



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Virtual Meeting
January 25 & 26, 2022



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Meeting Agenda January 25 & 26, 2022

Business Meeting - 10:00 a.m.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, the January 25 & 26 board meeting will be held virtually. The public is welcome to listen to the meeting through the following methods:

- **YouTube Streaming:** https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA. Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting content.
- **Phone:**
 - **Jan 25:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 898 4341 0670 and passcode: OWEBDAY1
 - **Jan 26:** Dial 1 669 900 6833, when prompted, enter ID number 893 6981 9255 and passcode: OWEBDAY2.
- The board book (eBook) is available at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/meetings.aspx>
- For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Written and verbal public comment

OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item.

Written Comments

Written comments should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@OWEB.oregon.gov. Written comments received by Thursday, January 20 at 4:00 p.m. will be provided to the board in advance of the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period (Agenda Items C, F, G, and M). To provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at April.mack@OWEB.oregon.gov, by 4:00 p.m. on Monday, January 24, and provide the following information:

- Your first and last name,
- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Tuesday, January 25, 2022**A. Board Member/Executive Director Comments (10:05 a.m.)**

Board representatives from state and federal agencies and OWEB's Executive Director will provide updates 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.R Review and Approval of Minutes (11:15 a.m.)

The minutes of the October 26-27, 2021 virtual meeting will be presented for board approval. *Action item.*

C. Public Comment (11:20 a.m.)

This time is reserved for the board to hear general public comment and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting. *Information item.*

D. Committee Updates (11:30 a.m.)

Representatives from board committees will provide updates on committee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

E. Special Legislative Funding and Budget/Legislative Updates (11:35 a.m.)

Executive Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, Deputy Director Stephanie Page, Fire and Klamath Programs Coordinator Renee Davis, and Board and Legislative Coordinator Eric Hartstein will update the board on the December 13, 2021 special legislative session, provide a brief update on recent legislative days presentations and the 2022 legislative session, possible budget requests from the agency in the 2023 legislative session. Staff will request board approval to accept funds allocated to OWEB during the December 13, 2021 special session. *Action item.*

F. Board Climate Resolution Public Comment, Board Discussion and Tentative Board Action (12:20 p.m.)

Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard at approximately 12:20 p.m.

Board Climate Discussion (1:20 pm)

Deputy Director Stephanie Page, Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Water and Climate Programs Coordinator Jessi Kershner will provide an overview of a board climate resolution developed with the Climate Committee. Staff will then invite board discussion on board action on the climate resolution and to initiate rulemaking to develop climate evaluation criteria for OWEB's restoration grants. *Action item.*

Business Meeting - 8:00 a.m.

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- The topic of your comment, and
- The phone number you will be using when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long distance phone call charges.

Wednesday, January 26, 2022**G. Public Comment (8:05 a.m.)**

This time is reserved for the board to hear public comment and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting. *Information item.*

H. Initiate Rulemaking on Division 5 (8:20 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Board and Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will seek board authorization to initiate rulemaking for Division 5, OWEB Grant Programs. *Action item.*

I. Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Commissioner Appointments (8:40 a.m.)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams will recommend the board reappoint Doug Krahmer, Nathan Jackson, and Bruce Taylor to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. *Action item.*

J. OWEB Board Meeting Schedule Format (8:55 a.m.)

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will provide an update regarding in-person and virtual options for future board meetings. The board will be asked to approve a format that includes meeting in-person three times per year once it is safe to do so. *Action item.*

K. Tidegate Update and Accept Funds (9:25 a.m.)

Coastal Programs Coordinator Jillian McCarthy will provide a summary and update of the Oregon Tide Gate Partnership, and request that the board accept and delegate funding for tide gate technical studies that have a statewide benefit for tide gate project development. *Action item.*

L. Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Effectiveness Monitoring Funding (9:55 a.m.)

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein and Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch will request the board approve funding to support Bonneville Environmental Foundation's ongoing work related to the FIP program, and supplemental effectiveness monitoring work for the second cohort of FIPs that were first awarded funding in the 2019-2021 biennium. *Action item.*

M. Partnership Technical Assistance Grant Awards (10:35 a.m.)

NOTE: Staff introduction, Verbal public comment specific for this agenda item will be heard at approximately 10:50 a.m., Board discussion, followed by tentative Board action.

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff and Partnerships Coordinator Taylor Larson will provide an overview of the 2021 Partnership TA grant offering and funding recommendations. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in the staff report. *Action item.*

N. OWEB Board Committees (11:45 a.m.)

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein will update the board on the current board committee structure and ask the board to discuss public participation in

committee meetings, and potential ideas for revising the committee structure. *Possible Action item.*

O. Staff Updates (1:00 p.m.)

OWEB staff will update the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. *Information item.*

P. FIP Progress Tracking Reports (1:25 p.m.)

Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch, Partnerships Coordinator Taylor Larson, Partnerships Coordinator Denise Hoffert, Board and Legislative Coordinator Eric Hartstein, and Robert Warren of Bonneville Environmental Foundation will provide a presentation about continuing work to track FIP initiative progress towards ecological outcomes, with a focus on the Progress Tracking Reports for the second and third biennia for the six FIPs first awarded funding in the 2015-2017 biennium. *Information item.*

O. Other Business (2:10 p.m.)

This item is reserved for other matters that may come before the board. *Information 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 when OWEB meetings convene.

Voting Rules

The OWEB Board has 18 members. Of these, 11 are voting members and 7 are ex-officio. For purposes of conducting business, OWEB's voting requirements are divided into 2 categories – general business and action on grant awards.

General Business

A general business quorum is **6 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 6 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 8 voting members** present to act on grant awards, and affirmative votes of at least six voting members. In addition, regardless of the number of

members present, **if 3 or more voting members** object to an award of funds, the proposal will be rejected.

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 April Mack, OWEB Board Assistant, at 971-345-7001 or send an e-mail to april.mack@OWEB.oregon.gov. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise April Mack as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Membership

Voting Members

Barbara Boyer, *Board Co-Chair, Board of Agriculture*
Brenda McComb, *Board of Forestry*
Bruce Buckmaster, *Public*
Gary Marshall, *Public*
Jamie McLeod-Skinner, *Public*
Kelly Coates, *Public (Tribal)*
Liza Jane McAlister, *Board Co-Chair, Public*
Mark Labhart, *Fish and Wildlife Commission*
Meg Reeves, *Water Resources Commission*
Molly Kile, *Environmental Quality Commission*
Randy Labbe, *Public*

Non-voting Members

Cory Owens, *U.S. Natural Resources Conservation Service*
Dan Brown, *U.S. Environmental Protection Agency*
Dan Shively, *U.S Forest Service*
Eric Murray, *National Marine Fisheries Service*
Paul Henson, *U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service*
Stephen Brandt, *Oregon State University Extension Service*
Vacant, *U.S. Bureau of Land Management*

Contact Information

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
Tel: 503-986-0178
Fax: 503-986-0199
www.oregon.gov/OWEB

OWEB Executive Director – Lisa Charpillouz Hanson
Lisa.CHARPILLOZ-HANSON@OWEB.oregon.gov

OWEB Assistant to Executive Director and Board – April Mack

april.mack@OWEB.oregon.gov

971-345-7001

2022 Board Meeting Schedule

April 26 & 27 Enterprise

July 26 & 27 TBD

October 25 & 26 TBD

For online access to staff reports and other OWEB publications, visit our web site:

www.oregon.gov/OWEB.

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 community members at all levels
- Promoting community ownership of 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 operation
- Addressing root sources and causes
- Incorporating local knowledge, experience, and culture
- Catalyzing local energy and investment

Investing collaboratively with long-term outcomes in mind

- Aligning investments with current and potential funding partners
- Maintaining progress into the future
- Stewarding for the long term
- Taking the long view on projects and intervention

Demonstrating impact through meaningful 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 underrepresented populations

- Seeking to include the voice and perspectives that are not typically at the table
- Specific, targeted engagement
- Ensuring information is available and accessible to diverse audiences



OWEB Staff Culture Statement

We are dedicated to OWEB’s mission and take great pride that our programs support watershed health and empower local communities. Our work is deeply rewarding and we are passionate about what we do. Our team is nimble, adaptable, and forward-thinking, while remaining grounded in the grassroots history of watershed work in Oregon. With a strong understanding of our past, we are strategic about our future. We believe in working hard while keeping our work environment innovative, productive, and fun. We are collaborative, both with each other and with outside partners and organizations, and place great value in continually improving what we do and how we do it.

January 2022 Board Meeting

	2021-2023 SPENDING PLAN for M76, GF & PCSRF Funds	January 2022 Additions	2021 Spending Plan	TOTAL Awards To-Date	Remaining Spending Plan after Awards To-Date	Other Funding Received & Delegated
1	Open Solicitation:					
2	Restoration		32.000	7.988	24.012	0.460
3	Fire Recovery & Restoration					
4	Riparian/upland rest. & water quality		10.750	10.750	0.000	
5	Floodplain restoration & reconnection		5.000	5.000	0.000	
6	Technical Assistance					
7	Restoration TA		3.000	1.116	1.884	
8	CREP TA		1.200	1.200	0.000	0.400
9	Stakeholder Engagement		2.250	0.557	1.693	0.000
10	Monitoring grants		4.250	1.837	2.413	0.000
11	Land and Water Acquisition		9.000	3.079	5.921	0.000
12	Weed Grants		3.250	3.250	0.000	0.000
13	Small Grants		2.800	2.800	0.000	0.000
14	Quantifying Outputs and Outcomes		1.000	0.150	0.850	0.000
15	TOTAL	0.000	74.500	37.727	36.773	0.860
16	% of assumed Total Budget		54.57%			
17	Focused Investments:					
18	Deschutes		1.915	1.915	0.000	0.000
19	Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat		1.400	1.400	0.000	0.000
20	Harney Basin Wetlands		0.100	0.100	0.000	0.000
21	Upper Grande Ronde		0.466	0.466	0.000	0.000
22	John Day Partnership		4.000	4.000	0.000	0.000
23	Baker Sage Grouse		2.435	2.435	0.000	0.000
24	Warner Aquatic Habitat		2.293	2.293	0.000	0.000
25	Rogue Forest Rest. Ptnrshp		2.700	2.700	0.000	0.000
26	Clackamas Partnership		3.082	3.082	0.000	0.000
27	New FIP Solicitation		10.000	0.000	10.000	0.000
28	FI Effectiveness Monitoring		0.750	0.000	0.750	0.000
29	TOTAL	0.000	29.141	18.391	10.750	0.000
30	% of assumed Total Budget		21.34%			
31	Operating Capacity:					
32	Capacity grants (WC/SWCD)		15.121	15.121	0.000	0.000
33	Statewide org partnership support		0.225	0.225	0.000	0.000
34	Organizational Collaboration		0.500	0.130	0.370	0.000
35	Partnership Technical Assistance		1.500	0.000	1.500	0.000
36	TOTAL	0.000	17.346	15.476	1.870	0.000
37	% of assumed Total Budget		12.70%			
38	Other:					
39	CREP		0.750	0.750	0.000	0.000
40	Governor's Priorities		1.000	0.800	0.200	0.000
41	Strategic Implementation Areas		1.500	1.500	0.000	0.000
43	Gov. directed - Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership		0.330	0.330	0.000	0.000
44	Gov. directed - Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership		0.350	0.350	0.000	0.000
45	Drought Resiliency					
46	Irrigation District Grants	1.627	1.627	0.000	1.627	0.000
47	Irrigation District Grants - N Unit	2.000	2.000	0.000	2.000	0.000
48	Jefferson Co Resiliency Grants	1.000	1.000	0.000	1.000	0.000
49	Klamath Livestock Wells & off channel const grants	3.000	3.000	0.000	3.000	0.000
50	Klamath Co Resiliency Grants	1.000	1.000	0.000	1.000	0.000
51	Jefferson Co Soil Conservation Grants	3.000	3.000	0.000	3.000	0.000
52	TOTAL	11.627	15.557	3.730	11.827	0.000
53	% of assumed Total Budget		11.39%			
54	TOTAL OWEB Spending Plan	11.627	136.545	75.324	61.221	0.860
55	Funds transferred from/to other agencies					
56	Transfer to ODFW - PCSRF		12.884	12.884	0.000	0.000
57	Transfer to Eugene Water & Electric Board - GF		4.000	4.000	0.000	0.000
58	Transfer from ODF for Forest Health Collaboratives - OF		0.500	0.000	0.500	0.500
59	Transfer from PSMFC - IMW - OF		0.600	0.000	0.600	0.600
60	Transfer from NRCS - Farm Bill technical support - FF					
61	TOTAL	0.000	17.984	16.884	1.100	1.100
62	OWEB Spending Plan & Other Directed Funds	11.627	154.529	92.208	62.321	1.960

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)

Oct 26 & 27, 2021 Board Meeting

Virtual Zoom Board Meeting

(Audio time stamps reference recording at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA.)

OWEB MEMBERS PRESENT

Boyer, Barbara
Brandt, Stephen
Brown, Dan
Buckmaster, Bruce
Coates, Kelly
Henson, Paul
Kile, Molly
Labbe, Randy
Labhart, Mark
Marshall, Gary
McAlister, Liza Jane
McComb, Brenda
McLeod-Skinner, Jamie
Murray, Eric
Owens, Cory
Reeves, Meg
Shively, Dan

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Ciannella, Greg
Davis, Renee
Duzik, Katie
Fetcho, Ken
Forney, Miriam
Greer, Sue
Grenbemer, Mark
Hartstein, Eric
Hatch, Audrey
Kershner, Jessi
Mack, April
Menton, Coby
Redon, Liz
Scharer, Miriam
Shaff, Courtney
Charpilloz Hanson, Lisa
Williams, Eric

OTHER

Bagley, Clinton
Beamer, Kelley
Best, Constance
Larson, Kristen
Miller, Alli
Pasay, Julius
Rep. Pam Marsh
Wozniak, Owen

Tuesday, Oct 26, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 a.m. by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

New Executive Director Introductions and Staff Updates (Audio = 1:57)

Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister introduced OWEB's new Executive Director, Lisa Charpilloz Hanson. Lisa and Deputy Director Renee Davis updated the board with new OWEB staff hires. *Information item.*

A. Board Member Comments (Audio = 0:15:45)

Board representatives from state and federal agencies provided an update on issues related to the natural resource agency they represent. This was 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 (Audio = 1:38:25)

The minutes of the July 27 & 28, 2021 virtual meetings were presented for board approval. *Action item.*

Jamie McLeod-Skinner made the motion the board approve the minutes from the July 27 & 28, 2021 virtual meeting. Mark Labhart seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

C. Public Comment (Audio = 1:39:04)

- The Climate Trust Executive Director, Julius Pasay, spoke on climate impacts and carbon credit projects.
- Coalition of Oregon Land Trust (COLT) Executive Director, Kelley Beamer, spoke to the climate committee report, and their efforts to advocate for OAHF funding in the short legislative session. Kelley also provided some general updates on behalf of the Oregon Conservation Partnership. *Information item.*

D. Committee Updates (Audio = 2:00:06)

Representatives from board committees provided updates on committee topics to the full board. *Information item.*

E. Director's Updates (Audio = 2:17:00)

OWEB staff updated the board on agency business and late-breaking issues. Deputy Director, Renee Davis, provided an update about 2021 Immediate Wildfire Response Grants, and the board was referred to written reports on the Strategic Plan and Key Performance Measures. Executive Director, Lisa Charpilloz Hanson updated the board on progress made during the first weeks in her new position including plans to reach out to partners and visit OWEB projects. Lisa mentioned the State Land Board award given to the Tidegate Partnership for their work and encouraged the board to review a video showing the work done on the [Peterson Creek project](#) by the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership. *Information item.*

F. Spring Open Solicitation Grant Offerings Board Awards (Audio =3:04:55)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and OWEB Regional Program Representatives provided background information on the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering and funding recommendations. The board was asked to approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report. *Action item.*

Meg Reeves moved the board approve the staff funding recommendations as described in Attachment D to the Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering staff report. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

G. Post-Fire Recovery Funding (Audio =4:50:37)

Deputy Director Renee Davis provided an overview of the General Fund appropriations to OWEB during the 2021-2023 biennium in support of post-fire natural resources recovery in 2020 fire impacted areas. *Action item.*

Gary Marshall moved the board approve receipt of \$19.75 million in General Funds, as appropriated in OWEB's 2021-2023 biennial budget, to support grants for the purposes of post-fire natural resources recovery as described in House Bill 5006 from the 2021 legislative session, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of August 6, 2021. Barbara Boyer seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

Wednesday, Oct 27, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 8:02 a.m. by Co-Chair Barbara Boyer.

H. Public Comment (Audio =0:1:52)

- Land Transactions Program Manager, Owen Wozniak, of the Land Trust Alliance commented on the Proposed OWEB Climate Statement of Purpose and climate resilience in acquisitions, looking at inequitable distribution of climate impacts, and increasing tribal sovereignty.
- Lower Rogue Watershed Council Coordinator Kelly Timchak commented on the new climate section and purpose statement in the OWEB grant application, and how that translates to on-the-ground-work and the timing of the OWEB roll out of this feature. Support systems for grantees should be the initial focus, prior to incorporating climate into evaluation criteria. *Information item.*

I. Land Acquisition Awards (Audio =0:22:33)

Grant Program Manager Eric Williams and Acquisitions Coordinator Miriam Forney provided an overview of the April 2021 land acquisition grant offering and outlined staff recommendations for grant awards. The board was asked to 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 Land Acquisition Grant Awards staff report. *Action item.*

Land Acquisition Awards Public Comment (Audio =0:50:00):

- Representative Pam Marsh spoke in support of Mt. Ashland Forest Climate Resilience Project. She also complemented Siskiyou National Monument, and how it provides resilience in the face of climate change.
- Executive Director Kelley Beamer of COLT spoke in support of the land acquisition staff recommendations as well as what COLT sees as some of the longer-term needs and opportunities with the acquisition program as key to implementing Measure 76.
- Co-Founder and Senior Strategic Advisor, Constance Best from The Pacific Forest Trust gave testimony in support of the Mt. Ashland Forest Climate Resilience Project.

Randy Labbe 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 Land Acquisition Grant Awards staff report. Jamie McLeod-Skinner seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

J. Telling the Restoration Story (Audio =1:30:52)

Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator Ken Fetcho provided an update to the board on the 'Telling the Restoration Story' targeted grant offering and gave an example from restoration efforts at Horsetail Creek. *Information item.*

K. Oregon Plan Biennial Report (Audio =1:50:53)

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided an update about the agency's development of the 2019-2021 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The board was asked to approve recommendations included in the report, to be submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office. *Action item.*

Meg Reeves moved the board approve the committee themes found in Attachment B to the staff report as modified by the board's conversation for inclusion as board recommendations in the 2019-2021 Biennial Report for the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. Brenda McComb seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

L. Water Committee (Audio =2:33:33)

Board and Legislative Coordinator Eric Hartstein introduced the objectives the water committee developed for board consideration as areas of focus for the committee. The board was asked to approve these objectives. *Action item.*

Jamie McLeod-Skinner moved the board approve the water committee as a standing committee of the OWEB Board and approve the set of objectives developed by the committee and as clarified through the discussion for future focus. Meg Reeves seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

M. DEI Update (Audio =3:08:32)

Business Operations Manager Courtney Shaff facilitated a discussion with OWEB grantees. Executive Director Kristen Larson of Luckiamute Watershed Council and Executive Director Clinton Begley of the Long Tom Watershed Council shared their diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) efforts and how they were incorporating these principles into watershed conservation activities. Courtney Shaff provided an overview of the process to hire a DEI consultant to work with the board and staff and discussed creating a permanent board DEI committee. *Information item.*

N. Climate Resources (Audio =4:24:16)

Conservation Outcomes Coordinator Audrey Hatch updated the board about climate-related technical resources developed to assist OWEB grant applicants. *Information item.*

O. Granting Practices (Audio; part II=0:00:01)

Tribal Liaison Ken Fetcho and Portland State University graduate student Alli Miller summarized findings from a recent assessment conducted to better understand how OWEB's grant practices impact federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive agency grants. *Information Item.*

P. 2022 In-Person and Virtual Board Meeting Dates and Format (Audio =0:15:31)

Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator Eric Hartstein provided an update about in-person and virtual options for future board meetings. The board was asked to approve a format that includes meeting in-person either two or three times per year once it is safe to do so. *Action item.*

No action was taken. After board conversation, it was decided to revisit the 2022 In-Person and Virtual Board Meeting Dates and Format at the January virtual board meeting to allow for further discussion by OWEB staff.

Q. Other Business (Audio =0:39:55)

Randy Labbe thanked the board co-chairs for their leadership skills, sacrifices and time required.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:40 by Co-Chair Liza Jane McAlister.

January 25 & 26, 2022 OWEB Board

Meeting Agenda Item C & G

Written Public Comment

North Unit Irrigation District - Mike Britton



2024 NW Beech Street
Madras, Oregon 97741

(541) 475-3625
(541) 475-3652
Fax (541) 475-3905
nuid@northunitid.com

January 20, 2022

Oregon Water Enhancement Board (OWEB)
775 Summer St. NE #360
Salem, OR 97301

Dear OWEB Board,

Well documented, North Unit Irrigation District (North Unit) and Jefferson County is suffering through one of the worst years in the districts and county's history. Multiple dry years coupled with the 2021 heat dome, wildfire smoke, and record drought has put a tremendous burden on our region's farming communities, affecting everything from crop production to farm equipment sales. Considering its current struggles, Jefferson County remains a resilient community, but the drought of 2021 has created far wider implications to those employees and families who depend directly or indirectly on the Jefferson County agricultural economy.

The economic impact of this drought will have a severe effect on our diverse and economically vulnerable Hispanic, Native American, and socially disadvantaged populations. Jefferson County is the most diverse county in Oregon with a BIPOC population of 39.9% (statisticalatlas.com). Further, Jefferson County ranks as the 3rd most distressed County (Business Oregon model 2021) and has the 2nd lowest per capita income (Business Oregon Distressed County data 2021) in the state.

What is lost in numbers, is the harsh toll this drought is having on the most vulnerable members of our community. Within Jefferson County there are many farms and agribusiness centers who employ a large year-round base of the population that fall within the vulnerable or disadvantaged population. In many ways, the consequence of the ongoing drought has a ripple effect on the entire community and more so on our most vulnerable community members. For example, many farm workers live and raise families in low-income housing specifically created for agriculture workers. Many of these farm workers have been employed on the same farms for many years and now face being laid off by their employers due to the effects of the drought. Once laid off, farm workers can lose their qualifying designation as a "farm worker", thus disqualifying them for housing and thereby leaving farm workers and their families susceptible to eviction from their homes. In addition, many farmers in Jefferson County provide housing for their workers. These farmers do not want to lose their long-time loyal employees or see them without housing, but as farm incomes shrink the ability to provide and maintain employee housing can also be jeopardized.

There's been a lot of attention focused on farmers in danger of losing millions of dollars or worse going bankrupt because of drought and environmental conditions outside of their control.

The real tragedy however, which is often lost in the headlines, is its effect on our region's most vulnerable population, our hard-working farm workers. There is real fear and desperation from those in the community, whom do not have the same opportunities as the general Jefferson County population. Given the far-reaching impacts of this drought, providing financial aid to Jefferson County farmers is imperative to maintaining the economic base of the community and most importantly the stability of our vulnerable populations.

As an important contributor to the lifeblood of the Jefferson County community, North Unit very much appreciates the State's recognition of the current and dire need in Jefferson County. The disaster aid designated to North Unit and Jefferson County will go a long way to ensure that not only North Unit and Jefferson County farms remain viable but will also provide a lifeline to others that depend on agriculture for their livelihood.

North Unit and Jefferson County looks forward to working with the OWEB to ensure disaster aid programs meet their intended goals and standby willing to assist in any capacity we can. With that being said, I respectfully request that the OWEB board provide OWEB staff with the support necessary to allocate and disperse aid as expeditiously as possible.

With much appreciation,

Mike Britton

Mike Britton
Executive Manager

January 25-26, 2022 OWEB Board Meeting

Climate Committee Update

Committee Members

Bruce Buckmaster (Chair), Stephen Brandt, Kelly Coates, Paul Henson, Brenda McComb, Jamie McLeod-Skinner, Eric Murray, Cory Owens

Background

The Climate Committee met on December 16, 2021 to revisit the proposed OWEB Climate Statement of Purpose and Climate Lens in light of feedback from and discussions during the October 2021 Board Meeting and review the proposed re-drafting of the Climate Statement of Purpose into a resolution. Committee members highlighted several points including the need to specifically state the intent to incorporate climate considerations in the restoration grant process, considering climate impacts and benefits of projects when making funding decisions, and supporting and encouraging projects that use nature-based solutions. It was determined that a rulemaking process would need to be initiated, and committee members expressed their desire to begin this process as soon as possible.

Staff revised the draft resolution, which was reviewed by committee members, and an updated draft was shared at the Climate Committee meeting on January 10, 2022. Notable changes from earlier versions of the resolution included streamlining resolution bullet points and shifting several bullet points to a resolution implementation section. During the meeting, committee members recommended changes such as adding definitions for climate-related terms as well as including resolution bullet points for actively engaging impacted communities and committing to continuous improvement and learning. Staff and committee members then revised and finalized the climate resolution for board approval at the January 2022 meeting (see Agenda Item F).

To Be Presented at the January 2022 Board Meeting by:

Bruce Buckmaster

Staff Contact

Stephanie Page, Deputy Director

Stephanie.Page@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7004

January 25-26, 2022 OWEB Board Meeting

Water Committee Update

Committee Members

Jamie McLeod-Skinner (chair), Barbara Boyer, Molly Kile, Gary Marshall, Eric Murray, Meg Reeves

Background

The Water Committee met on December 29, 2021. The committee discussed results of the Special Session as well as consolidating the number of board committees.

Special Session Update

Senate Bill 5561, the omnibus budget bill used in the Special Session, allocates general funds to OWEB totaling \$11.627 million to support drought relief. Funding details include:

- \$3.627 million to provide matching grants to irrigation districts to support investments in irrigation modernization projects;
- \$2 million to provide grants for drought resiliency projects in Jefferson and Klamath counties;
- \$3 million to provide grants for livestock watering wells and construction of off-channel water facilities in Klamath County; and
- \$3 million for distribution to the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District to support stewardship practices on irrigated land that is at high risk for erosion and soil degradation, and to limit proliferation of noxious and invasive weeds.

The bill provides resources for three limited duration staff as well as money to support administration and contracted services.

The January 2022 board meeting will include an action item to delegate these general funds to the OWEB Executive Director, see agenda item E.

Committee Structure

The committee discussed the challenges associated with the number of current board committees, potential areas of committee content overlap, and ideas for potentially consolidating committees. This topic will be discussed by the full board at the January 2022 meeting in agenda item N.

To Be Presented at the January 2022 Board Meeting by:

Jamie McLeod-Skinner

Staff Contact

Lisa Charpilloz-Hanson, Executive Director

lisa.charpilloz-hanson@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7022



Agenda Item E supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Lisa Charpilloz-Hanson, Executive Director
Stephanie Page, Deputy Director
Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item E – Special Legislative Session and Budget/Legislative Update
January 25-26, 2022 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update on the December 13, 2021 special legislative session and requests board approval to accept funds allocated to OWEB during the session. It also provides a preview of possible budget requests for the 2022 and 2023 legislative sessions.

II. Special Legislative Session Update

The Oregon Legislature met for a special session on December 13, 2021 to address a variety of critical issues, including drought relief. There were several policy bills as well as a budget bill, Senate Bill (SB) 5561.

SB 5561 allocated General Funds totaling \$11.627 million to OWEB for several new grant programs. The legislative intent for OWEB to administer and distribute these General Funds as grants is well articulated in SB 5561 and supporting materials from the Legislative Fiscal Office.

This allocation illustrates that, due to our grant administration expertise, OWEB is increasingly being looked to as an administrator of funds to address emerging natural resource issues. These issues include prevention, relief and recovery from the unprecedented natural disasters that we have seen in our state over the past two years. These additional responsibilities will have staffing and workload impacts to the agency. SB 5561 provides resources for three limited duration staff as well as money to support administration and contracted services. Attachment A provides more detail on the programs and staffing allocated. We are currently focused on hiring the limited duration staff and conducting stakeholder engagement to inform the design of the new grant programs.

III. The Legislative Budgeting Process – 2022 Short Session

The 2022 Legislative Session will begin on February 1, 2022 and may last up to 35 days. Historically, OWEB has not made budget requests during short legislative sessions.

However, a budget note in OWEB's 2021-2023 Legislatively Adopted Budget provided an opportunity to request to re-establish a Limited Duration Conservation Outcomes Specialist. In accordance with the budget note, we have submitted a request to re-establish this position for the remainder of the 2021-2023 biennium.

IV. The Legislative Budgeting Process – 2023 Legislative Session

The Oregon Legislature approves biennial agency budgets during the legislative session of each odd-numbered year. The budgeting process is structured so that agencies' current budgets are submitted as the base for the next biennium with standard inflation adjustments. If an agency wishes to add new resources to its budget, it must submit a request with a justification. These requests are called policy option packages (POPs).

This is the time frame when agencies begin the next biennial budgeting process, legislative concepts, and POPs. Legislative concepts and preliminary POPs are due in the spring, and the full agency request budget must be submitted in September 2022.

Key considerations for the 2023-2025 biennium include:

- Expanding the reach of communications about the work supported by OWEB and opportunities available through OWEB programs
- Implementing the Governor's Executive Order on climate change
- Building and maintaining staffing resources to match the agency's workload
- Building the resources and authorities to conduct new grant administration activities that have been assigned to OWEB

Possible POPs include:

- Continuation of existing limited duration positions
- New positions to expand our capacity around climate change and water
- New Communications Director position or contracting authority
- Positions to expand our capacity to administer new and existing grant programs

Depending on the outcome of budgeting discussions during the 2022 short legislative session, we may add POPs to our list related to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

V. Recommendation

Staff recommends that the board approve receipt of \$11.627 million in General Funds allocated to OWEB during the December 13, 2021 special legislative session for the purpose of operating and distributing grant funds allocated as described in SB 5561. Staff recommends the board delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of December 14, 2021.

Attachment

A. Allocations to OWEB during the December 13, 2021 special legislative session

Allocations to OWEB during the December 13, 2021 special legislative session

Senate Bill 5561, passed during the December 13, 2021 special legislative session, allocated \$11.627 million in general funds to OWEB. Allocations were approved for the following programs.

