



# Oregon

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## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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February 19, 2010

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

**FROM:** Lauri Aunan, Grant Program Manager  
Tom Shafer, North Coast Regional Program Representative  
Miriam Hulst, Acquisitions Specialist

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item F: OWEB Grant Award Recommendations  
Region 1, North Coast  
March 16-17, 2010 OWEB Board Meeting**

### I. Introduction

This staff report describes the North Coast Regional Review Team evaluations and staff recommendations for funding.

### II. Background and Summary

Applicants submitted 31 applications for a total request of \$2,768,598 including \$848,761 for Acquisitions. The Regional Review Team (RRT) recommended to staff 25 applications for funding, and favorably reviewed the two Acquisition applications. Staff recommend 24 applications for a total award of \$1,568,669: \$1,102,430 for Restoration; \$75,439 for Education/Outreach; \$256,342 for Monitoring; and \$134,458 for Technical Assistance.

### III. Regional Review Team Recommendations

The North Coast Regional Review Team (RRT) met in Rockaway Beach in January 2010 to review the applications received in this grant cycle and make recommendations to OWEB staff. Restoration, Education/Outreach, Monitoring and Technical Assistance applications were reviewed for merit and given a “do fund” or “no fund” recommendation by the RRT. The RRT then prioritized the applications recommended for funding.

The Region 2 RRT recommended 10 Restoration applications; six Education/Outreach applications; five Monitoring applications and four Technical Assistance applications.

The RRT recommended to staff increased funding for three Restoration applications, 210-1026, 210-1032, and 210-1023. Staff concur with these recommended increases as described in the Region 1 evaluations for these applications.

The RRT recommended to staff that three Restoration applications be funded with conditions: 210-1032, 210-1046 and 210-1022. Staff concur with the conditions for 210-1022 and 210-1032, as described in the evaluations. Staff do not agree with the condition recommended for 210-1046; based on follow-up discussions with the applicant and U.S. Forest Service staff, OWEB staff recommend increased funding as described in the evaluation. In order to meet the recommended capital funding level for this cycle, staff recommend decreased funding for one Restoration application, 210-1022, as described in the evaluation.

The RRT recommended to staff that Technical Assistance application 210-1038 be funded with conditions. Staff concur with this recommendation, as described in the evaluation.

#### **IV. Acquisitions**

Two land acquisition applications were received from Region 1 this grant cycle. Both of the applications are recommended for deferral.

##### **A. Nehalem Bay Wetlands Conservation Project Phase II (210-106)**

The Lower Nehalem Community Trust (LNCT) requests \$583,761 to purchase five properties totaling approximately 56 acres at the northern edge of Nehalem Bay in Tillamook County. The properties contain freshwater and tidally influenced freshwater forested wetlands, and intertidal salt marsh and mudflats. The application states that the acquisitions will be accompanied by LNCT collaboration with local homeowner's associations (HOAs). The HOAs own 143 acres of wetlands adjacent to the properties LNCT proposes to purchase. LNCT wishes to work with the HOAs to develop conservation-oriented management plans for the HOA-owned wetlands.

The project is the second phase of a two-phase effort to permanently protect wetlands that link land owned by LNCT to Nehalem Bay State Park and large expanses of tidal wetlands adjacent to LNCT-owned land. The first phase, funded jointly by OWEB and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (Coastal Wetlands), is nearly complete, and will permanently protect approximately 14 acres of freshwater and tidally influenced freshwater wetlands.

LNCT proposes to use the currently requested OWEB funds to match approximately \$994,000 in Coastal Wetlands funds recently awarded to OWEB by USFWS for acquisition of the Phase II properties.

At the direction of the Acquisitions Subcommittee, staff requested due diligence materials in November 2009. The RRT felt that the project has high ecological and educational value. The requested due diligence materials have not been received. Staff and the Acquisitions Subcommittee recommend the Board defer consideration of Nehalem Bay Wetlands Conservation Project Phase II until due diligence materials have been received and reviewed.

##### **B. Lewis and Clark River Habitat Conservation Project (210-107)**

The Columbia Land Trust (CLT) requests \$265,000 to purchase a 100-acre property at the head of tide on the Lewis and Clark River in Clatsop County. The property contains approximately one mile of the river, the majority of which includes both banks. CLT proposes to acquire the property in order to correct degradation caused by previous agricultural use. CLT intends to stabilize the river's eroding banks, reconnect the river to its

side channels, revegetate wetlands and floodplain, and address the deleterious effects of the property's dilapidated bridge, which is used by a neighbor to access adjacent property. The application states that the acquisition and restoration projects are in early stages of development.

The RRT felt that the project has high ecological and educational value. The Acquisitions Subcommittee felt that it could possibly be supportive of the project, but that the restoration needed to return the property to good ecological condition will be complex and expensive. The Subcommittee declined to recommend due diligence review without first having a better understanding of the extent of restoration that OWEB can expect CLT to achieve on the property. Specifically, the Acquisitions Subcommittee requested that staff obtain from CLT the following information: 1) the outcomes of CLT consultation with a professional geomorphologist or engineer, experienced in mainstem river restoration work, to determine the extent to which reconnecting the river to its side channels and floodplain is possible; 2) letters of interest from potential restoration funders; 3) the results of CLT's current effort to arrange for alternate access for the neighboring landowner who currently uses the property's bridge; 4) the results of initial dialogue with neighboring landowners regarding CLT's vision for large-scale restoration that includes reconnecting the river to its historic side channels and floodplain; and 5) the outcome of CLT conversation with the Lewis and Clark National Historical Park regarding a partnership to educate the public about the importance of habitat conservation and restoration in the Young's Bay watershed.

