



Oregon

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Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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MEMORANDUM

TO: Focused Investment Subcommittee

FROM: Courtney Shaff, Capacity Coordinator

SUBJECT: Focused Investment Partnership: Capacity Building Applications



I. Introduction

In July 2015 the Board adopted a spending plan that included \$1 million for focused investment capacity building awards to support initiatives addressing the Board's adopted priorities.

II. Solicitation Process

In May 2015, staff solicited both capacity building and implementation applications for focused investment initiatives. A July 1, 2015 deadline was established for letters of intent to submit capacity building applications and phase I implementation applications.

Capacity building applications and phase 2 implementation applications were due November 2, 2015. Capacity building applications addressed one or more of the following: elevating the partnership's current level of performance, developing or enhancing a SAP, or addressing community outreach and engagement relative to the partnership's capacity building efforts.

III. Application Review

By the July 1 deadline, OWEB received 26 letters of intent to submit capacity building applications. By the November 2 deadline, OWEB received 23 capacity building applications, requesting almost \$2.5million. The applications address all of the OWEB Priorities and are distributed around the state as shown in Attachment A. All applications were evaluated by an expert review team and by OWEB staff, including regional program representatives, the capacity coordinator, and FIP staff.

The capacity building expert review team (Attachment B) included experts on organizational capacity from various organizations throughout the state. The team discussed each application, focusing on the partnership's readiness and the likeliness of successful completion of the proposed project.

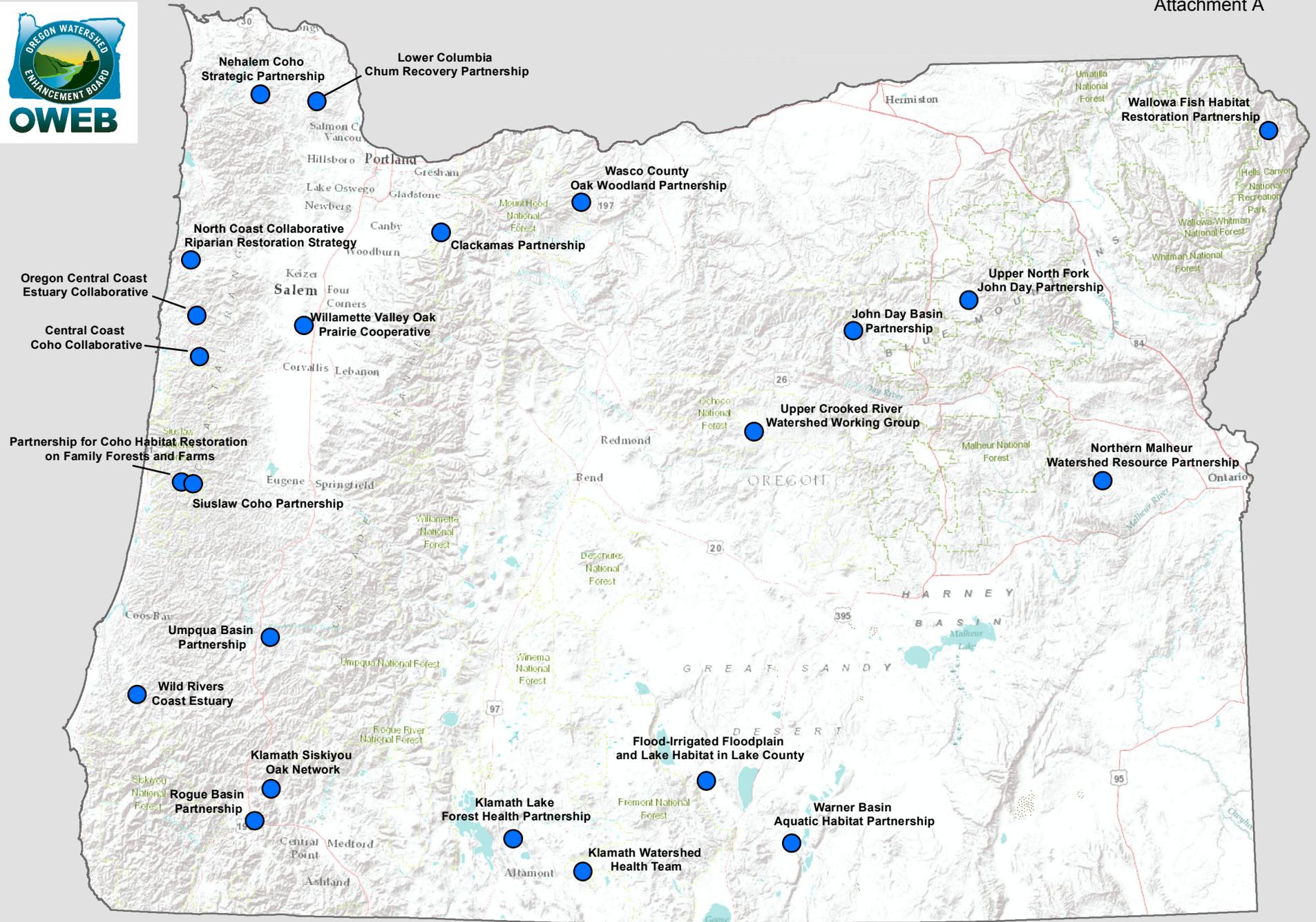
A list of applications, in priority order, and evaluations are provided in Attachments C and D and were provided to applicants and posted on OWEB's website.

IV. Subcommittee Action

OWEB Staff recommends the Board Subcommittee on Focused Investments recommend to the OWEB Board awarding the applications highlighted in gray in Attachment C.

Attachments

- A. Map of FIP Capacity Building Applications
- B. Building Capacity Expert Review Team
- C. List of FIP Capacity Building Applications in Priority Order
- D. FIP Capacity Building Evaluations



Focused Investment Capacity Building Expert Review Team

Name	Organization
Todd Reeve	Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Emily Jane Davis	OSU Extension
Yvette Rhodes	Ford Family Foundation
Sybil Ackerman	Oregon Community Foundation
Eric Nusbaum	Oregon Department of Agriculture