- \$2,000,000, to provide matching grants to North Unit Irrigation District to support investments in irrigation modernization projects
- \$1,627,000, to provide matching grants to irrigation districts to support investments in irrigation modernization projects
- \$1,000,000, to provide grants for drought resiliency projects in Jefferson County
- \$1,000,000, to provide grants for drought resiliency work in Klamath County
- \$3,000,000, to provide grants for livestock watering wells and construction of off-channel water facilities in Klamath County
- \$3,000,000, for distribution to the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District to support stewardship practices on irrigated land that is at high risk for erosion and soil degradation, and to limit proliferation of noxious and invasive weeds

Below is the Funding Description from the Legislative Fiscal Office Budget Report and Measure Summary.

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board - The Joint Committee approved a total of \$3,627,000 General Fund for the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to implement a program providing matching grants to irrigation districts to support investments in irrigation modernization projects and for the establishment of three limited-duration positions (0.70 FTE) to provide program administration support. Of the total funding provided, \$217,850 is budgeted for program administration, including personal services costs, \$100,000 is budgeted for contracted facilitation services for local collaborative processes, and the remaining funding is for program grants.

Of the grant funding, \$2 million is appropriated for projects in the North Unit Irrigation District in Jefferson County. Grant funding is intended for projects that conserve water pursuant to Oregon's Conserved Water Act. Grants for water conservation projects (e.g. piping or canal lining) should be projects to protect or restore natural watershed or ecosystem functions in order to improve stream flows.

Two General Fund appropriations of \$1 million (\$2 million total) were approved for drought resiliency projects in Jefferson and Klamath Counties. The funding supports the expansion of three limited-duration positions (0.21 FTE) established by other legislative actions, contract services for convening local discussions to determine locally-driven solutions for drought resiliency, and competitive grants to support resiliency and use reduction projects.

The Joint Committee approved \$3 million General Fund for OWEB to create a program providing grants for livestock watering well and construction of off-channel water facilities in Klamath County. Program funding includes expansion of three limited-duration positions (0.86

FTE) established by other legislative actions. Of the total appropriation, \$266,500 supports the administration and operation of the program, with the remaining \$2,733,500 available for grants. The purpose of the grants is to help defer the cost for irrigated pasture owners to move livestock watering facilities away from riparian areas, minimizing grazing impacts to riparian areas and the dependency on in-stream water sources.

The bill also includes of \$3 million General Fund for distribution to the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District to support stewardship practices on irrigated land that is at high risk for erosion and soil degradation, and to limit proliferation of noxious and invasive weeds. These practices include, but are not limited to, the creation of shelter belts and wind breaks, and rotating drought adapted crops.

January 25 & 26 2022, OWEB Board Meeting
Public Comment

**Agenda Item F. Board Climate Purpose Statement-Resolution
and Rulemaking**

- a. Ron Bunch
- b. Trout Unlimited
- c. Network of Oregon Watershed Councils

DRAFT FOR DISCUSSION PURPOSES OWEB Resolution version 2

Background

WHEREAS, Oregon's watersheds will continue to experience the impacts of significant climate changes, including but not limited to increased water temperatures, altered streamflow (e.g., decreased summer flows, earlier timing of flows), increased extreme events (e.g., drought, heat, flooding), and increased wildfires,

WHEREAS, these changes will affect fish and wildlife populations and may lead to changes in species distribution; reduced population sizes; decreased extent, availability, and quality of habitat; displacement of native species by invasive species **and pathogens**, and other impacts.

Comment: Pathogens associated with temperatures can significantly impact on aquatic and terrestrial ecologies.

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are affecting the quality and quantity of ground and surface water that is critical for Oregon's watersheds, natural resources, people, and communities.

I suggest that language be added that addresses the importance of watersheds to agriculture – farming and ranching specifically and the communities that depend on these endeavors. Watershed health is essential to the economic life of Oregon in other ways such as for domestic water, wastewater disposal (adequate flows are essential for dilution) and for economic purposes, (industry/manufacturing) and hydroelectricity. Furthermore, watershed health is important to mitigate/minimize downstream flooding associated with high rainfall events (atmospheric rivers) which are becoming more common. Also, from both economic and quality of life perspective, watersheds are important to outdoor recreation including hunting and fishing. This is important for many rural communities.

WHEREAS, the impacts of a changing climate may disproportionately affect impacted communities, such as Native American tribes, communities of color, rural communities, coastal communities, lower-income households, and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes.

Please consider adding language to address some the following:

There are specific ways which unmitigated climate change would cause declines in watershed health which would specifically impact these communities -- such as decline of traditional foods and including plants fish and wildlife, conflict over water and treaty rights; decline of fisheries both on the coast and inland, water quality and quantity for those that use must use domestic wells, and intense rainfall that would make subsurface sewage systems unusable and endanger lives and property of those who live in expanding flood zones. Also, farmers, ranchers and farmworkers are very much impacted.

WHEREAS investments in fish and wildlife habitat and watershed restoration and health can aid in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change on our state, **by** sequestering carbon, maintaining and improving water quality and quantity, and building resiliency in fish and wildlife populations, **agriculture and forestry, natural** ecosystems, and communities.

WHEREAS, **watershed** restoration project components, including fuels, equipment, materials, and transportation, among others, generate greenhouse gas emissions.

WHEREAS, Oregon state agencies have been directed by Governor Brown (Executive Order 20-04) to address climate change in a comprehensive and urgent manner and, to the full extent allowed by law, shall consider and integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals into their planning, budgeting, investing, and policy making decisions.

Resolution Be it resolved that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will:

- Include climate considerations in the restoration granting process, including grant application questions and evaluation criteria
- Consider climate impacts and benefits of projects when making funding decisions
- Support and encourage funding for climate-smart adaptation and resilience
- Support and encourage nature-based solutions to climate mitigation and adaptation
- Support and encourage projects resulting in ~~providing~~ emissions reductions and carbon sequestration and storage **associated with in** enhancing watershed health and habitat restoration
- Support and assist grantees and partners by providing funding for technical resources and guidance to improve understanding of climate considerations and criteria.



January 19, 2022

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Re: Comments on Evaluation Criteria for Restoration Grants Rulemaking
(January 25-26, 2022 Board Meeting, Agenda Item F)

Dear Co-Chairs Boyer, McAlister, and Members of the OWEB Board,

Trout Unlimited (“TU”) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the conservation of cold-water fish (such as trout, salmon, and steelhead) and their habitats. Our staff is actively involved in restoring watersheds across Oregon, and OWEB grants are an important source of funding for that work.

TU appreciates the OWEB Climate Committee’s work on preparing a climate resolution and thoughtfully considering whether to add climate criteria to the agency’s restoration grant process. Our organization supports those efforts and encourages the Board to approve those proposals.

However, we wish to highlight for the Board that adding climate criteria to the restoration grant rules presents an important concern for applicants. If OWEB requires applicants to provide additional climate change analysis on grant applications – or proposes to evaluate grant applications based on new climate criteria – the grant application process could become significantly more time-consuming and expensive for applicants. Further, some applicants may not have sufficient technical support in-house to meet the new requirements.

The Climate Committee acknowledged these risks in discussions at its meetings on December 16, 2021 and January 10, 2022, so we simply wish to underscore that concern for the other Members of the Board. If the Board approves this agenda item and convenes a rules advisory committee regarding adjustments to the evaluation criteria for restoration grants, we respectfully request that these practical concerns remain a key consideration in that process.

One option discussed by the Climate Committee would be for OWEB to provide technical support to applicants on meeting its new climate criteria – potentially via staff from other state agencies. We believe that idea merits further consideration. TU is fortunate to have several staff scientists that could provide some level of assistance on our own applications, but many smaller organizations that depend on OWEB grants do not have access to such resources. Providing support to applicants on meeting the new criteria would ensure a level playing field for grant applicants while also preventing any climate criteria requirements from reducing the capacity of applicant organizations.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide comments, and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

James Fraser
Oregon Policy Advisor
Trout Unlimited
james.fraser@tu.org



January 20th, 2022

To: The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board of Directors

From: Vanessa Green, Executive Director, Network of Oregon Watershed Councils

Re: OWEB Board Climate Subcommittee process for stakeholder engagement

OWEB Board,

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC) would like to offer feedback regarding the development of the OWEB Climate Resolution Draft (Item F-1).

We appreciate that the OWEB Board Climate Sub-Committee has started holding public-facing meetings that are recorded and accessible – NOWC staff and member organizations tuned into the committee’s December 16th, 2021 and January 10th, 2022 meetings with great interest.

As we listened in, we wished for the ability to ask questions and provide comments in real or near-real time. The Sub-Committee is working quickly, and it can be cumbersome to wait until quarterly OWEB full board meetings to provide questions and comments – the time-delay seems to disconnect our input from the conversations as they develop, leaving room for miscommunications. We would appreciate the addition of a “chat” function or an email address, and a process for comment review during the Sub-Committee’s meetings.

NOWC appreciates the intentions behind the development of the OWEB Climate Resolution Draft – for over 25 years, watershed councils have worked to improve Oregon’s climate resiliency, providing a wide range of on-the-ground conservation and restoration projects to support animals, fish, and native plants. We support improving the OWEB resource and funding frameworks to better align with long-term/landscape scale planning for climate change.

In general, NOWC is concerned with the pace and the process for the development of the Climate Change Resolution – OWEB has not initiated or received any organized feedback from stakeholder groups and has not communicated an intention, process or timeline to do so. NOWC believes this engagement is essential before adoption of the resolution and asks that the Climate Sub-Committee consider tabling a vote until they can hold listening sessions, to better understand how changes in policies and evaluative criteria will affect conservation and restoration projects throughout the state - from the organizational capacity needed for increased application requirements, to the permitting process, engaging contractors, utilizing restoration equipment, and reporting outcomes. NOWC anticipates several systemic “bottlenecks” as new rules and incentives are introduced; rolling out new policies without the opportunity for feedback could disadvantage smaller watershed councils and contractors, and could damage our relationships with local landowners, with whom we partner for voluntary conservation projects. NOWC would like to work with OWEB to plan ahead and optimize the chances for smoother transitions.

NOWC extends an offer to work with the OWEB Climate Sub-Committee and OWEB staff to organize regional listening sessions. These could include watershed council staff and board members, as well as local contractors from across the state. We would be happy to help you assemble groups with the size, composition and date/times that work best for you.

Please contact me if I can answer any questions or offer any assistance as you plan.

Warm regards,



Vanessa Green
Executive Director
[Network of Oregon Watershed Councils](http://NetworkofOregonWatershedCouncils.org)
ed@oregonwatersheds.org
971-285-1727



Agenda Item F supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Stephanie Page, Deputy Director
Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Jessi Kershner, Water and Climate Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item F – Board Climate Discussion and Action
January 25-26, 2022 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will update the board about the climate resolution that was developed by the Climate Committee and OWEB staff. Depending on the outcome of discussion on the climate resolution, the board may consider whether to authorize associated rulemaking.

II. Background

In 2020, Governor Brown issued an Executive Order on Climate Action (20-04), which directed state agencies, including OWEB, to integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals into their planning, investing, and policy making decisions. That same year, OWEB formed a Climate Committee to explore how OWEB's investments contribute to climate resilience and identify opportunities to further contribute towards the state's climate goals.

The Climate Committee began by focusing on how to account for climate benefits through OWEB's existing grant-making process and recommended adding several climate considerations questions to a subset of application types in the Fall 2021 grant cycle. Concurrently, a subset of committee members developed an OWEB Climate Statement of Purpose and Climate Lens, which was introduced to the full Climate Committee during the September 16, 2021 meeting. The intention was to recognize the impact of climate change on OWEB's mission and to outline specific actions towards addressing and accounting for climate impacts. The committee discussed the possibility of adding climate criteria to grant evaluations.

The Climate Committee reconvened on September 21, 2021 to discuss and refine the proposed statement, which was presented at the October Board meeting. Following the board meeting, staff reformatted the statement into a draft board resolution. The Climate Committee reviewed the draft resolution during their meeting on December 16, 2021. As part of this discussion, it was determined that a rulemaking process would need to be

initiated. A revised resolution was presented to the Climate Committee on January 10, 2022. Overall, committee members supported modifications, with some recommended changes. The final version of the resolution is available in Attachment A.

III. Evaluation Criteria for Restoration Grants Rulemaking

Should the board approve the climate resolution and desire incorporation of climate criteria into restoration grant rules, staff will convene a rules advisory committee (RAC) for Division 10 composed of grantees and other stakeholders in accordance with the schedule below.

Rulemaking Action	Dates/Deadlines
Board Authorization for Rulemaking	January 2022
Draft Rules Developed	February 2022
RAC Meetings to Vet Draft Rules and Provide Feedback	March-June, 2022
Draft Rules Revised Based on RAC Feedback	July 1, 2022
Notice Filed with Secretary of State	July 15, 2022
Public Comment Materials posted online	August 1, 2022
Notice to Agency Mailing List and Legislators	August 1, 2022
Secretary of State’s Bulletin	August 1, 2022 (published)
Public Comment Period	August 1-31, 2022
Public Hearing(s)	August, 2022
Revisions to Draft Rules Based on Public Comment	Early October, 2022
Board Adoption of Rules	October 25-26, 2022

IV. Potential Action

After discussion of the climate resolution as presented in Attachment A to the staff report, the board may adopt the resolution. If adopted, the board may authorize rulemaking in OAR 695-010-0060 to develop climate-related evaluation criteria.

Attachment

Attachment A. Climate Resolution (to be provided in advance of board meeting)

January 2022, OWEB Board Meeting - OWEB Climate Resolution Draft

Background

WHEREAS, Oregon's watersheds will continue to experience the impacts of significant climate changes, including but not limited to increased water temperatures, altered streamflows (e.g., decreased summer flows, earlier timing of flows), increased extreme events (e.g., drought, heat, flooding), and increased wildfires.

WHEREAS, these changes will affect fish and wildlife populations and may lead to changes in species distribution; reduced population sizes; decreased extent, availability, and quality of habitat; displacement of native species by invasive species, and other impacts.

WHEREAS, the impacts of climate change are affecting the quality and quantity of ground and surface water that is critical for Oregon's watersheds, natural resources, people, and communities.

WHEREAS, the impacts of a changing climate may disproportionately affect impacted communities, such as Native American tribes, communities of color, rural communities, coastal communities, lower-income households, and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes.

WHEREAS, investments in fish and wildlife habitat and watershed restoration and health can aid in mitigating and adapting to the impacts of climate change on our state, by sequestering and storing carbon, maintaining and improving water quality and quantity, and building resiliency in fish and wildlife populations, ecosystems, and communities.

WHEREAS, restoration project components, including fuels, equipment, materials, and transportation, among others, can generate greenhouse gas emissions which may be unavoidable tradeoffs in order to achieve the desired long-term net gains for communities and ecosystems.

WHEREAS, Oregon state agencies have been directed by Governor Brown (Executive Order 20-04) to address climate change in a comprehensive and urgent manner and, to the full extent allowed by law, shall consider and integrate climate change, climate change impacts, and the state's greenhouse gas emissions reduction goals into their planning, budgeting, investing, and policy making decisions.

RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED that the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will:

- Integrate climate mitigation and adaptation in their budgeting, investing and policy making decisions by:
 - Funding climate-smart adaptation and resilience for Oregon's watersheds, natural resources, people, and communities.
 - Funding projects that include meaningful emissions reductions, carbon sequestration, and protection of carbon storage in enhancing watershed health and habitat restoration.
 - Valuing project co-benefits and assessing long-term sustainability of projects and acquisitions.
- Learn and apply diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice principles when making funding decisions to address economic and ecological damage to traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities.
- Engage traditionally underrepresented and impacted communities in processes to craft meaningful solutions that are integrated into funding decisions.

IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED that the above resolutions should be implemented through applicable strategies within OWEB’s authorities. Possible strategies include but are not limited to:

- Rulemaking to include OWEB Climate Lens of climate-focused evaluation criteria
- Developing agency level goals and metrics for climate adaptation and mitigation to track progress
- Identifying opportunities for and collaborating with climate-focused partners and staff in other agencies to increase efficiencies and share expertise
- Supporting and assisting grantees and partners by providing funding for technical resources and guidance to improve understanding of climate considerations and criteria
- Supporting and funding continued learning and development of climate-smart strategies in watershed restoration and habitat improvement
- Employing a continuous improvement approach in the integration of climate considerations in the agency’s grant programs

DEFINITIONS

Adaptation: the process of modifying and adjusting to a new or changing environment

Climate lens: project ranking criteria designed to determine the relative value of proposals according to how they address climate action

Climate-smart: the intentional consideration of climate change, and application of strategies that improve resilience, increase carbon sequestration, and/or reduce greenhouse gas emissions

Mitigation: a human intervention to reduce emissions or enhance greenhouse gas sequestration and storage

Resilience: the ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from disruptions



Agenda Item H supports all OWEB Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator

SUBJECT: Agenda Item H – OWEB Grant Program Rulemaking
January 25-26, 2022 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report seeks board authorization to initiate rulemaking for OWEB Grant Programs.

II. Background

Division 5, OWEB Grant Program, generally governs acceptance and consideration of grant applications. While these rules apply to all OWEB grant programs, specific grant types, such as restoration and technical assistance, are governed by separate rule divisions. Division 5 rules were last updated in 2017. Since then, program changes such as externally funded grants and treatment of match, warrant an update to the general grant program rules.

III. Proposed Rulemaking Process

Staff will convene a rules advisory committee (RAC), for both Division 5 and Division 10 if Division 10 rulemaking is authorized under Agenda Item F, composed of grantees and other stakeholders to review the proposed rules. Staff propose to develop the Division 5 rules in accordance with the schedule below.

Rulemaking Action	Dates/Deadlines
Board Authorization for Rulemaking	January 2022
Draft Rules Developed	February 2022
RAC Meetings to Vet Draft Rules and Provide Feedback	March-June, 2022
Draft Rules Revised Based on RAC Feedback	July 1, 2022
Notice Filed with Secretary of State	July 15, 2022

Public Comment Materials posted online	August 1, 2022
Notice to Agency Mailing List and Legislators	August 1, 2022
Secretary of State's Bulletin	August 1, 2022 (published)
Public Comment Period	August 1-31, 2022
Public Hearing(s)	August, 2022
Revisions to Draft Rules Based on Public Comment	Early October, 2022
Board Adoption of Rules	October 25-26, 2022

Table 1

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board authorize rulemaking for Division 5, OWEB Grant Programs.



Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager
SUBJECT: Agenda Item I– Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Appointments
January 25-26, 2022 Board Meeting

I. Background

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (commission) is appointed by the Board; and is authorized by statute to recommend grant projects for succession planning, conservation management plans, and conservation easements and covenants on working lands. This staff report recommends the board reappoint Doug Krahmer, Nathan Jackson, and Bruce Taylor to the commission, and recommends the board appoint Nancy Duhnkrack to the commission.

II. Commission Reappointments

By statute, the commission is nested under the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The board is tasked with appointing commissioners. The commission was established in 2018, with four-year terms that were initially staggered from one to four years. Commissioner Doug Krahmer of St. Paul represents agricultural interests on the commission and is recommended by the Board of Agriculture. Commissioner Nathan Jackson of Myrtle Creek represents tribal interests on the commission and is selected by the OWEB Board. Bruce Taylor of Portland represents fish and wildlife interests on the commission and is recommended by the Fish and Wildlife Commission. The terms of Mr. Krahmer and Mr. Jackson expire in January 2022; with reappointment both will serve terms through January 2026. Mr. Taylor's term expired in January 2021 and has served in a holdover capacity since that date. If reappointed his term will run through January 2025. Nancy Duhnkrack of Portland was recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission for the seat previously occupied by Derek Johnson, who did not seek reappointment. By statute, this seat requires someone with expertise in conservation easements. If appointed, Nancy's term will expire in January 2026.

III. Recommendation

Staff recommend the board reappoint Doug Krahmer, Nathan Jackson, and Bruce Taylor to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission for four-year terms, and appoint Nancy Duhnkrack for a four-year term.



Agenda Item J supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 1: Broad awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item J – Board Meeting Schedule Format
January 25-26, 2022 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides an update about in-person and virtual options for future board meetings. The board will be asked to approve a format that includes meeting in-person three times per year once it is safe to do so.

II. Background

The board generally meets quarterly. Prior to COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, meetings were all held in-person, and were rotated across the OWEB regions. With the onset of the pandemic, the board transitioned to virtual meetings exclusively. Virtual meetings have been an effective means to conduct board business, and all future meetings will have the option for board members to participate remotely.

The OWEB executive team recommended that in addition to offering a virtual option for board member attendance, that all January board meetings be held virtually as the weather and travel at that time can be hazardous.

Along with the January virtual meeting, there was also an opportunity to hold another regularly scheduled board meeting as virtual-only. The option for a second virtual-only board meeting in July was presented to the Board at the October 2021 meeting.

III. Discussion

At the October 2021 meeting, board members weighed the costs and benefits for holding either one or two virtual-only meetings during the year. One important consideration discussed by the board with having two virtual-only board meetings per year is that financial and environmental costs associated with travel are reduced. In support of having one virtual-only board meeting per year, several board members noted the importance of engaging in-person at meetings, tours, and events with agency partners and community members.

Staff listened to the board discussion and heard general support for holding meetings in communities around the state three times per year, with an option for board members to participate virtually at those meetings. Board members also expressed support for holding the January board meeting as virtual-only.

IV. Staff Recommendation

Staff recommend the board approve a meeting format that includes in-person meetings annually (with a virtual option) in October, April, and July and virtual-only meetings in January.



Agenda Item K supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 4: Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Jillian McCarthy, Coastal Programs Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item K – Tide Gate Update and Accept Funds
January 25 – 26, 2022 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This report provides a summary and update of the Oregon Tide Gate Partnership. This report also requests that the board accept up to \$77,000 of state lottery funding from the Oregon Business Development Department (OBDD) and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into agreements for tide gate technical studies that have a statewide benefit for tide gate project development.

II. Background

The Oregon Tide Gate Partnership ('Partnership') formed in September 2016 to address the growing challenge of aging tide gate infrastructure in coastal Oregon. The Partnership includes conservation and agriculture organizations, state, federal, and local agencies, counties, and landowners with the collective mission to support resilient coastal communities, protect landscapes that support local economies, and enhance the ecological function of estuarine resources for fish and wildlife.

To address the challenges associated with implementing tide gate upgrade projects, primarily high project costs and permitting and design complexity, the Partnership identified the priorities described in Attachment A to this staff report. Priorities include: 1) the development of a tide gate inventory; 2) regulatory clarity and coordination; 3) engineering and design resources; 4) expanded funding opportunities; and 5) a tide gate coordinator position. More information on the Partnership is available at <https://oregontidegates.org/>.

III. Tide Gate Funding

In the second 2020 legislative special session, OBDD received \$3 million in state lottery funding to implement a Tide Gate Grant and Loan program (see Attachment A for details). In addition to issuing grants and loans for tide gate planning and construction projects, Administrative Rule ([OAR 123-046](#)) allows for OBDD to use funds for technical studies that have a statewide benefit for tide gate project development. After grant awards were made

in the spring of 2021, \$77,000 in funding remained in the Tide Gate Grant and Loan program, and OBDD requested that OWEB accept the funds to invest in the development of the Tide Gate Pipe-Sizing Tool. Phases one and two of the Tide Gate Pipe-Sizing Tool are being funded by an OWEB technical assistance grant (220-8404-17508) under the Governor's Priority funding for Tide Gates. Phase three of the project, focusing on data refinement, increased functionality, and training, is anticipated in 2022. OBDD funds provided to OWEB will be used to fund phase three of the Tide Gate Pipe-Sizing Tool.

IV. Recommendation

Staff recommend that the board accept up to \$77,000 of state lottery funding from OBDD and delegate authority to the Executive Director to enter into agreements to implement technical studies that have a statewide benefit for tide gate project development.

Attachment

- A. Tide Gate Partnership Priorities and Action

Tide Gate Partnership Priorities and Actions

Partnership Priority	Actions to Address Priority
<p><i>Tide Gate Inventory:</i> Develop a comprehensive tide gate inventory as a baseline to understand the number and location of tide gates, the geographic extent, and potential cost.</p>	<p>In 2019, the Institute for Natural Resources at Oregon State University developed the Oregon Tide Gate Inventory using publicly available information (existing local tide gate inventories and Google Earth imagery). This project was funded through an OWEB technical assistance grant. Refinement of the inventory is ongoing. The inventory is available on Oregon Explorer https://tools.oregonexplorer.info/OE_HtmlViewer/Index.html?viewer=oe#.</p>
<p><i>Regulatory Clarity and Coordination:</i> Develop a coordinated regulatory approach to tide gate projects that clearly identifies the regulatory process, information needs, and decision points for tide gate owners.</p>	<p>A regulatory steering committee formed in 2017 to address regulatory challenges identified by the Partnership, specifically related to ecological project design review. The steering committee meets quarterly, and a smaller workgroup meets monthly. The steering committee completed extensive process mapping of individual agency review processes as well as a coordinated process map. Agency staff are committed to process improvement. More information is available at https://oregontidegates.org/regulatory-process/.</p>
<p><i>Engineering and Design Resources:</i> Develop resources to assist with tide gate upgrade design and engineering to help reduce design costs.</p>	<p>The Nature Conservancy, through an OWEB technical assistance grant, developed the Tide Gate Decision Support Tool for funders, local governments, restoration partners, and others to identify priority tide gate project sites from a multitude of perspectives, such as agricultural land protection, economic development benefits, flood reduction, or fish habitat. More information is available at https://oregontidegates.org/decision-support-tool/.</p> <p>The Coquille and Coos Watershed Associations, through an OWEB technical assistance grant, are developing a Tide Gate Pipe-Sizing Tool to assist in the proper sizing and design of the pipe behind the tide gate that fulfills state and federal fish passage requirements. The tool should provide both a cost-benefit and time savings for tide gate owners. Further refinement of the tool will continue in 2022. More information is available at https://oregontidegates.org/engineering-toolbox/.</p>
<p><i>Funding:</i> Explore opportunities for and secure non-traditional grant and loan funding for tide gates and associated drainage system infrastructure.</p>	<p>The Tide Gate Grant and Loan Program (established in 2020 under House Bill 4304) provided \$3 million in funding for planning and construction of tide gate upgrades and development of statewide resources through Business Oregon (OBDD). OWEB staff work closely with OBDD to assist program grantees. More information is available at https://www.oregon.gov/biz/programs/tide_gates_program/Pages/default.aspx.</p> <p>OWEB staff are working with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and local tide gate partners to determine the feasibility of using NRCS program funding for tide gate upgrade projects.</p>
<p><i>Tide Gate Coordinator:</i> Create a tide gate coordinator/ombudsman position.</p>	<p>In January of 2021, OWEB created a full time Tide Gate Coordinator position with funding from NRCS. The position serves as a resource for tide gate owners, watershed councils, SWCDs, and others seeking to upgrade tide gates, as well as coordinates with federal, state, and local permitting and regulatory agencies.</p>



Agenda Item L supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item L– Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Effectiveness Monitoring
Funding Request
January 25-26, 2022 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Staff will request the board approve funding to support Bonneville Environmental Foundation's (BEF) ongoing work related to the FIP program, and supplemental effectiveness monitoring work for the second cohort of FIPs that were first awarded funding in the 2019-2021 biennium.

II. Background

Over the past three biennia, OWEB and BEF have partnered on various aspects of FIP program development, assessment, and tracking. For example, the board has awarded funding for BEF to partner with OWEB and FIPs to engage in a collaborative approach resulting in several products, including a progress monitoring framework for each FIP. The progress monitoring frameworks provide an innovative and technically robust way to measure progress toward outcomes throughout the six-year FIP investments. The key elements of the progress monitoring framework are a theory of change, results chain, and a crosswalk matrix, which have been presented to the board at previous meetings (October 2017; January 2020; March 2021). These tools track and communicate progress and help inform adaptive management of restoration initiatives by FIP partners.

As reported previously to the board, the BEF team engaged with each FIP to collaboratively construct and vet results and crosswalks unique to each of the first and second cohort FIPs. At the same time, OWEB and BEF refined strategic action planning guidance to partnerships applying to the FIP program to help develop a progress monitoring framework to guide the partnerships' work. Recognizing that the first and second cohorts of FIPs did not have this guidance, OWEB elected to offer supplemental monitoring funding to help address the top one or two data gap(s) identified through the framework development process.

III. Supplemental Monitoring Funding for BEF

This funding request for BEF will support:

- A continuation of developing and refining the progress monitoring frameworks critical to FIP program success, including strategic action plan review and guidance updates, support for the development of progress tracking reports, and providing guidance on partnership governance.
- The facilitation and documentation of continued learning in the FIP program, including a third phase of the Partnership Learning Project and hosting a FIP gathering to discuss lessons learned, restoration planning tools and strategies, and partnership management and coordination once it is safe to meet in-person.
- Pilot efforts to apply guidance for adaptive management to FIP partnerships and provide refinements to the guide based on outcomes of the project.
- Program assessment and adaptation of the FIP program, working with staff to facilitate a program review and integrate the latest learnings through efforts such as the Partnership Learning Project.

IV. Supplemental Monitoring Funding for Second Cohort FIPs

The second cohort of FIP partnerships are:

- Clackamas Restoration for Native Fish Recovery
- John Day Basin Native Fish Habitat Initiative
- Warner Basin Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement
- Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative
- Baker Comprehensive Sage-Grouse Threat Reduction

Following the pause due to lottery revenue shortfalls in 2020, OWEB staff have re-initiated discussions with these partnerships to provide an overview of the supplemental monitoring offering and to provide an opportunity to identify the top data gap(s) associated with the progress monitoring framework. Partnerships are now beginning to develop monitoring concepts for the supplemental funding offering, and then to develop these concepts into grant applications. Applications will be reviewed by a team including staff from OWEB's Technical Services and Grant Management programs, along with external reviewers, likely including one or more members of the FIP Technical Review Team. Attachment A provides examples of past FIP supplemental monitoring projects.

V. Request

Staff recommend the board award up to \$700,000 from the Focused Investment Effectiveness Monitoring line item in the 2021-2023 spending plan to support the ongoing work of the OWEB-BEF partnership toward continued development and improvement of the FIP program, along with initiating grants to fill priority monitoring gaps for the second cohort of FIP initiatives, and delegate to the Executive Director the authority to distribute the funds through appropriate agreements with an award date of January 1, 2022.

