



Oregon

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Lauri Aunan, Grant Program Manager
Karen Leiendecker, Eastern Oregon Regional Program Representative

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item H: OWEB Grant Award Recommendations
Region 5, Eastern Oregon
September 16-17, 2008 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This staff report describes the Eastern Oregon Regional Review Team recommendations and staff recommendations for funding.

II. Background and Summary

Applicants submitted 52 applications for a total request of \$5,123,168. The Regional Review Team (RRT) recommended 34 applications for approximately \$2.6 million. Staff recommend funding 33 applications for a total award of \$2,486,329: \$2,086,677 for Restoration; \$188,319 for Technical Assistance; and \$211,333 for Assessment. No Acquisition applications were submitted in Region 5.

III. Regional Review Team Recommendations

The Eastern Oregon Regional Review Team (RRT) met in Hines on June 24-25, 2008, to review the applications received in this grant cycle. All applications were reviewed for technical merit and given a "do fund" or "no fund" recommendation by the RRT. The RRT then prioritized the applications recommended for funding.

The Region 5 RRT recommended for funding seven Technical Assistance applications and three Assessment applications, five of which included reductions in recommended funding. The RRT also recommended conditions for one of the Technical Assistance applications. Staff agree with the RRT recommendations; in addition, staff reduced the budget and added a condition for one of the Assessment applications. Significant reductions and conditions are summarized below.

Technical Assistance

- The RRT did not support the size of the engineering budget for 209-5013 (BNW Proposed Wetland, constructed wetlands for water quality improvement) and recommended reducing the budget by \$11,436.

- For application 209-5019 (Chadwick Farms, project design to restore native grasslands and 1.5 miles of Pyles Creek south of Union), the RRT recommended that OWEB not fund partner recruitment and adjacent landowner discussions, reducing the budget from \$31,823 to \$19,954, a reduction of \$11,869.
- For application 209-5039 (Camp Creek Diversion Restoration Design Project, design for fish passage, irrigation and sedimentation on Camp Creek, an important steelhead spawning stream), the RRT was critical of the high cost for design given only two landowners and small acreage, and recommended reducing the budget from \$44,709 to \$27,500, a reduction of \$17,209.

Assessment

- Application 209-5047 requested \$122,885 to assess 172,346 acres in the Bridge Creek Watershed near Mitchell. The RRT recommended reducing personnel and survey costs by \$30,000 for a recommended award of \$92,885. Staff concur with this recommendation.
- Although the RRT recommended funding the full amount of the request for 209-5006 (\$68,550), Upper Owyhee Assessment Phase II, staff recommend that the Board fund this application at a reduced level of \$44,000, with conditions. Since the Upper Owyhee Watershed has significant acreage located in Idaho and Nevada, staff needs assurance that OWEB funds will be spent only on the Oregon portion. The revised amount will fund \$40,000 for the contractor and \$4,000 for fiscal administration, and OWEB funds are only to be used to pay for assessment of the 220,000+ acres in Oregon.

Restoration

The RRT recommended for funding 24 Restoration applications, eight of which included reductions in recommended funding and five of which include recommended special conditions. Staff agree with all of the RRT recommendations. Significant reductions are summarized below.

- For 209-5007 (Thomas Irrigation Enhancement Project, irrigation improvements to improve water quality by reducing erosion from flood irrigation that drains into Succor Creek), the RRT recommended reducing OWEB's contribution to pipe installation costs, decreasing the budget from \$115,366 to \$105,124, a reduction of \$10,242.
- Project 209-5034 (Moore Feedlot Relocation Project) proposes to move a feedlot which currently results in runoff to the Burnt River. The RRT recommended that OWEB funding be used only for the portions of the application that pertain to water quality improvement and ecological benefits, and removed the concrete pads from OWEB funding. This reduced the budget from \$133,417 to \$107,616, a reduction of \$25,801.
- The RRT supported the upland project in 209-5038 (Lookout Mountain Sage Grouse/Mountain Mahogany Improvement Project), particularly because of the focus on mountain mahogany. The RRT felt that more information was needed on the juniper portion of the application and recommended eliminating juniper treatment, reducing the budget from \$246,789 to \$96,708, a reduction of \$150,081.

- Project 209-5050 (Rudio Creek Water System) proposes piping an open ditch to improve water quality in Rudio Creek, the largest tributary of the North Fork John Day and an important spawning and rearing habitat for spring Chinook salmon. The RRT recognized that OWEB cannot fund the requested replacement of an existing mainline water system and eliminated it, reducing the budget from \$117,554 to \$90,596, a reduction of \$26,958.

IV. Staff Recommendations

A. Capital Applications

- *Restoration.* Staff recommend funding all 24 of the RRT- recommended Restoration applications, with the budget reductions and conditions summarized in Section III of this report.

B. Non-Capital Applications

- *Technical Assistance.* Staff recommend funding six of the seven RRT-recommended Technical Assistance applications, with the budget reductions and conditions summarized in Section III of this report.
- *Assessment.* Staff recommend funding all three of the RRT-recommended Assessment applications, with the budget reductions and conditions summarized in Section III of this report.

Attachment A shows the applications, funding amounts, conditions (if any), and priority rankings recommended for funding to OWEB staff by the RRT. The table also indicates, by means of shaded entries, the OWEB staff recommendations to the Board. For some applications, the amount shown in the table is the staff or RRT funding recommendation rather than the amount requested in the application.