2015-2017 FIP Capacity Building Applications

Project Number	Region	Applicant	Project Name	OWEB Request	Priority
216-8300-12524	1	Siuslaw SWCD	Siuslaw Coho Partnership	\$86,020	1
216-8300-12539	6	Confed Tribes Warm Springs	John Day Basin Partnership ^	\$149,613	2
216-8300-12525	2	South Coast WC	Wild Rivers Coast Estuaries *	\$150,000	3
216-8300-12526	2	Rogue Basin Coordinating Council	Rogue Basin Partnership	\$147,483	4
216-8300-12533	3	Clackamas River Basin Council	Clackamas Partnership ^	\$137,696	5
216-8300-12538	4	Lake County Umbrella WC	Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership	\$41,250	6
216-8300-12518	1	The Nature Conservancy	Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative*	\$42,777	7
216-8300-12519	5	Grande Ronde Model WS Program	Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership	\$83,490	8
216-8300-12534	2	Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers	Umpqua Basin Partnership	\$149,734	9
216-8300-12528	1	North Coast WS Assn	Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership	\$82,500	10
216-8300-12531	1	MidCoast WC	Central Coast Coho Collaborative	\$150,000	11
216-8300-12529	1	Upper Nehalem WC	Nehalem Coho Strategic Partnership	\$64,350	12
216-8300-12527	4	Wasco SWCD	Wasco County Oak Woodland Partnership	\$29,946	13
216-8300-12540	6	North Fork John Day WC	Upper North Fork John Day Partnership	\$150,000	14
216-8300-12521	3	Greenbelt Land Trust	Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative	\$86,483	15
216-8300-12535	4	Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership	Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership	\$149,516	16
216-8300-12520	4	Klamath Bird Observatory	Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network	\$110,059	17
216-8300-12522	5	Malheur WC	N. Malheur Watershed Resource Partnership	\$95,700	18
216-8300-12523	4	Central Oregon Intergovt Council	The Upper Crooked River Watershed WG	\$145,805	19
216-8300-12537	1	Tillamook Estuaries Partnership	North Coast Collaborative Riparian Restoration Strategy	\$75,341	20
216-8300-12530	4	Ducks Unlimited - Chris Colson	Flood-Irrigated Floodplain and Lake Habitat in Lake County	\$95,468	21
216-8300-12532	1	Placeholder	Partnership for Coho Habitat Restoration on Family Forests and Farms	\$143,000	22
216-8300-12536	4	Klamath SWCD	Klamath Watershed Health Team	\$107,425	23
Total FIP Capacity Building Application Recommended by Staff to Focused Investment Subcommittee				\$988,063	

^ Some application costs need further explanation, final recommended award maybe reduced.

* Some application costs may be ineligible, final recommended award may be reduced.

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12518

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative

Requested Amount: \$42,777

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Oregon Central Coast Estuary Collaborative is a network of estuary conservation and restoration practitioners collaborating to improve the health and resilience of estuaries on Oregon's Central Coast. Our Core Partners for this capacity-building application are: The Nature Conservancy, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, Estuary Technical Group of the Institute for Applied Ecology, MidCoast Watersheds Council, Nestucca-Neskowin-Sand Lake Watersheds Council, Salmon Drift Cr. Watershed Council, Siuslaw Watershed Council, The Wetlands Conservancy, Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service Restoration Programs.

Our long-term goal is protecting and restoring ecologically functional estuaries on the central Oregon Coast. We will use capacity-building funding to complete our strategic action plan, identify a scope of work suitable for a FIP proposal, identify funding for that work, conduct outreach necessary for that work, and develop organizational documents. Funds will be used to help pay for facilitation, travel, and participation by non-profit "Core Groups."

Completion of our strategic plan and outreach will result in coordinated actions among our partners leading to improved ecological health for Oregon's central coast estuaries. Over half of major estuaries in Oregon are located in our area; improving these estuaries will provide significant benefit to OWEB's Coastal Estuaries priority.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The project appears to have been thoughtfully developed.
- The partnership is utilizing a science-driven results chain analysis for the development of its strategic action plan, which is a very reputable process.
- The application provides a good discussion of how the core partnership came to be and a Partnership Charter has been developed.
- Applicant has the in-house resources and expertise to provide facilitation services.

- This is a modest request and a completed SAP would likely lead to future project implementation.
- Partners have quickly shown their ability to collaborate and have not waited for a capacity building grant to begin their work.

Weaknesses

- Partnership challenges were not clearly described in the application.
- Crafting a scope of work for a FIP implementation application is an ineligible expense for a capacity building grant. Only facilitator and partner costs directly related to this proposal would be eligible for reimbursement under this application.
- The application did not clearly describe how success would be evaluated.

Issues of Concern:

- No issues of concern were identified.

OWEB Staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 7

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12519

OWEB Region: Region 5

Partnership Name: Wallowa Fish Habitat Restoration Partnership

Requested Amount: \$83,490

Board Priority Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

Core partners are Grande Ronde Model Watershed, Wallowa County Natural Resources Advisory Committee, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife, Nez Perce Tribe, The Freshwater Trust, US Forest Service and Wallowa Resources. Building the Atlas is an inclusive process and additional partners will be added should there be interest and if opportunity presents itself.

The Partnership will develop the Restoration Atlas, a strategic action plan to prioritize, vet and implement habitat restoration projects designed to maximize biological benefits identified in existing data and by expert local knowledge in the Wallowa and Imnaha River subbasins.

Capacity building funds will be used to secure the services of a qualified consultant, who will in turn facilitate the Atlas development process, produce technical documents and high level mapping products.

Capacity building funds will lead to focused restoration actions that address the habitat requirements of native aquatic species, with emphasis on Chinook salmon, steelhead, and bull trout in the Wallowa and Imnaha subbasins. Each restoration action collectively identified and prioritized according to score in the Atlas, will result in relevant and quantifiable benefit to identified fish species.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- The application is very focused on the proposed outcome (Atlas, a strategic action plan), with detailed budget description.
- The budget request is relatively modest for a strategic action plan that can be utilized by a broad partnership. The budget includes good match.
- Long-standing partnership seeking to replicate similar efforts in the upper Grande Ronde that will provide additional focus for the partners. There is considerable evidence provided that the Atlas will be developed and utilized.
- There appears to be a lot of momentum generated in this basin, and there are unique opportunities to bring restoration funding to implement actions identified in the Atlas.

Weaknesses:

- The application is weak on describing the challenges the partnership faces.
- The application could have better described the integrated nature of the partnership and how developing the Atlas would benefit the partnership.
- While it is acknowledged that the partners have done this before, it should be noted that a lot rests on the facilitation, technical writing, and mapping skills of the contractors to develop a tool that will be effectively used by the partners.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 8

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12520

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network (KSON)

Requested Amount: \$110,059

Board Priority Addressed:
Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The partnership includes Klamath Bird Observatory (KBO), Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the US Forest Service (USFS), the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program, Lomakatsi Restoration Project (LRP), and The Nature Conservancy (TNC). Through KSON, these agencies and organizations have formed a high-performing partnership with a proven track record of partnership building, landowner engagement, on-the-ground restoration, monitoring, and adaptive management focused exclusively on oak conservation and restoration.

Ecological outcomes identified by KSON include improved function, resiliency, connectivity, and habitat value of oak woodland and chaparral habitats in southern Oregon. These ecological outcomes align directly with the OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Priority Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat.

KSON partners seek to develop a Strategic Action Plan which will strengthen our ability to achieve ecological outcomes significant to the state, outcomes which are critical to reverse declining trends of oak associated plants and wildlife. The Strategic Action Plan will serve as a road map for oak woodland and chaparral restoration actions, and will establish short, medium, and long term goals to achieve our ecological outcomes over the entire southern Oregon landscape.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The partnership seems to have a history of working together.
- The group has a recently signed MOU.
- The application provided a candid discussion of lessons learned.
- The application clearly described the need for a SAP.

Weaknesses

- The deliverables were poorly described in the application.

