

**September 15-16, 2009 OWEB Board Meeting**  
**Executive Director Update #C-4: Flow Conservation Work Group**

**Background**

In January of 2009 staff reported on the deliberations of the Flow Conservation Work Group. The Work Group was pulled together to discuss ways to better integrate flow restoration into the suite of habitat and land conservation efforts that OWEB funds. The Work Group members are listed in the following table:

**Flow Conservation Work Group**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Rich Adams	Oregon State University
Debbie Colbert	Oregon Water Resources Department
Clay Landry	Consultant
Janet Neuman	Lewis & Clark College
Martha Pagel	Attorney
Andrew Purkey	National Fish and Wildlife Foundation
Adam Sussman	Consultant

The members have been extremely helpful in developing suggested approaches to increase the opportunity for funding to effectively facilitate flow restoration. The Work Group met three times between December 2008 and July 2009.

**Policy Discussions**

The Work Group discussed the approach OWEB currently uses to evaluate and solicit flow conservation grant applications. They compared the activities of OWEB with other groups conducting flow conservation funding in the region. Based on the recognized significance of protecting and enhancing flow regimes, especially in the current climate regime change, the Work Group strongly recommended that continued funding of flow restoration be a priority for the Board. At the last Work Group meeting Board recommendations were discussed and additional staff work was suggested.

The Work Group identified the following for further consideration:

1. Explore the potential of cooperating with the Columbia Basin Water Transactions Program (CBWTP) and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) to cost share and review transactions;
2. Budgeting for water conservation for the Biennium; and
3. Only accept water conservation applications in the regular grant program if they clearly do not fit the NFWF program and provide a clear ecological benefit.

Staff will present the final recommendations to the Board with Work Group members at a future meeting.

**Staff Contact**

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