population scale.

4 Treatment of exotic annual grasses in sage-grouse habitat

Methods for treating exotic annual grasses may include application of herbicides, mechanical removal, prescribed fire, biological treatment, or targeted grazing. Treated areas are then seeded with desired species using areal, drill, or broadcast methods.

Theory of Change.

Actions to treat exotic annual grasses will lead to:

- removal of these species from sage-grouse habitat[4],
- implementation of managed grazing systems[7], and
- support of conservation measures addressing severe wildfire threats[6].

These treatments will reduce the overall extent of exotic annual grasslands and the frequency and severity of wildfires in sage-grouse habitats. Reducing the extent of exotic annual grasses promotes the expansion of desired plant cover[10], contributing to increased extent and connectivity of desired plant communities.

5 Remove juniper in sage-grouse habitat

Actions associated with this strategy may include prescribed fire, application of herbicides, or mechanical removal with various treatments of material including slash pile burning, broadcast burning, lop and scatter, or mastication.

Theory of Change.

Removal of juniper on CCAA enrolled properties will reduce the extent and density of juniper across CCAA enrolled properties. A reduction in woodland type plant communities[11] will increase desired plant cover[10], thereby improving the extent of connected communities of desired plant species[14].

In addition, a reduction in confers will reduce avian predator perches and reduce predation of sage-grouse.

6 Implement actions to address all other threats

This strategy focuses on actions to reduce threats and limiting factors not otherwise addressed. *These include:*

- implementation of managed grazing systems,
- installation of wildlife escape ramps in livestock watering troughs,
- marking fences in high risk collision areas, and
- additional conservation measures to address the threat of fire.

Theory of Change.

Implementation of managed grazing systems[7] will:

- reduce the extent of exotic annual grasses,
- promote an increase in the extent of desired plant cover[10], and
- diminish the frequency and severity of wildfire.

These results will expand connected plant communities containing desired species[14].

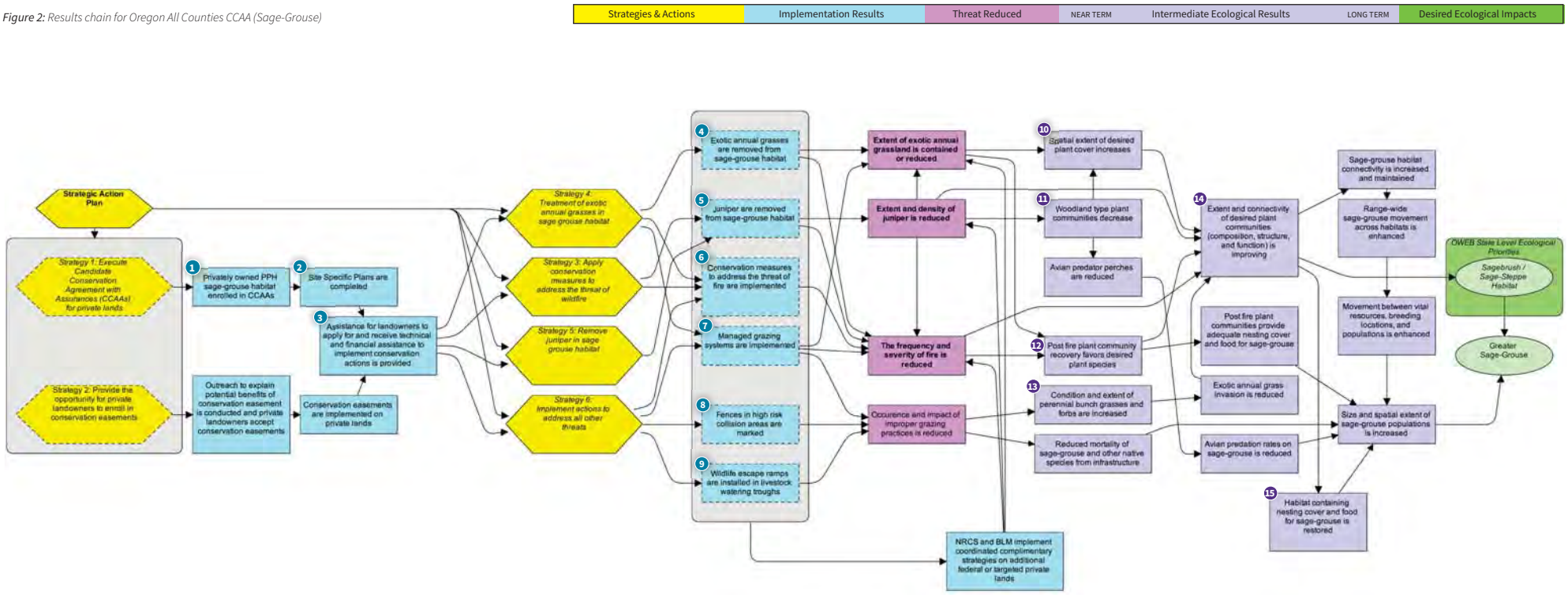
Installation of wildlife escape ramps[9] and marking fences in high-risk collision areas[8] will reduce direct mortality of sage-grouse using these areas.

