



Oregon

Theodore R. Kulongoski, Governor

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360

Salem, OR 97301-1290

(503) 986-0178

FAX (503) 986-0199

www.oregon.gov/OWEB



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Greg Sieglitz, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item J: Research Program Reports
January 20-21, 2010 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This report provides background on two of the Research Project investments made by the Board in 2009. More detailed presentations will be made by project representatives at the January Board meeting.

II. Climate Change Planning at the Local Level

In 2009, the Board invested research funds in a project specifically designed to provide more exposure to and awareness of climate change at the local level. This project capitalizes on the work of an existing University of Oregon program that creates a forum for dialogue and learning about climate change predictions at the watershed scale.

At the June Board meeting, staff presented the work conducted by the university's Climate Leadership Initiative (CLI) in the Rogue and upper Willamette basins. Staff proposed supporting similar work in the Umatilla, Klamath, and lower Willamette basins over the coming year through the support of a research grant to the CLI. The Board allocated \$171,128 to enter into an agreement to initiate this work in the basins named above.

At the January Board meeting, representatives from the Climate Leadership Initiative will provide a presentation on their efforts in 2009 and answer questions about the program's plans for the coming year.

III. Ecosystem Workforce Evaluation

Another research project the Board invested in 2009 focuses on evaluating, quantifying, and describing the local community economic benefits resulting from Board investments in restoration work. At the January 2009 Board meeting, OWEB staff requested Board approval to contract with the University of Oregon (UO) to prepare an estimate of the economic impact and job creation from OWEB's restoration investments. Work with the UO Ecosystem Workforce Program occurred over the spring and summer to enter into an agreement and to conduct this study. Results from the preliminary analysis were provided to the Board at the March and June meetings. Representatives from the Ecosystem Workforce Program will update the Board on progress of the study to date and outline next steps in 2010.

IV. Recommendation

This is an informational item. No Board action is requested at this time.