Attachment

A. Examples of first cohort FIP supplemental monitoring projects

Examples of Monitoring Projects Funded Under Progress Monitoring Framework Support for the First Cohort of FIPs

Oregon All Counties Sage Grouse FIP (OWEB grant # 218-8390-16554): Database to assist with necessary reporting in support of wide Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances. The database meets a high priority need for a top priority for participating Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative (OWEB grant # 218-8390-16725): Integrated monitoring to enhance social support for upland forest restoration; evaluate ecosystem services and hydrological changes; and map post-treatment fire management opportunities.

Upper Grande Ronde Initiative (OWEB grant #218-8390-16793): Effectiveness monitoring of habitat quality and juvenile fish abundance and distribution in reaches where FIP restoration actions have occurred, using standardized ODFW protocols and data processes.

Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative (supplemental monitoring funding added as a component of OWEB grant #218-8202-16866): Comprehensive effort to understand the distribution of native and non-native fishes in the Harney Basin.

Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats (OWEB grant #218-8390-17212): Characterize off-channel habitat, vegetation, and fish distribution through data compilation, literature review, and mapping. The goal is to help practitioners understand the distribution of the invasive aquatic plant *Ludwigia* and its impacts to aquatic habitat for native fish.

Deschutes Partnership (OWEB grant #218-8390-16767): Monitoring to establish baseline conditions prior to implementing streamflow and habitat restoration projects, including the McKay Water Rights Switch project. The project helps provide important baseline information to assist the partnership with prioritizing restoration and quantifying FIP outcomes.



Agenda Item M supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority # 3: Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Courtney Shaff, Business Operations Manager
Taylor Larson, Partnerships Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item M – Partnership Technical Assistance (TA) Grant Awards
January 25-26, 2022 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report provides an overview of the 2021 Partnership TA grant offering and funding recommendations. Staff request the board approve the funding recommendations outlined in Attachment C to the staff report.

II. Background

At the July 2021 meeting, the board adopted its 2021-2023 spending plan and allocated \$1.5 million for Partnership TA grants and approved staff to offer two grant cycles this biennium, with \$750,000 being available for each offering. There are two project types within the Partnership TA grants, Development and Capacity. Development applications can develop a strategic action plan (SAP), enhance an existing SAP, and elevate the partnership's performance through the development of governance documents. Capacity applications must have a strategic action plan that aligns with OWEB's SAP template and can support partnership coordination in support of SAP implementation.

III. Summary of Solicitation and Review Process

A. Solicitation

In July 2021, staff solicited for the first round of Partnership TA grants for the 2021-2023 biennium. Prior to submitting a proposal, applicants were required to participate in a consultation with staff. The purpose of the consultation is to review the program's purpose, allowable activities, evaluation criteria, and timing with applicants.

B.A Applications Submitted

Twelve applications were received by the October 14, 2021 deadline requesting \$1.3 million. Four applications applied for Capacity funding and eight applications applied for Development funding. Applications were submitted from five of OWEB's six regions; a map of the applications can be found in Attachment A to the staff report.

C. Review Process

Applications were evaluated based on the evaluation criteria included in the technical assistance rule OAR 695-030-0045(3): 1) stakeholder engagement, 2) proposal clarity, 3) technical soundness, and 4) organizational capacity. Reviewers provided a 'fund', 'fund with conditions, or 'do not fund' recommendation, and ranked applications. The application evaluations are in Attachment B to the staff report.

IV. Funding Recommendation

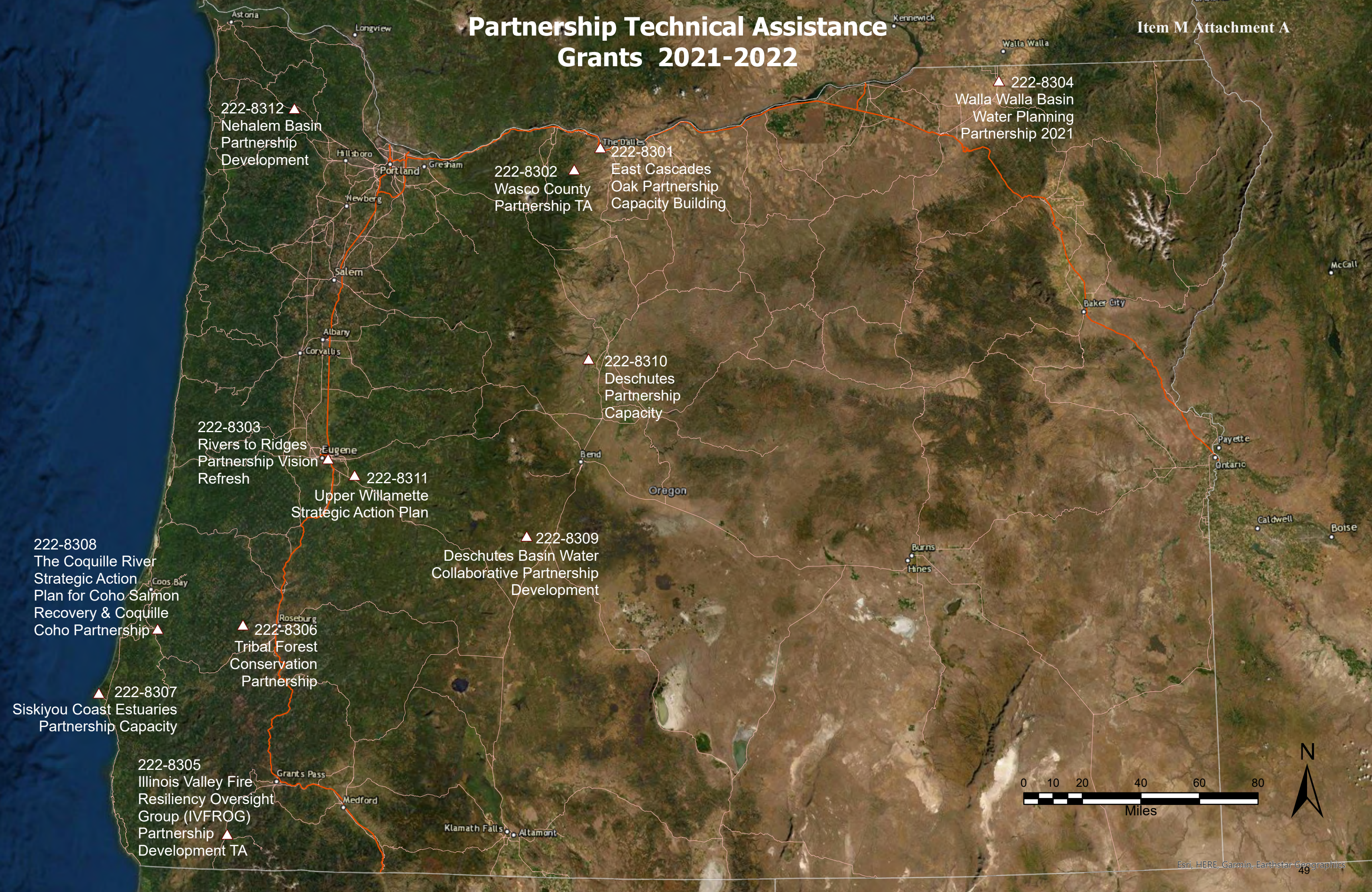
Staff recommend the board award Partnership TA grants as shown in Attachment C. The staff recommended funding amount is \$796,877, which is \$46,877 above the current board adopted spending plan of \$750,000 for this offering. When developing this recommendation staff considered that this grant offering was only offered once last biennium and the number of high-quality applications OWEB received from around the state during this solicitation.

Attachments

- A. Application Map
- B. Evaluations
- C. Staff Funding Recommendations

Partnership Technical Assistance Grants 2021-2022

Item M Attachment A



Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8301-19835

OWEB Region: 4

Applicant: Columbia Land Trust

Requested Amount: \$149,866

Project Type: Capacity

Applicant's Summary: The East Cascades Oak Partnership works on the east slopes of the Cascades in Oregon and Washington from the Yakama Indian Reservation in the north to the Warm Springs Indian Reservation in the south. From 2017 to 2020, over 25 tribal, public, and private entities partnered to create a strategic plan for Oregon white oak habitat conservation that responds to immediate threats in the landscape, such as conversion, fire suppression, conifer encroachment, and overgrazing, which have caused habitat loss, fragmentation, elevated risk of wildfire, and loss of biodiversity. We built a shared base of knowledge of oak ecology and the needs and values of the people who interact with oak systems, identifying strategies to improve outcomes for oaks across a complex landscape of human use and predicted impacts from climate change. With capacity funding from OWEB, we will: facilitate networking and collaboration among partners; refine our spatial priorities at the parcel scale; create a learning framework and monitoring plan to address key knowledge gaps and measure progress against our ecological goals and objectives; collaborate with other oak FIPs across Oregon to implement funding, communication, and policy strategies for shared state-wide priorities; adapt our monitoring tools to better reflect tribal values for use on reservation; and create an outreach and engagement plan to assist with implementation of high priority strategies in ECOP's strategic plan. Our partnership works in two states. Oregon partners include: ODF ODFW USFS NRCS Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Conservation districts and watershed councils OSU Extension Oregon State Parks Columbia River Gorge Commission Deschutes Land Trust Friends of the Gorge Land Trust Native Plant Society Pacific Birds Columbia Land Trust Wasco County.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has an existing strategic action plan and governance documents that were developed through a previous Partnership TA grant.
- The partnership has been successful in developing cultural knowledge among the partners.
- The Partnership is working to more effectively engage tribal partners in their work.
- The application shows a diversity of funding sources.
- The application describes an effective tiered structure for the work proposed and acknowledges where some elements have not yet been tested.
- The proposed communication plan is thoroughly described and appropriate for the project.

- The discussion of the partnerships brand demonstrates a clear understanding of the unique community in which the partnership is operating.
- The application does a good job explaining the challenge that this funding would help solve.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- Columbia Land Trust is an effective organization with high capacity, but there is some concern that they are shouldering much of the work for the partnership. It is somewhat unclear the role of other partners.

Concluding Analysis:

This partnership has an existing Strategic Action Plan that serves as a guiding document and provides a framework for collaborative decision making. The application provides strong justification for the capacity support provided through this grant offering by describing challenges faced by the partnership that could be addressed with the proposed funding. While Columbia Land Trust (CLT) is a good choice as an organization to take a leadership role in this partnership, however, it would benefit the partnership to encourage a greater diversity of partners to take leadership roles to ensure the long-term resiliency of the partnership. The application demonstrates broad partnership buy-in and is the logical next step for this partnership.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 1

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$149,866

Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8302-19845

OWEB Region: 4

Applicant: Wasco SWCD

Requested Amount: \$89,100

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary: The core partnership is based in Wasco County. 2) Wasco County SWCD and Area Watershed Councils work in a close, informal partnership with WyEast RC&D on projects relating to water conservation and remote data collection to support working lands and healthy watersheds. We intend to continue working together toward our common goals and need a strategic action plan to support the work long term. With ongoing drought and climate change, we are seeing increasing demands on our time and resources and need to be strategic in our planning and develop our Partnership's capacity with an eye towards the future. 3) We propose to develop a strategic action plan, MOU, communications plan, and long-term funding plan. 4) Core partners include Wasco County SWCD, Wasco County Area Watershed Councils, and WyEast Resource Conservation & Development Council. Other partners we work with include USDA NRCS, ODFW, CTWS, ODA, DEQ, ODF, USFS, local electrical utilities, Oregon Department of Energy, University of Oregon through the RARE program, and the OWEB Lower Deschutes Small Grant team.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership is well established and implements project successfully in an informal manner.
- The applications clearly describes the steps to develop a strategic action plan and deliverables are clearly identified.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The consultant, who will do most of the work, is listed as a lump sum in the budget. This suggests the service may not have been well scoped out.
- The budget lists partnership support staff at \$60k, but there is not a lot of detail as to who that is and why it is needed.
- The application does not provide much detail on how the partners will use the strategic action plan once it is complete.
- The application lacks detail on a partnership governance plan.
- The proposed timeline is very ambitious and the application doesn't provide much detail as to how the deliverables would be achieved in this timeframe.

Concluding Analysis:

The partnership is well established and has a history of successful collaborative and project implementation and clearly identifies what they want to achieve with this application. The application does not provide any detail on how the partnership will develop a more formalized governance plan to support the strategic action plan after it is developed. The proposed timeline is quite ambitious, may be difficult to achieve and there is quite a bit of ambiguity around who will do the work and how much time each step will take. The budget does not provide much detail as to who will be responsible for completing deliverables laid out in the work plan.

Review Team Priority Ranking: N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Amount: \$0

Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8303-19831

OWEB Region: 3

Applicant: Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council

Requested Amount: \$89,373

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary: The Rivers to Ridges (R2R) Partnership is a voluntary association of 19 organizations working collaboratively to advance the protection, restoration, and management of open space resources in the southern Willamette Valley. The R2R planning area is in Lane County, focusing on the Eugene-Springfield area, 4 small cities, surrounding rural lands, and the confluences of four major watersheds – Coast and Middle Fork Willamette, Long Tom, and McKenzie. Through the combined efforts of our partners, a significant amount of what was envisioned in the 2003 Rivers to Ridges vision has been implemented and a “Refresh” process was launched in 2020 to look toward what might be possible over the next 20 years. Through this process, a refined vision will be developed through collaboration with local experts and a diverse representation of our community. The process has been split into three phases – Phase 1 asked partner organizations to define their priorities within the broader upper Willamette watershed and was completed in 2020. Phase 2 is currently underway and is focused on evaluating Partnership structure and expanding our stakeholder base to ensure diverse and inclusive representation from the community. Phase 3 will be conducted in 2022 and will include a robust community outreach process and development of a refreshed and inspirational vision. The Partnership is extremely streamlined and relies on annual partner contributions totaling \$6,100 per year. The third and final phase of the Refresh process will require additional capacity funding to enable us to successfully conduct community engagement and thoughtful vision development. The R2R Partnership includes the City of Eugene, CFWWC, Friends of Buford Park, Institute for Applied Ecology, Lane County, LTWC, McKenzie River Trust, MWC, MFWWC, Mt. Pisgah Arboretum, ODFW, OPRD, The Nature Conservancy, U.S. Army Corps, BLM, USFWS, Willamalane, Willamette Resources and Educational Network, and Willamette Riverkeeper.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership is established, has a history of success and includes the right partners for the proposed work.
- The application proposes working across topic areas that are important to the community including greenspaces, recreation, and watershed restoration.
- The partnership provides an important venue to work across boundaries and build common concepts around topics such as diversity, equity and inclusion.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- It is unclear how tribes would be engaged with throughout the process. Meaningfully engaging with tribes requires a specialized set of skills and if done incorrectly could create problems.
- The proposed half day charette may not be enough time for partners to meaningfully engage in the vision refresh.
- The honorarium offered to partners is quite small.
- It is unclear from the application if the groups being asked to participate in the project have been asked how they would like to participate or if they have the time/space to do so.

Concluding Analysis:

The Rivers to Ridges partnership is an important forum in the upper Willamette Valley for developing shared priorities and conservation strategies amongst partner organizations. The application clearly articulates the past success of the partnership efforts and lays out a process for updating their existing goals. It is somewhat unclear how involved partners were in the development of this application and whether the included stipends would be big enough to meaningfully compensate organizations for their contributions to the project.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 8**Review Team Recommendation: Fund****Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund, falls below the funding line****Amount: \$0**

Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8304-19840

OWEB Region: 6

Applicant: Walla Walla Basin WC

Requested Amount: \$26,670

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary: The Walla Walla Basin is a hydrologically, jurisdictionally, and biologically complex watershed extending across Washington and Oregon. Ensuring adequate water for people, irrigated agriculture, and instream flows for fish and wildlife is a challenge in the basin, particularly in the summer when demand is the highest. Despite the myriad of organizations and entities that have worked for years to improve water quality and address water management issues in the basin, its health and productivity are constrained by the factors below:

- Low streamflows compounded by irrigation diversions.
- Concrete and/or incised stream channels, levees, weirs, and other alterations.
- Point-source and non-point-source pollution.
- Declining water levels in the alluvial and basalt aquifers.
- Increased stream temperatures and degraded habitat for fish and other species.
- Climate change driving drastic changes in temperature and habitats.
- Over-allocated water supply for out-of-stream uses.
- Historic loss of fisheries production (salmonids).

Two water planning activities are occurring in the Walla Walla Basin. Both will address the factors listed above, the Walla Walla Water 2050 Strategic Plan (WWW2050), and integrate the Bi-State Flow Study into the WWW2050 Plan. The Bi-State Flow Study began in 2014. Since then, the WWBWC has played an active role as a co-lead by seeking and managing grant funds, contracting with consultants, providing hydrologic data, chairing the Reservoir Workgroup, and publishing meeting materials and reports on the WWBWC website. More recently, the WWBWC has participated in the WWW2050 Planning workgroup meetings and strategy development. In 2021 the Bi-State Flow Study was integrated into the WWW2050 Strategic Planning effort as its centerpiece flow project. Also occurring in 2021, the Tri-Sovereigns group consisting of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the OWRD, and the WDOE assumed the leadership of the projects.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The application is targeted, and the goals are easy to understand.
- The budget is quite modest and in line with the activities described in the application.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The applications is not clearly written and reviewers found it difficult to follow at times.

- The role that the applicant is playing in the partnership is unclear, and it is difficult to determine what project success would look like since so much appears to be beyond the control of the applicant
- The budget lacked context as to how it relates to the overall partnership budget.
- The case for the applicants needed participation in the partnership is not clearly articulated.

Concluding Analysis:

The partnership has successfully developed a strategic plan focused on water management in the Walla Walla Basin. The project applicant is requesting funds to continue participating in the planning and implementation process and the requested budget seems appropriate given their expected level of participation. The review team had a hard time understanding the role that the applicant will play in the partnership going forward and how success would be defined. The budget was difficult to understand and lacked context in relation to the larger partnership. Overall, it was unclear what exactly would be gained through the applicants continued participation in the partnership.

Review Team Priority Ranking: N/A

Review Team Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund

Amount: \$0

Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8305-19842

OWEB Region: 2

Applicant: Illinois Valley SWCD

Requested Amount: \$105,083

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary: This project seeks to elevate the performance of the Illinois Valley Fire Resilience Oversight Group (IVFROG) by producing foundational governance documents and a strategic action plan. IVFROG's mission is to improve forest health to reduce the risk of catastrophic wildfire. 1. The project location includes public and private lands within the Illinois River watershed (HUC 17100311), located primarily in Josephine County. This area encompasses the rural hubs of Cave Junction, Selma, and Takilma. Specific sub-watersheds will be prioritized within the greater basin. 2. IVFROG is in the formative stages of growth and needs to develop our partnership; this is the ideal time to establish governance documents. We also need the leadership of a dedicated coordinator and we seek to become more diverse, equitable, and inclusive to underrepresented stakeholders. Critical habitat within the Illinois Valley faces extreme risk from catastrophic wildfire and IVFROG needs to become more competitive in leveraging funding opportunities to achieve our goals. 3. This Partnership Development grant seeks to elevate the performance of the Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group (IVFROG) by establishing bylaws, a nondiscrimination and conduct policy, MOU's, a strategic action plan, a financial plan, and a public relations, marketing, and advocacy plan. These documents will be developed cooperatively with the leadership of a Coordinator and be informed by a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) workshop. 4. Core project partners include: Grayback Forestry, Illinois Valley Community Development Organization (IVCDO), Illinois Valley Fire District, Illinois Valley Soil and Water Conservation District (IVSWCD), Illinois Valley Watershed Council (IVWC), KS Wild, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP), Southern Oregon Forest Restoration Collaborative (SOFRC), Wilson Biochar, and Lomakatsi.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The engagement with environmental advocacy groups is encouraging.
- The approach of using wildfire resiliency in order to implement forest habitat restoration is an important consideration in this area.
- The scale of the project and the associated budget seems appropriate.
- The community that the partnership proposes to work with are important stakeholders.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The federal government manages a significant part of the forested landscape in this area but are not listed as a core partner. It is not clear how the development of a strategic action plan would interact with federal planning efforts.
- It is not clear how the partnership would work with other active forest restoration partners in the region.
- The bulk of the work would fall on the shoulders of the one project coordinator. The application describes thoughtful goals but does not provide important details on how they would be achieved.
- While the diversity, equity, and inclusion training described would be useful, not enough funding is targeted for this task in the budget.

Concluding Analysis:

The partnership proposes to develop a strategic action plan over the coming one and a half years. The application describes an exciting and creative approach that ties wildfire preparedness to habitat restoration on private forest land. The review team is concerned that federal partners don't appear to be a part of the planning process given that they own the majority of forest land in the proposed geography. The reliance on a yet a single project coordinator to drive much of the work proposed may prove detrimental to the success of the project if that person is unable to continue in their role. While it is encouraging that the partners propose diversity, equity, and inclusion training as a part of the project, the budget does not provide adequate resources to support meaningful participation of partners or bring in outside expertise.

Review Team Priority Ranking: N/A**Review Team Recommendation:** Do Not Fund**Staff Recommendation:** Do Not Fund**Amount:** \$0

Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8306-19843

OWEB Region: 2

Applicant: Trust for Public Lands

Requested Amount: \$149,500

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary: The Cascade and Coast Ranges in Southwestern Oregon, along the South Umpqua River and within the Umpqua watershed are the ancestral and ceded lands of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians, a federally recognized Indian Tribal Government with over 1,800 members. Yet due to historic interventions by the U.S federal government that still impact the Tribe today, the Tribe has access to a very small fraction of their ancestral and ceded lands. After more than a century of logging and development, many of the upland watersheds in this Southern Oregon Coast Range are not fully functioning and the disruption to their hydrology is impacting downstream communities. The Coquille, Rouge, and Umpqua River basins in Douglas County are highly susceptible to soil erosion due to heavy rains and flooding. When heavy rains or significant runoff meet high tides, flooding along the coast and well inland is possible. Land acquisition and restoration projects resulting from this partnership project will improve designated critical habitat for federally threatened Oregon Coast Coho salmon. In partnership with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, the Trust for Public Land aims to acquire and restore ownership of 100,000 acres of ancestral and ceded lands to the Cow Creek Tribe. The Trust for Public Land's Oregon office is working with the Tribe's natural resource department to develop a framework to identify forestland in their ancestral and ceded territory, and develop a strategy for acquiring these lands. By taking the time to plan first, we will collectively agree on partnership scope, roles and responsibilities, geography, ecological priorities, and the detailed strategies and actions. To develop the partnership, partners need time and resources to develop clarity on ecological priorities, maps of priority areas, a funding strategy, and a study of potential grant program policy changes as well as engage adjacent landowners, stakeholders, and supporting partners.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- This is a unique partnership that will help the tribe achieve long-term goals.
- The inclusion of a tribal resolution is a significant step in the partnership and demonstrates important tribal commitment to the project.
- The availability of carbon storage in trees may be an important metric in helping the partnership prioritize land for acquisition.
- The partners have recently developed an MOU that is specific to the project.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The connection to future OWEB-eligible restoration or acquisition projects is not well described in the application.
- It is unclear if the intent of the partnership is to broaden beyond the two existing core partners.
- The details on how land acquisition projects will be implemented are lacking in the application, and it is not clear how the development of a strategic action plan will be useful in this regard.
- The communication plan lacks detail and it is not clear from the application what the scope of work for the communications consultant would be, or who will be the target audience for the communications plan.

Concluding Analysis:

The partnership between the Cow Creek Tribe and the Trust for Public Land is a unique partnership based on mutual trust and formalized shared agreements. The innovative approach of utilizing carbon markets to offset the cost of land acquisition and help to prioritize which lands to acquire is promising. It is unclear from the application how the strategic action plan will be used to build future restoration collaboration, and the mechanics of how the partnership plans to acquire lands are not clearly articulated. It is also unclear whether the partnership plans to expand beyond the two core partners in the future and, if so, how those partners would be brought into the fold. This application, made up of two partners and the development of an action plan, might be more aligned with the purpose of a Technical Assistance planning grant.

Review Team Priority Ranking: N/A**Review Team Recommendation:** Do Not Fund**Staff Recommendation:** Do Not Fund**Amount:** \$0

Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8307-19836

OWEB Region: 2

Applicant: Curry SWCD

Requested Amount: \$124,653

Project Type: Capacity

Applicant's Summary: The Siskiyou Coast Estuaries Partnership (SCEP) consists of the Curry Watersheds Partnership (CWP; which is made up of the Curry Soil & Water Conservation District, the South Coast Watershed Council, the Lower Rogue Watershed Council, and the Curry Watersheds Nonprofit), Wild Rivers Land Trust (WRLT), and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). The partnership's geography covers the nine major south coast watersheds in Curry County, Oregon, but the focus of this project is on the Sixes River watershed. The SCEP completed a Strategic Action Plan for the Sixes River watershed in 2019 and we are seeking capacity funds to implement and enhance portions of this SAP, and improve partner coordination for project implementation and monitoring. The specific capacity needs that this application seeks to address are: 1. Implementation of the Sixes SAP outreach plan, and 2. Enhancement of the Sixes SAP Progress Monitoring Framework. To help us accomplish the strategies in the outreach plan, we are proposing to: a) share a hydrodynamic model of the lower watershed to increase landowner understanding of the potential of restoration on their land; b) support Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) efforts to build our capacity for intentional inclusion of underrepresented stakeholders in the Sixes SAP; and c) develop project ideas with landowners and stakeholders in order to engage with relevant permitting agencies and funders. We are proposing to enhance the SAP Progress Monitoring Framework through the development of a comprehensive monitoring plan. The SAP currently does not include specific ecological outcomes due to the lack of baseline data and expert knowledge available during the initial development process. The monitoring plan will identify specific ecological outcomes, how they will be monitored, and will be developed collaboratively by the SCEP and additional technical experts from DEQ, USFS, USGS, BLM, and South Slough Estuarine Research Reserve.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has an existing strategic action plan and governance documents that were developed through a previous Partnership TA grant.
- The applications proposes a creative, multi-tiered approach to engaging with the public.
- The budget is adequate for what is being proposed.
- The proposed monitoring plan is thorough and appropriate for the project.
- The application clearly articulates how the existing Strategic Action Plan is used to foster a shared vision and spirit of collaboration among partners.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- If the hydrological model is not funded through outside sources, the rest of the proposed project would be significantly delayed.
- It appears that the Sixes Watershed has been prioritized by the partnership, but it is not clear how this decision was made.
- Tribal engagement is talked about as part of the partnerships DEI efforts. It may be better to think of it as a separate effort.
- Publicly identifying priority tax lots to work on without the proper relationships in place with the landowners has the potential to create controversy.

Concluding Analysis:

This is an existing partnership that has worked together for many years and has built trust within their community. The partnership clearly communicates the purpose of the proposed planning effort and how the refined strategic action plan and communication plan would be used to build a shared restoration vision among partners. The review team is concerned that if the hydrological model does not get funded through outside sources in a timely manner, it could dramatically setback the entire project timeline and put into jeopardy its success. There is also a concern that if the results from the hydrological model are not carefully presented, it risks alienating landowners who may have not been involved in the prioritization process. The partnership does clearly articulate their plans to engage with the public on multiple levels which will be important to the success of the project.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 7**Review Team Recommendation: Fund****Staff Recommendation: Do Not Fund, falls below funding line****Amount: \$0**

Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8308-19841

OWEB Region: 2

Applicant: Coquille WC

Requested Amount: \$149,892

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary: This grant proposes to finalize the Coquille Strategic Action Plan (SAP) for Coho Recovery and create a partnership centered on this SAP. This plan and partnership is critical to develop to ensure that the watershed's limiting factors for coho recovery are assessed and addressed in a strategic, multi-decadal framework. Currently, Coquille watershed specific limiting factors have not been defined, there is a lack of a long term strategy for coho recovery in the watershed, and at times partner efforts lack integration and alignment with a basin-wide approach. The goal of the SAP is to develop a comprehensive restoration strategy prioritizing projects that have the greatest impact on coho recovery and resilience. Specifically, this plan will provide a slate of vetted projects that will result in targeted watershed enhancement focused on coho recovery and resiliency. The SAP development process, facilitated by the Wild Salmon Center (WSC), has been implemented successfully in six other coastal watersheds to date. Phase 1, funded with an OWEB TA grant, will be focused on data collection and watershed prioritization to inform the SAP. Phases 2 and 3 will be funded by this grant. Phase 2 will be focused on finalizing and publishing the SAP. Phase 3 will be centered on launching a strong partnership to support the implementation of vetted projects. The SAP will be developed by the Coquille Coho Partnership, a diverse group of agencies and stakeholders that will include the Coquille Watershed Association (CoqWA) as the local convener and the Wild Salmon Center (WSC) who will provide SAP facilitation and additional technical resources.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The project timeline is realistic and well defined.
- The application includes a detailed GANTT chart and an honest assessment of the barriers facing the partnership.
- The partnership is strong with an effective track record of implementing projects.
- The partners have split the project into several phases and are leveraging multiple funding sources to complete the strategic action plan process.
- The partners are working with the Wild Salmon Center and using a well-defined to develop their strategic action plan.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The departure of a long-standing executive director in the partnership may create some organizations capacity bottlenecks.

Concluding Analysis:

The partnership is working to finalize an existing Strategic Action Plan as part of a Coho Business Plan process with the Wild Salmon Center. The application does a good job laying out a project timeline that is easy to understand and clearly tied to the proposed outcomes. While it is concerning that a key leader in the partnership will be leaving, the partnership is high functioning and has a solid track record and is working with an experienced consultant.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 3

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$149,892

Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8309-19844

OWEB Region: 4

Applicant: Deschutes River Conservancy

Requested Amount: \$79,815

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary: The Deschutes River Conservancy (DRC), in partnership with the Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council (COIC), proposes to develop a comprehensive Upper Deschutes sub-basin water management plan through the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative (DBWC). The Upper Deschutes sub-basin is a HUC-8 watershed encompassing the Middle and Upper Deschutes River above the Pelton-Round Butte Dam Complex and associated tributaries, including Tumalo Creek, Crescent Creek, and the Little Deschutes River. This project addresses low and altered streamflow issues in the upper Deschutes River sub-basin, a major limiting factor for fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and watershed health. The Deschutes River is over-appropriated. Inadequate streamflow and unnatural streamflow regimes created by valid irrigation water use have been identified as the primary limiting factor for native fish distribution and productivity. The comprehensive water management plan will be built upon years of collaboration and planning in the Deschutes Basin. The recent completion of the Upper Deschutes Basin Study and Habitat Conservation Plan provides a substantial and timely foundation to build upon to develop a comprehensive and widely supported water management plan that will accelerate the efficiency, pace, and scale of water reallocation in the basin, necessary to maintain productive agriculture, achieve flow restoration targets, and ensure water supply reliability for the growing communities in the Deschutes Basin. The development of this comprehensive plan follows the Framework for Action recently completed under the current OWEB Technical Assistance Grant to the DRC, which also supports COIC to facilitate the DBWC's efforts and includes participation from many disparate collaborative partners, as well as a recently recommended-for-funding Stakeholder Engagement Grant to support COIC's continued facilitation and co-leadership of the DBWC.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The application describes a partnership with an effective structure and governance in place.
- The partnership will be following an established place-based planning process promoted by Oregon Water Resources Department.
- The application includes a thoughtful description of the partnership's roles and responsibilities.
- The right partners are at the table to see a successful outcome on this challenging topic.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The application talks about "key issues" facing the partnership but they are not well described.