Superscript numbers [1-15] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for Oregon All Counties CCAA (Sage-Grouse)

Progression of the Results Chain.



Measuring Progress

Monitoring and communication of the Initiative's progress occurs at the local scale (within the scope of the Initiative) and will contribute to reporting at the state or regional scale. At the Initiative scale the implementing members of the Steering Committee will measure and communicate progress towards achieving implementation objectives and effectiveness or ecological outcomes objectives outlined in Table 1 and specified in Site Specific Plans for each treated property.

Data will be processed, summarized, and reported at the initiative level as well, with partners, landowner, OWEB and other funders engaged in communicating progress.

Data collected from the Initiative will be reported to a state-level database for integration into a regional monitoring and reporting framework, thereby contributing to analysis and reporting at the landscape and population scale (status and trend monitoring).

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

	IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1	Privately owned PPH sage-grouse habitat enrolled in CCAAs	By September 30, 2017, 40% (608,000 acres) of privately owned PPH sage-grouse habitat will be enrolled in CCAAs.	Percent of privately owned PPH in focal area with approved SSPs by 9/30/17
2	Site Specific Plans are completed	Complete Site Specific Plans for 40% (608,000 acres) of privately owned PPH sage-grouse habitat Complete Site Specific Plans for 40% (199,778 acres) of privately owned PPH sage-grouse habitat in the FIP Focal Area by 9/30/2017. (13% of all privately owned PPH.)	Percent of privately owned PPH in focal area with approved SSPs by 9/30/17
3	Assistance for landowners to apply for and receive technical and financial assistance to implement conservation actions is provided	Assist landowners in applying for and receiving technical and financial assistance as needed to implement conservationmeasures according to the timeframes specified in the site specific plans. Assist landowners in applying for OWEB FIP funding.	Percent of landowners applying for FIP funding receiving assistance
4	Exotic annual grasses are removed from sage-grouse habitat	30,900 acres of sage-grouse habitat have conservation measures applied to address exotic annual grasses by 6/30/2022. 8,550 acres of sage-grouse habitat in the FIP Focal Area have conservation measures applied to address exotic annual grasses by 6/30/2022	Number of acres with applied conservation measures (or percentof objective)
5	Juniper are removed from sage-grouse habitat	Remove 117,680 acres of juniper from sage-grouse habitat by 6/30/2022. Remove 14,680 acres of juniper from sage-grouse habitat in the FIP Focal Area by 6/30/2022.	Number of acres treated for juniper removal (or percent of objective)
6	Conservation measures to address the threat of fire are implemented	608,000 acres have conservation measures applied to address the threat of wildfire by 2045. 199,778 acres have conservation measures applied to address the threat of wildfire by 6/30/2022.	Number of acres with conservation measures to address wildfire (or percent of objective completed)
7	Managed grazing systems are implemented	Threats to sage-grouse (other than wildfire, exotic annual grasses, and conifer encroachment) will be identified and conservation measures will be implemented on 90% of the enrolled CCAA properties. Manage grazing systems on 199,778 acres of sage-grouse habitat in the FIP Focal Area by 6/30/2022	Number of CCAA enrolled acres with managed grazing systems (or percent of objective completed)
8	Fences in high risk collision areas are marked	Mark 146 miles of fence in high risk collision areas within the FIP Focal Area by 6/30/2022	Miles of fence marked (or percent of objective)
9	Wildlife escape ramps are installed in livestock watering troughs	Install escape ramps in 250 troughs located in the FIP Focal Area by 6/30/2022.	Number of troughs with escape ramps (or percent of objective)

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

	LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
10	Spatial extent of desired plant cover increases	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	Perennial bunchgrass basal cover and density - change from baseline toward desired ecological state Niche occupation by bare-ground or desirable annual forbs - change from baseline toward desired ecological state Sagebrush cover and density – change from baseline toward desired ecological state
11	Woodland type plant communities decrease	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	Conifer cover in treated sites
12	Post fire plant community recovery favors desired plant species	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	To be determined through continued assessment and planning.
13	Condition and extent of perennial bunch grasses and forbs are increased	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	To be determined through continued assessment and planning.
14	Extent and connectivity of desired plant communities (composition, structure, and function) is improving	*60% of enrolled private lands in Oregon will exhibit a stable to improving trend in ecological condition by 2022*	Percent of enrolled acres in FIP Focal Area with a stable to improving trend.
15	Habitat containing nesting cover and food for sage-grouse is restored	*117,680 acres of potential habitat identified as being in ecological states that do not currently provide seasonal or year round habitat during baseline inventory will transition to ecological states capable of providing seasonal or year round habitat by 2022.*	To be determined through continued assessment and planning.