- In the application it appeared that KBO is doing all of the work, the roles of the other partners were not clearly described. The application did not make a clear case that KBO was the right partner to lead the SAP development.
- The application proposes to expand to work in the Umpqua basin; however no local partners have yet been identified. Seems unlikely to be successful with a two-year grant.
- Answer to question 10A is vague; unclear what capacities will be targeted.
- Outreach deliverables were unclear; only outreach costs directly related to this capacity building grant are eligible.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 17

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12521

OWEB Region: Region 3

Partnership Name: Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Cooperative

Requested Amount: \$86,483

Board Priority Addressed:
Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (Cooperative) has representatives from the lower, middle and upper sub-regions of the Willamette Valley. The partners in the Cooperative (Appendix 1) have extensive experience in planning and implementing on-the-ground work to protect, restore and maintain native oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley. The Cooperative proposes to develop a two-tiered Willamette Valley Oak-Prairie Strategic Action Plan and formalize an organizational partnership structure to implement goals, objectives, and tasks identified in the Strategic Action Plan. Tier one is a Willamette Valley-wide strategy. Tier 2 is three sub-regional plans developed by existing regional partnerships. This approach produces synergy while maintaining regional identity and flexibility. The Cooperative is applying for funds from OWEB's Focused Investment Partnership Capacity-Building funds to assist in the development of the Strategic Action Plan and strengthen the Cooperative's operational structure. Once the Strategic Action Plan is completed, the Cooperative intends to apply for Focused Investment Partnership Implementation Funding. The overarching goal of the Cooperative is to protect, restore, and maintain a functional, resilient network of oak and prairie habitats in the Willamette Valley through a coordinated and strategic approach that leverages resources, focuses on priority project areas and species, and produces substantial ecological returns.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The "local working group" partnerships have strong histories with successful planning and implementation efforts.
- The regional steering committee seems like a good concept.
- The partners are integrating work from existing assessments.

Weaknesses

- Not much detail on community engagement.
- The partnership and proposed geographic scale of work is new; do all these partners need to be involved? Who are the core partners? Are the right partners being engaged?
- The application is unclear on how the capacity building grant will significantly change or increase the different groups' oak habitat work. The added value of the regional approach is not clearly articulated.

- Intertwine is key to the success of the partnership, but its level of involvement is unclear.
- General concern about the size of the geography, the many partners, and the “loose” partnership.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 15

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12522

OWEB Region: Region 5

Partnership Name: Northern Malheur Watershed Resource Partnership

Requested Amount: \$95,700

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Northern Malheur Watershed Resource Partnership consists of nine core entities. Among them are the Malheur Watershed Council, the Vale Oregon Bureau of Land Management, the Malheur County Soil and Water Conservation District, the Ontario office of the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the USFWS, ODFW, the Burns Paiute Tribe Natural Resources Division, Trout Unlimited, and DEQ.

The partnership seeks to improve rangeland and riparian health to benefit ODFW identified "species of interest" in the Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat. We will hire a contractor to be the Partnership Coordinator to conduct an outreach program, write a strategic action plan, develop a pilot restoration project, and coordinate a natural resource inventory. Our partnership's goals align with OWEB's Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat Focused Investment Priorities and Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species. We intend to improve rangeland health and riparian areas to benefit habitat for the sage-grouse, mule deer, antelope, bull trout and red band trout.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- Good discussion of conducting landowner outreach along with the development of a strategic action plan. The application is clear that landowner support is vital for effective restoration action to take place.
- The application identifies challenges to the partnership, and it is clear that this is an effort to bring the necessary entities into the partnership.
- Individually, the partners have a good track record at implementing projects.

Weaknesses:

- The application stated that the partners intended to use capacity building funding to elevate the partnership's current level of performance, yet there was no description in question 10A as to how this would occur.
- While a number of partners are participating in the initiative, the roles and responsibilities of the various partners and how the partnership operates are not well described.

- A significant part of the budget is dedicated to developing a pilot project/natural resources inventory. While a pilot project can develop interest and momentum for a partnership, it is not clear why these elements are necessary for a successful capacity building initiative.
- There are a number of local issues (e.g., sage grouse and bull trout) where this relatively new partnership can play an important role. However, specific issues and how the partnership is seeking to address them are not well described in the application.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 18

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12523

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: The Upper Crooked River Watershed Working Group (UCRW-WG)

Requested Amount: \$145,805

Board Priority Addressed:
Dry-type Forest Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

Core partners of the Upper Crooked River Watershed Working Group (UCRW-WG) include the Ochoco Forest Restoration Collaborative, Crooked River Watershed Council, United States Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and Oregon Wild. UCRW-WG will develop a detailed strategic action plan to coordinate dry forest restoration across jurisdictional boundaries within the Upper Crooked River Watershed, a region prioritize by a multitude of Federal, State and local conservation strategies— including the Oregon Conservation Strategy and the Region 6 Terrestrial Restoration and Conservation Strategy. Ecological outcomes include increase diverse in forest structure, age, and composition, increased resilience to high-severity, stand-replacing wildfire, and decreased risk of insect infestation and disease.

During plan development, UCRW-WG will gather data on the current conditions and restoration needs on private lands and integrate these findings with data from existing plans. We will strengthen our partnership and increase member diversity, outreaching to private landowners and other key stakeholders through one-on-one meetings, kitchen table conversations and public meetings. We will also formalize our working agreements and governance structure. Deliverables include formal working agreements, increased membership diversity, a Private Lands Resource Assessment, a prioritization process and a detailed strategic action plan.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- This is a thoughtful application with clear deliverables, metrics, and a good discussion of bringing in others to discuss lessons learned.
- Good breakout on what contracted services are requested.
- The partnership is looking to synthesize existing plans to produce a strategic action plan.
- The right partners for this type of project in this area are involved in the initiative.

Weaknesses:

- The application stated that the partners intended to use capacity building funding to elevate the partnership's current level of performance, yet there was no description in question 10A as to how this would occur.

- It is unclear which roles each partner will play in the partnership, and it was not well described how the partners have worked together in the past.
- The USFS is listed as offering significant in-kind support, but there are concerns that there may not be sufficient capacity at the district level.
- The application states that FIP funding will be used for data collection to assemble a Private Land Resource Assessment. This is an ineligible cost for FIP capacity building applications (see page 3 of the instructions).
- It would be beneficial to better explain how many landowners are in the focus area, average acreage involved, and how outreach will be conducted accordingly.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 19

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12524

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Siuslaw Coho Partnership

Requested Amount: \$86,020

Board Priority Addressed:

Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Siuslaw Coho Partnership (SCP) core partners are: BLM-Eugene District, Confederated Tribes of the Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians, USFS-Siuslaw NF, Siuslaw SWCD, and the Siuslaw Watershed Council. SCP partners possess the qualifications and experience to achieve the SCP's desired ecological outcomes. The desired ecological outcomes of the partnership include increased quantity and quality of instream complexity and rearing and spawning habitats, increased stream connectivity to floodplains, improved riparian habitat, and improvement in water quality characteristics identified as limiting factors for Siuslaw, Siltcoos, and Tahkenitch coho populations.