Concluding Analysis:

The application clearly defines how this funding would be used to support technical work and to develop a Strategic Action Plan in support of balancing water use needs amongst various stakeholders in the Deschutes Basin. The existing partnership has an effective governance structure in place and role/responsibilities are clearly defined in the application. The application refers to key issues that need to be addressed through the project, but these are not well defined and it's unclear if this is because they are not yet well understood. It is encouraging that the partnership is following an established Water Resources Department place-based planning process as this allows partners to focus more on developing actions and less on developing process.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 2**Review Team Recommendation: Fund****Staff Recommendation: Fund****Amount: \$79,815**

Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8310-19828

OWEB Region: 4

Applicant: Deschutes Partnership Capacity

Requested Amount: \$117,774

Project Type: Capacity

Applicant's Summary: The Deschutes Partnership is a group of organizations—Deschutes Land Trust, Deschutes River Conservancy, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, and Crooked River Watershed Council—working with a consortium of local, state, and federal partners to restore habitat to support the successful reintroduction of salmon and steelhead into the Whychus Creek, Metolius River and lower Crooked River watersheds of the upper Deschutes River basin in Central Oregon (Deschutes, Crooked and Jefferson counties). Active reintroduction began in these watersheds in 2007 and since then the Deschutes Partnership has been implementing restoration activities to facilitate a successful recovery, including screening diversions, addressing fish passage barriers, restoring streamflow, decreasing water temperatures, and restoring floodplains to improve and create more diverse spawning and rearing habitat and access to these habitats that directly impacts the number smolts that migrate downstream toward the Pacific Ocean. The Deschutes Partnership became an OWEB Focused Investment Partner in 2016, and since then, our work has been guided by our Strategic Action Plan (SAP). Our FIP grant is closing at the end of 2021 and though we have gained much headway in achieving the goals articulated in our SAP, we still have much work to do. This Technical Assistance grant will provide important operational support for the members of the Deschutes Partnership to continue to coordinate, facilitate, and administer the Partnership including the primary task of prioritizing and tracking SAP-supported restoration actions, and maintaining and updating our Partnership documents. This funding will support a combination of existing personnel who will focus on continued Partnership operations for each of the three watersheds in the Deschutes Partnership with the goal of implementing SAP actions.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The budget is well aligned with the proposed work.
- The narrow focus of the partnership is straightforward, easy to understand and achievable.
- The partnership has worked hard to reduce overlap and competition between partners. It takes a lot of work to get to this point and continued investments is justified to maintain the operational capacity of the partnership.
- The partners have an existing strategic action plan that they have successfully worked together to implement through six years of FIP funding.

- The partners will continue to work together to implement restoration and acquisition projects that are described in their strategic action plan.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The partnership has been heavily reliant on OWEB funding for partnership support and project implantation for many years, it is unclear how the partnership will support its efforts after the conclusion of this project.

Concluding Analysis:

The Deschutes partnership has a strong track record of effective collaboration and the application includes detailed descriptions of how this funding would support the future of the partnership. It is clear from the application that the partnership functions at a high level and that resources are required in order to continue doing so following the completion of their implementation FIP. It will be important for the partnership to use this funding to develop a clear vision for the future of their collaborative efforts.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 6

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$117,774

Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8311-19837

OWEB Region: 3

Applicant: McKenzie Watershed Alliance

Requested Amount: \$149,998

Project Type: Development

Applicant's Summary: Over the past 150 years, a wide range of land management practices have degraded habitats and negatively impacted native species through the Upper Willamette River Basin. In 2018, a group of six conservation organizations formed the Upper Willamette Stewardship Network (UWSN) to formalize their relationships and create a framework for addressing complex ecological problems in the region. The UWSN recognizes that for large-scale habitat restoration efforts to succeed in the Upper Willamette, regional partners must take steps to align planning and development efforts across boundaries. This proposal details a two-year planning process culminating in the development of a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) aimed at aligning ongoing and future habitat restoration and conservation efforts across the Upper Willamette Basin. The Upper Willamette SAP will focus on habitat restoration and conservation strategies across four priority areas: instream/floodplains, upland forests/prairies, working lands, and urban landscapes. The SAP will build from existing regional and organizational strategic planning documents and a collaborative planning effort underway in the Mckenzie River sub-basin. The resulting SAP will provide a comprehensive, integrated picture of restoration strategies with a goal to position the UWSN to apply for an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Focused Investment Partnership implementation grant aimed at improving aquatic habitat for native fish species. UWSN members are the Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Long Tom Watershed Council, Mckenzie Watershed Council (MWC), Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Friends of Buford Park, and Mckenzie River Trust. Additional regional partners include the Upper Willamette Soil and Water Conservation District, Eugene Water & Electric Board, and United States Forest Service. The McKenzie Watershed Alliance is the fiscal sponsor of the MWC and the grant applicant.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The application does a good job of honestly describing the challenges the partnership is facing, large geography, many partners, and ambitious effort.
- The team of executive directors signed onto the project are strong which will likely lead to success.
- The partners propose to engage with underserved populations in their geography, the strategies are well described and seem appropriate.
- The application clearly lays out a strategy for facilitating the development of a strategic action plan.

- The existing partnership governance structure is well developed and will help with the development of the strategic action plan.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The region has many existing plans and it is somewhat unclear how the partnership will synthesize all those plans into a cohesive document.
- There are a significant number of collaborative efforts in the Upper Willamette, more information on how this planning efforts fits into other partnership efforts in the region would have been useful.
- The timeline and scope laid out is perhaps overly ambitious given the workplan.
- The role of the SWCD in the partnership is not clear.

Concluding Analysis:

The Upper Willamette Stewardship Network has been working together for many years and has successfully completed multiple planning processes. While the review team was somewhat concerned about the capacity of the network to take on the large amount of work proposed, the application demonstrates the partnership is ready to write a strategic action plan and has a clear vision for the next steps. After investing in diversity, equity, and inclusion training the partners are ready to engage with more partners from their community and expanding who is at the table.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 4

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$149,998

Partnership Technical Assistance Application Evaluation

OVERVIEW

Project #: 222-8312-19834

OWEB Region: 1

Applicant: Upper Nehalem WC

Requested Amount: \$149,512

Project Type: Capacity

Applicant's Summary: The Upper and Lower Nehalem Watershed Councils seek support essential to the facilitation of structuring a network of partners dedicated to engaging in a three year collaborative process to lay the groundwork for the continuation of the implementation of the Nehalem Strategic Action Plan (NSAP 2021). The partnership hereafter is referred to as the Nehalem Basin Partnership (NBP). There is a need to elevate the partnership's current level of performance in service to the NSAP through improved outreach, coordination, communication, engagement with stakeholders through memorandum of understanding, resource sharing, restoration project planning, project tracking and website development. NBP's primary focus will be strategic planning to assure future goals are met for the implementation of Coho Salmon anchor habitat projects identified within high priority 6th field sub-basins of the Nehalem Basin (4th field HUC #17100202). With dedicated facilitation from a contracted consultant, the NBP will finalize and disperse the NSAP document regionally. The consultant will also provide a 3 year framework of dedicated NBP coordination, network communication, facilitated quarterly meetings (12) and support of the over-all NSAP implementation planning process. The project will also include: alignment of NSAP with other regional management plans, project tracking to ensure this project is completed as proposed, identification of match funding sources, grant and collaboration opportunities, and identification of a project management/tracking database. The project will also contract a website developer. Project partners (committed) include: The Upper and Lower Nehalem Watershed Councils, Tillamook Estuary Partnership, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of Forestry, US Fish and Wildlife Clatsop SWCD, Columbia SWCD, Weyerhaeuser, Department of Environmental Quality, Trout Unlimited, North Coast Land Conservancy, and the Lower Nehalem Community Trust.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Application strengths identified during review include:

- The partnership has an existing strategic action plan and governance documents that were developed through the Coho Business Planning process with the Wild Salmon Center.
- The application describes an effective governance structure, and demonstrates the partnership is thinking long-term
- The timeline is very detailed and appears realistic for the proposed workplan
- The capacity need is well articulated, and this type of grant offering is well suited to the request.
- The project prioritization process is clearly defined.

- The outreach plan is appropriate and ambitious.

Application concerns identified during review include:

- The application blends terms “coordinator” and “facilitator” throughout the document, making it hard to decipher roles and responsibilities of each position.
- Bringing in a facilitator and or coordinator from outside the community might make outreach and engagement with landowners challenging.

Concluding Analysis:

The Nehalem Bain Partnership is building off an existing Strategic Action Plan developed over the previous seven years. The partners have an effective governance structure and project prioritization process that would be enhanced through the proposed work plan. It is somewhat unclear in the application whether the coordinator and facilitator are the same person. The capacity need is clearly defined, the work plan is easy to understand and there is a clear link between the restoration actions described in the strategic action plan and the work that will be implemented through this proposal.

Review Team Priority Ranking: 5

Review Team Recommendation: Fund

Staff Recommendation: Fund

Amount: \$149,512

Staff Funding Recommendation

2021 Partnership Technical Assistance Partnership TA Projects Recommended for Funding in Priority Order					
Application Number	Applicant	Project Title	Project Type	Amount Recommended	Priority
222-8301-19835	Columbia Land Trust	East Cascades Oak Partnership Capacity Building	Capacity	\$ 149,866	1
222-8309-19844	Deschutes River Conservancy	Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative Partnership Development	Development	\$ 79,815	2
222-8308-19841	Coquille Watershed Association	The Coquille River Strategic Action Plan for Coho Salmon Recovery & Coquille Coho Partnership	Development	\$ 149,892	3
222-8311-19837	McKenzie Watershed Alliance	Upper Willamette Strategic Action Plan	Development	\$ 149,998	4
222-8312-19834	Upper Nehalem WC	Nehalem Basin Partnership Development	Capacity	\$ 149,512	5
222-8310-19828	Deschutes Land Trust	Deschutes Partnership Capacity	Capacity	\$ 117,794	6
Total Partnership TA Projects Recommended for Funding by TRT and OWEB Staff				\$ 796,877	
Partnership TA Projects Recommended by TRT but Not Funded in Priority Order					
222-8307-19836	Curry SWCD	Siskiyou Coast Estuaries Partnership Capacity	Capacity	\$ 124,653	7
222-8303-19831	Coast Fork Willamette WC	Rivers to Ridges Partnership Vision Refresh	Development	\$ 89,373	8
Total Partnership TA Projects Recommended by TRT but Not Funded				\$ 214,026	

**Staff Funding Recommendation
2019 Partnership Technical Assistance**

Partnership TA Projects Not Recommended for Funding by TRT				
Project Number	Applicant	Project Title	Project Type	OWEB Request
222-8302-19845	Wasco SWCD	Wasco County Partnership TA	Development	\$ 89,100
222-8306-19843	The Trust for Public Land	Tribal Forest Conservation Partnership	Development	\$ 149,500
222-8304-19840	Walla Walla Basin Watershed Foundation	Walla Walla Basin Water Planning Partnership 2021	Development	\$ 26,670
222-8305-19842	Illinois Valley SW	Illinois Valley Fire Resiliency Oversight Group (IVFROG) Partnership Development TA	Development	\$ 105,083
Total Partnership TA Projects Not Recommended for funding by TRT				\$ 370,353
TOTAL: All Partnership TA Project Requests				\$ 1,381,256



Agenda Item N supports all of OWEB's Strategic Plan priorities.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
FROM: Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator
SUBJECT: Agenda Item N– OWEB Board Committee Structure
January 25-26, 2022 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the board's current committee structure and seeks feedback and possible action from the board on future committee structure options. The report also describes recent changes to make committee meetings open to the public.

II. Background

In October 2019, the board committee structure was revised to create four standing and four ad hoc committees. Committees were set-up with chairs and membership was managed to ensure no committee would involve a quorum of the board. These committee meetings were not open to the public.

OWEB board committees are tackling important issues such as climate change, water, and diversity, equity, and inclusion. OWEB staff have identified the opportunity to provide a transparent and more inclusive process for our customers and the public by holding committee meetings as public meetings. This change to the committee process is beneficial to public participation and assures that any interested board member can participate while maintaining compliance with the Oregon Public Meetings Law.

Water and Climate committee meetings held during December were noticed and open to the public via OWEB's YouTube channel. No public comment period was provided during these meetings, but the public was encouraged to provide comment during the full Board meeting in January. To date the response from our customers and the public is very supportive of this modification to the committee process.

Staff are interested in starting conversations with the board about the committee structure going forward. The current number of committees and staff workload make it challenging to adequately prepare for all the committee meetings, provide timely public notice and post meeting materials online, and ensure meaningful and thoughtful discussions in each committee meeting. In addition, some items currently discussed in committee meetings may be of interest to the full board.

III. Considerations for the Board

In January the board will be asked to reflect on:

- The current committee structure.
- Committee agendas.
- Public participation and comment at committee meetings.

IV. Recommendation

Staff do not have a recommendation for the board. The topic will be discussed at the January board meeting with possible board action in determining a committee structure at that meeting.

January 25-26, 2022 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update O-1 Strategic Plan Update

This report provides the board updates on progress implementation of the 2018 strategic plan.

Background

In June 2018, the board approved a new strategic plan. Beginning with the October 2018 board meeting, staff developed a template to track quarterly progress on strategic plan priorities.

Attached is the latest update of actions related to the strategic plan between November 2021 and January 2022. Other information on the strategic plan is also contained in the committee updates as well as other staff reports.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Williams, Grant Program Manager, at Eric.Williams@oregon.gov or 971-345-7014.

Attachments

A. OWEB Strategic Plan Progress Report, November 2021—January 2022

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) Strategic Plan Progress

QUARTERLY PROGRESS UPDATE: November 2021-January 2022

Priority 1 – Board awareness of the relationship between people and watersheds

Strategy: Develop and implement broad awareness campaigns and highlight personal stories to tell the economic, restoration, and community successes of watershed investments

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Presented to the OWEB board about the Willanch ‘telling the restoration story’ in the Coos Watershed – July 2021
- ✓ Updated OWEB website to add the Horsetail Creek Telling the Restoration Story work products and developed a presentation to report this information to the OWEB Board at the October 2021 meeting

Strategy: Increase involvement of non-traditional partners in strategic watershed approaches

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Presented to the OWEB board about the Assessment of Grant Practices Impacts on Tribes – October 2021

So That: (Outputs)

- Oregon Lottery media campaigns have new stories every year of watershed work and progress.
- Local partners are trained and have access to media and tools.
- Local conservation organizations have meaningful connection to local media.
- Each region has access to public engagement Strategy that reach non-traditional audiences.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Successes are celebrated at the local and state level through use of appropriate tools.
- More Oregonians:
 - are aware of the impacts of their investment in their watershed;
 - understand why healthy watersheds matter to their family and community;

- understand their role in keeping their watershed healthy.
- Non-traditional partners are involved and engaged in strategic watershed approaches.

Near-Term Measure:

- Fall 2018 Oregon Lottery campaign featured 6 partners from 5 OWEB regions with cumulative reach of 2,347 YouTube views, 30-second feature on watershed restoration has 2,003 YouTube views (accessed 12/10/2019).
- 54 articles featured partners and OWEB in the news (January -November 2019).

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increase in public conversation about watersheds and people's role in keeping them healthy.
- Increase recognition of landowner connection to healthy watersheds.
- Broader representation/greater variation of populations represented in the Oregon watershed stories.

Priority 2 – Leaders at all levels of watershed work reflect the diversity of Oregonians

Strategy: Listen, learn, and gather Information about diverse populations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Participated in coordination meetings with federally recognized Tribes in 2020 fire impacted areas regarding use of cultural resources assessment funding through Oregon Department of transportation (ODOT) via House Bill (HB) 5006
- ✓ .

Strategy: Create new opportunities to expand the conservation table

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Presented to the OWEB board about the diversity, equity, and inclusion work of OWEB grantees – October 2021
- ✓

Strategy: Develop funding strategy with a lens toward diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Hired EcoNorthwest to facilitate board and staff diversity, equity, and inclusion training.

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB board and staff have been trained in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI).
- OWEB has DEI capacity.
- OWEB staff and board develop awareness of how social, economic, and cultural differences impact individuals, organizations, and business practices.
- OWEB staff and board share a common understanding of OWEB's unique relationship with tribes.
- OWEB grantees and partners have access to DEI tools and resources.
- DEI are incorporated into OWEB grant programs, as appropriate.
- Board and staff regularly engage with underrepresented partnerships and stakeholder groups to support DEI work.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- New and varied populations are engaged in watershed restoration.
- Grantees and partners actively use DEI tools and resources to recruit a greater diversity of staff, board members and volunteers.
- Increased engagement of under-represented communities in OWEB grant programs and programs of our stakeholders.
- OWEB, state agencies, and other funders consider opportunities to fund natural resource projects with a DEI lens.

Near-Term Measure:

- Staff has participated in 365 hours of training (July 2018-August 2020).

Potential Impact Measure:

- ✓ Increased awareness by grantees of gaps in community representation.
- ✓ Increased representation of grantees and partners from diverse communities on boards, staff and as volunteers.
- ✓ Increased funding provided to culturally diverse stakeholders and populations.

Priority 3 – Community capacity and strategic partnerships achieve healthy watersheds

Strategy: Evaluate and identify lessons learned from OWEB’s past capacity funding

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Re-engaged with OWEB contractor, OSU Extension, to restart this work.

Strategy: Champion best approaches to build organizational, community and partnership capacity

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Accelerate state/federal agency participation in partnerships

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Data exists to better understand the impacts of OWEB’s capacity investments.
- Help exists for local groups to define their restoration ‘community’ for purposes of partnership/community capacity investments.
- Local capacity strengths and gaps are identified to address and implement large-scale conservation solutions.
- A suite of alternative options exists to invest in capacity to support conservation outcomes.
- New mechanisms are available for watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts to report on outcomes of capacity funding.
- A set of streamlined cross-agency processes exist to implement restoration projects more effectively.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partner’s access best community capacity and strategic practices and approaches.
- OWEB can clearly tell the story of the value of capacity funds.

- Lessons learned from past capacity investments inform funding decisions.
- Funders are aware of the importance of funding capacity.
- Restoration projects involving multiple agencies are implemented more efficiently and effectively.
- State-federal agencies increase participation in strategic partnerships.

Near-Term Measure:

- Under Development.

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increase in indicators of capacity for entities.
- Increased restoration project effectiveness from cross-agency efforts.
- Increase in funding for capacity by funders other than OWEB.

Priority 4 – Watershed organizations have access to a diverse and stable funding portfolio

Strategy: Increase coordination of public restoration investments and develop funding vision

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Engaged in discussions among agency water infrastructure funding agencies, legislators, and organizations representing community infrastructure providers to determine specific ways to coordinate water infrastructure funding.

Strategy: Align common investment areas with private foundations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Engaged in meetings with National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and World Resources Institute about coordinated investment opportunities to address post-fire recovery and watershed health needs.

Strategy: Explore creative funding opportunities and partnerships with the private sector

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Received approval in OWEB's Legislatively Adopted Budget for 2021-23 to administer funding from PacifiCorp and Idaho Power Company for targeted restoration work, should that funding be made available.

Strategy: Partner to design strategy for complex conservation issues that can only be solved by seeking new and creative funding sources

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Coordinated with DEQ and ODF to lead conversations across state and federal agencies related to post-fire recovery in natural and cultural resources. This work resulted in \$26 million in post-fire recovery investments through OWEB, ODF, and ODOT via HB 5006.
- ✓ Engaged in discussions with Governor's Office and affected groups about potential use of disaster funding in HB 5006 to address needs related to drought and post-fire recovery.

- ✓ Coordinated with ODF about the potential for local partners to strategically utilize both post-fire recovery funding through HB 5006 and funding for fire resilience activities through Senate Bill 762.

- -

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB has a clear understanding of its role in coordinating funding.
- OWEB and other state and federal agencies have developed a system for formal communication and coordination around grants and other investments.
- OWEB and partners have a coordinated outreach strategy for increasing watershed investments by state agencies, foundations, and corporations.
- Foundations and corporations are informed about the important restoration work occurring in Oregon and understand the additional community benefits of restoration projects.
- Foundations and corporations know OWEB, how the agency's investments work, and how they can partner.
- Foundations and corporations understand the importance of investing in healthy watersheds.
- Foundations and corporations consider restoration investments in their investment portfolios.
- Oregon companies that depend on healthy watersheds are aware of the opportunity to invest in watershed health.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Agencies have a shared vision about how to invest strategically in restoration.
- Oregon has a comprehensive analysis of the state's natural and built infrastructure to direct future investments.
- Foundations and corporations are partners in watershed funding efforts.
- Foundations and corporations increase their investment in restoration.
- Natural resources companies are implementing watershed health work that is also environmentally sustainable.

Near-Term Measure:

- Increase in the use of new and diverse funding sources by grantees.

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increase in grantees cash match amount and diversity of cash match in projects.
- Increase in new and diverse funding sources.
- Increase in creative funding mechanisms and Strategy.
- Increased high-quality conservation and restoration projects are funded without OWEB investment.
- Increased funding for bold and innovative, non-traditional investments.

Priority 5 – The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health

Strategy: Implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Worked with recommending bodies on reappointments to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission leading to Board action in January.

Strategy: Strengthen engagement with a broad base of working landowners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Awarded over \$1,000,000 to 9 CREP TA grantees around the state to engage with working landowners in enrolling riparian areas in CREP.

Strategy: Enhance the work of partners to increase working lands projects on farm, ranch, and forestlands

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Support technical assistance to work with owners/managers of working lands

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop engagement Strategy for owners and managers of working lands who may not currently work with local organizations

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Local organizations have the technical assistance to address gaps in implementing working land conservation projects.
- Examples of successful working lands conservation projects are available for local organizations to use.
- New partners are engaged with owners and operators of working lands to increase conservation.
- Strategy and stories are being utilized to reach owners and managers of working lands who are not currently working with local organizations.
- Landowner engagement Strategy and tools are developed and used by local conservation organizations.
- The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission has administrative rules and stable funding for the OAHP to protect working lands.
- Local capacity exists to implement the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Generations of landowners continue to integrate conservation on their working lands while maintaining economic sustainability.
- Across the state, local partners have the resources necessary to better facilitate why and where restoration opportunities exist on working lands.
- Fully functioning working landscapes remain resilient into the future.
- Sustained vitality of Oregon's natural resources industries.

Near-Term Measure:

- Percentage of landowners identified within Strategic Implementation Areas that receive technical assistance.

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increased conservation awareness amongst owners and managers of working lands.
- A better understanding of conservation participation, barriers, and incentives for working lands owners.
- Expanded relationships with agriculture and forestry associations.
- Increased engagement of owners and managers of working lands conservation projects.
- Increased working lands conservation projects on farm, ranch, and forest lands.

- Expanded working lands partnerships improve habitat and water quality.
- Expanded funding opportunities exist for working lands conservation.

Priority 6 – Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness

Strategy: Broadly communicate restoration outcomes and impacts

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Updated OWEB website to add the Horsetail Creek Telling the Restoration Story work products and developed a presentation to report this information to the OWEB Board at the October 2021 meeting
- ✓ Began outreach to recruit new Telling the Restoration Story applicants for OWEB's targeted grant program intended to assist restorationists develop outreach materials using monitoring data to communicate restoration outcomes and impacts

Strategy: Invest in monitoring over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Began outreach with the second cohort of Implementation FIPs to scope monitoring projects to pursue OWEB supplemental funds for restoration effectiveness monitoring that is guided by their theory of change

Strategy: Develop guidance and technical support for monitoring

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Developed a scope of work and grant application process so tide gate practitioners can access OWEB funds to develop a scalable tide gate monitoring protocol
- ✓ Worked with Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) to complete monitoring plan guidance for FIP restoration initiatives

Strategy: Increase communication between and among scientists and practitioners

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ Worked with the Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitoring Watershed Working Group to prepare a collective response to the Pacific Northwest Aquatic Monitoring Partnership (PNAMP) survey that summarized their findings and lessons learned to inform future restoration actions across the PNW
- ✓ Developed Climate Related Technical Resources to assist OWEB applicants with integrating scientific information about climate impacts in Oregon for their projects

Strategy: Define monitoring priorities

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop and promote a monitoring framework

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

- ✓ N/A

So That: (Outputs)

- Additional technical resources—such as guidance and tools—are developed and/or made accessible to monitoring practitioners.
- A network of experts is available to help grantees develop and implement successful monitoring projects.
- A dedicated process exists for continually improving how restoration outcomes are defined and described.
- Strategic monitoring projects receive long-term funding.
- Information is readily available to wide audiences to incorporate into adaptive management and strategic planning at the local level.
- Priorities are proactively established and clearly articulated to plan for adequate monitoring resources that describe restoration investment outcomes.
- Monitoring practitioners focus efforts on priority monitoring needs.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Partners are using results-based restoration ‘stories’ to share conservation successes and lessons learned.
- Limited monitoring resources provide return on investment for priority needs.

- Local organizations integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Limited monitoring resources are focused on appropriate, high-quality, prioritized monitoring being conducted by state agencies, local groups, and federal agencies conducting monitoring.
- Evaluation of impact, not just effort, is practiced broadly.
- Impacts on ecological, economic, and social factors are considered as a part of successful monitoring efforts.
- Monitoring frameworks are developed and shared.
- Monitoring results that can be visualized across time and space are available at local, watershed and regional scales.
- Decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results

Near-Term Measure:

- 14 outreach products were developed through staff, grants, or partnerships (January-December 2019)

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increased public awareness about the outcomes and effects of watershed restoration and why it matters to Oregonians.
- Increased utilization of effective and strategic monitoring practices by grantees and partners.
- Improved restoration and monitoring actions on the ground to meet local and state needs.
- Increase in local organizations that integrate monitoring goals into strategic planning.
- Increased engagement and support of restoration and conservation activities.
- Increased decision-making at all levels is driven by insights derived from data and results.
- Increased ability to evaluate social change that leads to ecological outcomes.

Priority 7 – Bold and innovative actions to achieve health in Oregon’s watersheds

Strategy: Invest in landscape restoration over the long term

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Develop investment approaches in conservation that support healthy communities and strong economies

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ N/A

Strategy: Foster experimentation that aligns with OWEB’s mission

In The Last Quarter, We Did This: (Actions)

✓ Incorporated questions in OWEB grant applications to help better understand how grantees are connecting their work to climate adaption and sequestration.

So That: (Outputs)

- OWEB works with partners to share results of landscape scale restoration with broader conservation community.
- OWEB’s landscape-scale granting involves effective partnerships around the state.
- OWEB and partners have a better understanding of how restoration approaches can be mutually beneficial for working lands and watershed health.

To Make This Difference: (Outcomes)

- Multi-phased, high-complexity, and large geographic footprint restoration projects are underway.
- Conservation communities’ value an experimental approach to learning and innovation.
- Conservation communities become comfortable with properties and projects that show potential, even if the work in not demonstrated based on demonstrated past performance.
- OWEB encourages a culture of innovation.

- OWEB investment approaches recognize the dual conservation and economic drivers and benefits of watershed actions, where appropriate.
- Diverse, non-traditional projects and activities that contribute to watershed health are now funded that weren't previously.
- OWEB becomes better able to evaluate risk.

Near-Term Measure:

- 16.98% of Oregon is covered by a Strategic Action Plan associated with a FIP or Coho Business Plan.

Potential Impact Measure:

- Increased strategic watershed restoration footprint statewide.
- Increased money for innovative watershed work from diverse funding sources.
- Increased learning from bold and innovative actions so future decisions result in healthy watersheds in Oregon.
- New players or sectors—such as healthcare providers—engaged to invest in watershed restoration, enhancement, and protection.

January 25-26, 2022 OWEB Board Meeting

Executive Director Update O-2 2019-21 Biennial Report, Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

This report provides an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2019-2021 Biennial Report on the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. The Report was submitted to the Legislature and Governor's Office prior to the January 15, 2022 deadline.

Background

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 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. The report, which is submitted to the Governor and appropriate legislative committees, 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 board for enhancing effectiveness of the Oregon Plan. The Report must be submitted by January 15 of each even numbered year, and summarizes the Oregon Plan accomplishments for the prior biennium.

At the October 2021 meeting, the board finalized its recommendations for the 2019-2021 Biennial Report. Each board committee identified one theme for inclusion in the recommendations.

2019-2021 Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds Biennial Report

The Report consists of two components: 1) a two-page Executive Summary (see Attachment A); and 2) a full Report, providing an overview of investments and accomplishments associated with each basin. The full Report is available online [<https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/resources/Pages/OPSW.aspx>] and includes links to in-depth natural resources datasets and more information from 12 other state agencies implementing the Oregon Plan.

In the 2019-2021 biennium, OWEB awarded over \$96 million in grant funding, leveraging an additional \$77 million through partner investments. The Report describes metrics for watershed restoration activities, indicating that several metrics demonstrate increased success compared with the 2017-2019 biennium.

Coordinated actions to address Oregon Plan priorities continued throughout the 2019-21 biennium, and additional collaborative efforts to address climate change and help recover from the catastrophic 2020 wildfires are described in the Report. The board recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Oregon Plan reflect these emerging priorities, while remaining grounded in science and a collaborative approach to watershed restoration.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Coordinator, at Eric.Hartstein@OWEB.oregon.gov or (503) 910-6201 or Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator, at Audrey.Hatch@OWEB.oregon.gov or (971) 345-7002.