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITIES

Sagebrush / Sage-Steppe Habitat

Greater Sage-grouse

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

Willamette Mainstem
Anchor Habitat Working Group

Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats

VISION

The Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group affirms the basin-scale vision contained in the Willamette Restoration Strategy.

The Willamette Basin will provide a dynamic balance between diverse human and ecological needs.

- Basin residents live in healthy watersheds with functioning floodplains and habitats supporting a diversity of native species;
- Opportunities exist for people to interact with the wildness of a restored, healthy river system;
- Valley residents are part of a larger basin community connected by a system of rivers and streams providing healthy aquatic life, clean drinking water, safe places for recreation and support for a vibrant economy; and
- Residents accept individual and collective responsibility for this vision and provide leaders with the mandate and resources necessary to achieve and sustain it.

PARTNERSHIP MEMBERS

The Core implementing partners:

- Benton Soil and Water Conservation District
- Bonneville Environmental Foundation
- Calapooia Watershed Council
- Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council
- Friends of Buford Park and Mt Pisgah
- Greenbelt Land Trust
- Long Tom Watershed Council
- Luckiamute Watershed Council
- McKenzie River Trust
- The Nature Conservancy – Oregon Chapter
- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
- Willamette Riverkeeper

Other Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group member organizations provide needed help and support such as scientific data, feedback on project design, and more. These include:

- City of Eugene
- Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District
- Trust for Public Land

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

FOCAL SPECIES

Oregon chub
Chinook salmon
Summer steelhead
Pacific lamprey

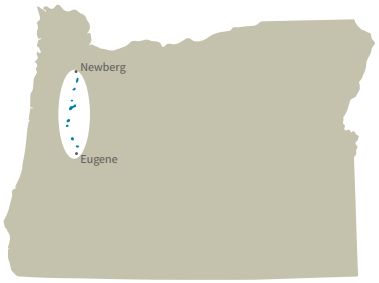
Operational Context

With a focus on the mainstem Willamette, the Initiative is nested within a variety of Willamette Basin scale efforts to restore, conserve, and protect a broad array of ecological values. These various efforts are led and supported by a mix of local, state, and federal agencies, watershed councils, and conservation NGOs (including members of the Working Group). Regional programs that define the context for the Willamette Anchor Habitats Working Group include the following:

- Willamette Mainstem Strategic Investment Program
- Model Watershed Strategic Investment Program
- Willamette River Habitat Protection and Restoration Program
- The Willamette River Basin Memorandum of Agreement Regarding Wildlife Protection and Enhancement (Willamette Wildlife MOA)

FIP partners are also working with the Army Corps of Engineers to promote dam management that better supports processes that improve aquatic habitat for native fish species. In addition, the Working Group continues mapping to identify key habitat needs to inform the Working Group's strategies.

The FIP focus area is within identified anchor habitats in the mainstem Willamette River and temporally limited to a 10-year time horizon. Implementation will occur over the next ten years. The Working Group's Strategic Action Plan extends beyond the anchor habitats to encompass the upper and middle Willamette.



GEOGRAPHIC SCOPE

The Working Group's focus is on identified priority "Anchor Habitats" of the Willamette River mainstem from the Middle Fork and Coast Fork confluence through the middle reach near Newberg, OR.

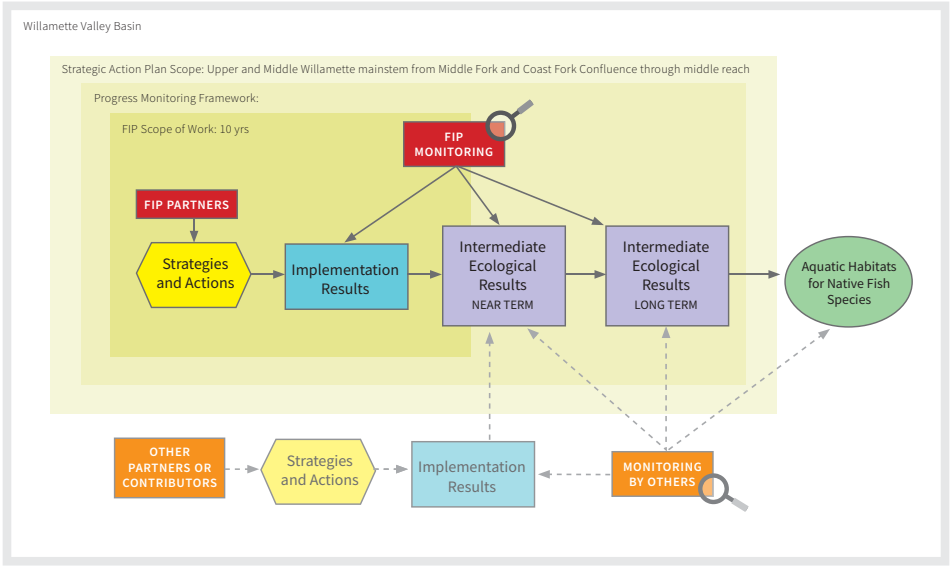


Figure 1: *Operational context of the OWEB-funded Focused Investment Partnership Initiative*