Capacity-Building funds will be utilized for partners' labor, travel, materials, equipment, contracted services, and grant administration efforts, leading to achievement of the following Capacity-Building goals: Develop governance documents for the partnership; Develop and execute strategic action plans for the Siltcoos and Tahkenitch Coho Populations that include strategic outreach plans; Develop a flexible mapping tool to be used in multiple phases of Capacity-Building and Implementation. Funds will be spent in support of SCP Capacity-Building efforts, leading to efficient and effective implementation efforts that result in achievement of the SCP's desired ecological outcomes. Ecological outcomes are in alignment with the OWEB FIP for Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast and key limiting factors for the Siltcoos and Tahkenitch coho populations.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The description of the strategic action plan development process is well aligned with the Coho Business Plan process, which the partnership is already involved with.
- The ecological need for the SAP is well stated.
- This is a strong local partnership, which has a history of working well together.
- The proposed streamlining data and uniting various outreach efforts across partners will lead to a more effective partnership and future coordinated restoration implementation.
- Good performance indicators for what the partnership hopes to achieve.
- The discussion of challenges and solutions was well done.

- Budget costs seem reasonable for the deliverables presented in the application, particularly in light of the rigorous strategic action plan development approach used in the Coho Business Plan framework.

Weaknesses

- The application did not clearly describe how success would be evaluated.
- The budget and proposed activities do not clearly align; as a result, it is difficult to determine the amount of money being put toward each deliverable.
- Unclear whether the proposed the development of a strategic mapping tool and outreach plan are directly tied to the development of the strategic action plan or other capacity building efforts.
- Concern that much of the anticipated staff time in the budget will come from the Siuslaw Watershed Council. Reviewers wanted to know which staff they plan to put toward the effort and what their expertise is in terms of developing a strategic action plan that will follow the scientifically rigorous process used for the Coho Business Plan process.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 1

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12525

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Wild Rivers Coast Estuaries

Requested Amount: \$150,000

Board Priorities Addressed:

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The core partners include: Curry SWCD; South Coast Watershed Council; Lower Rogue Watershed Council; The Nature Conservancy. We will produce a Strategic Plan written to OWEB FIP specifications, produce a Partnership Operations Manual, broaden our partnership base, streamline our data management system, recruit additional funding partners, and begin developing outreach and education program tools with which to promote this estuary initiative for a quarter of the Oregon Coast. Estuaries have been identified as a priority by OWEB, the Oregon Conservation Strategy, The Nature Conservancy, and the Independent Multi-disciplinary Science Team. There are over 20 existing plans for restoring South Coast estuaries.

The proposed ecological outcomes include restoration of estuarine processes and functions, in 10 South Coast estuaries, over a 10 year time-frame. Actions include:

- Measurable water quality improvements to benefit all species (terrestrial, aquatic and avian) including the nearshore environment where estuaries extend off shore.
- Restored salmon refugia, including:
 - Habitat and Floodplain Connectivity
 - Improved Fish Passage
 - Increased off-channel rearing habitat
- Conservation, restoration, or enhancement of freshwater and tidal wetlands.
- Promoting working landscapes and securing estuarine habitats.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- This is a long-standing successful partnership that has recently recruited new partners.
- The work accomplished on the south coast is impressive and reviewers felt that the entities individually, and as a partnership, have the ability to tackle the work presented in this application.
- The partnership is taking a holistic approach and has addressed challenges and opportunities going forward.

- Good outreach discussion on the challenges of outreach to critical partner sectors, such as the ports and other estuary-based businesses.
- Strong budget with good detail.

Weaknesses

- The answers to Questions 6 and 7 primarily address the partnership's needs around applying for a FIP implementation initiative. Capacity building funds are not intended for this purpose.
- The information on hiring an outside person was generic with no specific scope of work.
- The geography seems large – there are a lot of estuaries in this geography, future implementation will be challenging

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 3

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12526

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Rogue Basin Partnership

Requested Amount: \$147,483

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Rogue Basin Partnership (RBP) was created to serve as the backbone organization for restoration in the Rogue Basin, and to facilitate collective impact and Rogue Restoration Action Plan delivery. RBP consists of 15 member organizations and over a dozen partner organizations, including agency personnel serving as technical advisors (RBP participant list attached). As part of the Action Plan, RBP members identified several landscape-level critical habitat types in the region, the species they support, the strategies needed to conserve or restore the habitats, and the feasibility of delivering restoration strategies to these habitats over the next decade. The long-term ecological outcome of restoring the Rogue will be clean water at sufficient volumes throughout the year to sustain aquatic and human life and maintain healthy, interconnected, native riparian/floodplain forests and grassland and upland forest habitats dominated by native species. A cornerstone of the Action Plan is to preserve and improve conditions to support focal native fish, which is directly aligned with the OWEB FIP priorities of "Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species" and "Coho Habitat and Populations along the Coast." Capacity-Building funds would support RBP in its role as facilitator of Action Plan delivery and would provide capacity for RBP members to coordinate the Action Plan's Implementation Framework.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The proposed deliverables are well thought-out and achievable.
- The measures of success were clearly described.
- The partners involved are strong, and appear to be committed to the process and a collaborative approach.
- The working group approach seems as though it will lead to a focused process, allow greater engagement from partners, and lead to a higher likelihood of success.
- The proposed development of a funding strategy shows the partners are thinking about long-term stability and future SAP implementation.

Weaknesses

- The application proposes to hire two staff, an executive director and a fiscal administrator; the qualifications of these staff are unclear.

- The viability of the executive director position is unclear over the long-term (i.e., how the partnership will continue the position after two years).
- The hours and associated cost for the executive director seem high; only costs for the position directly related to this proposal would be eligible for reimbursement under this application.
- The application clearly described the partnerships past accomplishments; however, there was not much description of what would happen in the future after the completion of the SAP.

Issues of Concern:

- The \$6,000 for events and trainings needs to be clarified to ensure all costs are eligible expenses under a Capacity-Building grant.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 4

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12527

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Wasco County Oak Woodland Partnership

Requested Amount: \$29,946

Board Priorities Addressed:

Dry-type Forest Habitat

Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The Wasco County Oak Woodland Partnership's core partners include Wasco County SWCD, USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife and the U.S. Forest Service. Ecological outcomes for the partnership include reduction of pest and disease vectors, encroachment by competing plant species such as conifers, connectivity with dry transition zones, implementing management practices once addressed by fire, protection of healthy sites and enhance merit of sites that are declining and educating landowners on oak woodland management practices and the ecological importance of oak woodlands. The partnership will develop a new strategic plan to arrive at a clear and concise plan targeting oak habitat management and recovery in the East Cascades of Wasco County. Funds will be used to engage a facilitator who will organize and coordinate meetings, type minutes, maintain contact lists and group correspondence, disseminate information, conduct outreach to landowners, create and maintain a webpage for public information and outreach, and to provide administrative support for the creation of the written strategic implementation plan. The strategic plan will address the key limiting factors (habitat loss, fragmentation and degradation) of Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) with a focus on ecosystem function and processes.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- Some of the partners have been working together for a long-time.
- This is an inexpensive request that builds off the partners resources.
- The right partners are involved to address the challenges and develop solutions.