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

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

Attachments

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

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Assessment Projects Recommended for Funding by the RRT
April 21, 2008 Grant Cycle

Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
209-5006	Upper Owyhee Assessment Phase II*/^	44,000	1
209-5029	Brownlee Reservoir Subbasin Assessment	74,448	2
209-5047	Bridge Creek Watershed Assessment*	92,885	3
Total Assessment Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$235,883	
Total Assessment Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$211,333	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ^Fund with Conditions

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by the RRT
April 21, 2008 Grant Cycle

Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
209-5028	Implementation Plan for Pine Creek near Halfway OR	48,420	1
209-5013	BNW Proposed Wetland*	33,660	2
209-5000	Fruitvale Irrigation System Restoration and Upgrade	9,285	3
209-5015	Owyhee Irrigation Partner Assistance^	49,500	4
209-5019	Chadwick Farms*	19,954	5
209-5039	Camp Creek Diversion Restoration Design Project*	27,500	6
209-5017	Clean Water Neighborhood Project Management^	50,000	7
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$238,319	
Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$188,319	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ^Fund with Conditions

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by the RRT
April 21, 2008 Grant Cycle

Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

Project #	Project Name	Capital Funds	Non-Capital Funds	Total Amount	Priority
209-5027	Burnt River/Woodtick Watershed Restoration WUI	234,827	0	234,827	1
209-5046	Mountain Creek Fish Passage	32,250	0	32,250	2
209-5001	John Day Basin Fish Habitat Enhancement Program	96,457	0	96,457	3
209-5026	Banks Ditch Push-up Dam Removal	112,600	0	112,600	4
209-5023	Summerfield Pasture Enhancement*/^	34,266	0	34,266	5
209-5003	Five Creeks - Riddle Ranch Restoration Project	271,414	0	271,414	6
209-5007	Thomas Irrigation Enhancement Project*	105,124	0	105,124	7
209-5043	Painted Hills Culvert Replacement◇	80,000	0	80,000	8
209-5049	Lower Rudio Creek Restoration*	171,147	0	171,147	9
209-5034	Moore Feedlot Relocation Project*/^	107,616	0	107,616	10
209-5030	Kelsay Creek	22,594	0	22,594	11
209-5032	Rhinehart Pasture Management Project	19,550	0	19,550	12
209-5033	Planting the Powder^	66,750	0	66,750	13
209-5042	Neal Push-Up Dam Removal	66,086	216	66,302	14
209-5038	Lookout Mountain Sage Grouse/Mountain Mahogany Improvement Project*	96,708	0	96,708	15
209-5045	Thompson Creek Uplands Improvement*	30,117	0	30,117	16
209-5050	Rudio Creek Water System*/^	90,596	0	90,596	17
209-5010	Stinkingwater Habitat Enhancement & Grazing Management	29,050	0	29,050	18
209-5041	John Day Basin Juniper Control 08	79,552	0	79,552	19
209-5035	West Fork Meadowbrook Riparian Improvement	60,297	0	60,297	20
209-5004	Silvies Riparian Enhancement and Energy Conservation*/^	44,135	0	44,135	21
209-5002	John Day Uplands Rehabilitation Incentive Program	114,172	750	114,922	22
209-5048	Freeman Spring Developments	17,628	0	17,628	23
209-5008	2008 Upper Joseph Creek Restoration	102,775	0	102,775	24
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT		\$2,085,711	\$966	\$2,086,677	
Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board		\$2,085,711	\$966	\$2,086,677	

* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction ^Fund with Conditions ◇Fund with Salmon Plate funds

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Technical Assistance Projects NOT Recommended for Funding by the RRT
April 21, 2008 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project name	Total Amount Requested
209-5021	North Pine Creek Crossing	50,000
209-5025	Determining Status of Native Fish as a Restoration Tool	41,639
209-5037	Upper Wallowa River Stream Bank Stabilization	50,000

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Technical Assistance Projects Withdrawn by Applicant
April 21, 2008 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project name	Total Amount Requested
209-5020	Cougar Springs Wetlands	30,290

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Restoration Projects NOT Recommended for Funding by the RRT
April 21, 2008 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project name	Total Amount Requested
209-5005	Black Mountain Lane Restoration	100,203
209-5009	Little Muddy Creek Range & Habitat Restoration	143,540
209-5011	Malheur River Run-off Elimination	34,177
209-5012	Rose Creek Irish Spring Fire Fencing Project	56,002
209-5014	Butler Ranches Juniper Removal Project	128,110
209-5016	Berrett Water Quality Protection	147,710
209-5022	Wolf Creek Riparian Improvement Project	64,252
209-5024	Clear Creek Push-Up Dam Replacement	271,900
209-5031	Desolation and Granite Creek Watersheds	395,707
209-5036	Oxbow Conservation Area Instream Habitat Project	181,949
209-5040	Opal Butte	414,500
209-5044	Gable Creek Irrigation Efficiency/Fish Passage	83,431
209-5051	Knox Fence & Water System	51,037

Region 5 - Eastern Oregon
Restoration Projects Withdrawn by Applicant
April 21, 2008 Grant Cycle

Project #	Project name	Total Amount Requested
209-5018	Butter Creek-Vinson Riparian Fencing Project	14,707