Theory of Change

SITUATION

Land use and development along the mainstem Willamette since the late 1800s has dramatically altered the form and function of the river, its tributaries, and floodplains:

- Development has reduced channel length by 44% and led to armoring of over half of the river's 180-mile length
- Dams block upstream fish passage and alter downstream flow and sediment transport
- Impacts from urban areas along with rural land uses have resulted in elevated stream temperatures, suspended sediment, nutrients and bacteria
- Ecologically rare bottomland hardwood forests have declined by more than 70%
- Flood control dams, bank stabilization, streamside logging, large wood removal, systematic closure of side channels, and dredging have greatly reduced channel and floodplain habitat complexity.

APPROACH

The results chain *(Figure 2)* articulates the partnership's theory of change by displaying the relationships between strategies, implementation results, and the intermediate ecological results partners predict will occur in response to strategy implementation that will ultimately lead to restoration of the FIPs ecological priorities.

Numbered results identified in *Figure 2* are those the partnership has highlighted as part of a monitoring approach. They will allow the partnership to measure progress in both the near (e.g., 10-year) and long term, and to identify where key uncertainties might exist with regards to confidence of predicted outcomes or relationships between results.

Each numbered implementation result is associated with the corresponding objective in the Strategic Action Plan *(Tables 1 and 2)*. For intermediate ecological results, objectives are included if identified; however, for many ecological results, the degree (and timeframe) to which they will be achieved is not yet well understood. Given this complexity, continued assessment and planning will be required to support development of specific, measureable objectives for the desired ecological outcomes.

The narrative below summarizes the resulting theory of change. Implementation results and ecological results prioritized for monitoring during the 10-year FIP timeline are indexed to correspond to the results chain *(Figure 2)* and measuring progress tables *(Tables 1 and 2)*.

Superscript numbers [1-19] can be cross referenced on the Results Chain diagram and the Implementation Progress/Ecological Progress tables on the following pages.

STRATEGIES

The strategies contained in the Strategic Action Plan will contribute to achieving the goal by addressing factors limiting specific life history stages of native fish. The focus is on restoring complexity and connectivity of seasonally (summer-fall and winter-spring) important habitats and improving water quality. The Partnership predicts that implementing strategies to address these limiting factors will increase the extent and availability of quality habitat required to support critical life history stages of native fish species. Strategies include the following:

OUTPUT A Strategies to enhance summer-fall habitats *(cold water resources)*

- **Remove revetments and levees** in reaches likely to experience channel changes
- **Construct lateral channels** in areas with high likelihood of hyporheic (subsurface) flow
- **Plant riparian vegetation** along sloughs and side channels
- **Control invasive aquatic weeds** within anchor habitats

OUTPUT B Strategies to enhance winter-spring habitats *(food resource production and slow water refuges)*

- **Increase and enhance floodplain plant communities** in key habitat areas
- **Modify floodplain topography** to increase the extent and duration of floodplain inundation
- **Modify artificial barriers** to aid fish passage and increase extent and duration of floodplain inundation
- **Enhance former gravel pits** by re-connecting shallow pits, re-grading pond boundaries and filling ponds

OUTPUT A

Enhance the Quality and Extent of Summer-Fall Habitats

A Remove revetments and levees

Working Group partners will remove revetments and levees acting as barriers to floodplain flow in areas likely to experience channel changes.

Theory of Change.
Removing bank stabilization structures[1] will make sediment available for transport[10],

- allowing bare channel bar formation and channel migration to resume,
- promoting increased channel sinuosity and habitat complexity, and ultimately
- resulting in more seasonally important habitat for native fish.

Simultaneously, removing these structures allows the river channel to reconnect with the floodplain[16], resulting in increased extent and duration of floodplain inundation[17] and consequently increased habitat connectivity.

A Construct lateral channels

Working group partners will construct lateral channels or sloughs in floodplains where there is a high likelihood to cool stream temperatures by improving hyporheic flow, in areas like porous gravel deposits and where there is connectivity to side channels.

Theory of Change.
Lateral channel construction[2] will increase the length of secondary channel features[11] and re-establish hyporheic flow. Re-establishment of hyporheic flow will cool stream temperatures and increase dissolved oxygen, improving water quality conditions and seasonally important habitat for native fish.

A Plant Riparian Vegetation

Working group partners will plant riparian vegetation along sloughs and side channels where it is likely to provide shade and support feeding grounds.

Theory of Change.
Riparian vegetation planted along sloughs and side channels[3] will enhance the species composition of the native riparian forest community[12], increasing forest canopy cover and further contributing to improved temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions through shading.