Attachment

A. Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds 2019-2021 Executive Summary



2019-2021 Biennial Report Executive Summary

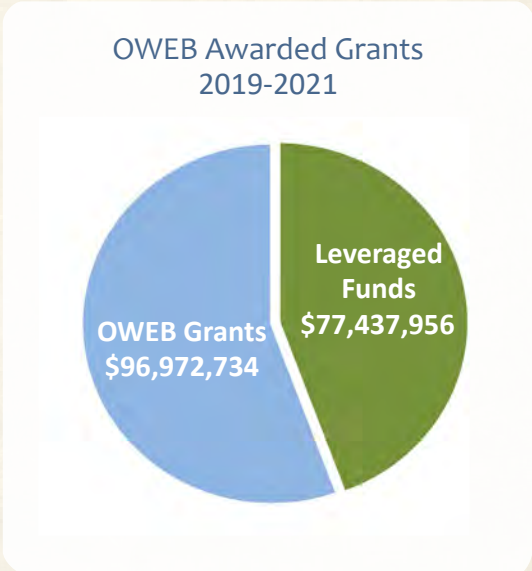
The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

Since 1997, the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds has provided a framework for grass-roots stewardship enhancing water quality and restoring habitat for the state’s native fish and wildlife. The Oregon Plan supports diverse local economies and enriches communities through local, voluntary restoration

The Oregon Plan Biennial Report describes activities implemented under the plan for the 2019-2021 biennium (per Oregon Revised Statute 541.972). This Executive Summary highlights key investments and accomplishments; coordinated actions among Oregon Plan partners; and recommendations from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB). The full report can be found online <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/OPSW-BR-2019-21.aspx>.

2019-2021 Investments and Accomplishments

During the 2019-2021 biennium, OWEB invested over \$97 million for watershed enhancement projects throughout the state. This total includes funding from the Oregon Lottery, Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, salmon license plate revenues, and other sources. These dollars leverage significant funding that is provided by other agencies and partner organizations, increasing the impact of OWEB funding. Oregon Plan partners include landowners, non-profit organizations, local businesses, tribes, and all levels of government.



Grants awarded by OWEB and the amount of leveraged funds contributed by grant participants. Data provided from OWEB Grant Management System from 7/1/2019 through 6/30/2021.

Watershed Metrics	Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI)	OWRI compared w/ 2017-19 biennium	BLM	USFS	Total
Riparian Miles (e.g., Streamside Plantings)	206 miles	85 ↓	--	5	211
Instream Habitat Miles (e.g., Wood Placement)	111 miles	22 ↑	45	111	267
Miles of Fish Habitat Made Accessible (Stream Crossing Improvements)	142 miles	56 ↑	43	85	270
Stream Crossings Improved for Fish Passage	94 crossings	32 ↑	11	45	150
Push-up Dams Retired to Improve Fish Passage	6 dams	2 ↑	8	--	14
Fish Screens Installed on Water Diversions	14 screens	23 ↓	--	3	17
Upland Acres (e.g., Juniper Thinning, Seeding)	72,484 acres	1,288 ↑	240,777	7,262	320,523
Wetland Acres (e.g., Wetland Habitat Created)	1,514 acres	189 ↑	6,080	--	7,594
Miles of Road Closure and Decommissioning	6 miles	5 ↓	5	177	188
Miles of Road Improvements (e.g., Erosion Control)	31 miles	36 ↓	--	27	58
Miles of Riparian Invasive Treatments	299 miles	7 ↑	--	--	299

Metrics for watershed restoration activities completed and reported from 1/1/2019 to 12/31/2020 as reported by state and voluntary sources (OWEB’s Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory). Where comparable data standards were applied, metric data is provided from the Bureau of Land Management [BLM] and U.S. Forest Service [USFS]. Federal information excludes projects already reported to OWRI. BLM upland habitat reflects significant east-side hazard fuels reduction. USFS metric does not include full total of actual upland acres treated by USFS.

Coordinated Agency Actions

Collaboration is the heart of the Oregon Plan, and coordinated efforts continued throughout the 2019-2021 biennium. Highlights include:

- ◆ Responding to the 2020 wildfires to promote restoration and recovery
- ◆ Continued work on the Oregon 100-Year Water Vision
- ◆ Updating Oregon's climate change adaptation framework, and the issuance of Governor Brown's Executive Order on Climate Action 20-0
- ◆ Addressing challenges with tide gates along the coast

OWEB Board Recommendations

In the 2019-2021 biennium, the OWEB Board developed a robust committee structure to help the agency in addressing complex issues impacting Oregon's watersheds. The board approved the following committee-developed themes as recommendations for enhancing the effectiveness of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds:

- ◆ The impacts of climate change are being felt across Oregon. OWEB is integrating climate mitigation and climate-smart adaptation into the agency's operations and grant-making.
- ◆ Large-scale conservation efforts implemented by high performing partnerships are vital to addressing the various environmental challenges impacting our watersheds. OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership program is unique in state granting programs, as it funds restoration at a landscape-scale.
- ◆ Cool, clean water and healthy forests, wetlands, riparian areas, streams, and estuaries provide essential natural processes that maintain and enhance water quality for fish and wildlife. These systems are fundamental to OWEB's mission and the well-being of Oregonians. OWEB will continue the agency's work in furthering the statewide natural resource strategy and strategic allocation of resources for water related initiatives.
- ◆ Collaborative monitoring and shared learning continue to inform watershed restoration. Climate change and wildfires pose new challenges and opportunities for those that study the science behind these issues, and for the restoration practitioners implementing projects in a changing world. It is critical for experts to share and translate knowledge in a manner that benefits all communities, as they work to address both long-standing restoration needs and emerging issues that face watershed restoration.
- ◆ Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion will be integrated throughout OWEB's operations and grant programs. Board and staff members will model diversity, equity, and inclusion while ensuring that interested parties and all potential partners are heard and engaged. OWEB will reach diverse audiences so that they are aware of the agency's grant programs, how they can participate, and to increase OWEB's understanding of the barriers to their participation. OWEB will incorporate diversity, equity, inclusion, and environmental justice into how and where the agency provides grant funding.



January 25-26, 2022 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update O-3 2021 Annual Tribal Report

This report provides an update about the agency's development and distribution of the 2021 Annual Tribal Report that describes how OWEB engaged and fostered relations with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe. The 2021 Annual Tribal Report has been submitted to the Legislature Commission on Indian Services (LCIS) and Governor's Office.

Background

Oregon Revised Statute (ORS) 182.166 (3) requires OWEB to submit an annual report by December 15 to the LCIS and the Governor's Tribal Liaison, that must describe; the policy developed and implemented to establish and promote relations with tribes; the names of the individuals who are responsible for developing and implementing programs that affect tribes; the effort made to promote communication between the state agency and the tribes and government-to-government relations between the state and tribes; the process established to identify the programs that affect tribes; a description of training attended; and the method established for notifying employees of legislation detailing Oregon's relationship with tribes and the agency's tribal policy.

2021 Annual Tribal Report

The 2021 Annual Tribal Report includes a description of the following:

- Agency overview to identify the key contacts responsible to establish and promote relations with tribes and a description of OWEB;
- Tribal participation in OWEB's Board and grant programs;
- Promotion of communication between OWEB and tribes, and
- Training for staff to learn more about the provisions of legislation detailing Oregon's relationship with tribes.

The annual report also includes a summary of the amount of funding OWEB has provided to tribes and includes the amount of funding that tribes have contributed to grants through match. During 2021, five grants totaling \$716,018 were awarded to tribes in the Open Solicitation Grant Program: two grants totaling \$347,488 to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, two grants totaling \$307,975 to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and one grant totaling \$60,555 to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. In addition, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs received one grant for a total of \$202,455 through the John Day Basin Focused Investment Partnership. Across all grant programs, tribes provided \$1,398,753 in cash and \$229,271 of in-kind support to OWEB grants that were completed in 2021.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, contact Ken Fetcho, Tribal Liaison, at ken.fetcho@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7081 or Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, Executive Director, at lisa.charpilloz-hanson@oweb.oregon.gov or 971-345-7022.

Attachment

A. 2021 Annual Tribal Report



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

2021 Annual Tribal Report

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360, Salem, OR 97301-1290



Agency Overview

Key Contact

Lisa Charpilloz Hanson, Executive Director
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Tribal Liaison

Ken Fetcho, Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator
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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 the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon to address watershed scale restoration needs. OWEB operates grant programs that tribes can apply for to fund a variety of watershed management, protection, and restoration projects. Tribes can leverage those funds to meet their natural and cultural resource restoration goals and objectives.

OWEB is led by an 18-member policy oversight and decision-making board. Board members represent the public at large, federally recognized tribes, five state natural resource agency boards and commissions, Oregon State University Extension Service, and six 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 because of citizen initiatives in 1998 and 2010, sales of salmon license plates since 1997, federal salmon recovery funds, and other sources.

Tribal Policy

In 2018, OWEB revised its tribal policy with LCIS and tribal input. In 2021, OWEB’s tribal liaison and director continued to work together to communicate the intent of OWEB’s Tribal Policy and how staff can work effectively with tribes.

Summary of Programs and Process for Involving Tribes

OWEB works closely with tribes and involves them in programs and decision-making processes at all levels of the organization. The following sections describe the agency’s interactions during 2021 with the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon and the Nez Perce Tribe that occupies lands in Idaho and Oregon.

OWEB Board and Grant Programs Tribal Participation

Executive Director

In September 2021, OWEB’s former Executive Director, Meta Loftsgaarden resigned to take a new position as the Forest Supervisor at the Mt. Hood National Forest. Lisa Charpilloz Hanson was appointed by Governor Brown and confirmed by the Senate in November 2021 to become OWEB’s new Executive Director. Prior to joining OWEB, Director Charpilloz Hanson served as Deputy Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) since 2005. At ODA, she worked collaboratively with partner agencies and stakeholders to solve complex and controversial natural resource issues. Director Charpilloz Hanson is honored to have been offered the position and inspired by the work of OWEB and its partners. She looks forward to working with the federally recognized tribes in Oregon in the coming years.

Board Membership

The Governor appoints a tribal representative as a voting member of the OWEB Board. The position recently went through Senate confirmation and Kelly Coates, Water and Environmental Resources Program Manager of the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians is our new tribal representative on the OWEB Board.

The tribal representative helps identify opportunities for collaboration and ensures the OWEB board and staff is aware of their responsibilities to involve and consider tribal interests. Coates is fully engaged in the onboarding process and will soon be participating in quarterly meetings and on various committees to provide input on the agency’s initiatives.



Photo 1. Upper Fox Creek, in the John Day Basin, before and after photos of a culvert replacement and bridge installation project completed by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs.

Grant Program

Grant Applicants

OWEB grants are available to a broad range of entities, including tribes [ORS 541.375(1)]. **Since 2006, OWEB has awarded just over \$9,300,000 in grants to tribal governments.** In addition to eligibility on their own, tribes are often members of, or partners with, local watershed councils. Oregon statute describing watershed councils (ORS 541.388) specifically identifies “federally recognized Indian Tribes” as potential members of local watershed councils. Tribes are a critical partner in watershed restoration in Oregon and often contribute vital match funds to grants that our grantees such as watershed councils and SWCDs receive. In 2021, there were 30 completed grants that included tribal contributions. **Across all grant programs, tribes provided \$1,398,753 in cash and \$229,271 of in-kind support to OWEB grants in 2021.**

Small Grant Program

In OWEB’s Small Grant program (OAR Chapter 695, Division 35), tribes are eligible to be members of Small Grant Teams in each of the state’s 28 Small Grant areas. These Small Grant Teams have access to \$100,000 per biennium to recommend grants of up to \$15,000 for watershed restoration projects. Other team members include watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts. Tribes were invited to participate in the small grant areas with reservation, tribal, ceded lands, or usual and accustomed areas located partially or entirely within the team’s area. For the teams that have reorganized to date, representatives of all nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon serve on 18 of the 28 Small Grants Teams. There are some tribes that sit on several small grant teams and some small grant teams that have more than one tribe participating together.

Open Solicitation Grant Program

OWEB solicits grant applications twice a year through the Open Solicitation Grant Program also known as the Regular Grant Program. During 2021, five grants totaling approximately \$716,000 were awarded to tribes: two grants totaling \$347,488 to the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, two grants totaling \$307,975 to the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and one grant totaling \$60,555 to the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians. Tribal agencies have also submitted two applications in the most recent grant cycle, for which awards have not yet been made.

OWEB’s Regional Program Representatives (RPRs) have regular contact with appropriate tribal staff. They meet with interested tribes prior to grant application submission and throughout the life of each grant to ensure tribes can meet their goals and objectives. In addition, tribes often partner with watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) by helping manage the projects and at times receive funding to implement projects as contractors. In 2021, approximately 27% of the applications that were submitted had tribal participation. Tribes participate in applications in several ways such as, applicants, providing cash match, the landowner, contractor for project implementation, partner, or supporter (such as providing a letter of support), technical

team member for applicant or having a tribal Board member of the applicant organization. In 2021, applications with tribal participation have a 68% success rate (are funded) compared to applications without tribal participation which have a 58% success rate.

Open Solicitation Grant Program – Regional Review Teams

Applications received through OWEB's Open Solicitation Grant Program are reviewed by one of six Regional Review Teams, comprised of state, federal, and tribal natural resource professionals. All six regional review teams have at least one tribal natural resource professional participating in the review process. In 2021, seven tribal agency representatives participated on OWEB Regional Review Teams, including representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

Land Acquisition Grant Program

OWEB's land acquisition grant program provides funding for projects that acquire an interest in land from a willing seller to address the conservation needs of priority habitat and species. OWEB notifies all tribes after a land acquisition application is received to solicit input in the decision-making process. In addition, OWEB notifies tribes once a recommendation has been made allowing tribes to provide additional input prior to the OWEB Board's funding decision.

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. Like the land acquisition grant program, OWEB notifies tribes after a water acquisition grant application is received and once a recommendation has been made to allow multiple opportunities to provide input in the decision-making process.



Photo 2. Wallowa River side channel restoration project, is part of a 320 acre parcel belonging to the Wallowa Band Nez Perce Trail Interpretive Center, Inc. (the Homeland Project). The local non-profit organization, chartered in 1995, is supported regionally by private citizens, local government, and representatives from the Nez Perce Tribe, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Focused Investment Partnership Program

In 2021, tribes continued to participate in the Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program. The OWEB Board made the initial awards in the program in 2016. Implementation funding provides opportunities for tribes and others to work collaboratively on ambitious, long-term, and landscape-scale programmatic restoration initiatives. These initiatives create measurable outcomes within priority areas that were identified by the OWEB Board.

OWEB invested in five new Implementation FIPs in 2019. Among these, the Clackamas Partnership includes the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs; and the John Day Basin Partnership includes the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, and the Burns Paiute Tribe. The technical review team for the John Day Basin Partnership FIP includes representatives from the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.

The FIP Program is another great opportunity for tribes to pursue and receive grant funding from OWEB. **In 2021, the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs received one grant for a total of \$202,455 through the John Day Basin FIP.**

The OWEB Board approved the 2021-23 biennium spending plan at the July 27-28, 2021 meeting. OWEB has \$10 million available for the 2021-23 FIP solicitation and may award up to 3-5 new FIP initiatives during this biennium. OWEB hosted pre-application consultations with partnerships interested in submitting applications for this grant

program. Applications are due to OWEB on January 13, 2022 and will be awarded by the OWEB Board in July 2022. Seven of the 13 pre-application consultations that were held included tribes as core partners. A total of six tribes are involved in these partnerships. In addition, one partnership has the Inter-Tribal Ecosystem Restoration Partnership (ITERP) listed as a core partner. ITERP is a collaboration of regional tribes, tribal community leaders, federal and state agencies, and non-profit conservation organizations throughout Oregon and northern California that is operated by the Lomakatsi Restoration Project.

In 2019, the OWEB Board approved a new grant program, which evolved from the previously offered Development FIP grant program. The new Partnership Technical Assistance grants offer two tracks: 1) Partnership Development to produce or enhance a Strategic Action Plan and governance documents, and 2) Partnership Capacity to support strategic action plan coordination and implementation. Partnership Technical Assistance applications were received in October 2021 and will be awarded by the OWEB Board in 2022. Five of the eleven applications that OWEB received included tribes as partners. A total of six tribes are involved in these partnership applications. In addition, Lomakatsi Restoration is a key partner on one of the applications. While not a tribal government, they are tribally owned and often employ tribal members to implement restoration actions.

Post-Wildfire Immediate Response and Recovery

In October 2020, the OWEB Board approved up to \$1 million in funding for a short-term Wildfire Response grant offering. This new grant program has two objectives: 1) invest in local organizations to respond to short-term fire recovery needs in a way that benefits long-term restoration; and 2) fill short-term gaps that aren't available through other funding sources while meeting OWEB's constitutional mandate. In 12 of the 13 fire areas, grants were awarded to one lead entity that works in cooperation with area partners. Partners in the Slater Fire area did not pursue a grant. To each of the 12 fire areas, \$83,333 was awarded per fire to fund short-term, high priority needs for a limited set of implementation, technical assistance, and stakeholder engagement activities.

At the July 2021 OWEB meeting, the board approved an allocation of \$300,000 under the Governor's Priorities line item in the 2021-2023 OWEB spending plan for wildfire recovery immediate response grants this biennium. These grants will build off experience gained by OWEB in 2020, to make available a limited grant offering to respond to gaps in wildfire recovery funding in the short term. Using parameters established for the 2020 fire grants, and a sliding scale for funding to reflect the amount allocated by the board for wildfire recovery immediate response grants for 2021-23, staff identified the following 2021 fires as being eligible for the OWEB immediate response grants: \$25,000 for Elbow Creek and Skyline Ridge fires; \$50,000 for Cougar Peak Fire; and \$75,000 for Bootleg fire. Grant applications currently are being accepted from these fire areas, with a deadline of 1/31/22.

In addition, during the 2021 Oregon Legislative Session, OWEB received a total of \$19.75 million in funding to provide grants to support natural resource recovery in areas impacted during the 2020 fire season. These grants are supported by General Funds and

have an explicit Legislative intent, per House Bill 5006 (2021). Funding was provided to support on-the-ground implementation activities focusing on upland and riparian replanting and floodplain restoration. Eligible applicants include tribes, among other entities. Applications are currently being accepted for the initial round of funding, with the first deadline being January 31, 2022. Applications will be reviewed in the winter of 2022 and funding decisions for the first round of grants will be made the Spring of 2022. At least one additional grant cycle is anticipated to open during Spring of 2022.

Other Grant Program Involvements

The Upper Middle Fork John Day River Intensively Monitored Watershed (IMW) is a long-term, large-scale monitoring effort to evaluate watershed restoration projects. OWEB participates on the steering team and assists with securing funding for several aspects of the program. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs continues to be a key participant in the Upper Middle Fork John Day River IMW and received \$20,794 in additional funding this year to continue their important work in this long-term effort.

OWEB staff also participates 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, and Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians participate in the WWMP, as they all have historic hunting, fishing, and trading areas in the Basin.



Photo 3. Chahalpam Crossing, site of future restoration funded by OWEB to restore floodplain function and fish passage at the 462 acre conservation parcel located near Stayton along the North Santiam River. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde re-acquired Chahalpam in phases during 2013 – 2019 through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program to improve habitat quantity, quality, and complexity necessary for Chinook salmon and steelhead as well as many other sensitive species.

Promotion of Communication between OWEB and Tribes

Tribal Liaison

In conformance with OWEB's tribal policy, OWEB designated a staff person, Ken Fetcho, 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.

In 2021, OWEB's tribal liaison continued to emphasize the importance of OWEB's tribal policy to new employees and board members. Starting in 2019, each new employee and board member is briefed on the tribal policy and receives a copy of the current Annual Tribal Report.

The tribal liaison met with Calla Hagle, the Natural Resources Director of the Burns Paiute Tribe, in October to explore the potential for planning a training for OWEB staff that would occur in 2022. The tribal liaison proposed the concept of having the Burns Paiute Tribe help plan and deliver a training for OWEB staff. The purpose of the training would be to learn more about the Burns Paiute Tribe and learn how OWEB can be a better partner on areas of mutual interest. OWEB is interested in learning more about how the Burns Paiute Tribe government is structured, their cultural and natural resource priorities and how that might influence how they pursue our funding. This training is based off a similar approach that OWEB developed with the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians back in 2019. OWEB looks forward to continuing discussions with Burns Paiute Tribe to explore planning this training in 2022.

Recruitment of Tribal Representative on OWEB Board

In March 2021, OWEB participated in outreach to assist in recruiting interested applicants to fill the vacant tribal representative seat on the OWEB Board. The Executive Director sent out emails to Tribal Council chairs announcing the vacancy and the opportunity for all the federally recognized tribes in Oregon. OWEB received interest from three different tribes and held consultations to learn more about the interested candidates and allow the tribes to ask questions to learn more about the role on the OWEB Board. Three interested candidates subsequently submitted formal applications to the Governor's Office. The Governor appointed Kelly Coates, who was confirmed by the Senate in November 2021.

Tribal Coordination on Natural and Cultural Resource Recovery

Following the devastating 2020 wildfire season, the Natural and Cultural Resources Recovery Task Force (NCRRTF) was convened by the Governor's Natural Resources Office, and natural resources agency directors in coordination with the Oregon Office of Emergency Management (OEM). The task force was led by OWEB and the Oregon Departments of Forestry and Environmental Quality. In 2021, the group provided coordination and implementation for the State's recovery response to catastrophic wildfires that occurred in September 2020, based on activation of the Oregon Disaster Recovery Plan. Because of the broad scope of the NCRRTF, representation included state and federal natural resources agencies, along with the Legislative Commission on Indian Services (LCIS). Individual tribes also participated in the process.

The NCRRTF also convened a Tribal Work Group. This was in response to the recognition that while the task force had participation from the State Historic Preservation Office, the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and LCIS, a more focused conversation needed to occur with the state's nine federally recognized tribes. The work group focused on:

- 1) Reviewing assessments to determine if tribal cultural and natural resources are adequately reflected in the information provided;
- 2) Identifying preferred ways for tribes to participate in community-level conversations about fire recovery prioritization and investment; and
- 3) Identifying preferred ways to communicate broadly with tribes about upcoming work on federal/state lands so tribes can contribute meaningfully to decision-making on public lands.

Cultural Resources Protection

OWEB continues to emphasize to grantees and grant project managers the importance of complying with regulations to protect cultural resources. OWEB grants pay for expenses to comply with cultural resource regulations to legally implement watershed improvement projects. In 2021, OWEB began communications with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries regarding programmatic agreements to address the potential effects that the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) grant program may have on cultural resources.

Therefore, to meet Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) responsibilities for the PCSRF undertaking, NOAA Fisheries intends to develop a programmatic approach to consultation under Section 106. NOAA Fisheries will identify appropriate parties to play a role in Section 106 in Oregon and plans to draft a Programmatic Agreement to create a framework that will provide consulting parties an opportunity for consultation on the individual projects funded by the PCSRF grant program. The Programmatic Agreement that NOAA Fisheries is currently pursuing is with OWEB. OWEB anticipates meeting with NOAA in 2022 to continue to discuss their obligations to ensure Section 106 requirements are met when administering the PCSRF funds that OWEB receives from NOAA.

Annual Tribal Summit and Tribal Work Groups

OWEB staff attended the Virtual Annual Tribal Summit and training hosted on December 1 and 2 to engage and listen to tribal representatives to understand the issues that are important to them. The tribal liaison also continued to serve as co-chair of the State/Tribal Natural Resources Workgroup meetings in 2021 along with his fellow co-chair Audie Huber, Intergovernmental Affairs Coordinator of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation. Their shared roles help to plan and convene regular meetings to share information and to better understand key initiatives tribes and state natural resource agencies are working on that may be relevant to each other. This arrangement has helped OWEB's tribal liaison foster and develop a strong relationship with co-chair Huber. Together, they maintained solid participation from tribes and state agencies in the workgroup meetings in 2021. OWEB's tribal liaison's term as co-chair will end in 2021 and he is recruiting another state agency representative to replace him for 2022 and 2023.

Assessment of Grant Practices Impact to Tribes

In July 2020, board members expressed interest in better understanding how OWEB can support federally recognized Tribes' ability to apply for and receive grant funding to meet their watershed enhancement goals and objectives. Staff initiated a partnership with a Portland State University graduate student to assist OWEB in performing a third-party review of its granting practices. Graduate student Alli Miller, a Master of Public Policy Candidate from PSU, began work on this project in November 2020 and completed the project in 2021. OWEB's Tribal Liaison and former Executive Director assisted with project planning and support.

The assessment focused on three OWEB grant programs and considered the level of engagement in these offerings by each Tribe. By looking at which tribes participate in each grant program, we can better understand how they choose to engage in OWEB's different programs. Since each grant program has its own unique features and requirements to access OWEB grant funds, it was important to consider participation and level of engagement in these three programs by all the tribes.

An analysis of OWEB's granting database was performed to quantify the following components:

- Tribal success rate when applying for funds, compared to other applicants, such as watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts and universities.
- The number of grant applications that tribes submitted as the lead applicant.
- The number of grant applications that tribes partnered on but were not the applicant.

Following this quantitative analysis, tribal staff who are familiar with OWEB grant programs were interviewed by the PSU student to ask more detailed questions about OWEB's grant practices. The intent of these interviews was to better understand if aspects of OWEB's grant-making may create a disadvantage for tribes when applying for or receiving OWEB funding.

Results from this assessment are summarized in a final report and are available online at: <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/Documents/2021-Oct-ItemO-Tribal-Granting-Practices-Assessment-Report.pdf>

The findings in the report were developed directly from the quantitative analysis of OWEB's granting database and the qualitative assessment of shared themes from interviews conducted with staff from each of the nine federally recognized tribes in Oregon, as well as the Nez Perce Tribe, which also pursues and receives funding from OWEB. The report's appendix includes information from the interviews but does not attribute comments to individuals or tribes to maintain confidentiality. Using these findings, the PSU student developed recommendations that OWEB may use to address barriers identified through the assessment. The tribes were provided the draft report and 30 days to submit comments to the PSU student. Every effort was taken to address the comments and perform edits to incorporate feedback that was received from the tribes.

The results were presented to the State/Tribal NR Workgroup and to the OWEB board in October 2021. OWEB staff will work with OWEB’s Executive Team and the board’s Coordinating Committee to discuss the findings from the assessment and determine options for next steps.

Climate Mitigation Goal for Natural and Working Lands

The Governor’s Executive Order on Climate Change, EO 20-04, directed the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) to provide recommendations to the Governor regarding carbon sequestration goals on natural and working lands. OWEB provided staff support on stakeholder engagement efforts as the OGWC explored and developed recommendations.

The OGWC invited tribal input through several different outreach methods while creating the EO 20-04 Natural and Working Lands (NWL) recommendation. In the Fall 2020, OGWC Chair Cathy Macdonald attended a government-to-government natural resource working group to gather input from Oregon Tribes and invite participation in the recommendation process.

Oregon tribal members, leaders and employees were given the opportunity to participate in two surveys through email invitation. Cathy MacDonald, Chair of the Oregon Global Warming Commission sent a letter to tribal leaders in Spring 2021 inviting feedback on the NWL recommendation at OGWC meetings. Two tribal representatives provided OGWC presentations. The Natural Resource Director of The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Robert (Bobby) Brunoe presented at the April 2021 OGWC meeting and Chair Kat Brigham of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation presented at the May 2021 OGWC meeting.

In addition to the outreach methods listed above, Chair Macdonald hosted a series of individual meetings with Oregon tribal leaders and invited all federally recognized tribes to OGWC meetings, presentations, and discussions. For more information, please refer to the resulting NWL recommendation document, which includes summarized tribal input results and collaboration.

Meetings with Tribes

The global pandemic affected OWEB’s ability to meet in person with the tribes in 2021. However, OWEB staff continued to work with technical staff from tribes on many levels to continue to administer grant funds for projects and respond to inquiries from them to develop and fund future watershed enhancement projects. OWEB is hopeful that in 2022 we will be able to safely participate in in-person meetings with Tribes to continue ongoing communications. It is through these interactions that relations are developed, and trust is built. OWEB looks forward to fostering these relationships in 2022 and in the years to come.





Agenda Item P supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #6: Coordinated monitoring and shared learning to advance watershed restoration effectiveness.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Audrey Hatch, Conservation Outcomes Coordinator
Taylor Larson, Partnerships Coordinator
Denise Hoffert, Partnerships Coordinator
Eric Hartstein, Board and Legislative Coordinator
Robert Warren, Bonneville Environmental Foundation

SUBJECT: Agenda Item P – Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) Program Progress Tracking Reports
January 25-26, 2022 Board Meeting

I. Introduction

Robert Warren from Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) will join OWEB staff to provide a presentation about continuing work to track FIP initiative progress towards ecological outcomes, with a focus on the Progress Tracking Reports for the second and third biennia for the six cohort one FIPs first awarded funding in the 2015-2017 biennium.

II. FIP Cohort One Progress Tracking Reports

Progress Tracking Reports are a tool to communicate the progress and evolution of each FIP initiative as they proceed with strategic action plan implementation, outcomes monitoring, and adaptive management. The reports align strategies presented in their results chains with work done towards implementing strategic action plans. The reports summarize and synthesize actions and monitoring efforts to provide a high-level portrait of the progress each partnership is making towards measuring and achieving their identified conservation outcomes.

Progress tracking reports use a template with common categories of information across each FIP, including an introduction to their geography and the conservation challenge they are addressing. In addition, each report:

- Visualizes funding and types of grants awarded,
- Shares a condensed theory of change and predicted outcomes from each partnership's progress monitoring framework,
- Quantifies progress made in strategic action plan implementation,

- Summarizes the monitoring approach and provides examples of restoration projects, and
- Delivers qualitative information about the operational context faced by each partnership and shares their unique challenges, lessons learned, and adaptations.

OWEB staff coordinated with each partnership to produce the first biennium reports for each of the first cohort of FIPs. These reports were presented to the board in January 2020. In response to OWEB's staffing shortage due to lottery revenue shortfalls, BEF added project tracking report completion to their scope of work. BEF provided leadership in developing the first biennium reports for the second cohort of FIPs. These reports were provided to the board in March 2021.

BEF also completed project tracking reports covering the last two biennia for the first cohort of FIPs, combining these last two biennia to simplify the task given the time constraints under the budget shortfall. These reports are found in Attachment A and will be presented at the January 2022 board meeting.