Weaknesses

- The need for the capacity building application was not clearly described.
- Not a very big geographic scale.
- Unclear how long the larger partnership has existed and what it has accomplished to date.
- Not much money for a facilitator, can the deliverables be achieved with the requested funding?
- Details on the application deliverables were vague.
- The outreach narrative is very weak; however, there is some discussion of incorporating landowner outreach in to the SAP process.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 13

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12528

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership

Requested Amount: \$82,500

Board Priority Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Lower Columbia Chum Recovery Partnership includes the Lower Columbia River Watershed Council, the North Coast Watershed Association, Lewis and Clark National Historical Park, the Lower Columbia Estuary Partnership, the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. Ecological outputs from restoration actions include:

- Decreased erosion along stream banks and in tributaries
- Improved gravel retention
- Increased channel complexity
- Improved floodplain connectivity
- Increased abundance of spawning habitat
- Anthropogenic migration barriers addressed

Ecological outcomes from restoration actions include:

- Increased distribution of chum salmon spawning in response to habitat restoration
- Increased egg-to-fry survival of chum salmon in response to improved habitat quality

Our partnership seeks capacity-building funds to (1) create a Strategic Action Plan detailing locations and projects required to address Chum Salmon limiting factors, (2) attract new partners to our partnership, and (3) engage with landowners through public meetings to garner support (and potentially identify additional projects) for restoration projects.

Columbia River Chum Salmon are a federally-listed species and their recovery is a top priority of the state. Increased capacity will allow our partnership to prioritize and pursue restoration actions toward the objective of reaching delisting criteria for Chum Salmon in the Coastal Stratum.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The application clearly defines the partnership and the deliverables.
- The application clearly describes the need for a strategic action plan focused on chum.
- The partnership appears to be strong and to be the right partners for successful SAP completion and future restoration implementation.

- Reviewers have confidence the SAP will be completed as proposed.
- Budget is mostly reasonable.

Weaknesses

- The overall application outcomes seem overly ambitious.
- Much of the proposed work is already occurring; unclear to some reviewers of the value added from a capacity building grant.
- Big investment in outreach, but unclear how it will inform the development of the strategic action plan.
- Rather than printing and binding three action plans, the partnership is encouraged to post the final plan on an appropriate website and to consider developing a companion 2–4-page summary of the plan with a link to the website plan.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 10

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12529

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Nehalem Coho Strategic Partnership

Requested Amount: \$64,350

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Nehalem Coho Strategic Partnership (NCSP) seeks to secure a Nehalem Focused Investment Partnership (NFIP) to efficiently and effectively restore 120 miles of essential salmon habitat in cooperation with stakeholders, state and federal agencies and technical advisors, in 8 years. Area of focus is in high priority 6th field sub-basins identified during the "pilot" Nehalem Strategic Action Plan (NSAP) process (complete spring 2016).

Capacity support assures the development of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Nehalem FIP implementation. A professional facilitator will collaborate with council staff and partners to develop a FIP scope of work that delivers a completed OWEB Nehalem FIP application.

Success of the capacity building effort includes support for targeted outreach to raise stakeholder and community awareness of the need for Coho population recovery. Outreach shares NSAP findings emphasizing the need for protection/restoration of ecosystem/watershed processes that support Coho population recovery. Emphasis includes species life history stages, habitat needs, limiting factors and FIP solutions.

Capacity building utilizes council staff to secure adequate in-kind and funding support for Nehalem FIP implementation.

NFIP aligns with OWEB's focused investment priorities for Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast, Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species and Coastal Estuaries in Oregon.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The proposal aligns well with the Coho Business Plan process, which the partnership is already involved with.
- The outreach to industrial landowners is great.

Weaknesses

- It was unclear from the application who are the partners involved. Was it the same group currently involved in the Coho Business Planning process?
- There seems to be a need to elevate the partnership, however this work was not well described in the application.
- The timeline was vague; reviewers expressed concern that not enough time has been factored in to search for and contract with a facilitator.
- Community engagement and measures of success discussion were weak.
- Most of the funding goes to support the two watershed council coordinator positions; it was unclear how this funding will support the proposed deliverables and capacity building of the partnership.

Issues of Concern:

- Not all of the proposed activities are directly tied to the capacity building grant offering. For example, general outreach or developing a FIP application, are not eligible activities under a capacity building grant.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 12

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12530

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Flood-irrigated Floodplain and Lake Habitat in Lake County

Requested Amount: \$95,468

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats
Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.
Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The core partnership of this FIP Capacity-Building application consists of the Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Ducks Unlimited, and Intermountain West Joint Venture. This partnership represents a decade of collaborative outreach, planning, and conservation delivery of stream and floodplain habitat and function.

The partnership is committed to achieving the singular ecological outcome of increasing climate resiliency and water-use efficiency of Lake County's historic floodplains for the benefit of migratory birds, native fish, and agricultural resiliency.

The partnership will contract with a research firm to facilitate a series of landowner meetings, generate a subsequent survey, and then summarize the analysis of the survey results into a report. The socioeconomic factors identified in the report will inform the development of a Strategic Action Plan that will identify the restoration actions necessary to maintain flood-irrigated habitat on the landscape.

As water becomes increasingly limited, flood-irrigated habitats risk being lost as operators convert to alternative agricultural practices. Understanding operator motivations, operation limitations, and long-term planning, and identifying commonalities among landowners of varying operational scales, assets and liabilities is necessary to implement restoration actions aimed at improving water-use efficiencies in these highly managed systems at a watershed scale.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- This is an interesting proposal, with a unique approach towards community engagement and an understanding of how climate change and water use impacts the floodplain.
- Gathering the information that the partners are proposing might lead to new restoration possibilities in the area and beyond.
- A two-day symposium is proposed for the politically sensitive issues surrounding Lake Abert where common ground amongst the stakeholders may be achieved.

Weaknesses:

- The application states that a significant amount of capacity building funding will be used for social research that in turn would help develop a strategic action plan. While the research is intriguing, this is an ineligible cost (see page 3 of the instructions).
- The roles and responsibilities of the partners are unclear.
- The application would benefit from a better discussion as why maintaining flood-irrigation (which some see as inefficient) is the default solution to floodplain habitat restoration.

Issues of Concern:

- The application objectives do not seem like a good fit for the FIP capacity building application. The partners are encouraged to look at Oregon Water Resources Department Place Based Planning Grant Program as that may be a better fit for what is proposed.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 21

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12531

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Central Coast Coho Collaborative

Requested Amount: \$150,000

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The Central Coast Coho Collaborative is comprised of the MidCoast Watersheds Council, Lincoln Soil and Water Conservation District, Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Salmon Drift Creek Watershed Council, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, and The Wetlands Conservancy. The capacity building funds will allow core partners to solidify current ad hoc partnerships focused on broad sense recovery of Coho Salmon and the ecosystem functions that support them on the Central Oregon Coast. Specifically, the key partners seek to work through a planning process to create population specific strategic action plans by updating existing assessments with new information, including restoration techniques to buffer populations against predicted climate change. In the strategic plan development, partners will undertake a data synthesis/update, geomorphic and physical habitat analysis, and density dependence analysis overlaid with predicted climate change models. Capacity building will support: 1) partner time to develop a memorandum of understanding and participate in a process to develop the strategic action plans; 2) local core team time and travel as necessary; 3) professional services for the partnership to seek outside expertise to facilitate the process, such as providing necessary background work, taking notes, and drafting the plan; and 4) technical assistance with assessment and modeling.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The goals and deliverables are clearly described as are the challenges and solutions.
- The thoughtful discussion on climate change was appreciated.
- The SAP appears to be based on the Coho Business Plan format, which is very technical in nature, and includes collection of new data and analysis of existing data.
- Partners have worked together for many years with several sharing office space, accounting, monitoring and technical teams.