Native trees and shrubs[5] stabilize banks, which reduces fine sediment and toxic inputs that result from unstable bank erosion[13], contributing to improved water quality.

Improved water quality (reduced sediment and temperature and increased dissolved oxygen) and increased canopy cover and shading in turn provide more seasonally important habitat for native fish.

A Control aquatic invasive weeds

Working group partners will treat aquatic invasive species on sites where they are degrading water quality and biodiversity.

Theory of Change.
Application of aquatic weed treatments[4] reduces the extent of invasive plant species[14], which

- reduces competition with native aquatic species and habitat modification from invasive plants,
- improves water quality, and ultimately
- results in increased seasonally important habitat for native fish.

OUTPUT B

Enhance the Quality and Extent of Winter-Spring Habitats

B Increase and enhance floodplain plant communities

Working group partners will plant native trees and shrubs and apply treatments to control invasive species.

Theory of Change.
Planting native trees and shrubs in floodplain areas[5] reduces:

- the extent of invasive plant species[14] in floodplain communities,
- competition with native species, and
- habitat modification from invasive plants.

Native trees and shrubs[5] also reduce fine sediment and toxic inputs that result from erosion of unstable banks[13] by stabilizing banks, contributing to improved water quality.

B Modify floodplain topography to increase floodplain inundation

Working group partners will modify levees and road crossings to increase the extent and duration of floodplain inundation in targeted areas.

Theory of Change.
Modifying floodplain topography[7] reconnects the river to its floodplain[16], promoting increased extent and duration of floodplain inundation[17] and improved habitat connectivity. Modifying floodplain topography[7] will also reduce the quantity of fine sediment and toxic inputs from unstable bank erosion[13].

B Modify artificial barriers to aid fish passage and increase floodplain inundation

Working group partners will remove fish passage and floodplain inundation barriers where barrier removal will promote floodplain flow and access to habitat.

Theory of Change.
In combination with modifying floodplain topography[7], removing artificial barriers to fish in floodplain areas[8] reconnects the river to its floodplain[16], promoting:

- increased extent and duration of floodplain inundation[17] and
- improved habitat connectivity.

Removing artificial barriers to fish in floodplain areas[8] increases fish access to the floodplain[18], representing an increase in seasonally important habitat for native fish.

B Enhance former gravel pits

Working group partners will re-contour and reconnect shallow gravel pits to reconnect side channels to the main channel.

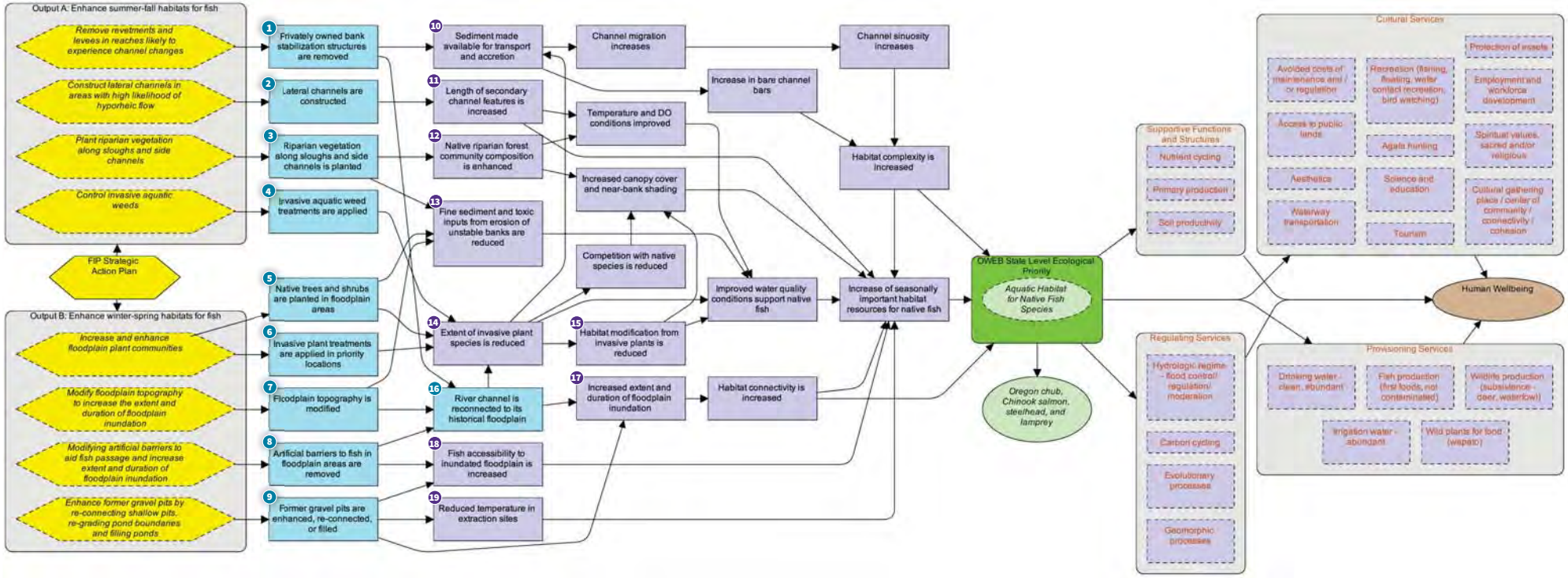
Theory of Change.
Enhancing, re-connecting, or filling former gravel pits[9] increases extent and duration of floodplain inundation[17] and habitat connectivity, cumulatively increasing seasonally important habitat for native fish.