As OWEB continues to add staff capacity, it is anticipated project tracking reports for the second and third FIP cohorts will be produced on a regular schedule each biennium. These reports will be cumulative, building on the progress made in each biennium to track impact. It is expected they will accompany biennial FIP reporting to the board.

III. Recommendation

This is an informational item only.

Attachment

A. FIP Cohort One Progress Tracking Reports, covering Biennia 2 and 3

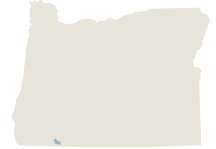


Ashland Forest

All-Lands Restoration Partnership

Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Initiative

DRY-TYPE FOREST HABITAT



The Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration

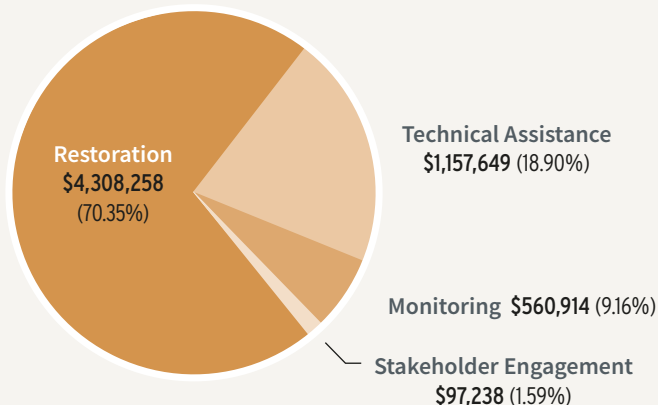
Partnership focuses on Dry-Type Forest Habitat outside the City of Ashland, Oregon. It encompasses 58,000 acres centered on Ashland Creek, including the City's municipal water supply and critical late-seral habitat for sensitive species such as northern spotted owl and Pacific fisher. Over a century of fire exclusion and large-tree timber harvest caused forests to become dense and less diverse. The landscape became more prone to intense wildfires, elevating the risk to the community's water supply and wildlife habitat. The partners have worked together since 2010 to create a fire-adapted landscape across City, federal, and private lands. In partnership with the community, the project protects a range of values and increased public support for ecological thinning and prescribed fire. Throughout the initiative, partners elevated the role of forest workers, including workforce development opportunities that support local economies and increased capacity for more restoration work. This project also serves as an outdoor classroom for students of all ages—including through partnerships with local universities—and is a national model for successful science-based forest restoration and community engagement.

PHOTO The Nature Conservancy (Evan Barrientos)



Funding

OWEB awarded \$6,124,058 in funding with \$4,365,725 in matching funds.



Benefits

- Reduced risk of damaging wildfires and improved fire management options
- Improved dry-type forest health with old-growth trees and open stands
- Increased area ready for controlled burns and implemented burns with minimized smoke impacts
- Protected clean and abundant drinking water and healthy streams
- Sustained habitat for sensitive species, including the Pacific fisher and the Northern spotted owl
- Sustained local, living-wage jobs and regional workforce training
- Engaged community and private landowners in a local, collaborative solution

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded a FIP grant to the Ashland Forest All-Lands Restoration Partnership. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated in Biennia 2-3 (2017-2021) and cumulative progress since the FIP was initiated in 2016.

Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, partners, and non-governmental organizations in the Ashland area.

Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.

PARTNERS

Core Partners: City of Ashland, Lomakatsi Restoration Project, The Nature Conservancy, US Forest Service Rogue River – Siskiyou National Forest

All-Lands Partners: Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, US Fish and Wildlife Service, Jackson Soil & Water Conservation District

GOAL

Healthy forest landscape with a mosaic of complex old-growth, open forest, and oak woodlands restoring diverse habitats and increased resilience to fire, insects, and disease. Engaged community supportive of active forest stewardship, with project serving as a place of learning for the public, partners, and workforce.

STRATEGIES

- Strategically implement ecological thinning, fuels reduction, and prescribed fire

- Foster development of an engaged and supportive citizenry

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS FUNDED (2017-2021)

Restoration

2,189

ACRES OF ECOLOGICAL THINNING
(3,179 TOTAL)

500

ACRES OF PRESCRIBED FIRE PREP COMPLETED

2,151

ACRES OF PILE BURNING COMPLETED

205 + 25

ACRES OF SEEDING + ACRES OF INVASIVES REMOVAL

Planning

2,677 ACRES IDENTIFIED FOR TREATMENT
(3,779 acres total)

27 FOREST RESTORATION PLANS FOR ENROLLED PRIVATE LANDOWNERS
(46 total)

1 PRIVATE-LAND BURN PLAN

Monitoring

5 FIRE EFFECTS MONITORING REPORTS PRODUCED

4 SUPPLEMENTAL MONITORING PROJECTS COMPLETED: focusing on public perception of the initiative, evaluation of fire management options at a landscape-scale, stand-scale responses to treatment under a changing climate, and evaluation of hydrological impacts of AFR treatments.

Engagement

27

LANDOWNERS ENROLLED

79 LANDOWNERS ENGAGED from 2018 to 2021 (179 total)

95 SURVEY PARTICIPANTS in second consecutive social survey

28 EDUCATORS PARTICIPATED in fire ecology education training in spring 2020

Key Events held:

70 STUDENTS PARTICIPATED in a day of service learning in May 2021

3,600

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ATTENDED 63 community events held online and in-person from January 2018 through October 2021.

13,000

POSTCARDS MAILED on controlled burning education and alerts

1,830

SUBSCRIBERS to email and text message alerts (3,285 total)

2,179

FOLLOWERS on social media

49 STAKEHOLDERS AND EXTENDED PARTNERS PARTICIPATED in a fire planning in June 2021

(The metrics shown reflect actions that have been completed or for which funding has been obligated in Biennia 2 and 3. Metrics in parentheses include Biennium 1 accomplishments.)

Observed Near Term 0-10+ YEARS

ECOLOGICAL PROGRESS

Stand-scale Outcomes

OWEB-funded surface and ladder fuel treatments resulted in:

- Reduced small tree density by 47% and basal area by 10%, while increasing average tree size by 27%.
- Reduced canopy closure by 18% from 77% pre-treatment to 63% post-treatment, and increased canopy base height by 20% following fuels treatments.
- Predicted diminished fire intensity with declines in flame lengths under mild and extreme weather scenarios of 27% and 24%, respectively.

Prescribed fire in previously treated units resulted in added changes:

- Reduced canopy closure by 8%, while canopy base height increased 15%.
- Declines in predicted fire behavior with flame lengths under mild and extreme weather scenarios falling an additional 25% and 32%, respectively.

OTHER OUTCOMES

Water

- AFR monitoring, in partnership with the Southern Oregon University, detected no impact on erosion and sediment based on bioassays of creeks feeding Reeder Reservoir, the source of the City of Ashland’s drinking water.

Social Monitoring

- AFR partners and Southern Oregon University social monitoring survey shows significantly increased support for science-based commercial tree thinning, non-commercial fuels reduction, and proactive prescribed fire use.

Landscape Outcomes

- Across the Ashland watershed wildfire risk to high-value resources and assets was reduced by reducing fire hazard. In treated units potential flame length was reduced by 25% by treatments that include removal of merchantable material, 27% by strictly non-merchantable treatments, and an additional >9% when ecological thinning is followed by underburning.
- Fire suppression effectiveness and safety was improved. Suppression difficulty index was reduced by 25% by treatments that included removal of merchantable material, 21% by strictly non-merchantable treatments, and >35% when ecological thinning was followed by underburning.
- Assessment showed that water yield was not increased, and analysis indicates that thinning extent would need to be increased dramatically to significantly reduce transpiration and increase yield (Kurzweil et al. 2021)¹.

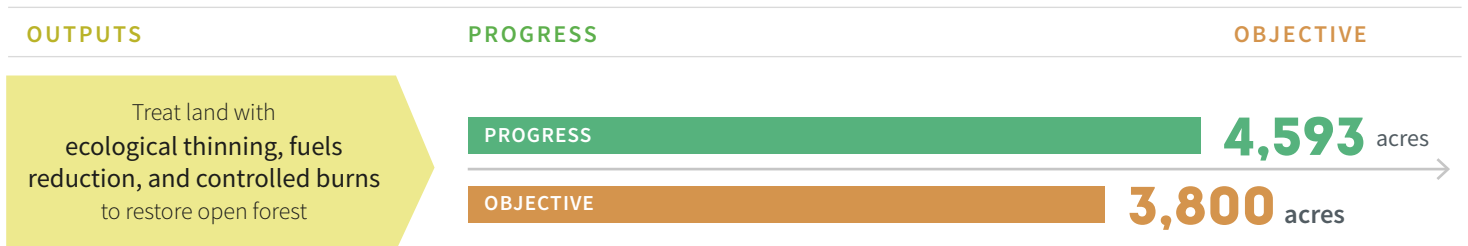
Expected Long Term 20+ YEARS

- Open and closed habitats are sustained by landscape prescribed fire use and support wildlife dependent on complex forests, open forests, and oak woodlands
- Maintain water quality and aquatic habitat conditions

¹Kurzweil, J. R., K. Metlen, R. Abdi, R. Strahan, and T. S. Hogue. 2021. Surface water runoff response to forest management: Low-intensity forest restoration does not increase surface water yields. *Forest Ecology and Management* 496:119387. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.foreco.2021.119387>

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennia 1-3

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

- Defines where treatments occur and tracks changes in habitats and species over time for reporting and to support additional monitoring efforts
- Collects pre- and post-treatment data for monitoring the effectiveness of restoring open habitats while protecting old growth
- Uses changes in fuel loads and tree canopy base height in fire behavior models to monitor effectiveness in reducing potential wildfire spread and intensity
- Evaluates changes in social understanding and support for ecological thinning and managed fire with rigorous surveys
- The partnership is seeking funding to support monitoring efforts as guided by the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative. Ashland is one of the projects tracked by the Rogue Forest Partners and the Rogue Forest Partner Monitoring Plan. Data from the Ashland project area are being incorporated into the Rogue Forest Partner monitoring databases.

Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
Severe drought and annual fire risks continue to challenge conservation values	New assessments, and collaborative science with new partners (OSU and Rocky Mountain Research Station) highlighted places where efforts could be strengthened (e.g., using Potential Wildfire Operational Delineation, potential control lines and suppression difficulty index)	Leveraging AFARI relationships, continuing to build partnerships, and applying existing monitoring data to increase the pace and scale of restoration through the Rogue Forest Partners and the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative FIP
Treated units require maintenance to retain desired conditions	Units treated early in the project are requiring inexpensive maintenance follow-up	Partners are planning for ongoing maintenance with underburning or low-density thinning The City of Ashland water fee supports ongoing maintenance Partners secured Oregon Emergency Funding in 2021 for maintenance
Sensitivity of large old trees to burning impacts	Legacy trees can be negatively impacted by pile burning or underburns where residual burn piles are too many or too near legacy trees	Observed risks to legacy trees led to adaptation of how burn piles are placed and ignited, as well as the formation of a team to work on legacy tree protection during burn operations

Engagement

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
Weather and smoke management are a challenge when using prescribed fire around the Smoke Sensitive Receptor Area and are drivers in both the timeline and community outreach	Strong social interest and concern about escalating fire and smoke impacts helped coalesce support for tolerating smoke from prescribed fires, and generated interest and investment in a new consortium to develop a fire ecology curriculum for schools	Engagement has shifted to emphasize proactive planning and best science to guide maintenance and strengthening existing investments to help mitigate future fires
Restoration of open forest and associated fire hazard and landscape resilience objectives are challenged by misguided expectations to retain relatively high levels of canopy cover	Increasing emphasis on community collaboration and subsequent investments in monitoring and public engagement through site visits, discussions, science delivery and other engagement improved transparency in planning and project implementation, ultimately yielding improved public perception and support for the initiative	Additional grant funds for youth programs, prescribed fire training exchanges, fire curriculum education, and landowner outreach education projects were applied to facilitate social support Monitoring has identified opportunities to fine-tune future prescriptions and promote climate adaptation on future projects The partnership has avoided point by point responses to public criticism, and instead addressed concerns in the context of telling their own story with monitoring results

Partnership Capacity

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
Staffing retention and turnover	FIP investment sustained staff stability and was a long-term success The project tracking database has been challenged by a piecemeal approach which followed several staff turnovers	Partners improved staffing consistency by pooling funding and crafting positions to better retain personnel Codification in monitoring methods and protocols has facilitated on-boarding and strengthened consistency

Adaptive Management, continued

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

Development of Dry Forest restoration theory of change and associated results chain

OWEB funding propelled appropriate ecological thinning and fuels reduction, including pile burning, but there was not enough funding to provide for follow up prescribed underburning, particularly on private lands

LESSONS LEARNED

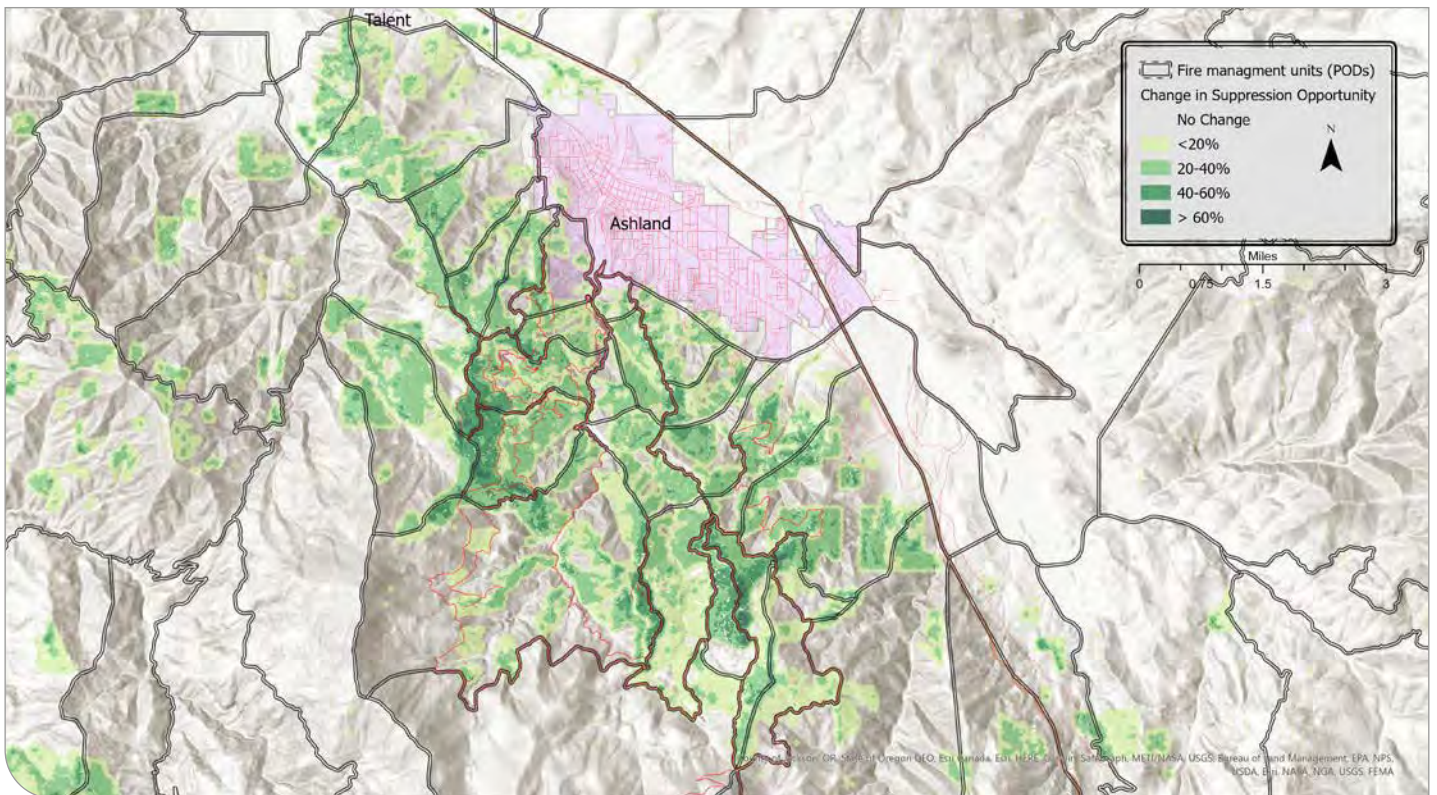
The results chain informed supplemental monitoring to address concerns around climate, water, fire behavior, and social support

Rigorous science indicated that underburned units perform better, and this was further confirmed later with OSU assessments (funded by OWEB Supplemental Monitoring) of suppression difficulty index

ADAPTATIONS

The results chain provided a foundation for development of the Rogue Forest Restoration Initiative

The partners pursued federal sources in support of the Fire Learning Network and deployment of annual Prescribed Fire Training Exchanges in which a workforce and prescribed burn plans allowed for underburning on several private tracts in AFARI. The Partners also secured and deployed USFS State and Private Forestry to successfully burn 300 acres on a critical fire management zone on private land on the west perimeter of AFARI



Addressing Climate Change

- Project planning has promoted climate resiliency by decreasing the probability of severe fires, increasing the ability of forests to recover from predicted fires, droughts, and other disturbances. Climate change has elevated the urgency of implementing forest restoration, maintaining conservation actions, and expanding the work throughout the region. With the monitoring data collected by AFARI, the partnership has begun using models to evaluate the effectiveness of prescriptions and current treatments to ameliorate disturbance impacts under the changing climate and generated a baseline for observing changes in the treated landscape. Such assessments could help identify new density and species composition targets, as well as provide recommendations for the proportion of area that should be treated.
- More extensive and intensive thinning to address climate adaptation will likely require a new biological assessment, possibly a new NEPA analysis and consultation with the USFWS around the extent of complex, closed canopy that can reasonably be sustained under an increasingly volatile fire climate.
- Constraints on implementation of more directly climate-adaptive prescriptions include budgets, capacity, and societal and agency willingness to make transformational changes. A shift to a transformational mindset is needed to support, plan for, and implement treatments with sufficient intensity to affect a change in how these forests resist or respond to disturbances. Through implementation and monitoring of the AFARI the partners are building a foundation for climate adaptation of southwestern Oregon forests and this work led to the development of the Rogue Basin Cohesive Forest Restoration Strategy (Metlen et al. 2021)² which provides a scalable model that can be applied to other landscapes.

For More Information
About this Report:

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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² Kerry L. Metlen, T. Fairbanks, M. Bennett, J. Volpe, B. Kuhn, M. P. Thompson, J. Thrailkill, M. Schindel, D. Helmbrecht, J. Scott, and D. Borgias. Integrating forest restoration, adaptation, and proactive fire management: Rogue River Basin case study. *Canadian Journal of Forest Research*. 51(9): 1292-1306. <https://doi.org/10.1139/cjfr-2020-0480>

PHOTO The Nature Conservancy (Kerry Metlen)





The Deschutes Partnership

Habitat Restoration for Resident and Anadromous Fish in the Deschutes

AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES

The Deschutes Partnership is focusing on restoring habitat conditions to support the successful reintroduction of salmon and steelhead into the Whychus Creek, Metolius River, and lower Crooked River systems.

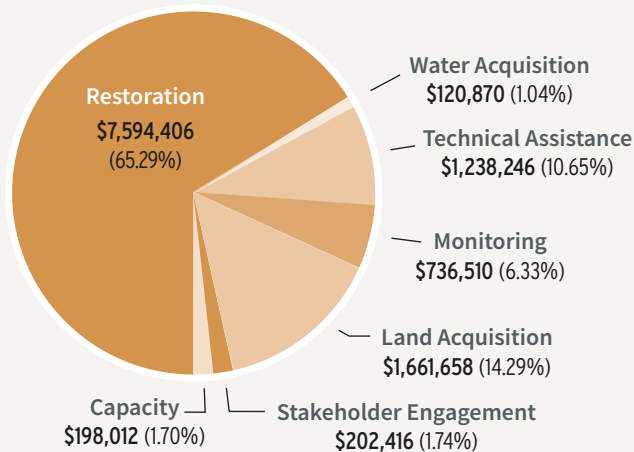


Since the late 1800s, diversion of streamflow for irrigation has reduced natural flows, and modifications to stream channels and the floodplain to support agriculture, residential development, and flood control have reduced the amount and quality of habitat available to fish.

PHOTO Deschutes Land Trust

Funding

OWEB awarded \$11,631,248 in funding with \$25,065,699 in matching funds.



Benefits

- Protected critical spawning and rearing habitat
- Restored stream habitat
- Increased streamflow
- Eliminated fish passage barriers, allowing for greater habitat access
- Increased awareness and support for restoration through community engagement
- Coordinated monitoring approach to measure progress and quantify outcomes

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded a FIP grant to The Deschutes Partnership. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated in Biennia 2-3 (2017-2021) and cumulative progress since the FIP was initiated in 2016. Importantly, obligated funds are funds that have been awarded to a partner through a grant agreement with OWEB though in some cases the funds have not yet been spent and the work therefore has not been completed. This report documents all work that has been completed and that is anticipated through existing grant agreements.

PARTNERS

- Crooked River Watershed Council
- Deschutes River Conservancy
- Upper Deschutes Watershed Council
- Deschutes Land Trust

Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, partners, and non-governmental organizations to restore native fish habitat in the upper Deschutes Basin. **Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.**

GOAL

Restore stream conditions to support the successful reintroduction of salmon and steelhead into the upper Deschutes Basin.



- Protect spawning, rearing, and adult migration habitat through land conservation easements and fee purchases
- Restore stream habitat conditions necessary for successful spawning and rearing
- Restore streamflow sufficient to support successful spawning and rearing

STRATEGIES



- Restore volitional fish passage
- Reduce or eliminate risk of entrainment in irrigation infrastructure
- Engage local communities to increase awareness about and support for reintroduction efforts

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS FUNDED (2017-2021)

Restoration



17.3 MILES OF IMPROVED ACCESS TO HABITAT in the Crooked River and Whychus Creek (total 137.3 miles)

11.53 CUBIC FEET PER SECOND OF ADDED STREAMFLOW from canal piping and water rights transactions

38 ACRES OF FLOODPLAIN OR WETLAND HABITAT to be reconnected

Planning

1 + 3

CONCEPTUAL DESIGN + TECHNICAL DESIGNS

completed for stream channel and floodplain restoration projects (7 total)

Land Protection

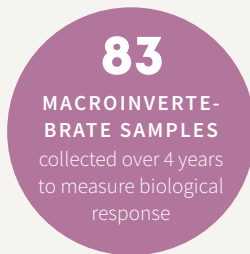
3.5 + 285

STREAM MILES + FLOODPLAIN ACRES

protected by inclusion in Whychus Canyon and Ochoco Preserves (total 4.5 miles)

Monitoring

16 WATER QUALITY MONITORING SITES spanning 46.7 miles



18 SITES where streamflow and groundwater are monitored

Engagement



16 WRITTEN AGREEMENTS with private landowners resulting in 16 conceptual restoration plans completed

9 TECHNICAL & COMMUNITY REPORTS PRODUCED and 3 riparian restoration trainings hosted

25 VOLUNTEERS & TEACHERS TRAINED and enlisted to assist with future restoration activities

500

COMMUNITY MEMBERS participated in riparian restoration and stewardship (1,400 community members total)

(The metrics shown reflect actions that have been completed or for which funding has been obligated in Biennia 2 and 3. Metrics in parentheses include Biennium 1 accomplishments.)



Observed Near Term 0-10+ YEARS

- Increased access to 137.3 miles of aquatic habitats
- Floodwaters access 76 acres of reconnected floodplain
- Riparian vegetation is improved within 68 floodplain acres
- Instream complexity is 6x greater along 1 restored valley mile

Expected Near Term

- Sediment is reduced, improving water quality
- Increased streamflow

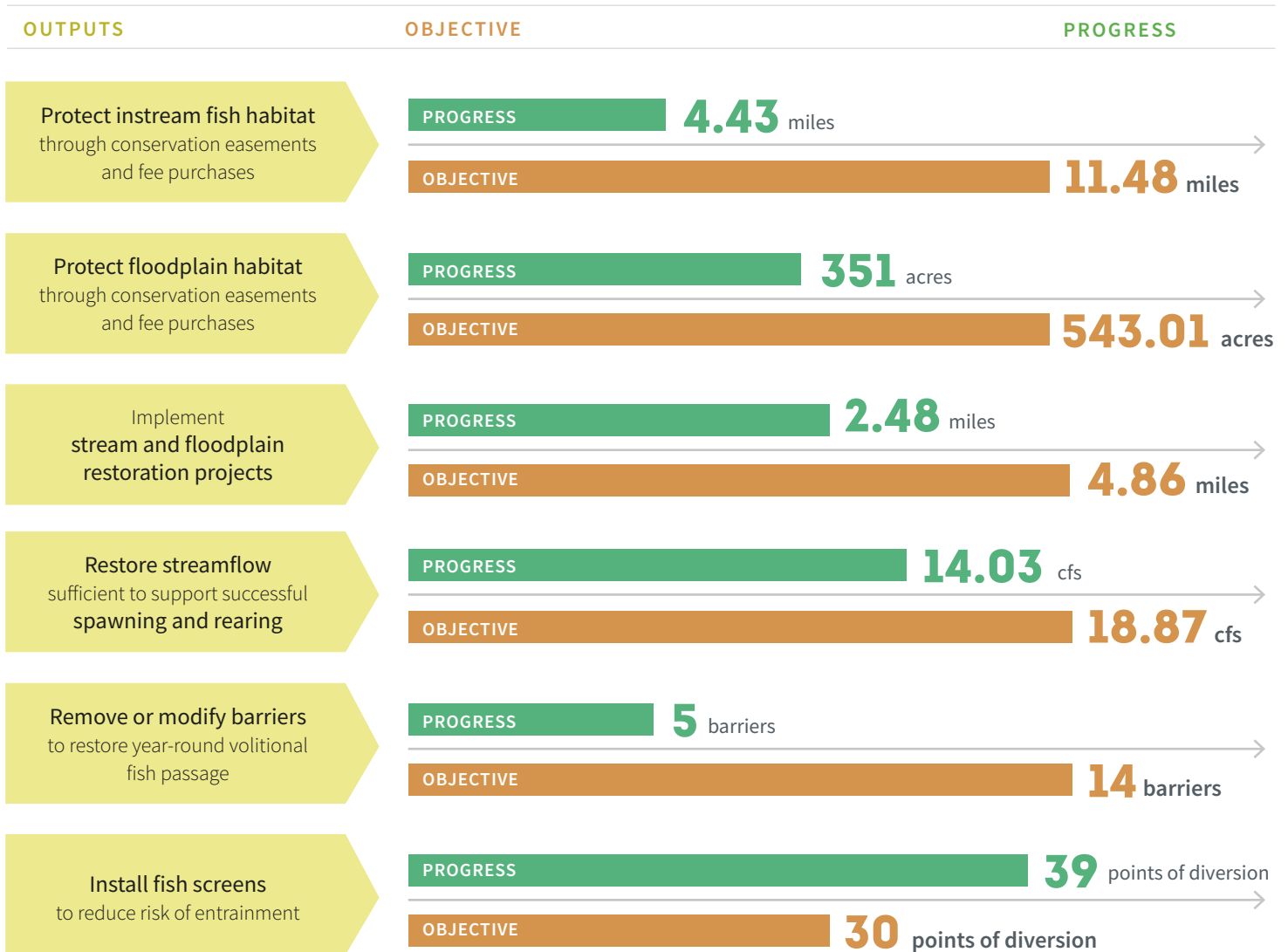
OUTCOMES

Expected Long Term 20+ YEARS

- Quantity and quality of available fish habitat increases
- Fish distribution increases
- Fish mortality in irrigation infrastructure decreases
- Fish population characteristics improve

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennia 1-3

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

- Focuses on the core monitoring required to document progress of investments in achieving restoration outcomes at individual project sites
- Identifies indicators in response to hypotheses about the ecological outcomes of each restoration action, including stream habitat restoration, streamflow restoration, fish passage, and screening projects

Temperature monitoring continues to be a key metric to understand how restoring streamflow can improve temperature and therefore when and if temperature standards for salmon and steelhead are being met. Monitoring stream temperatures at a watershed scale deepens understanding about the value streamflow restoration has delivered over two decades – and how much work remains.

- Assesses change over time through baseline and post-project data collection and analyses to determine if ecological outcomes linked to restoration actions are being achieved

The partnership continues to monitor biological metrics including juvenile fish density, adult fish habitat use, macroinvertebrate richness and abundance, and riparian and wetland vegetation conditions and physical metrics including depth to groundwater, channel morphology and amounts of wood and pools.

Monitoring Lessons Learned

- Monitoring efforts have created an opportunity to focus on other results that will increase knowledge about the value of restoration work. For example, the depth to groundwater monitoring has led to questions about groundwater interactions with surface water and if there might be temperature benefits from floodplain restoration that may be studied and discovered over time.
- The partnership will explore setting up benchmarks or milestones that can be distributed over a timeframe of 25 years or more to provide direction and a sense of intermediate progress that can be effectively communicated.
- The partnership focused more energy and resources toward evaluating the effectiveness of a new restoration methodology called “Stage 0” restoration.

Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

Projects have been delayed or encountered complications that have forced them to be pushed further out in time than planned



LESSONS LEARNED

More complex projects require greater coordination with multiple partners and regulatory or management agencies

Habitat restoration projects on private land often require a higher degree of patience - it is not unusual to delay an action due to landowner uncertainty

Wildfires, wildfire risk, or extreme flooding can delay project schedules for multiple years

Securing non-OWEB funding can cause delays to the partnership's implementation schedule

New and existing permitting requirements have caused delays

The pandemic has exacerbated most of the above listed challenges

Land ownership changes across the FIP geography are unpredictable but common



ADAPTATIONS

The partnership has learned how to adaptively manage individual projects and the larger project queue in response to the dynamic funding and implementation environment

Partners are exploring how to revise management plans to better incorporate wildfire response and wildfire management

Funding

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

Predictable, sustained funding required to meet Strategic Action Plan objectives



LESSONS LEARNED

The partnership has had consistent success enlisting other funding sources and partners into projects, programs, and reporting

OWEB FIP funding and leveraged match represents a significant financial investment - however, the cost to fully meet objectives across the FIP geography is still very high

The FIP program eliminated competition for funding among the partners and allowed for the strategic pursuit of restoration actions in the SAP that would not have been possible through OWEB's open solicitation

The partnership had to frequently adapt as funder program policies changed



ADAPTATIONS

The partnership will endeavor to increase the resources available to increase the pace and scale of needed change in the geography to benefit native fish and other desired outcomes.