Weaknesses

- No community engagement is planned for developing/enhancing the strategic action plan; this might impact the long-term success of the SAP and the capacity building effort.
- The application is lacking details on partnership staffing and governance.
- The budget lacks details on the justification of costs; the lump sum for the facilitator is unexplained and seems expensive.
- The potential involvement of the Wild Salmon Center is not well explained.
- One of the challenges in this area is engaging private landowners, which is not addressed as a problem in this proposal.

Issues of Concern:

- The Alsea Basin, which is not covered in the partnership, is a major river system within this landscape. Without the inclusion of this basin it is unclear how the SAP and future implementation efforts can be successful.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 11

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12532

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: Partnership for Coho Habitat Restoration on Family Forests and Farms

Requested Amount: \$143,000

Board Priority Addressed:

Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The core partners are Family Forests of Oregon, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Oregon Tree Farm System, and the Oregon Board of Forestry's Committee for Family Forestlands, Oregon Department of Forestry, and the Oregon Forest Resources Institute.

This project will achieve improvements in coho habitat by achieving the following ecological outcomes:

- Increasing stream complexity;
- Improving riparian condition;
- Improving fish passage and road condition;
- Improving water quality.

This partnership and eventual project implementation will improve coho habitat, by targeting investments in areas of high intrinsic potential. Family forests and farms dominate the ownership (81%) along reaches with high intrinsic potential, with an estimated 45% of this area either non-forested or recently logged (Burnett et al. 2007). In Oregon's Coast Range, many landowners own a mix of forestland and pastureland. This partnership focuses effort on high intrinsic potential regardless of land use. Funds will be used to expand and enhance the existing partnership, target outreach to landowners, and develop a strategic action plan.

“Habitat management and improvement is key to protecting and enhancing coastal coho; much of the most important coho habitat is on private land; habitat improvement on private land is most likely to occur through incentive-based cooperative partnerships with landowners” (Oregon Coastal Coho Conservation Plan 2007).

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- This is an excellent group of partners.
- The ecological objectives are appropriate, but the partners need to focus their efforts.
- The proposed activities are appropriate to achieve the desired outcomes.

- The partners have a history of working together, though there are no formal agreements related to this specific proposal.

Weaknesses

- The application appears to be for landowner outreach for future project implementation, which is not an eligible activity under the FIP Capacity-Building grant.
- The geographic scope of the proposal is huge; no map was included, which made it difficult to understand if there was any focus.
- Key partners are missing from the proposal to successfully overcome the described challenges.

Issues of Concern:

- The reviewers were very supportive of the concept of this proposal. However, many of the specific activities described are not eligible for this grant type. The reviewers hope the partnership will outreach to additional partners, such as watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts, and continue to pursue project funding and implementation through other funding routes.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 22

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12533

OWEB Region: Region 3

Partnership Name: Clackamas Partnership

Requested Amount: \$137,696

Board Priority Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Clackamas Partnership include Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District, Clackamas Co. Water Environment Services, Clackamas Co. Parks, Clackamas River Basin Council, Metro, Oregon Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, Oregon Depart. of Environmental Quality, North Clackamas Parks & Recreation District, Portland General Electric, and US Forest Service, joined by Greater Oregon City, North Clackamas Urban, and Johnson Creek watershed councils, all of whom have extensive experience planning and completing restoration activities in partnership with one another with resulting benefits to the Clackamas populations of listed salmon and steelhead ("Clackamas Populations").

Ecological outcomes identified by the partnership will address limiting factors of degraded water quality, aquatic and riparian habitat, migratory corridor connectivity and fish passage, and invasive species in priority areas presenting habitat for all life stages of Clackamas Populations and in the Clackamas River Basin.

The Clackamas Partnership will develop an enhanced strategic action plan for Clackamas Populations informed by the Lower Columbia River Conservation & Recovery Plan, as the baseline plan, which is organized by strata/population and incorporates other plan strategies. The partnership's strategic action plan will prioritize actions for the recovery of listed species and establish a process for working together to address the OWEB Board-approved Focused Investment Priority for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The partners have a track record of collaboration.
- The outcomes were clearly identified.
- The partners described how they have been working together on various types of projects, but they made a good case for the added-value the Capacity-Building funding will provide.
- A draft MOU was included with the application, demonstrating the partnership is serious and moving forward.

Weaknesses

- It appeared to be more agencies focused, rather than landowner focused. Reviewers were not sure how landowners would be engaged in the future.
- Reviewers recommend that rather than printing copies of the entire plan, the applicant post the plan on an appropriate website, develop a 2-4-page summary of the plan with a link to the website plan, and print copies of the summary as an outreach tool.

Issues of Concern:

- Reviewers were unclear why two facilitators are needed; it seems like an excessive expense. Reviewers request OWEB staff follow-up with the applicant to determine the need and if the facilitator costs could be reduced.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 5

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12534

OWEB Region: Region 2

Partnership Name: Umpqua Basin Partnership

Requested Amount: \$ 149,734

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
 Coastal Estuaries in Oregon
 Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast
 Dry-type Forest Habitat
 Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
 Produce a strategic action plan.
 Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Umpqua Basin Partnership consists of several nonprofit, private and agency organizations. The following are the core partners: Partnership for the Umpqua Rivers, Elk Creek Watershed Council, Smith River Watershed Council, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership, Roseburg/Coos Bay/Medford BLM, Umpqua National Forest, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and National Marine Fisheries Service. All of the organizations have extensive experience operating in the Umpqua Basin and possess the necessary resources and commitment to implement holistic watershed restoration activities in future.

The ecological outcomes identified by the Partnership include efforts that maintain or enhance holistic watershed processes that benefit: Aquatic habitat for all native species, Coho salmon population recovery, estuarine habitats for native species, Upland habitats for native species and Riparian habitats. -The Partnership seeks to develop an action plan for the entire basin that takes into account the long term ecological recovery of the system for native species. Funds will be used to hire a facilitator and technical contractor to complete the action plan. Additionally, funds will be utilized to pay for nonprofit and key partner staff time, action plan printing and mileage.

The development of the strategic action plan will identify and prioritized restoration efforts throughout the entire basin in a holistic approach, maximizing ecological benefits to the resource. This will allow for contiguous restoration across the checker boarded landscape of the Umpqua.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- Seems like a strong committed partnership with a strong leader in the form of the applicant.
- The individual groups have been working together in some fashion for a long time and have been involved in the community.

