

2020 Post-Fire Recovery Grants

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Are design, permitting, and implementation considered eligible activities under these grants?

Design and permitting, as stand-alone activities, ARE NOT eligible for these OWEB grants; however, late-stage project design and permitting are eligible activities if they are proposed as part of an implementation project and are sufficiently developed so that the restoration actions can be planned and implemented over a relatively short timeframe (i.e., potentially as few as 15 months and as long as 3 years), due to the source of funding for these grants.

Can the 2020 Post-Fire Recovery Grant funds be used for replanting on areas that received treatments as part of immediate fire response efforts, but require additional restoration work?

Yes, this funding can be used for post-fire recovery and restoration in areas where immediate post-fire recovery activities occurred previously. For example, immediate response activities that occurred within months following the 2020 fires may have experienced limited success for seeding and planting efforts due to drought impacts. This funding can be used to supplement those previous post-fire recovery activities or to address recovery needs in areas that have not yet been treated.

Can the 2020 Post-Fire Recovery Grants fund weed management on projects that were planted/seeded previously?

Treatment of invasive species is allowable if it is a component of site preparation prior to and/or plant stewardship following restoration planting. Early detection and rapid response (EDRR) or stand-alone treatment of invasive species IS NOT an eligible activity.

Can the 2020 Post-Fire Recovery Grant funds be used on County lands? Federal lands?

The legislative intent for these grants prioritizes work on non-federal lands (e.g., private, state, and tribal lands). County lands are eligible for this funding. On a case-by-case basis and in coordination with work on prioritized non-federal lands, use of a very modest portion of funds on federal lands may be considered as part of an all-lands approach to address priority erosion and water-quality concerns. However, applicants must contact OWEB to discuss this topic prior to submitting a grant application.

Can multiple sites in a fire area be proposed for work in a single grant application?

Yes, activities at more than one site can be applied for in a single grant application. The applicant must describe in detail the restoration activities that will occur at each location in the fire affected area and include information such as detailed project maps and project designs as part of the grant application.

My watershed was impacted by multiple fires. How does this influence my grant application?

Applicants must select a single fire area in their grant application. If a particular area was affected by multiple fires, select one fire in the '2020 Wildfire Affected Areas' section of the application and then explain how the multiple fires affected the watershed in the 'Problem Statement' narrative of the application.

What is maximum grant amount that we can apply for per project?

No maximum amount has been set for these grants.

How will the funds be divided among the funding cycles for these grants?

No specific allocation has been made for each of the funding cycles. The first cycle, which has a deadline of 1/31/22, will help determine program demand and assess if some applicants require more time to develop grant applications. OWEB will open a second cycle in early April of 2022, with a deadline of 5/31/22. This cycle should accommodate those applicants or fire areas requiring more time for application development. If funding remains following the second cycle, a third grant cycle will open in early August 2022 and close in late August 2022.

When must the grants be completed?

The funding source for these grants is General Funds provided during the 2021 Legislative Session. These funds typically have a 2-year lifespan. While OWEB will request authority from the Oregon Legislature to extend the lifespan for these funds, all funding must be obligated during the 2021-23 biennium (i.e., before June 30, 2023). During this biennium, grantees must be able to demonstrate meaningful progress on implementation of activities and expenditure of funding. For this reason, grant applications must describe and demonstrate the applicant's (and partners') capacity to plan and implement successful restoration actions over a relatively short timeframe (i.e., potentially as few as 15 months and as long as 3 years).