Importantly, enhancing, re-connecting, or filling former gravel pits[9] also increases fish access to inundated floodplains[18] and the organic material abundant on inundated floodplains that provides essential calories for rearing fish.

Results Chain

Figure 2: Results chain for the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group Initiative

Progression of the Results Chain.



Measuring Progress

Project managers and implementers will measure and communicate implementation progress. Agency and academic experts will collaborate with project managers and implementers to measure near and long term ecological result objectives. Long-term status and trend monitoring associated with ecological outcomes and impacts will be completed by academic experts in collaboration with project managers.

Numbered results *(Results chain and tables 1 and 2)* describe hypothesized results of strategy implementation and linkages of outputs to outcomes. Corresponding metrics are shown as potential indicators and do not necessarily reflect monitoring for which the FIP has capacity or funding. Some implementation objectives include a larger geography or longer timeframe than those addressed within the FIP.

OUTPUTS

Implementation Progress

Table 1. Implementation results objectives and metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 2) and theories of change.

	IMPLEMENTATION RESULTS	OBJECTIVES	METRICS
1	Privately owned bank stabilization structures are removed	Modify artificial barriers to floodplain flow at 15 high priority sites in anchor habitats in the Upper and Middle Willamette by 2025.	Sediment made available for transport and accretion Increase in bare channel bars
2	Lateral channels are constructed	Partners will construct lateral channels or sloughs in floodplains with a high likelihood of hyporheic flow (e.g., porous gravel deposits, connectivity to side channels) and the majority of these sites will meet cold water criteria after restoration.	Length of secondary channel features
3	Riparian vegetation along sloughs and side channels is planted	Partners will plant riparian vegetation along sloughs and side channels to provide shade and support feeding grounds for native fish on over 120 acres by 2025 (Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Members, Landowners)	Native riparian forest community composition and extent
4	Invasive aquatic weed treatments are applied	Control aquatic invasive species that threaten water quality and native fish habitat on over 500 acres by 2019.	Extent of invasive plant species
5	Native trees and shrubs are planted in floodplain areas	Implement 25 large scale floodplain forest conservation and restoration projects in priority anchor habitats between 2016 and 2022 (Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Members; within 3600 floodplain forest restoration acres).	Acres of floodplain forest
6	Invasive plant treatments are applied in priority locations	Implement 25 large-scale floodplain forest conservation and restoration projects in priority anchor habitats between 2016 and 2022 (Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Members; within 3600 floodplain forest restoration acres)	Extent of invasive terrestrial plant species in priority locations within 3600 acres of floodplain forest
7	Floodplain topography is modified to increase extent and duration of flood inundation	To be determined through continued assessment and planning.	Extent and duration of floodplain inundation
8	Artificial barriers to fish in floodplain areas are removed	Implement barrier removal projects at 15 high priority sites (Objective) across eleven anchor habitats (Action) by 2025 (Willamette Anchor Habitat Working Group Members)	Extent and duration of floodplain inundation Fish accessing inundated floodplain
9	Former gravel pits are enhanced, re-connected, or filled	Enhance former gravel pits and alleviate stranding by re-connecting shallow pits and regrading pond boundaries at 5 sites by 2025	Fish accessing inundated floodplain Water temperature in extraction sites

Table 2. Ecological results potential objectives and potential metrics. The result numbers correspond to results shown in the results chain (Figure 1) and theories of change.

Given the complexity of ecosystems, continued assessments and planning will be required to support development of specific, measurable objectives for desired ecological outcomes.

