

OWEB Small Grants Program

- A watershed council or soil and water conservation district (“swcd”) may apply for a grant on behalf of a private landowner, not-for-profit institution, school, community college, state institution of higher education, independent not-for-profit institution of higher education or political subdivision of this state that is not a state agency. A state agency may apply for funding only as a co-applicant with one of the above eligible entities.

- Funds up to \$10,000 per OWEB fiscal year per landowner for up to 60% of the project cost. (40% match required).

- \$100,000 available to Lower Willamette West region for 2013-2015

- Evaluated by and administered through Lower Willamette West (“LWW”) small grant team composed of Clackamas County SWCD, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, Tualatin SWCD, Tualatin River Watershed Council, Tryon Creek Watershed Council and West Multnomah SWCD personnel

- Supports projects designed to improve water quality, water quantity, fish and wildlife habitat, addressing local priority resource concerns, habitat values and watershed functions ,

- Priority Watershed Concerns and Project Types to be considered by LWW team:*

Two Highest Ranking:1) Riparian Process & Function

a)*Manage Nutrient & Sediment Inputs:* i) manage grazing (fencing and developing off-channel watering) and ii) plantings.

b)*Manage Vegetation:* i) plant or seed native riparian species; ii) propagate native riparian plants; iii) control weeds (in conjunction with a restoration project).

c)*Employ Integrated Pest Management.*

2)Upland Process and Function

a)*Manage Erosion:* i) install sediment basin; ii) develop filter strips grassed waterways; iii) manage mud (e.g., gravel high use areas, develop paddocks); iv) seed bare areas; v) reduce tillage

b) *Manage Nutrient and Sediment Input to Stream through management of* i) grazing; ii) vegetation cover; iii) animal waste; and iv) irrigation runoff.

c)*Manage Vegetation:* i) plant or seed (native upland species or native beneficial mix); ii) control weeds (in conjunction with a restoration project).

d)*Employ Integrated Pest Management*

Five Medium Ranking:1) Instream Process and Function

a)*Improve Instream Habitat:* i) place salmon carcasses; ii) place large wood; iii) place boulders;

b)*Manage Erosion:*i) bioengineer stream banks; ii) slope stream banks.

2.Wetland Process and Function

a)*Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs:* i) fence out livestock; ii) develop alternative watering sites.

b)*Manage Vegetation:* i) control weeds (in conjunction with a restoration project); ii) plant native wetlands species.

c) *Restore Wetlands*: i) excavate remove fill; eliminate drainage structures;

d) *Employ Integrated Pest Management*

3) Fish Passage a) *Remove Irrigation or Push-Up Dams*: i) install alternatives (e.g., infiltration galleries, points-of-diversion transfers) ii) remove or replace culverts; iii) remove or replace stream crossings.

4) Urban Impact Reduction: a) *Install storm water runoff treatments* (create bioswales, pervious surfaces, native plant buffers, “green roofs”).

5) Water Quantity/Irrigation Efficiency: a) *Recharge Groundwater*: roof water harvesting .b) *Implement Irrigation Practices that result in decreased water use & increased instream flow, increased groundwater level or improved water quality*: i) pipe existing ditch; ii) install drip or sprinkler systems; iii) install automated soil moisture monitors; iv) recover or eliminate tail water.

One Lowest Ranking: Private Road Impact Reduction: a) *Decommission Roads*; b) *Improve Surface Drainage* (surface road drainage improvements; gravel surfacing; stream crossings). Grant application must reference technical guidance source being used for small grant process, such as a work or business plan or watershed assessment, action plan or core values and priorities.

Submission and Evaluation:

- Grant team evaluates the grant application based on project type using the Application Evaluation Worksheet (part of application packet) within 30 days after closing date of grant submission period.

- Evaluation Criteria include *basic conditions*: a) project is within team’s area; b) project of one team’s listed eligible priority types; c) the accepted technical guidance is identified; d) the budget shows at least a 40% match sought; e) the budget is reasonable and doesn’t exceed 10% of OWEB requested direct project cost; and f) the application is complete with all attachments and signatures.

Other application review criteria include: 1) the watershed problem is clearly identified; 2) it is clear how the applicant’s project will address the problem identified; 3) the project is the best treatment for the watershed problem; 4) the technical guidance source identified is appropriate for the project; 5) the project is consistent with a local natural resources plan; 6) the project clearly demonstrates landowner commitment (labor, time, etc.); 7) the post-project monitoring is reasonable to determine the effectiveness of the project; 8) the post-project maintenance is appropriate for sustaining the value of the project; 9) the project has other active partners; 10) the budget is cost effective/reasonable, and 11) the project can realistically be completed within 24 months.

- OWEB requires a fiscal agent for small grant projects, which may receive up to 10% of the grant funds for grant administration. LWW OWEB small grants projects must use one of the LWW team members or designated agents. Grant funds will not support equipment purchases.

- **Projects must be completed within two years** from date of LWW grant team approval and

the agreement signed within 90 days of award.

- OWEB will pay for no more than two years of post-plant establishment or up to \$1000 for two years, paid in final payment request.**Project maintenance and effectiveness monitoring are the responsibility of the land owner.**

- Grant awards 1) can advance 60% of small grant award upon presentation of detailed estimate of expenses for a specified time period or reimburse expenses to date upon presentation of receipts and invoices; 2) second and final payment is released upon submission of receipts and invoices for expenditures for previously released and currently requested funds; 3)**no funds may be released until submission of evidence that all required permits and licenses for the project are granted;**and 4) **the second and final grant payment is not disbursed until a completed spread sheet detailing expenses, receipts and invoices, actual match form, project completion report and habitat restoration reporting form are submitted.**

- Upon project completion** grant recipients send a report to OWEB and the Small Grants Team describing the project, including photographs of completed project site and a completed copy of the current habitat restoration reporting form.

- Two years from project completion**, grant recipients send a report to LWW team with photographs describing project status, their successes and challenges in maintaining the project's benefits.

To contact LWW team members:

- 1) Carolyn Devine, Tryon Creek Watershed Council, coordinator@tryoncreek.org
- 2) April Olbrich, Tualatin River Watershed Council, 503-846-4810, twrc@trwc.org;
- 3) Scott Gall, on, West Multnomah SWCD, 503-238-4775 x105, scott@wmswcd.org
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- 5) Stephanie Wagner, Oswego Lake Watershed Council, stephanie@natureed.org
- 6) Erik Carr, Clackamas County SWCD, 503-210-6012, ecarr@conservationdistrict.org

Thanks April Olbrich from Tuallatin River Watershed Council for this write up of the small grants program.