If CLT submits all of the requested information within six months, the Acquisitions Subcommittee will review the information, and will either recommend that staff proceed with due diligence or recommend a no-fund decision. Staff currently recommend that the Lewis and Clark River Habitat Conservation Project be deferred for six months to allow CLT the opportunity to submit the additional information requested by the Acquisitions Subcommittee.

## **V. Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommend funding for 10 Restoration applications, five Education/Outreach applications, five Monitoring applications, and four Technical Assistance applications.

Staff and the Acquisitions Subcommittee recommend the Board defer consideration of the two Acquisition applications submitted in October 2009

Attachment A shows the proposals, funding amounts, conditions (if any), and priority rankings recommended as "do fund" to OWEB staff by the RRT. The table also indicates, by means of shaded entries, the OWEB staff "do fund" recommendations to the Board. For some "do fund" projects, the amount shown in the table, and the conditions, may be the staff recommendation rather than the RRT recommendation.

Attachment B shows those applications not recommended for funding at this time by the RRT or by 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 1 - North Coast**  
**Acquisition Applications Receiving a Positive Rating for Ecological Merit by the RRT**  
**And Recommended for Deferral by OWEB Staff**  
**October 19, 2009 Grant Cycle**

Project #	Project Name	Total Amount Requested
210-106	Nehalem Bay Wetlands Conservation Project Phase II	583,761
210-107	Lewis & Clark River Habitat Conservation Project	265,000

**Region 1 - North Coast**  
**Restoration Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT**  
**October 19, 2009 Grant Cycle**

Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

Project #	Project Name	Capital Funds	Non-Capital Funds	Total Amount	Priority
210-1037	Bear Creek Large Wood Placement	31,235	794	32,029	1
210-1039	Miami Wetlands Enhancement <b>EM \$9,464</b>	450,648		450,648	2
210-1030	Alder Creek Stream Enhancement Project	26,391		26,391	3
210-1048	Kenusky Creek Habitat Restoration - Phase II	100,985		100,985	4
210-1026	Fall Creek (Neskowin) Restoration**	131,017		131,017	5
210-1032	Condon Creek Project^**	110,325		110,325	6
210-1023	Elk Flats Restoration and Enhancement Project <b>EM \$17,212**</b>	79,678		79,678	7
210-1043	Feagles Creek Channel Restoration	13,095		13,095	8
210-1046	Little Beaver Creek Fish Passage Project**	28,452		28,452	9
210-1022	Trout Creek Basin Improvement^*	128,385	1,425	129,810	10
<b>Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT</b>		<b>1,100,211</b>	<b>2,219</b>	<b>1,102,430</b>	
<b>Total Restoration Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board</b>		<b>1,100,211</b>	<b>2,219</b>	<b>1,102,430</b>	

\* Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Reduction    \*\*Listed Amount Reflects Recommended Increase    ^Fund with Conditions

**Region 1 - North Coast**  
**Education Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT**  
**October 19, 2009 Grant Cycle**

Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
210-1025	Siuslaw Middle School Stream Team	10,486	1
210-1029	Stream Team Extension IV	9,724	2
210-1040	Utilizing Natural Resource Crews For Watershed Work	24,962	3
210-1034	Mapleton Schools' Watershed Education Program	18,910	4
210-1031	Siuslaw Watershed Exploration Camps 2010	11,357	5
210-1041	Forest to the Sea Outdoor Schools and Habitat Comparison Studies	20,130	6
<b>Total Education Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT</b>		<b>95,569</b>	
<b>Total Education Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board</b>		<b>\$75,439</b>	

**Region 1 - North Coast**  
**Monitoring Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT**  
**October 19, 2009 Grant Cycle**

Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray			
Project #	Project Name	Total Amount	Priority
210-1035	Siuslaw Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program 2010-2011	8,609	1
210-1036	2010 SDCWC Water Quality Monitoring	26,140	2
210-1021	Mid Coast Monitoring Project	117,950	3
210-1049	Upper Nehalem - Rapid Bio-Assessment - Phase II of II	93,643	4
210-1044	Green River Fish Production Monitoring	10,000	5
<b>Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT</b>		<b>256,342</b>	
<b>Total Monitoring Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board</b>		<b>\$256,342</b>	

**Region 1 - North Coast**  
**Technical Assistance Applications Recommended for Funding by the RRT**  
**October 19, 2009 Grant Cycle**

Staff Recommendations to the Board are Highlighted in Gray

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Amount</b>	<b>Priority</b>
210-1028	God's Valley Meadows Technical Assistance	37,833	1
210-1038	Illingsworth Creek Bridge Design & Wetland Feasibility Study^	35,200	2
210-1042	Limiting Factor Project Development (5 Rivers/Upper Yaquina)	37,153	3
210-1047	Upper Nehalem - Landowner Outreach - Cooperation	24,272	4
<b>Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding to Staff by RRT</b>		<b>134,458</b>	
<b>Total Technical Assistance Projects Recommended for Funding by Staff to Board</b>		<b>\$134,458</b>	

^Fund with Conditions

**Region 1 - North Coast**  
**Restoration Applications NOT Recommended for Funding by the RRT**  
**October 19, 2009 Grant Cycle**

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Amount Requested</b>
210-1027	Upper Miami River Restoration Project Phase I	139,908
210-1033	Swamp-Wolf Creek Stream Enhancement Project	55,455
210-1045	Bummer Creek Habitat Enhancement Phase II EM \$37,620	63,140

**Region 1 - North Coast**  
**Restoration Application Ineligible**  
**October 19, 2009 Grant Cycle**

<b>Project #</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Total Amount Requested</b>
210-1024	Cook Creek Riparian Enhancement Project	75,150