OUTCOMES

Ecological Progress

	LIMITING FACTOR REDUCTION OR INTERMEDIATE ECOLOGICAL RESULTS	POTENTIAL OBJECTIVES	POTENTIAL METRICS
10	Sediment is made available for transport and accretion	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	Bank erosion; channel migration (erosion pin surveys; repeat mapping using aerial photographs and repeat surveys)
11	Length of secondary channel features is increased	*Increase channel (secondary channel feature) length by over 10 miles*	Channel length
12	Native riparian forest community composition is enhanced	*Enhance native riparian forest community composition on over 120 acres*	Canopy cover; near-bank stream shading; species composition and structure
13	Fine sediment and toxic inputs from erosion of unstable banks are reduced	*To be determined through continued assessment and planning.*	To be determined through continued assessment and planning.
14	Extent of invasive plant species is reduced	*Invasive aquatic species are controlled on over 500 acres; invasive terrestrial species are controlled on 3600 floodplain forest restoration acres*	Extent of aquatic and terrestrial invasive plant species (Cover)
15	Habitat modification from invasive plants is reduced	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	Bed substrate; bathymetry; water quality per September 2016 grant application
16	River channel is reconnected to historic floodplain	*Increase local inundation by more than 2 weeks during typical winters*	Inundation assessments using water level loggers
17	Extent and duration of floodplain inundation is increased	*Increase local inundation by more than 2 weeks during typical winters*	Inundation assessments using water level loggers
18	Habitat connectivity is increasing	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	Fish use
18	Water temperature is reduced in extraction sites	*To be determined through preliminary post-project monitoring*	Water temperature from continuous temperature loggers; fish use

Status & Trends

ECOLOGICAL PRIORITY

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Monitoring the status and trends of ecological priority habitats and focal species will include coordination with agencies or conservation organizations operating at the appropriate landscape or population scales. FIP partners will work with these entities to establish a process for integrating their monitoring framework with existing status and trends monitoring programs (if they occur) or to establish an approach for identifying key ecological attributes that should be measured to document and communicate change in the status and trajectory of ecological priority habitats and focal species populations.

Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Miriam Hulst, Acquisitions Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P-1: Other Business-Time Extension for Mountcrest Acquisition Project
October 24-25, 2017 OWEB Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report updates the board on due diligence for the Mountcrest Conservation Easement Project and recommends the board approve a time extension to allow the grantee to close the transaction.

II. Background

Land acquisition grants awarded by the board are conditioned on general and project-specific due diligence requirements, which must be met by the grantees before funds are released for the land transactions. OAR 695-045-0185 states that funds encumbered for a specific project may be made available for other uses by OWEB if all conditions required by the board are not satisfied within 18 months of the conditional board approval. The intent of the rule is to keep due diligence progressing efficiently and avoid a backlog of projects. In the event that a grantee does not satisfy the conditions of a board funding award, including closing the transaction within 18 months of the award, the board may rescind the award or authorize continued encumbrance of all or part of the awarded funds in accordance with OAR 695-045-0200.

In accordance with the 18-month rule for closing, projects funded by the board at its April 2016 meeting must close by October 26, 2017. The Mountcrest Conservation Easement transaction (Grant No. 216-9903) has not yet closed for reasons explained below. The grantee is making good progress on meeting the requirements for closing, but needs extra time to complete the requirements.

III. Project Requiring an Extension for Closing – Mountcrest Conservation Easement

The Mountcrest project is the purchase of a working forest conservation easement by Pacific Forest Trust. Working lands conservation easements are complex documents that must be drafted with close attention to legal details in order to effectively achieve the project's desired ecological outcomes. In addition to meeting OWEB's requirements for easements, the Mountcrest conservation easement must meet the requirements of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which are partners in the project. Multi-party negotiations and coordination processes take more time than single-funder projects. The easement is nearly complete, but more time is needed to finish the document and complete other due diligence for the project, including final approvals for the federal funds that will be spent by ODFW.

Staff expect that the Mountcrest transaction will be complete by early 2018, but are recommending the board extend the closing deadline to May 31, 2018, to allow staff time to resolve any unexpected complications without needing to seek another time extension from the board.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board extend the deadline for closing the Mountcrest Conservation Easement Project described in this staff report, to May 31, 2018.

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Programs Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P-2: Other Business: Organization Collaboration Grant Awards
October 24-25, 2017 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2017-2019 Organization Collaboration grant offerings, and outlines staff recommendations for grant awards for the September 2017 application deadline.

II. Background

OWEB announced this grant offering in July 2013. The funding is intended to support new, or expand, strategic collaborations in order to build resilient, sustainable, local organizations that achieve ecological outcomes and engage communities. Organizational Collaboration grants may support the following activities:

1) Evaluating the operational structure of multiple collaborating organizations to improve service delivery or reach under-served communities/geographies, which may result in sharing of staff and services among the organizations.

2) The merger/consolidation of organizations.

The applicants must demonstrate that the options being considered will strengthen the impact and build resiliency and sustainability of multiple organizations.

Since its inception, four grants have been awarded for a total of $367,249. At the July 2017 meeting, the board adopted its 2017-2019 spending plan and allocated $400,000 for Organization Collaboration grants. Of this amount, $200,000 was delegated to OWEB's Executive Director for the merger implementation grant for the Rogue River Watershed Council.