Planning

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

Progress Monitoring Framework (PMF) value to the partnership



LESSONS LEARNED

The PMF has provided limited value over a 6-year timeframe due to the very long time-scales of ecological restoration

The results chain was a useful visual tool to communicate the partnership's work with others



ADAPTATIONS

The results chain process was applied during the initiative to identify the most important parameters for monitoring a new initiative priority

Strategic Action Plan changes



The Strategic Action Plan has not evolved over the course of the FIP initiative given the initial set of priority projects was in place at the beginning - the partnership did not have the capacity to do more than what was committed



The partnership plans to revisit and update the Strategic Action Plan to identify priority actions beyond the initial 6-year FIP implementation period

Adaptive Management, continued

Partnership Capacity

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

Partnership staff retention and turnover

Relationships with non-FIP organizations

Open Solicitation Grants are not available to non-partnership organizations operating within the FIP geography

LESSONS LEARNED

One of the four people that developed the Strategic Action Plan and other partnership documents now remains as part of the partnership

Turnover has created opportunities for new staff to bring new and creative ideas for how to accomplish the shared work of the partnership

An established functioning partnership and OWEB as a funder have helped maintain momentum despite staffing changes

Having a strategic action plan and governance documents helps organize the partnership despite change in representation for various partners

Consistent and predictable FIP program funding and continued successful project proposals helped maintain program director and project manager positions at partner organizations

One of the biggest challenges the partnership faced was the question of how to incorporate the restoration priorities of organizations that are not part of the partnership

ADAPTATIONS

The partnership will continue to adhere to procedures outlined in the partnership's Operations Manual to address staff turnover

The partnership will seek greater coordination with organizations currently outside of the partnership as it makes post-FIP plans



PHOTO Deschutes River Conservancy

Addressing Climate Change

The partnership's SAP does not specifically address climate change. However, each partner organization has integrated climate change information into their work.

- The Upper Deschutes Watershed Council, Deschutes River Conservancy, and the Deschutes Land Trust provided comments in the drafting of the Deschutes Basin Habitat Conservation Plan to encourage the development of a stream temperature goal instead of a specific streamflow target.
- In order to address the expanding threat of climate change, the partnership has shifted focus toward restoration projects that store water to mitigate a reduction in average annual snowpack and faster melt rates. For example, floodplain reconnection projects and beaver dam analogs (BDAs) can lead to greater groundwater storage in areas with high infiltration rates.
- Some project types have required a second look. For example, planting projects have suffered from less water availability and plant survival rates have decreased compared to the last decade. The risk/benefit evaluation does not support significant planting unless there is some assurance that available water will be sufficient to support plants.
- The current SAP does not specifically address climate change and a more robust integration will be part of future revisions to the plan.
- The Land Trust will prioritize conserving lands that are resilient and adaptable to the changing climate by using climate resilience as a screening tool in selecting ecological and community projects and developing funding and capacity for working farm, ranch and forest projects that support sustainable agriculture and have potential to sequester carbon.
- The Land Trust seeks to demonstrate stewardship practices that mitigate and support adaptation to climate change on their preserves. The Land Trust completed a Climate Change Strategy in 2017 and is in the process of updating it. This strategy is implemented across all programs within the organization.

Constraints on the partnership's ability to incorporate climate change considerations into initiative or project planning.

- The partnership lacks sufficient funding and capacity to evaluate or incorporate climate change adaptation strategies as well as any relevant benefits resulting from their implemented actions.
- The unpredictable nature of climate change impacts occurring from one year to the next challenges partner organizations' ability to plan appropriate actions. This is mostly a scale problem where the partnership cannot determine what level of 'buffer' against impacts to pursue, develop, and apply. The partners attempt, with the best available information, to build resiliency into each project, but whether these efforts are effective or appropriate is very difficult to evaluate.

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PHOTO Deschutes Land Trust/Jay Mather

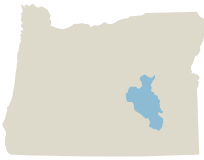
Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative

Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative Focused Investment¹



OWEB FOCUSED INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIP
PROGRESS REPORT / BIENNIA 2 & 3: 2017-2021

CLOSED LAKES BASIN WETLANDS



The Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative (HBWC) focus area encompasses Malheur Lake and surrounding wetlands, including the floodplain wetlands of the Silvies River, Donner und Blitzen River, Silver Creek, and other tributaries.

In total, the geographic scope encompasses 513,000 wetland acres, including the 187,000-acre Malheur National Wildlife Refuge. These wetlands provide critical habitat for Pacific and Central Flyway migratory and resident birds. In recent decades, the expanding invasive common carp population and dynamic physical conditions have changed the Malheur shallow lake ecosystem from a clear lake with abundant aquatic plants and invertebrates to a muddy water body. The high turbidity results in a lake with nearly no submergent vegetation and fewer associated insects. Throughout the Southern Oregon Northeastern California (SONEC) Wetlands area, flood irrigated

wetlands critical for spring migratory birds have declined, reducing this critical Pacific flyway resource. Improving the capacity to flood irrigate the floodplain meadows of the Silvies River is an important step to continuing the support for the spring migration. HBWC is a diverse group of partners working to address the complex land and water issues to find ways to reverse the conditions of Malheur Lake and maintain the critical flood irrigated wet meadow system while supporting the needs of the local community and creating positive impacts that stretch far beyond the basin.

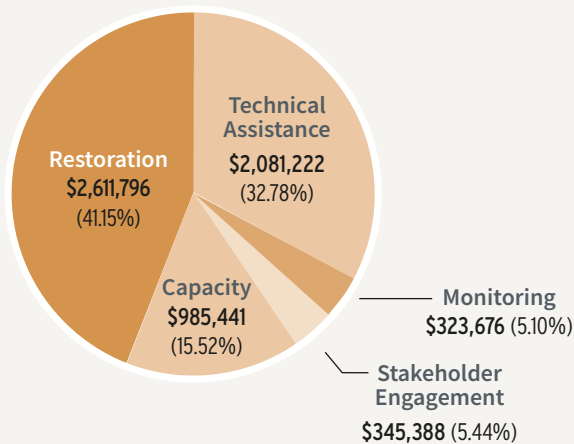
High Desert Partnership's Role

As a collaborative working group, High Desert Partnership (HDP) supports HBWC's activities, promotes open communication, and keeps the wheels of progress moving forward so the collaborative can do its important work. This effort is led by a diverse group of stakeholders, including local ranchers, conservation organizations, the sovereign nation of the Burns Paiute Tribe, government agencies, technical experts, scientists, area residents, nonprofit partners, and others who share a love and concern for the Harney Basin.

¹ The Partnership changed their name in 2020 from Harney Basin Wetlands Initiative to Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative.

Funding

OWEB awarded \$6,347,524 in funding with \$2,198,891 in matching funds.



Benefits

- Increased knowledge and understanding of the distribution and behavior of invasive carp and methods to control them to restore Malheur Lake
- Developed a shared science systems approach model to understand unique interactions in this important closed basin lake ecosystem that offers the collaborative a way to prioritize projects to implement and where resources can best be utilized
- Improved the understanding of water table and plant community dynamics in wet meadows with new tools for land managers to adapt to changing climatic conditions
- Added new irrigation infrastructure to enhance and increase best management of flood-irrigated wet meadows to promote both wildlife and ranching
- Building community in Harney County by engaging landowners, community groups, and partners to increase interest in and support for local conservation and supporting a new natural resource economy
- Coordinated monitoring approach among multiple partners to measure progress and quantify outcomes

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded a FIP grant to the Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative partners. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated in Biennia 2-3 (2017-2021) and cumulative progress since the FIP was initiated in 2016.

Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Harney Basin.

Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.



Audubon Society of Portland, Burns Paiute Tribe, Ducks Unlimited, Eastern

Oregon Agriculture Research Center, Friends of Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Harney County, Harney County Watershed Council, Harney Soil and Water Conservation District, Intermountain West Joint Venture, Malheur National Wildlife Refuge, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon State University, Oregon Wildlife Foundation, Private Landowners, Ranching and Agricultural Business Owners, The Wetlands Conservancy, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, U.S. Geological Survey, Wetland Meadow Partners

GOAL

Enhance and restore a crucial ecosystem that is a magnet for migratory birds on the Pacific flyway while maintaining a sustainable ranching community in southeastern Oregon.

STRATEGIES

- Control carp populations in Malheur Lake and surrounding aquatic ecosystems

- Improve management of flood irrigated wet meadows on refuge and private lands

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS FUNDED (2017-2021)

Restoration

Wetland, Wet Meadow, and Stream Habitats

1

AUTOMATED IRRIGATION SYSTEM INSTALLED

to flood irrigate 300 acres of migratory bird habitat.

100 ACRES PLANTED

2 FISH LADDERS INSTALLED
to allow passage

2 WATER CONTROL STRUCTURES REPLACED
to improve flood irrigation

654

ACRES OF FLOODPLAIN HABITAT CONNECTED

4,000

ACRES OF FLOOD IRRIGATED WET MEADOW HABITAT
enhanced through infrastructure improvements

Planning

5

TECHNICAL DESIGNS FOR FLOOD IRRIGATION INFRASTRUCTURE COMPLETED

9.3

MILES OF IMPROVED ACCESS
for juvenile fish

10 ACRES PROTECTED BY FENCING

26.2 STREAM MILES WITH CARP REMOVED

(The metrics shown reflect actions that have been completed or for which funding has been obligated in biennia 2 and 3.)

Scientific Investigations & Monitoring

- Completed Malheur Lake restoration feasibility analyses and collaborative restoration summit.
- Implemented mesocosm studies to bridge the gap between the laboratory and the real world in Malheur Lake to inform restoration.
- Developed state and transition model tool to help manage wet meadows under a changing climate.
- Improved understanding of ecological drivers affecting the turbid state of Malheur Lake and restoration opportunities.
- Completed basin-wide aquatic health water quality study.
- Completed basin-wide baseline fish distribution study, including eDNA sampling
- Completed avian habitat relationships study to understand bird response to plant community and water regime.

Engagement

6

STAKEHOLDER GROUPS

engaged through

10

IN-PERSON & ONLINE CHANNELS

Key to HBWC engagement is the practice of meeting people where they are and practicing social equity in engagement through the use of multiple communications channels. These channels form a network of communications that can spread exponentially.

Tours, events, festivals, workshops, one-on-one interactions, e-newsletters, articles, social media, films, radio interviews and profiles of collaborating partners all serve to meet people where they are in their understanding of HBWC's efforts.

OUTCOMES

Expected Near Term 0-10+ YEARS

- Improved understanding of the ecology and ecosystem interactions of Malheur Lake
- Improved understanding of the plant-water regime relationships of flood irrigated wet meadow systems
- Improved water clarity and quality
- Water table dynamics support emergent wetland plant communities

- Extent of reed canary grass is reduced
- Aquatic vegetation in the lake is more abundant and diverse
- Invertebrate fauna recovers
- Increased abundance of breeding and migratory birds

Expected Long Term 10+ YEARS

- Native wet meadow communities are enhanced
- Native fish density and diversity improves
- Increased survival and reproductive success of waterbirds
- Waterbird populations increase and become more stable

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennia 1-3

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.

OUTPUTS	OBJECTIVE	PROGRESS
Assist landowners to improve irrigation infrastructure and management	OBJECTIVE 5,000 acres	PROGRESS 12,192 acres impacted through better water management
Conservation actions for managing privately owned flood irrigated wetlands are defined and implemented	OBJ 1 study and model to support wet meadow management	PROGRESS 10 studies 4 models
Understanding of ecosystem improved and carp control levels established	OBJECTIVE 2 ecosystem and carp models developed	PROGRESS 2 models +1 restoration feasibility summit
Develop community outreach and communications plan with multiple strategies to engage diverse stakeholders	OBJECTIVE 1 communication plan developed	PROGRESS 1 communication plan implemented

Monitoring Approach

- Collect basin-wide baseline data on water quality conditions, fish and macroinvertebrate communities, and submerged aquatic vegetation cover to monitor changes over time
- Develop a model to determine the restoration strategies that will most effectively improve water clarity and quality
- Increase understanding of flood-irrigated wet meadow communities to determine the management approach that will increase habitat values, suppress invasive species, and optimize agricultural production

The partnership plans to continue long-term monitoring efforts associated with lake projects and wet meadow management projects if work to secure funding is successful. There is an effort to build capacity for 3rd party monitoring into the future, primarily to bring information back to the partners to be applied in an adaptive management framework. One effort is to use a regional approach for wetlands that is becoming available for the entire SONEC area.

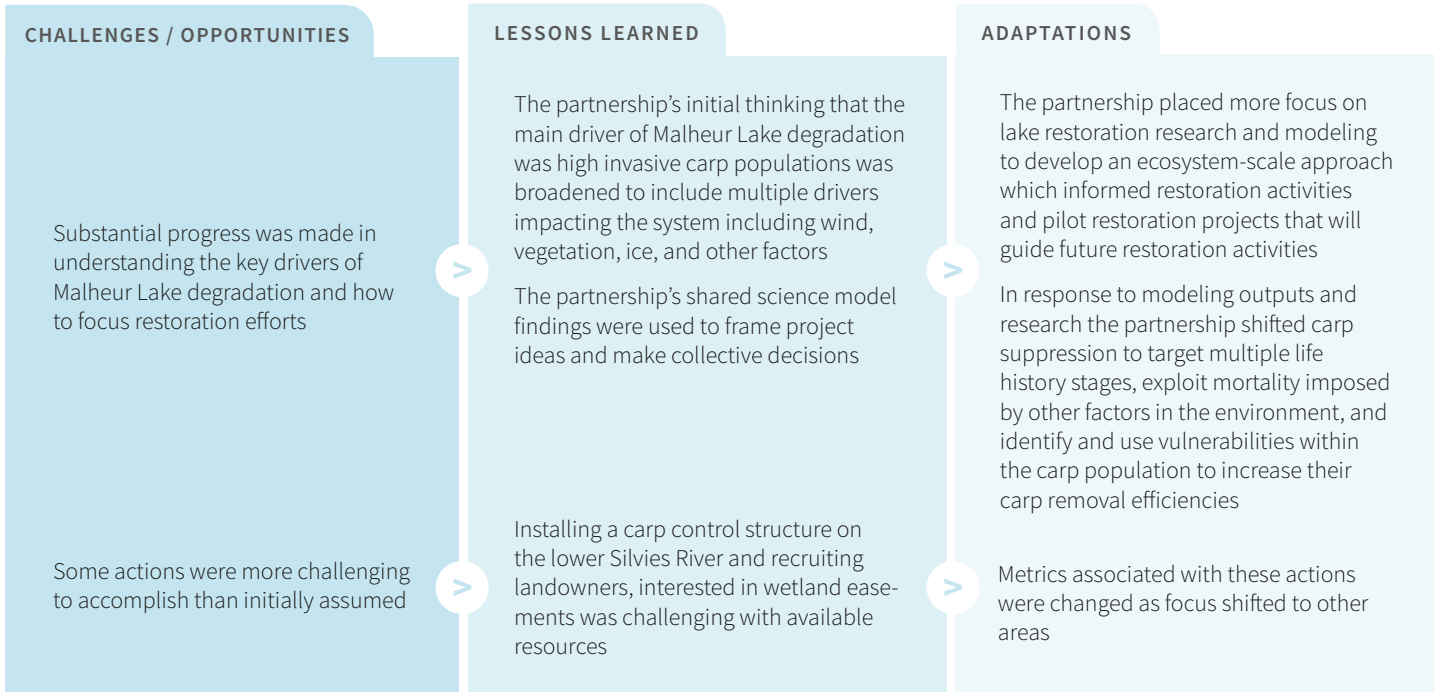
PHOTO Tara Lemezis



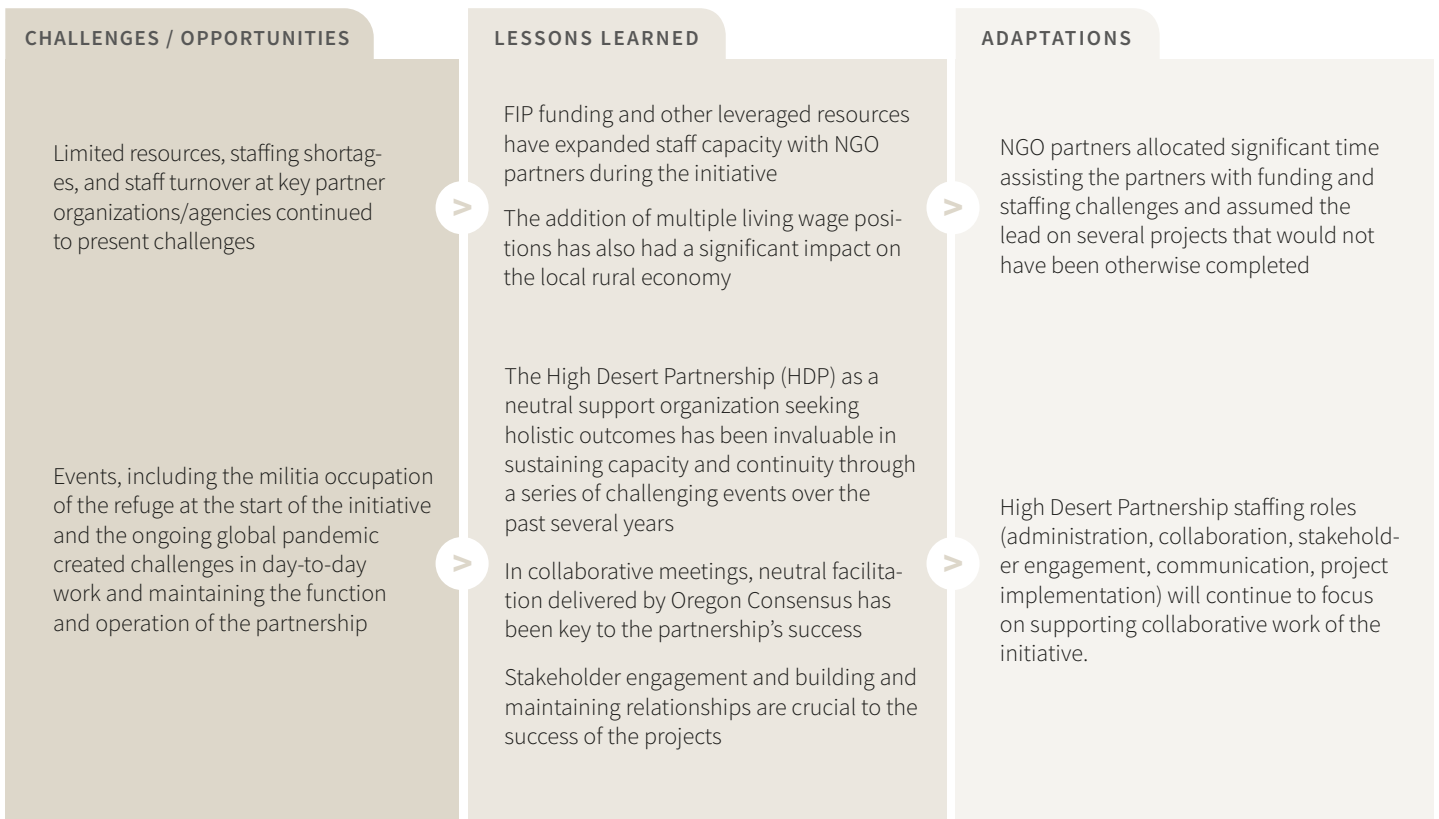
Adaptive Management

The Harney Wetlands Collaborative has seen the effort to restore the clear water state of Malheur Lake and maintain high quality flood irrigated wet meadows as an adaptive management problem. Many assumptions about the ecological processes were made but have proven to be overly simple, requiring a change in restoration strategies. The application of research on the invasive carp population and lake hydrology has significantly shifted the approach to Malheur Lake restoration. Likewise, as information on climate change and water management and availability information is developed, management approaches to maintaining flood irrigated wet meadow systems are adapting to the new and future conditions.

Restoration



Partnership Capacity



Adaptive Management, continued

Engagement

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

Some partners do not have the capacity or mission to help tell the full story of landscape scale project implementation



LESSONS LEARNED

Partners can tell their individual stories, but it takes support capacity to roll up communications to reach a broad audience of stakeholders and to keep partners' communication lines open



ADAPTATIONS

With support capacity secured through the FIP, HBWC has created an overarching communications plan that is agreed upon and shared by all partners

Addressing Climate Change

- The Harney Basin is impacted by climate change including timing and type of precipitation expected in the near and long-term. Climate models project the basin will receive similar amounts of moisture but in different forms (e.g., rain as opposed to snow) and with greater volumes of water at different times of the year. This, as well as the overall allocation of water, will be especially evident in the Silvies River floodplain but also in the Silver Creek basin and the Blitzen River valley.
- One constraint the partnership faces is a massive basin-wide water planning effort now underway that may influence groundwater and surface water use. This process, when completed, may influence some planning changes that may contradict management goals set forth before this information is produced or any forthcoming regulations are enacted. The partners are tracking and involved in the water planning process and will adapt as needed.



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Grande Ronde *Restoration Partnership*

Upper Grande Ronde Initiative

AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES



The Upper Grande Ronde Partnership is focusing restoration on 11 prioritized reaches of the upper Grande Ronde sub-basin, which includes sections of the Grande Ronde River, Catherine Creek, and several tributaries upstream of the confluence with the Wallowa River. Since the late 1800s, poorly-managed logging and grazing, road and railroad construction, urbanization, and irrigation withdrawals degraded streams and reduced fish habitat. These conditions threaten native fish species, including steelhead and salmon.

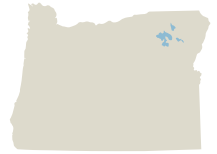
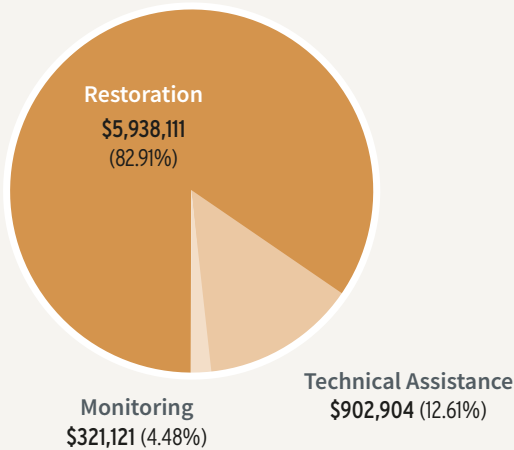


PHOTO Grande Ronde Restoration Partnership

Funding

OWEB awarded \$7,162,136 in funding with \$9,897,087 in matching funds.



Benefits

- Improved understanding of how restoration actions impact steelhead and salmon in northeastern Oregon
- Organized approach among diverse partners to develop complex engineering designs
- Enhanced fish habitat through instream and floodplain projects
- Improved passage at diversion dams and culvert replacement that expands or improves access to habitats
- Coordinated monitoring approach to measure progress and quantify outcomes
- Engaged landowners, students and civic groups on the actions needed to restore habitat for native fish

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded a FIP grant to the Upper Grande Ronde Partnership. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated in Biennia 2-3 (2017-2021) and cumulative progress since the FIP was initiated in 2016.

Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of Bonneville Power Administration, federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations in the Grande Ronde River Basin. **Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.**

PARTNERS

Core Partners: Union Soil and Water Conservation District, Grande Ronde Model Watershed, US Forest Service, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Atlas Implementation Team Partners: Bonneville Power Administration, Bureau of Reclamation, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Trout Unlimited, Natural Resource Conservation Service

GOAL

Increased habitat quantity, quality, and diversity for all life stages of spring Chinook, summer steelhead, and other native species in Catherine Creek and the Upper Grande Ronde River

STRATEGIES

- Remove barriers and create additional aquatic habitat
- Restore natural habitat complexity and processes
- Reconnect floodplain habitats

- Conduct monitoring studies to fill knowledge gaps on juvenile salmon mortality and riparian restoration effectiveness
- Inform, educate, and engage relevant landowners and residents

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS FUNDED (2017-2021)

Restoration



83

STREAM MILES
made accessible to
juvenile and adult fish

2

**FISH LADDERS
INSTALLED**
providing passage
at 2 diversion dams
and 1 culvert with
improved passage



103.4

RIPARIAN ACRES
protected from
livestock grazing

4.3

**MILES OF
NEW CHANNEL**

141.2

**ACRES OF NEW OR
RECONNECTED
FLOODPLAIN**

Planning

4

TECHNICAL DESIGNS
completed to support restoration
project implementation

Scientific Investigation

7.5 + 5,315

MILES ACRES
monitored for riparian recovery



2

**CHINOOK
SALMON**

+ 1

STEELHEAD

populations monitored
with PIT tag arrays

Engagement



1

**COMMUNITY SCIENCE
PROGRAM ESTABLISHED**

9

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTERS
highlighting work and partners in
the Grande Ronde Basin

11

LANDOWNERS ENGAGED
resulting in 8 restoration projects

(The metrics shown reflect actions that have been completed or for which funding has been obligated in Biennia 2 and 3.)

OUTCOMES

Expected Near Term 0-10+ YEARS

- Access to aquatic habitats is increased
- Floodplain is reconnected to stream system
- Increased instream complexity

Expected Long Term 20+ YEARS

- Distribution of salmon increases in watershed
- Improved channel structure and processes to maintain habitat
- Spawning habitat and streamside plantings improve
- Summer stream temperatures decrease
- Productivity of salmonid species improves

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennia 1-3

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

- Evaluates restoration techniques to make future projects more effective through adaptive management
- Improves knowledge of factors affecting salmon survival rates to prioritize projects
- Collects data on a consistent set of ecological metrics paired with snorkel surveys to measure restoration outcomes

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PHOTO David Herasimtschuk
132

Adaptive Management

Restoration

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
Changing project feasibility	<p>Changing feasibility of originally targeted actions required some flexibility in the strategic action plan elements and progress tracking metrics</p> <p>Maintain flexibility and expect that plans will change</p>	<p>The partnership added new actions that were similar to those removed and adjusted implementation metrics</p>
Past project effectiveness	<p>Some early projects were not as successful in restarting natural processes (sediment transport, pool formation, floodplain engagement, riparian recovery) as expected</p> <p>Actions need to be more intense and cover a larger geographic area to achieve the desired outcomes</p>	<p>Over the last decade, the partnership revisited several restoration sites to implement additional restoration actions</p>
Appropriate geography scope and scale	<p>If the geographic area is too small it can be hard to replace projects that may no longer be feasible; if it is too large it can be hard to measure change over a six-year period</p>	<p>Maintain a landscape scale restoration approach</p>

Partnership Capacity

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
Partnership composition and expansion	<p>The FIP had hoped to add an additional partner to the Initiative in the first biennium to assist with flow restoration projects. Unfortunately, the partnership could not come to consensus on adding a partner and the objective of restoring flow by leasing water rights was not achieved.</p>	<p>Maintaining a small partnership has allowed the FIP to be very agile and adjust efficiently over the three biennia as plans changed.</p>
Predictability of FIP funding	<p>FIP funding eased the competitive nature of applying for restoration funding and allowed the partnership to focus on working collaboratively</p>	<p>Continue to seek long-term high funding sources that provide funding certainty</p>
Evolution of staff roles	<p>The part time FIP-supported position has evolved during the Initiative</p>	<p>The role initially focused on outreach and was shifted towards monitoring coordination</p>
Partnership dynamics	<p>A well-functioning partnership depends on personalities that show a willingness to compromise, express opinions respectfully, and an ability to rely on others when help is required</p>	<p>Continue to build and maintain partnership capacity and collaborative skills</p>

Funding

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES	LESSONS LEARNED	ADAPTATIONS
FIP funding alignment with other sources	<p>Aligning FIP support with other funding sources increased the partnership's ability to implement additional floodplain, habitat complexity, and fish passage projects</p>	<p>The partnership updated its progress tracking reporting to reflect unplanned actions</p> <p>The partnership plans to revisit the Atlas soon and it will likely result in a geographic shift of our restoration efforts as many of our goals and objectives have been achieved over the last six years</p>
Leveraging multiple funding sources	<p>A strategic plan allows partnerships to compete for multiple funding sources</p>	<p>Using the same strategic plan, the partnership leveraged Bonneville Power Administration, McNary Mitigation, Gray Family Foundation and US Forest Service grants</p>

Adaptive Management, continued

Engagement

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

Landowner willingness to support or participate in restoration activities



LESSONS LEARNED

Reduced trust has led to a shift in the public's support of salmon habitat restoration



ADAPTATIONS

The partnership shifted public outreach efforts from presenting to civic groups and schools to creating a community science project that gets kids, teachers and community members involved in collecting meaningful data.

The partnership is planning to engage with social science experts to explore ways to better connect with the communities

Monitoring

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

Utility of the Progress Monitoring Framework



LESSONS LEARNED

The results chain/theory of change has helped track progress and, along with the action plan, served as a reference and reminder of what the FIP expected to accomplish and monitor



ADAPTATIONS

The partnership's monitoring approach continues to track fish productivity metrics and survey habitat on a 10-year rotation

The partnership will continue to utilize existing modelling efforts from our partners, i.e., the Life Cycle Model to evaluate result chain assumptions

Evolving field of aquatic habitat restoration and monitoring



The partnership endeavors to adapt to new and emerging monitoring techniques and approaches but these changes challenge the utility and management of long-term data sets



The partnership continues to develop monitoring program crosswalks to maximize the potential utility of varied monitoring approaches and programs

Research and monitoring efforts have informed strategies



The Meadow Creek ungulate grazing has improved understanding of impacts by cattle versus deer and elk and practices to guide how to manage those impacts



Continue to prioritize monitoring and research to inform and refine strategies and actions

The salmon carcass study helped confirm some knowledge and provided new information to guide management associated with adding marine derived nutrients to aquatic systems

PIT Tag arrays have provided long term data on fish populations in Catherine Creek and the upper Grande Ronde, specifically abundance and productivity

Addressing Climate Change

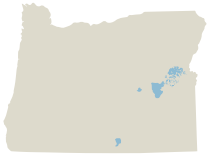
The partnership is fortunate to have robust data sets to support the prioritization of actions and locations to best address expected changes in water temperature due to climate change. The Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission has produced both a heat source model and a riparian restoration prioritization plan for the upper Grande Ronde River. These data have helped the larger partnership in the Grande Ronde to focus on riparian recovery in the highest priority areas and also focus restoration efforts on floodplain connection and restoration of proper stream channel dimensions.

