

## **March 18-19, 2009 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update #C2: SIP Update**

### **Background**

In 2008, the Board allocated \$10 million for two Special Investment Partnerships (SIP).

### **Deschutes SIP**

In January of 2008, \$4 million was allocated to a partnership with four local groups and the operators of the Pelton Fund (the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Indian Reservation and Portland General Electric). The Deschutes SIP was dedicated to projects that will enhance the habitat and access for anadromous fish reintroduced above the Pelton-Round Butte Dam complex. The Deschutes partners reported to the Board in January of 2009 describing the progress made to date. They are on schedule for allocating the full \$4 million to projects this biennium.

### **Willamette SIP**

In March of 2008, the Board allocated \$6 million to address channel complexity and floodplain connection to the main stem Willamette River. Staff were clear at the time that working on the main stem Willamette would take significant effort and more attention than the Deschutes partnership. At the time OWEB adopted the Willamette SIP, staff were negotiating with the Meyer Memorial Trust as a funding partner.

Since the adoption of the Willamette SIP, OWEB and Meyer Memorial Trust have been cooperating on joint efforts to engage both public and private landowners in the effort to address common interests. While the Willamette SIP is proceeding more slowly, recent activities indicate a concurrence of interests. Attachment A identifies the recent activities of the Willamette SIP.

### **Staff Contact**

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Ken Bierly, at [ken.bierly@state.or.us](mailto:ken.bierly@state.or.us) or 503-986-0182.

# Willamette SIP Status Report

February 6, 2009

## MOAs

1. State Agency agreement signed (by OPRD, DOGAMI, DSL, and OWEB)
2. Funding partners agreement signed (by Meyer Memorial Trust, OWEB)

## Proposals reviewed

1. Stephens Creek Confluence (City of Portland)
2. Mission Slough (Willamette Riverkeeper, OPRD)
3. South Meadow at Buford Park (Friends of Buford Park)

## Review Team Discussion

1. Role of Review Team in project development
2. Discussion of approach to Mission Slough project
3. Development of Project Development Criteria
4. Discussion with City of Portland

## Willamette River Photo Atlas

The Atlas has been completed and distributed.

## Awards

1. **Stephens Creek Confluence: \$199,060.** Grant agreement is signed. Project is completed (see attached photographs).
2. **Mission Slough: \$908,370 in OWEB funds.** Grant agreement is signed. MMT has funded \$196,258 for pre-implementation work. Willamette Riverkeeper has been working on the design with River Design Group and reported on their evaluation of existing conditions to the review team. The review team gave Willamette Riverkeeper feedback on approaches that they feel best fit the SIP objectives.
3. **South Meadow at Buford Park, Phase III: \$204,824 in OWEB funds.** Grant agreement is signed. MMT has funded \$69,500 primarily for monitoring to ensure monitoring data is consistent with the SIP objectives.

**Total OWEB awards: \$1,312,254**

## Active Efforts

1. **Scappoose Bottoms (Scappoose Bay WSC, OPRD).** Estimated implementation cost is **\$200,000**. A channel and floodplain re-connection project on OPRD lands. The Scappoose Bay Watershed Council has applied to the Governor's Fund for the Environment for funding for the technical assistance. If funded, staff will work with the council to coordinate the project development with the review team.
2. **Tryon Creek Confluence (City of Portland). \$100,000 in OWEB funds.** An alcove-floodplain project similar to Stephens Creek. This project was discussed with the review team but is not yet ready for full review.
3. **Columbia Slough Confluence (City of Portland). \$100,000 in OWEB funds.** A collection of alcoves with localized floodplain reconnection.

4. **Upper Johnson Creek acquisition (Metro). \$400,000 OWEB funds.** Floodplain reconnection and alcove restoration.
5. **Flood Plain Rock Pits (DOGAMI).** OWEB is working with DOGAMI to identify the opportunity to reconnect and reclaim abandoned aggregate pits along the Willamette River. Ongoing discussions with DOGAMI are exploring the development of an inventory of pits, documentation of their status and evaluating opportunities for floodplain reconnection.
6. **Bowers Rock Floodplain, Phase I (Riverkeeper).** Willamette Riverkeeper has submitted an application to the Governor's Fund for the Environment for a grant to develop a restoration design for the Bowers Rock property.
7. **Rust Property acquisition (Greenbelt Land Trust).** This property is being acquired with BPA funds. The acquisition of an easement on 200 acres of floodplain next to the Little Willamette Slough and near Bowers Rock State Park will allow restoration of currently farmed fields. MMT and OWEB staff will work with Greenbelt Land Trust to fund the development of a restoration design for the property. OWEB funds will be used to implement the design.

#### **New and Previously identified potential projects**

1. **Lebanon Pits (DOGAMI, City of Lebanon, S. Santiam WSC). Approx. \$500,000.** Reconnection and restoration of three or more abandoned aggregate pits inside City park land next to the South Santiam River.
2. **Middle Fork pits and floodplain (Middle Fork Willamette WSC). Approx. 300,000.** Reconnection and restoration of between one and three abandoned aggregate pits next to the river and reconnection of a couple hundred acres of floodplain.
3. **Clackamas R. channel, floodplain (Metro, Clackamas WSC). Approx. \$600,000.** Acquisition of an island (1 mile long by 0.5 mile wide) about 2 miles upstream from Carver, re-opening a side channel (1.5 miles long), restoration of floodplain conditions and functions.
4. **Several other projects from the City of Portland** could be ready if we invite their submission this biennium. **Approx. \$400,000.**
5. **Multnomah Channel – Sauvie Island reconnection.** The West Multnomah SWCD and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife are exploring the possibility of reconnecting Sauvie Island to the Multnomah Channel.

#### **Ongoing Discussions**

1. **"Programmatic" approaches:**
  - a. OWEB has convened a discussion between the Willamette SIP partners and the Willamette BiOp parties. The conversation was structured to identify where common goals lie and explore how joint investment can occur.
  - b. OWEB and MMT have met with NRCS to discuss the opportunity for floodplain easements associated with the Stimulus bill and NRCS programs.
  - c. OWEB is continuing the dialog with DOGAMI and others to explore programmatic measures to integrate abandoned gravel operations into the dynamics of the river.
  - d. OWEB is approaching the City of Portland, Portland Harbor Superfund group to discuss the potential for shared restoration projects.

**Lessons learned, adaptive adjustments, etc.:**

1. **The effort needs a “spark plug”:** The recent addition to capacity has stimulated connections on a programmatic basin and energized discussions around the Willamette main stem.
2. **Changing existing norms is very difficult:** Changing the thinking about a dynamic river is a significant challenge. Constant reevaluation of principles is critical for the effort.
3. **Challenging Agency Operations is difficult:** This applies to OWEB as well as many of the state and federal agencies. It is difficult for public entities to be flexible and nimble.

**Stephens Creek (before)**



**Stephens Creek (after)**