III. Solicitation Process

In August 2017, staff announced the Organization Collaboration grant offering for the 2017-2019 biennium, with deadlines in September and December of 2017, and March and September of 2018. Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants were required to participate in a consultation with the Capacity Programs Coordinator. During the consultations, staff discuss the purpose of the program, allowable activities, evaluation criteria, and timing.

IV. Review

Two applications were received by the September 29, 2017 deadline. Applicants were interviewed by OWEB staff on October 12, 2017. The interview included board and staff members from each partnering organization. Interviews focused on understanding how the existing structure(s) limit capacity for community engagement and watershed restoration, the openness of the partnership to change, and shared commitment and likelihood of success.

V. Current Grant Cycle Staff Funding Recommendations

Staff recommend funding both applications submitted for this cycle. The applications demonstrate the partnerships are committed to exploring and developing new ways of doing business through collaboration in order to increase their ability to engage local communities and implement watershed restoration.

VI. Recommendations

Staff recommend the board award Organization Collaboration grants as described in Attachment A.

Attachments

A. Staff Funding Recommendations
B. Evaluations

Staff Funding Recommendation
September 2017 Organization Collaboration Applications

Project Number	Applicant	Project Title	OWEB Request	Amount Recommended	Brief Description
218-8007-15891	Forest Park Conservancy	Collaborative Partnership Agreement	$53,772	$53,772	The goal of the project is to create a formal partnership between Verde, Forest Park Conservancy, and West Multnomah Soil and Watershed Consecration District. We seek to develop an organizational partnership model with specific goals, objectives, and outcomes that will improve our restoration work and strengthen meaningful engagement of communities of color. The model will help restore the greater Forest Park ecosystem and also be a tool that can be replicated by other organizations around the state.
218-8007-15892	Greenbelt Land Trust	Shared Space Center - Phase II	$72,848	$72,848	Greenbelt Land Trust will work with Benton Soil & Water Conservation District and Institute for Applied Ecology to oversee Phase II of the Shared Space Center project, which when completed will support our collective missions and increase our ability to deliver on-the-ground services such as watershed restoration and protection. This proposal requests OWEB support to fund in part a contract to facilitate planning around the Center's governance structure, shared serves and communications planning, legal fees to cover the formation of a collaborative nonprofit, partner meetings and community surveys, travel to assess regional shared space centers, initial interior design discussions, and the public launch of the project.
Total Reqest			**$126,620**		
Total Recommended for funding by OWEB Staff				**$126,620**	

Organization Collaboration Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8007-15891

OWEB Region: 3

Application Name: Collaborative Partnership Agreement

Requested Amount: $53,772.00

Applicant's Summary: The goal of the project is to create a formal partnership between Verde, Forest Park Conservancy, and West Multnomah Soil and Watershed Consecration District. We seek to develop an organizational partnership model with specific goals, objectives, and outcomes that will improve our restoration work and strengthen meaningful engagement of communities of color. The model will help restore the greater Forest Park ecosystem and also be a tool that can be replicated by other organizations around the state. Funds will be used to develop an MOU or workplan (or both) that will lead to greater success in the greater Forest Park ecosystem and beyond.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partners have a history of working together.
- Partners are committed to a shared vision and outcome, a different way of doing business, which includes a diversity, equity, and inclusion outcome.
- Partners have the capacity to accomplish the work.
- The partners plan to engage staff and board members of the three organizations during the process.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The timeline seems rushed.

Concluding Analysis: There is shared partnership vision around changing how they work together and a vision of shared diversity, equity, and inclusion goals. The work they are proposing is challenging and the partnership will likely need more time than proposed in the initial application. Significant board and staff engagement from all the partners will be needed throughout the process to realize the shared vision.

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $53,772.00

Organization Collaboration Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 218-8007-15892

OWEB Region: 3

Application Name: Shared Space Center – Phase II

Requested Amount: $72,848.00

Applicant's Summary: Greenbelt Land Trust will work with Benton Soil & Water Conservation District and Institute for Applied Ecology to oversee Phase II of the Shared Space Center project, which when completed will support our collective missions and increase our ability to deliver on-the-ground services such as watershed restoration and protection. This proposal requests OWEB support to fund in part a contract to facilitate planning around the Center's governance structure, shared serves and communications planning, legal fees to cover the formation of a collaborative nonprofit, partner meetings and community surveys, travel to assess regional shared space centers, initial interior design discussions, and the public launch of the project.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partners successfully completed phase I of the shared space concept.
- Partners are committed to a shared vision and outcome.
- Partners have developed a MOU to guide Phase II of the effort.
- The proposal includes both concepts for shared space and shared services such as GIS, administration, and IT support.
- Partners have the capacity to accomplish the work.
- The timeline is clear and realistic.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- No concerns were identified.

Concluding Analysis: There is significant partnership commitment to this project, including time and financial resources. The partners have developed a shared vision and the proposal demonstrates a well thought out approach to completing phase II of the shared space concept.

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: $72,848