



OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Proposed Direction *for* OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation Listening Session Information & Agenda

Background

Passage of Ballot Measure 76 in 2010 provided long-term funding for grants to conserve, restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat, watersheds, and water quality. The proposed Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation is one effort OWEB has underway to review its priorities and programs following passage of Measure 76. OWEB has other efforts happening at the same time, such as the program review of watershed council support grants. We expect these efforts will inform each other.

While Measure 76 provided permanent funding, state Lottery revenues are no longer increasing, but are projected to be flat or decline. Because there is not enough OWEB grant funding to meet all existing needs, choices will have to be made. The investment strategy will guide the Board's programs and granting decisions.

Proposal

Please read the document "Proposed Direction for OWEB's Long-Term Investment Strategy for Conservation" for more information about this effort which defines the framework for OWEB's current investment areas and proposals:

- **Operating Capacity Investments** - Continue with proposed changes
- **Open Solicitation Investments** - Continue with proposed changes
- **Focused Investments** - Continue with proposed changes and a gradual increase over time
- **Effectiveness Monitoring and Reporting** - Continue with proposed changes
- **Emerging Issues** - Develop a new competitive grant offering

For more information, please visit:

<http://www.oregon.gov/oweb/pages/LTIS-for-conservation.aspx>

Because OWEB respects the experience, knowledge and accomplishments of our partners, we are taking the time to get early input to inform our thinking. The proposal is not finalized and the details are not yet developed. We are seeking your ideas on the direction and what the details might look like. Once the Board adopts the strategy, OWEB will engage stakeholders in discussions to develop the details, beginning in mid-2013.

Agenda

Opening Remarks *(15 minutes)*

Process and Timeline *(5 minutes)*

Presentation of proposal *(40 minutes including questions)*

Breakout groups visit 4 facilitated stations with questions (see below) *(1.5 hours)*

Report highlights of station feedback *(20 minutes)*

Next steps - how to stay engaged through surveys and written feedback *(10 minutes)*

Open Solicitation Investments

Proposal

- **Small grants:** increase funding and expand types of grants beyond restoration (for example, outreach and monitoring small grants).
- **Regular restoration grants:** caps on individual applications as a way to fund more projects across the state.
- Develop a new process for “**big ticket, large cost**” restoration projects.
- Develop an **outreach grant strategy**, including partnering with other outreach funders to leverage additional investment.

Reason

Maintain or expand the grant opportunities for local projects, even if the amount of funding for Open Solicitation Investments does not increase, or is reduced over time.

Questions

- What benefits and consequences do you see in these ideas?
- What are your ideas for the criteria and process the Board should consider for:
 - Expanding types of applications funded by the small grant program?
 - Exploring funding caps on individual restoration applications?
 - Developing a new process for “big ticket, large cost” restoration applications?
 - Developing a strategy for outreach grants?
- Do you see anything missing or have additional ideas the Board should consider?

Focused Investments

Proposal

- Phase-in a gradual **increase in this investment area over time**.
- Develop criteria and process for Board selection of collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes.
- Update criteria and process and improve transparency of Board decisions around Focused Investments, including clear time limits.

Reason

With committed funding over multiple years, Focused Investments provide greater certainty for OWEB and partners in making progress toward collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes. The increased state emphasis on 10-year outcomes makes it important for OWEB to invest in more certain progress, and to develop clear criteria and process for prioritized ecological outcomes.

Questions

- What benefits and consequences do you see in these ideas?
- What criteria should the Board consider in selection of collaboratively prioritized ecological outcomes?
- What processes should the Board consider for selecting priorities and making decisions about Focused Investments?
- Do you see anything missing or have additional ideas the Board should consider?

Focused Effectiveness Monitoring & Reporting

Proposal

- Include effectiveness monitoring in all of OWEB’s Focused Investments.

Reason

Outcomes are foundational to sound investments and adaptive management. It is important to tell the story of accomplishments from OWEB’s investments.

Questions

- What criteria should the Board consider in investing in effectiveness monitoring?
- What are your ideas for how to most effectively share effectiveness monitoring results?
- Do you see anything missing or have additional ideas the Board should consider?

Competitive Offering for Emerging Issues

Proposal

- Develop criteria, structure and process.
- Consider activities appropriate for one-time/short term funding that are consistent with OWEB’s mission, but do not qualify under OWEB’s other grant programs.
- Examples include conservation efforts that require short-term assistance for planning or research, and pilot funding for innovative approaches to natural resources management.

Reason

OWEB has invested in emerging issues in the past. It is important to have clear structure, criteria and process to guide decisions on funding requests.

Questions

- What benefits and consequences do you see in this idea?
- What criteria should the Board consider in creating this new offering?
- What process should the Board use to consider proposals?
- Do you see anything missing or have additional ideas the Board should consider?