- The applicant has made noteworthy adaptations to its oversight, governance, management, relationships with others, and role in the watershed.
- The partnership is actively searching for other sources of funding.
- The group has researched other successful groups who have developed a SAP and build partnership capacity. If funded they plan on using a similar process and established facilitator.

Weaknesses

- This is a new partnership with no formal agreements yet in place.
- The basin is large with many partners and moving parts, it is hard to predict the long-term success of this effort.
- Elevating the partnership seems key to its long-term success. The tasks associated with this activity were poorly described.
- Because the larger partnership is relatively new, reviewers wondered whether it will be able to achieve success over the long run.
- The cost for action plan and map printing (\$2,500) seems excessive; the partnership is encouraged to post the final plan on an appropriate website and to consider developing a companion 2–4-page summary of the plan with a link to the website plan.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 9

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12535

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP)

Requested Amount: \$149,516

Board Priority Addressed:
Dry-type Forest Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership (KLFHP) core partners are: ODF, Fremont-Winema National Forests, NRCS, Lake and Klamath County Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Klamath Watershed Partnership, Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council and OSU) These organizations have extensive experience in restoration projects and outreach in Klamath and/or Lake Counties.

The ecological outcome identified by KLFHP is to increase the health, sustainability and productivity of dry-type conifer forests in Klamath and Lake Counties by implementing restoration treatments in high-priority watersheds. KLFHP will enhance the 2009-2011 Strategic Action Plan for Lake and Klamath Counties based on the components identified by OWEB. The KLFHP has identified the Greater Lobert Focus Area as the priority within the two counties. KLFHP will conduct landowner and community outreach and education; develop a broad communication network among agencies, landowners and other stakeholders; and identify site-specific projects with willing landowners in the Greater Lobert Focus Area. The FIP priorities identify dry-type forests to address habitat conservation and restoration at the landscape scale. Completion of the strategic action plan will allow implementation of treatments leading to ecological outputs on a greater scale than is likely without coordination by KLFHP.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- The partnership has all the right entities and is seeking to reinvigorate dry-type forest restoration in the area.
- The proposal calls out roles and responsibilities of the partners. The integration with the Klamath Watershed Partnership is intriguing, and believed to be a good move for the partnership.
- This is a partnership that quietly is able to get work accomplished on the ground.

Weaknesses:

- The discussion of outcomes and metrics of success is lacking in detail.
- The project timeline is compressed (e.g., completing the strategic action plan in spring, 2016).

- There is concern that the application proposes to build the capacity of one organization (Klamath Lake Forest Health Partnership) and not the group of partners that are collaborating in this effort. This is evident in the budget, where the bulk of the request is to pay for a single executive director.
- The application states that an existing strategic action plan is not utilized, and there is a concern that there is no mechanism for how an enhancement or revision of this plan would actually be used by the partners.

Issues of Concern:

- It should also be noted that the request for liability insurance (\$2,800) should not be in addition to the 10% grant administration rate as that is an example of an administrative cost.
- While the need for coordination is evident, there doesn't seem to be a plan to sustain the executive director position. In fact, it's mentioned in the application that a staff position has ebbed and flowed with available grant funding. As an alternative, the partnership could have requested funding for facilitation/enhancing the strategic action plan with some funding set aside for partner contributions to meeting and developing the plan. This could be done at a fraction of the cost and produce a plan that has partner buy-in that would be better utilized than the existing document.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 16

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12536

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Klamath Watershed Health Team

Requested Amount: \$107,425

Board Priorities Addressed:

Dry-type Forest Habitat

Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Produce a strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Klamath Watershed Health Team is made up of various stakeholders coming together with the same goal in mind; restore watershed health in the Klamath Basin to restore flows to springs, streams, and rivers to increase and improve water quality and quantity to benefit fish and wildlife and a way of life in the Klamath Basin. The core group includes Klamath Soil and Water Conservation District, the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and the Ore-Cal Resource Conservation and Development Area Council. Our mission is to put water back in our rivers, streams, and wetlands and providing sustainable water to our agricultural communities.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- The partnership identifies landowner outreach as an important first step in conducting effective watershed restoration.
- With reduced agency capacity, the partners have understandably come together to collaborate.

Weaknesses:

- The application does not provide clear information for all the application questions, at times the application is difficult to follow.
- The roles of the partners in the initiative are unclear. Nearly all of the tasks described by the partners in each budget line item are identical regardless if OWEB funding is requested or if it is a match contribution.
- Details of how a strategic action plan will be produced are lacking and not at all described in the initiative timeline.

Issues of Concern:

- The budget is almost entirely for contracted services, although much of what is included (~\$58,000) appears to better fit within salaries, wages, and benefits as it is for Klamath SWCD staff (the applicant).

- The application proposed to work in two OWEB Board Priority Area, Dry-type Forest Habitat and Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat; however the geographic area of the application does not fall within the Sagebrush/Sage-steppe Habitat priority area.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 23

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12537

OWEB Region: Region 1

Partnership Name: North Coast Collaborative- Riparian Restoration Strategy

Requested Amount: \$75,341

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.
Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The North Coast Collaborative (NCC) consists of three partner types: State and Federal agencies, watershed councils, and non-profit organizations. The councils include the Nestucca-Neskowin-Sand Lake, Tillamook Bay, Lower and Upper Nehalem, Necanicum, and the North Coast Watershed Association. The agencies include the Oregon Departments of: Forestry, Environmental Quality, Fish and Wildlife, and Agriculture; the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Tillamook County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the US Forest Service. The nonprofits include the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, North Coast Land Conservancy, and Friends of Netarts Bay - Watershed, Estuaries, Beach and Sea (WEBS). The NCC has identified an area from the Necanicum to Neskowin watersheds as its project area. This also includes Nehalem, Tillamook Bay, Sand Lake, Netarts, and Nestucca watersheds. The NCC is focused on addressing two Focused Investment Priorities: Coho Habitat and Populations along the Oregon Coast and Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species. As a result, the NCC anticipates two long term ecological outcomes: improved water quality and aquatic habitats for native fish species, including Oregon Coast Coho. The first step in this effort is the development of a Strategic Action Plan and the NCC is seeking capacity-building funds to accomplish this.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- Partnership appears to envision a reasonable process for completing a strategic action plan in terms of partner engagement, limited outreach, and data collection.
- Strong local partnership, which has a history of working well together, though no formal partnership agreements have been developed.
- Budget seems reasonable.

Weaknesses

- Geography is quite large and possibly unmanageable in a possible, future focused investment.
- The answer to Question 6 did not include a discussion of *why* a strategic action plan is needed, not just why it will be challenging to develop one.
- The budget requests funding for outreach, but the application had no discussion of it and how it will complement the development of a strategic action plan.

- No discussion of how governance documents will be developed.
- Partnership and geographic scope of the proposal felt very broad and reviewers were unsure of the likelihood of success.