Addressing climate change presents similar constraints to those that affect the partnership's ability to implement projects in general. For example, one of the highest priority areas to implement restoration for both fish recovery and to counter climate change is located on private property where the landowner is not interested in participating. Additionally, our datasets in the Grande Ronde are based on 40- and 80-year climate projections and therefore present a high level of uncertainty. It may be challenging to tease out exactly how our restoration will have helped to reduce climate change impacts.

Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse

Oregon Model to Protect Sage-Grouse
All Counties FIP Initiative

SAGEBRUSH / SAGE-STEPPE HABITAT



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 Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee's (OACSC) 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 Preliminary Priority Habitat (PPH) and adjacent lands in seven Oregon Counties and defines strategies and objectives that cover a 30-year timeframe (2015-2045).

Corresponding 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 OACSC and partner agencies are contributing to the ecological outcomes shown in the results chain.

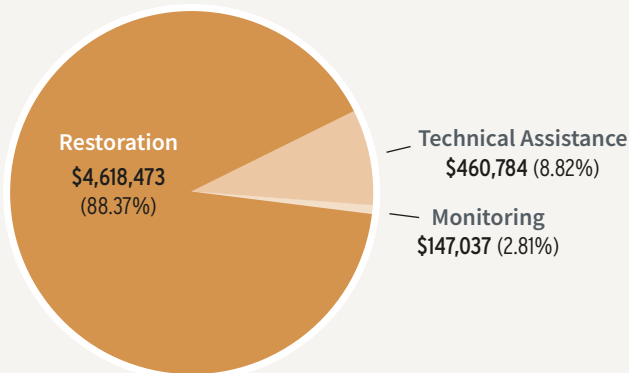


The OACSC's primary focus is on privately-owned Sage-Grouse PPH occurring within Harney, Lake, and Malheur counties. Conservation measures support the design and execution of Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances (CCAA) in partnership with private landowners through the development of Site Specific Plans (SSP) by Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). The CCAA is an agreement between the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), SWCDs and non-federal landowners, in which the landowner agrees to reduce or eliminate threats to a candidate species on lands they manage in exchange for assurances from USFWS that they will no longer face further regulatory requirements should the species become listed under the Endangered Species Act in the future. The Oregon sage-grouse CCAs showcase the widespread private land efforts in conserving rangeland health and sage-grouse populations.

In an effort to begin implementing the conservation measures identified within CCAA enrolled landowner's SSPs and make strides in sage-grouse conservation, Harney, Lake and Malheur Counties applied for a FIP with a sage-grouse focus. These three counties came together to seek funding for restoration, technical assistance and monitoring of these 30-year agreements. Each county identified site specific FIP geographies within their counties that held the highest numbers of CCAA enrollments and highest probabilities of success for sage-grouse conservation.

Funding

OWEB awarded \$5,226,294 in funding with \$2,876,719 in matching funds.



Benefits

- Restored diverse plant communities that support all life stages of Sage-Grouse
- Reduced risk of frequent, damaging wildfires
- Created small business opportunities for juniper removal and rangeland treatment
- Engaged private landowners in a local, collaborative solution to improve Sage-Grouse and rangeland health
- Provided technical and financial support to farmers and ranchers to implement conservation measures

ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded a FIP grant to the Oregon All Counties CCAA Steering Committee. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated in Biennia 2-3 (2017-2021) and cumulative progress since the FIP was initiated in 2016.

Work completed by the partnership under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger on-going collaborative effort of federal, state and local agencies, private landowners, and non-governmental organizations to meet Oregon Sage-Grouse Action Plan goals. **Accomplishments included in the report only reflect actions completed with OWEB FIP funding.**

PARTNERS

Core Partners: Harney Soil and Water Conservation District, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Malheur Soil and Water Conservation District, Private Landowners, US Fish and Wildlife Service

Supporting Partners: Bureau of Land Management, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, County governments, Oregon State University Extension, US Department of Agriculture Agricultural Research Service, Cooperative Weed Management Areas, Sage Grouse Conservation Partnership, Watershed Councils

GOAL

Restore Oregon's private rangelands and sustain abundant populations of sage-grouse, by minimizing threats of wildfire, exotic annual grass, and juniper invasion, and supporting management practices that promote local economic and social needs.

STRATEGY

Execute Candidate Conservation Agreements with Assurances for private lands

IMPLEMENTATION ACTIONS FUNDED (2017-2021)

Restoration

53

ESCAPE RAMPS
FOR SAGE-GROUSE
(72 RAMPS TOTAL)

2,999

ACRES EXOTIC ANNUAL
GRASS TREATMENT
(9,588 acres total)

8,201.9 + 10.8

UPLAND ACRES RIPARIAN ACRES
fenced to manage grazing

Planning

14,274.73

ACRES IN SITE-SPECIFIC PLANS
for private land (200,569.73 acres total)

11

SITE SPECIFIC
PLANS
SUBMITTED

3,983

ACRES SEEDED
to promote recovery of
native vegetation

21.27

MILES OF
MARKED
FENCE

8,434.73

ACRES OF JUNIPER
TREATMENT
(20,540.73 acres total)

14,274.73

ACRES IN MANAGED
GRAZING PLANS
(200,569.73 acres total)

(The metrics shown reflect actions that have been completed or for which funding has been obligated in Biennia 2 and 3. Metrics in parentheses include Biennium 1 accomplishments.)

OUTCOMES

Expected Near Term 0-5+ YEARS

- Reduction of conifer encroached sage-steppe and sage-grouse habitat
- Increased rangeland health and diversity
- Reduced invasion of exotic annual grasses
- Increased water availability to livestock & other wildlife
- Improved livestock dispersal/utilization that improves sage-grouse habitat & nest survival
- Improved/increased mesic habitat for brood rearing sage-grouse
- Increased connectivity between seasonal habitats of sage-grouse
- Decreased wildfire threat

Expected Intermediate Term 5-20+ YEARS

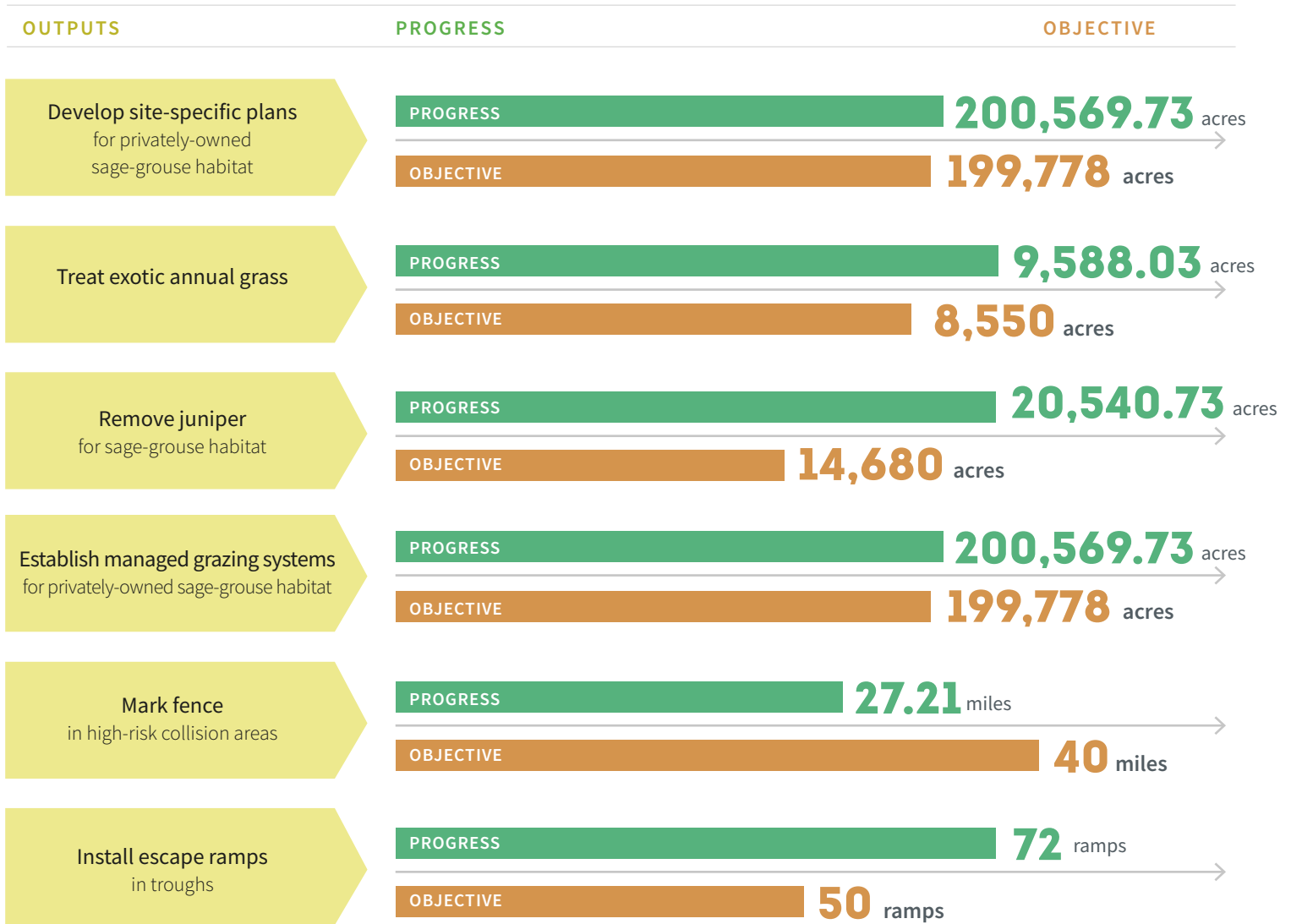
- Continued success of all results listed above
- Increased desired plant cover of sagebrush, perennial bunch grasses, and forbs
- Less predation of Sage-Grouse by raptors and corvids perched on junipers

Expected Long Term 20+ YEARS

- Connectivity of habitats increased and is maintained
- Habitat containing nesting cover and food for sage-grouse is restored
- Increased sage-grouse survival and population stability

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennia 1-3

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

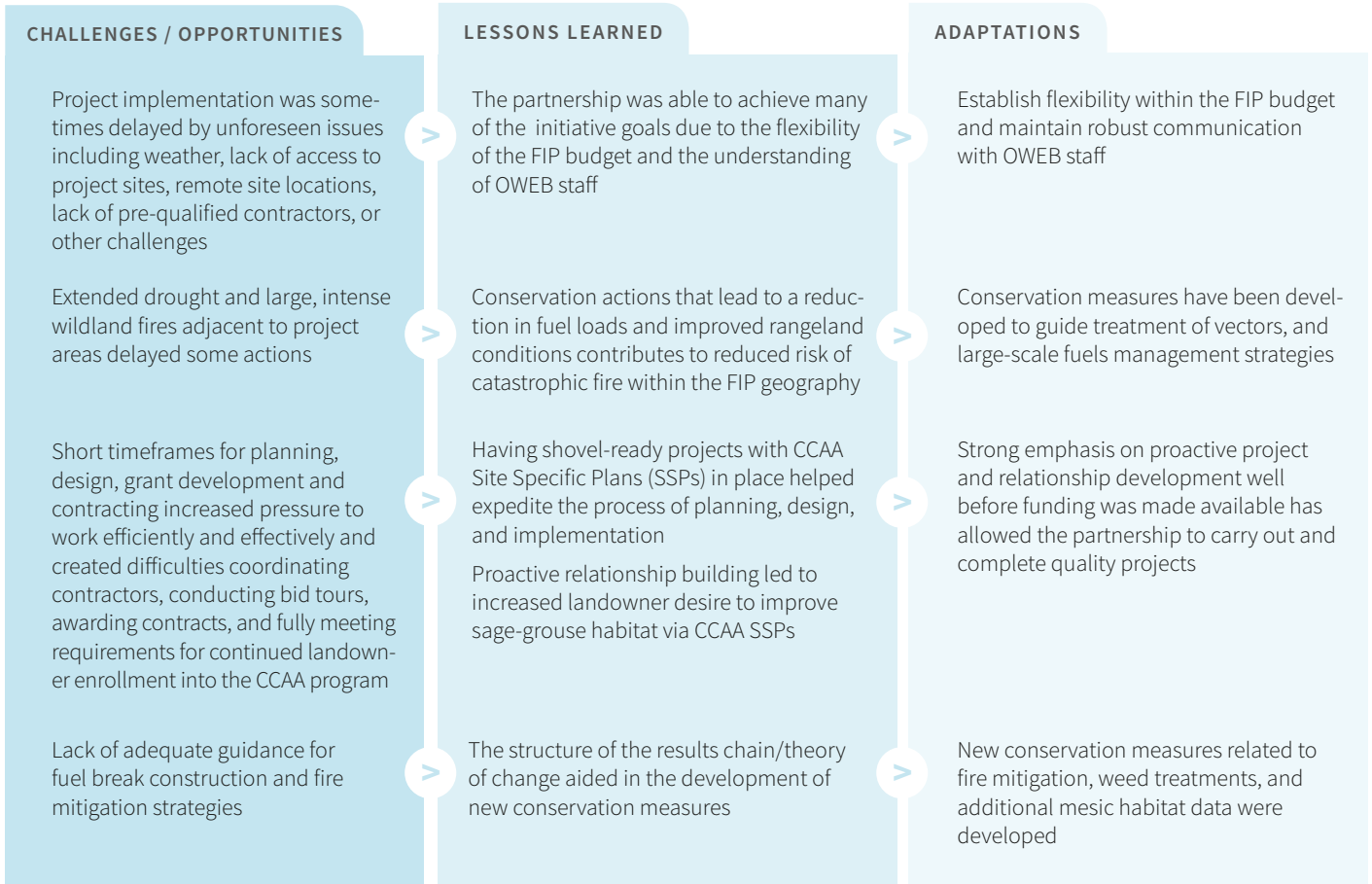
- Collects baseline ecological data
- Completes required monitoring for CCAAs on private lands, including annual monitoring and repeat long-term monitoring (5-7 year increments). Funding to fulfill the thirty-year monitoring obligations is an ongoing concern for the partnership as it is a critical piece of the conservation effort
- Monitors improvements and changes in ecological states in Sage-Grouse habitat over time, including upland and riparian ecosystems, habitat expansion, and rangeland improvements
- Monitors the effectiveness of weed treatment, juniper cutting, rangeland seeding, and grazing management practices

PHOTO USFWS (Tom Koerner)

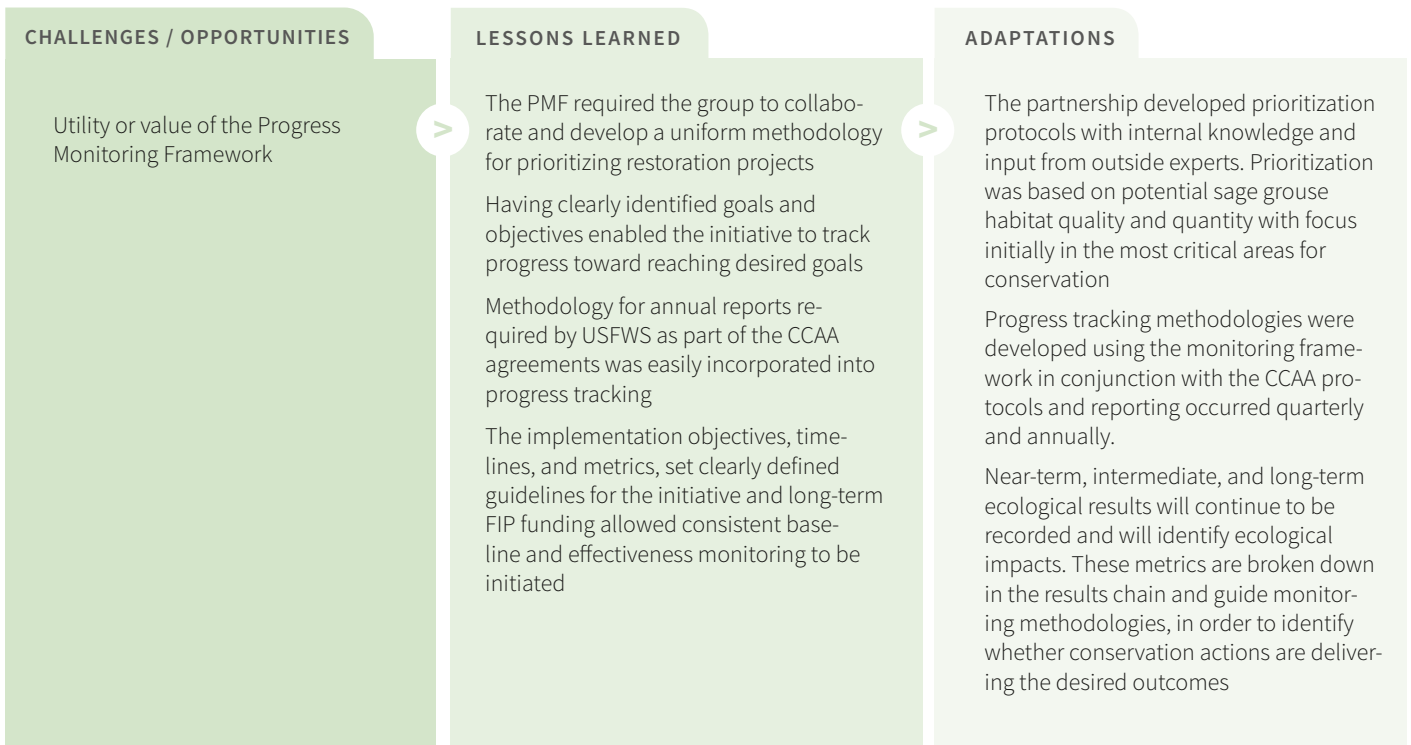


Adaptive Management

Restoration



Planning



Adaptive Management, continued

Partnership Capacity

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

The partnership experienced improved communication and unity amongst its members

Some members of the partnership experienced significant staff turnover throughout the FIP creating complications with project development and monitoring

LESSONS LEARNED

Improved partner communication resulted in uniform monitoring and increased ability to problem solve across county jurisdictional boundaries with project implementation and design

Stronger communication increased interest of outside FIP partners and greater willingness to combine funds and effort and work on larger, landscape scale projects, ultimately expanding the success of the FIP

Stronger relationships promoted increased fluidity of funds across county lines and breaking down rigidity in fund division and allocation between counties.

Staff turnover emphasized the need to develop a database and clear protocol to input and manage project information

ADAPTATIONS

Relationships and regular communication with partners facilitated the development of a database to improve efficiencies in data collection, plan development, implementation reporting, and monitoring progress toward FIP goals

Database development which has detailed instructions for data collection and reporting requirements allows any new staff to readily enroll, monitor, report conservation measures, create annual reports, and report project acres/locations needed for FIP reporting



PHOTO USFWS (Tom Koerner)

Addressing Climate Change

The partnership has integrated climate change information into the initiative by prioritizing and improving fire mitigation strategies, annual grass abatement practices, and augmenting multiple conservation measures. Increasing resiliency of existing sagebrush communities has always been a priority, but with the increased risk of fire, fuel breaks and fire management plans have shifted to the forefront.

- Climate change guidance has influenced the way the partnership prioritizes projects. With the frequency of large wildfires increasing across the region, the FIP's attention has shifted to how they can prevent devastating fires and conserve the intact sagebrush communities that exist. Fire is a natural part of the sagebrush system, but the increased intensity and more frequent return intervals are not.

The introduction of non-native herbaceous species and the invasion of conifers into historically sagebrush dominated sites (due to the lack of fire), has created the perfect environment for very hot, very destructive fires. Long term drought has also benefitted the invasive annual grasses, while decreasing native forbs, bunchgrasses and shrubs. Alter-

ations in the sagebrush ecosystem including changing fire regimes, spread of invasive grasses, and climate change, have led to new challenges to the landowners and public that live in sagebrush country. Land and species managers, landowners, and other stakeholders need scientific information to improve their ability to understand and address these challenges. In order to implement landscape-scale management decisions, the partnership is able to consult with researchers, rangeland ecologists, and fire professionals to identify treatment methods.

- Our partnership has adapted to changing conditions and conservation measures have been developed to guide our treatment of vectors, and large-scale fuels management strategies. The initiative has always had well developed conservation strategies that address threats to sage-grouse and their habitat, while being able to work together when new challenges arise. The Model to Protect Sage Grouse steering committee does not foresee any circumstances that would prevent the incorporation of climate change considerations into project planning.



PHOTO USDA NRCS

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Willamette Mainstem *Anchor Habitat Working Group*

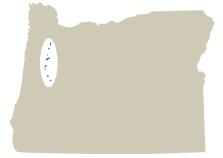
Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats

AQUATIC HABITAT FOR NATIVE FISH SPECIES



PHOTO Freshwaters Illustrated (Matt Blakeley-Smith)

Willamette River Anchor Habitats range from the Middle Fork and Coast Fork confluence to habitats above Willamette Falls. Scientists have identified them as the locations with the highest value fish and wildlife habitat which offer the greatest return on restoration investments. Anchor Habitats represent a stepping-stone approach to providing essential habitat for species with wide ranges such as salmon, songbirds, and butterflies. Since the late 1800s, land use has dramatically altered the river. Development has resulted in over half of the river's 180-mile length being armored. Channels are straightened and dams block upstream fish passage. Runoff from adjacent farms and urban centers has degraded water quality and elevated stream temperatures, nutrients, and bacteria. Rare floodplain forests, which provide critical seasonal habitat for fish, have declined by more than 70%.

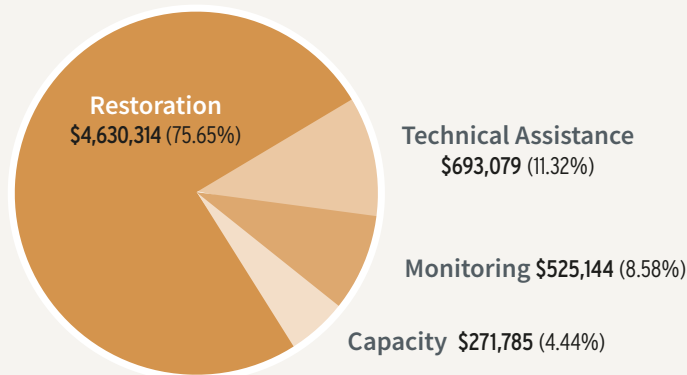


Benefits

- Expanded floodplain habitat from removing levees and enhancing former gravel pits
- Increased number of side channels that support cooler water temperatures
- Enhanced riparian vegetation along sloughs and channels providing shade and habitat
- Reduced coverage of aquatic invasive species
- Improved fish passage by modifying artificial barriers
- Coordinated monitoring approach to measure progress and quantify outcomes

Funding

OWEB awarded \$6,120,321 in funding with \$4,100,833 in matching funds.



ABOUT THIS REPORT

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant program is a bold, new conservation approach that supports high-performing partnerships to implement strategic restoration actions and measure ecological outcomes through coordinated monitoring. In January 2016, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board awarded a FIP grant to the Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitat Working Group. This report documents projects for which funding was obligated in Biennia 2-3 (2017-2021) and cumulative progress since the FIP was initiated in 2016.

Work completed under the FIP grant program is part of a much larger, on-going collaborative effort of federal, state, and local agencies, private landowners and non-governmental organizations implementing restoration work guided by the Willamette Basin Planning Atlas. The restoration is backed by the funding partnership between Bonneville Power Administration, Meyer Memorial Trust and OWEB that supports large-scale and complex projects on the mainstem Willamette River.

PARTNERS

Benton Soil and Water Conservation District, Bonneville Environmental Foundation, Calapooia Watershed Council, Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District, 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, City of Eugene, City of Salem, Trust for Public Land, United States Geological Service

GOAL

Sustain and enhance seasonally important resources for native fish through increasing habitat complexity and quantity, improving floodplain connectivity, and restoring floodplain forests in the Upper and Middle Willamette Mainstem Anchor Habitats

STRATEGIES

- Remove revetments and levees in reaches likely to experience channel changes
- Construct lateral channels in areas with high likelihood of hyporheic flow
- Plant riparian vegetation along sloughs and side channels
- Control aquatic invasive weeds

- Increase and enhance floodplain plant communities
- 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 pits, re-grading boundaries and filling ponds

IMPLEMENTATION (2017-2021)

Restoration

2.14

MILES
OFF-CHANNEL
FISH HABITAT

1282.6

ACRES OF FLOODPLAIN
FOREST RESTORED

4

BARRIERS MODIFIED
FOR FLOODPLAIN
CONNECTIVITY

251

ACRES OF AQUATIC
INVASIVE SPECIES
TREATED

Planning

5

TECHNICAL RESTORATION
DESIGNS COMPLETED

Scientific Investigation

5 + 300

RIVER MILES ACRES

monitored over 3 years to assess changes in vegetation, inundation, stream temperature, geomorphology, and fisheries

1

PRESENTATION
OF PRELIMINARY
MONITORING
FINDINGS TO
PARTNERS

Outreach & Engagement

1

COLLABORATIVE PROCESS
facilitated with landowners and
partners to inform restoration

12

PRIVATE
LANDOWNERS
ENGAGED

3

RESTORATION AGREEMENTS
with private landowners obtained

OUTCOMES

Expected Near Term 0-10+ YEARS

- River channel is re-connected to its historical floodplain
- Length of secondary channels is increased
- Native fish accessibility to the floodplain is increased
- Native riparian forest is enhanced
- Extent of invasive plant species is reduced

Expected Long Term 20+ YEARS

- Channel migration and sinuosity increases
- Canopy cover and near-bank shading increases
- Temperature and dissolved oxygen conditions improve
- Habitat connectivity and complexity increases
- Seasonally important habitat resources for native fish increase

FIP Initiative Progress, Biennia 1-3

Progress on metrics reflects implementation supported by OWEB funding, and does not represent all progress achieved via other funding sources.



Monitoring Approach

The partnership will measure and report progress by implementing “A Proposed Framework for Willamette River Floodplain Implementation, Effectiveness and Status and Trends Monitoring” a plan developed by members of the partnership that:

- Provides a framework to assess implementation and effectiveness of restoration projects
- Collects data to monitor changing water levels and river features that native fish need at different times of year
- Evaluates the impact of aquatic invasive species on water quality
- Tracks changes in vegetation and ecological responses to reforestation
- Conducts fish sampling to assess native fish habitat use

PHOTO Ann Kreager



Adaptive Management

Planning

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

The progress monitoring framework has been the bedrock of the partnership's project prioritization process and the formation of the project implementation pipeline



LESSONS LEARNED

The agreed upon set of objectives and metrics of success allowed the partnership to easily articulate shared goals and make project prioritization decisions



ADAPTATIONS

The partnership will update its strategic action plan to tie efforts to other regional initiatives to build more robust partnerships that can leverage funding from a wider array of sources

Monitoring

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

There are many restoration partners and associated monitoring programs across the Willamette basin



LESSONS LEARNED

Synthesizing all existing monitoring programs in the basin and telling a cohesive story about the effectiveness of specific restoration actions is challenging



ADAPTATIONS

Partnership members USGS, BEF and the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District developed "A Proposed Framework for Willamette River Floodplain Implementation, Effectiveness and Status and Trends Monitoring", a comprehensive monitoring framework. Implementing the Framework will require securing long-term dedicated funding.

Partnership Capacity

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

The covid pandemic prevented the partnership from meeting in person creating substantial challenges to collaborative decision making



Several key staff members important to the partnership have moved on to other positions



LESSONS LEARNED

Over the preceding years, the partnership has developed a high level of trust, an updated project prioritization framework, and a project pipeline with broad partnership buy-in

Staff turnover has proved challenging to the health of the partnership and its ability to collaborate, and integration of new staff was challenged by the inability to meet in person and winddown of the FIP initiative

Early development of creating robust partnership structures built on mutual trust were crucial to navigating staff transitions



ADAPTATIONS

The partnership held meetings virtually and a new internal web portal allowed all members to easily access documents and decision-making tools

These funds have supported project managers and contractors throughout the regions in numerous ways. The initiative has also supported a dedicated partnership coordinator and a monitoring team.

With the sunseting of the FIP initiative and Meyer Memorial Trust's Willamette River Initiative, it will be difficult to retain the talent and expertise in the organizations which have been a part of our partnership.

Engagement

CHALLENGES / OPPORTUNITIES

Some outreach and engagement objectives were hampered due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to host field days and public meetings



LESSONS LEARNED

Because of the inability to meet in person the partnership developed a series of online tools and processes that enabled effective and efficient internal and external collaboration and communication



ADAPTATIONS

The partnership built an inward facing website designed to house all partnership documents and keep all partners abreast of all elements of the initiative's work and an outward facing story map to help all members of the partnership communicate effectively about accomplishments

Addressing Climate Change

From the outset of the FIP initiative the partnership focused on building climate resilience in the Willamette Basin. The anchor habitat stepping stones approach is focused on protecting and enhancing remnant locations along the mainstem Willamette River that can provide survivable habitats under changing climatic conditions. Altered flows and warming temperatures will continue to impact the ability of native fish to find suitable habitat in the Willamette. The partnership has been focused on ensuring that these relatively high-quality habitats are resilient in the face of climate change and fish are able to move up and down the river throughout the year.

Warm stream temperatures are a major limiting factor for the health of native fish. As summers become hotter and longer, some reaches of the Willamette may prove increasingly treacherous to fish species intolerant of water temperatures above a certain threshold. Some off-channel habitats currently dominated by invasive aquatic weeds are potentially too warm for Chinook salmon and steelhead even if aquatic invasive weeds are removed and habitat structure restored.

Thus, the partnership has been interrogating its approach to dealing with the issue of aquatic invasive weeds, however they have not formally updated their objectives.

The partnership's 2015 action plan included climate change considerations as a core factor in developing the initiative's strategies and actions. The FIP initiative and associated project pipeline was conceived to move the needle over a relatively short period of time (6 years). While all partners agree that climate change is going to influence ecosystem function, it is difficult to incorporate a clear understanding of what these changes will be, and more specifically, how they will impact individual projects. General trends associated with climate change (warming temperatures, decreased snowpack/summer flows) are understood and largely agreed upon amongst partners. However, partners are focused on implementing the current project pipeline in accordance with our existing theory of change and lack the capacity, expertise, or time to make substantial updates to the initiative as it relates to an increased understanding as to the local effects of climate change.



PHOTO Freshwaters Illustrated (Matt Blakeley-Smith)

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