Issues of Concern:

- The proposal did not address how the SAP would prioritize projects, development of a prioritization process seems like the biggest challenge this group would face in the development of the SAP.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Low

Likelihood of successful project completion: Low

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 20

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12538

OWEB Region: Region 4

Partnership Name: Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership

Requested Amount: \$41,250

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetland Habitats

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.
Produce a strategic action plan.
Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Warner Basin Aquatic Habitat Partnership consists of five core partners- Lake County Umbrella Watershed Council, Lake County Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, US Bureau of Land Management, US Fish and Wildlife Service, plus the recent addition of a secondary partner, US Forest Service. All of these partners have extensive experience operating in the Warner Basin and possess the resources necessary to implement programmatic conservation work in the future.

The ecological outcomes identified by the partnership include conserving and improving aquatic habitat by restoring habitat connectivity (passage) for native fish species in the Warner Basin, including the Warner Sucker, an ESA listed threatened species and the Warner Lakes redband trout (State of Oregon and BLM sensitive species). Our objective of developing a Strategic Action Plan is to provide guidance for all associated fish passage and screening activities in the Warner Basin that will improve aquatic habitat connectivity, and ultimately reach recovery goals for Warner sucker. The partnership will develop a Strategic Action Plan outlining priority areas and projects within the Basin. Capacity Building funds will be used to hire a contractor to organize meetings with the stakeholder groups and to write the strategic action plan. After the strategic action plan is completed, the partnership intends to apply for Focused Investment Partnership Implementation funding.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths:

- Budget is modest and brings good leverage.
- The partners are well respected in the area and are doing meaningful work with landowners. This is informal at times, but works well in an area where a lot depends on building and maintaining relationships with landowners.
- The partners describe a good understanding of the challenges faced by the partnership.
- The partners have focused on one key issue in the basin, habitat connectivity.
- The process for developing the strategic action plan is well articulated, and identifies clear deliverables. It is obvious that the partners have spent time thinking about their needs.

Weaknesses:

- The budget contains lump sums for the facilitator/writer and it is not clear if this amount of funding will be sufficient.
- The application stated that the partners intended to use capacity building funding to elevate the partnership's current level of performance, yet there was no description in question 10A as to how this would occur.
- The development of a database is mentioned in the timeline, but not discussed elsewhere in the application.
- The project timeline seems rushed, it may take longer than anticipated to secure the right facilitator and develop an effective strategic action plan. The partners are encouraged to not rush this process in order to complete before the 2017-2019 FIP Implementation cycle.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 6

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12539

OWEB Region: Region 6

Partnership Name: John Day Basin Partnership

Requested Amount: \$149,613

Board Priority Addressed:
Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:
Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Applicant's Summary:

The John Day Basin Partnership (JDBP) formed to accelerate the pace, scale, and impact of watershed restoration across the basin. Core partners that sit on the Steering Committee include the Warm Springs Tribe, Wheeler SWCD, South Fork John Day Watershed Council, The Freshwater Trust, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and Bureau of Land Management. In total, 20 organizations signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) as formal partners, and these groups represent the major basin restoration interests and possess the experience to execute programmatic restoration. Ecological outcomes include increased cold water and summer base flows in the system, and fully-functioning ecosystem processes that support a long-term trend of increasing populations of wild summer steelhead, spring chinook, bull trout, and other important native fish. Funds will be used to finish a Strategic Action Plan (SAP) that focuses on the watersheds that are most ripe for restoration and the actions that are most necessary to achieve outcomes. Funds will support contracting to select priority areas, design a monitoring scheme, and estimate costs and support partner capacity to compile data, set localized goals, and finalize the plan. With a complete plan, the JDBP will pursue FIP Implementation funding. Executing the plan will enable restoration in areas listed as highest and second highest priority by OWEB FIP for Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- This is a very well written application and all the right partners are involved.
- The application indicates a mature partnership with broad support, including a Partnership Operations Manual and Partnership MOU.
- The engagement of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation is excellent, and the Tribes contribute substantially to this partnership.
- The process described for enhancing the SAP is well thought-out and should lead to a high quality SAP.
- The application and partnership are clearly focused; the partnership and SAP will concentrate on juvenile steelhead habitat restoration work.

Weaknesses

- It was unclear how this application relates to 216-8300-12540, Upper North Fork John Day Partnership.

- Output #7, estimate the cost and funding needs for an OWEB FIP, seems excessive and needs further clarification.

Issues of Concern:

- None

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: High

Likelihood of successful project completion: High

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 2

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation:

FIP Capacity Building Application Review Summary

OVERVIEW

Project #: 216-8300-12540

OWEB Region: Region 6

Partnership Name: Upper North Fork John Day Partnership

Requested Amount: \$150,000

Board Priorities Addressed:

Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species

Dry-type Forest Habitat

Intent of Capacity-Building Funding:

Elevate the partnership's current level of performance.

Enhance an existing strategic action plan.

Address community engagement and outreach relative to the partnership's capacity-building efforts.

Applicant's Summary:

The Upper North Fork John Day Partnership (UNFJDP), working together since 2011, consists of highly effective core partners who steward the sensitive headwaters in the northern branches of the John Day River. The group includes public, private, and tribal core partners: Bureau of Reclamation, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Desolation Creek LLC, Malheur National Forest, North Fork John Day Watershed Council, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Umatilla National Forest, and the Wallowa Whitman National Forest. Additional partners will be added through Capacity Building. Together, these partners deliver ecologic outcomes, focused on the critical headwaters complex, particularly emphasizing juvenile steelhead, in alignment with OWEB's Aquatics priority. A secondary focus is the Dry Forest priority. The ecologic outcomes will: increase abundance of juvenile steelhead by 20%; replenish groundwater recharge and restore base flows for improved hydrography; measurably increase public understanding of restoration processes; share reports; and support Partners in their collective implementation of restoration actions aligned with area recovery plans. In order to achieve those ecologic outcomes, the Partnership seeks to build capacity, partially with funds sourced from OWEB, to:

1. Contract locally-based group Facilitation,
2. Hire one "Restoration Coordinator," and
3. Enhance the existing Draft Action Plan to form a final document.

REVIEW SUMMARY

Strengths

- The application was well written with clearly described outcomes and deliverables.
- The partnership is focusing on a very important area of the John Day Basin and a SAP would lead to future project implementation.
- The right partners are involved and seem committed to the process.

Weaknesses

- The hours and associated cost for the restoration coordinator and mileage (almost \$30,000) seem high; only costs for the position directly related to this proposal would be eligible for reimbursement under this application.
- The application did not clearly explain why the restoration coordinator could not be housed with other watershed council staff; the separate office location is not centrally located and could lead to communication challenges.
- The viability of the restoration coordinator position over the long term is unclear (i.e., how the position will be supported).
- It is unclear how this project and the restoration coordinator position fit into the overall plan for the watershed council.

Issues of Concern:

- Some proposed activities are ineligible under a FIP capacity building grant, including landowner recruitment for future restoration, design of future restoration projects, and collection of new data.
- The projects relationship to application 216-8300-12539, John Day Basin Partnership, was unclear.

OWEB staff Overall Evaluation:

Readiness of the partnership: Medium

Likelihood of successful project completion: Medium

OWEB Staff Priority Ranking: 14

Board Subcommittee Summary:

Board Subcommittee Recommendation: