RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT PROJECT APPROVALS: PROJECT SUMMARIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Fish Restoration and Enhancement Board

2013-2015 Biennium – Cycle 2 of 8

The Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Board met in Lakeview on July 26th 2013 to review 15 funding proposals and the proposed program administration budget. The R&E Board recommended funding for 14 project proposals. Four board member votes are required to pass a project funding recommendation; six of seven board members attended the cycle 2 meeting. This attachment includes the following information for each recommended project for cycle 2: designation as a restoration or enhancement project; funding requested and recommended; matching funds; description of each project; R&E Board discussion points; and public comments made by anyone other than the project sponsors. R&E Board discussion points include major issues raised and whether a decision was made to recommend partial funding for a project. Internal department staff reviews of each project are provided to the Board and the project sponsors prior to the meeting. Sponsors typically respond to these comments during their presentation to the Board.

The R&E Board recommends funding the following projects for cycle 2:

Restoration

Project Number:	13-030
Project Title:	Cedar Creek Hatchery Railing for Pond Five
Project Type:	Hatchery Maintenance
Sponsor:	ODFW – Cedar Creek Hatchery
Enhancement/Restoration:	Restoration
Funds Requested:	$4,549
Total Project Cost:	$6,749

Match:

ODFW - Other		$300
Boy Scout Troop – Other		$300
Boy Scout Troop – In-kind		$1,600
	Total Match:	$2,200

Description:

Funding will be used to replace a very old and insecure safety railing around the public viewing pond at Cedar Creek Hatchery. The current railing does not meet safety regulations for height or stability. Recreational anglers and members of the public often visit this ODFW facility, and this project will help make their experience safer. This will also act as a project for a local Eagle Scout who attends a local high school.

Board discussion:
All board members agreed that this was a great project, and were assured that ODFW staff would make sure to adhere to all OSHA requirements and rules through all steps of the project.

Project Number:	13-032
Project Title:	Alsea River Winter Steelhead Research Project
Project Type:	Propagation & Monitoring
Sponsor:	ODFW – Mid Coast Fish District
Enhancement/Restoration:	Restoration
Funds Requested:	$89,000
Total Project Cost:	$148,100

Match:

ODFW In-kind		$59,100
	Total Match:	$59,100

Description:
The project will cover research to determine hatchery production and release strategies that maximize angler harvest and avoid excess straying. The two year grant proposal entails uniquely marking different groups of hatchery steelhead smolts released in the Alsea Basin by hatchery brood stock type (traditional vs. wild) and brood stock collection method (angler-caught vs. trap-caught). Contribution to angler harvest and tendency to stray will be assessed for each release group. Adult returns from each component will be monitored for a three year period to account for variability in annual run size and fishing conditions. The project will also include uniquely marking hatchery steelhead smolts released into the Siuslaw and Yaquina basins to determine if these releases are the source of unexplained hatchery strays observed in the Alsea Basin.

Board discussion:
The board considered providing partial funding to cover only the next year of this research, but decided that the project was greatly valued by many local angling groups and was worth supporting with R&E funding for the next two years.

Project Number:	13-037
Project Title:	McKenzie Hatchery Emergency Generator
Project Type:	Hatchery Maintenance
Sponsor:	ODFW – McKenzie Fish Hatchery
Enhancement/Restoration:	Restoration
Funds Requested:	$45,000
Total Project Cost:	$58,705

Match:

ODFW – In-kind		$13,705
	Total Match:	$13,705

Description:
Funding would be used to purchase and install a 200KW emergency back-up generator for the McKenzie Hatchery. Its primary purpose would be to provide emergency power to the hatch house incubation system, which includes an in-line water strainer that removes silt and debris from the water and keeps the line from getting plugged. The generator power would also be used as a backup power source for the chiller system, and the otolith-marking process. Power outages currently subject the entire egg and fry production to the possibility of catastrophic loss, and threaten the valuable otolith marking process which is critical to research being conducted on hatchery and propagation management issues. Additionally, power outages also keep potable water from getting to the hatchery, the volunteer host site, the hatchery visitor center and five hatchery residences. Finally, all fin-marking and coded-wire tagging of fish at McKenzie Hatchery is now accomplished by automated trailer. Loss of power both disrupts and delays this activity.

Board discussion:
Many board members agreed that a new generator is most critical for assuring that these hatchery fish get their otoliths marked for future research and monitoring needs.

Project Number:	13-038
Project Title:	Mill-Bear Creek Fish Passage Project
Project Type:	Passage Restoration
Sponsor:	Tillamook Bay Watershed Council
Enhancement/Restoration:	Restoration
Funds Requested:	$12,600
Total Project Cost:	$179,382

Match:

OWEB – Cash	$130,978
USFWS Cash	$15,000
USFWS In-kind	$2,400
ODFW In-kind	$2,384
NW OR Restoration – Donation	$300
Tillamook Co. – In-kind	$15,720
Total Match:	$166,782

Description:
The project involves replacing a culvert near Tillamook, approximately 1 mile east of Hwy 101, where the Bear Creek tributary to Mill Creek passes under county-owned Brickyard Road. The existing culvert is perched, undersized, and misaligned with the stream channel. It is hindering fish passage to approximately 3.0 miles of quality fish habitat. The plan is to replace the existing 48" diameter, corrugated metal culvert with a pipe arch culvert that will be 1.5 times the active channel width and capable of passing fish and a 100-year flow. The project is being planned to meet the federal standards for fish passage.

Board discussion:
Funds were recommended contingent upon expected OWEB grant approval.

Project Number:	13-041
Project Title:	GHID Fish Passage Improvement Project
Project Type:	Passage Restoration
Sponsor:	Gold Hill Irrigation District
Enhancement/Restoration:	Restoration
Funds Requested:	$30,000
Total Project Cost:	$283,000

Match:

ODFW - In-kind	$3,000
OWRD - In-kind	$1,000
Rogue Valley Council of Govts. – In-kind	$3,500
Geos Institute – In-kind	$2,500
BLM –In-kind	$5,000
Gold Hill Irrigation Dist. – In-kind	$5,000
WaterWatch of Oregon – In-kind	$3,500
WaterWatch of Oregon – Cash	$1,000
Laird Norton Family Foundation - Cash	$5,000
OWEB – Cash	$189,500
Total Match:	$253,000

Description:
The goal of the entire project is to eliminate and/or reduce harmful fish passage impacts to salmon and steelhead and other native fish species caused by the Gold Hill Irrigation District's (GHID's) existing irrigation diversion system on the mainstem of the Rogue River by: constructing a new headgate, headwall, and trash rack at the top of GHID's diversion canal at its juncture with GHID's diversion dam; improving the spill system at the dam; installing a water measuring device; piping and burying 1,120 feet of open canal; removing the existing headgate and harmful spill system; and improving the current bypass system at the existing screens.

Board discussion:
Funds were recommended contingent upon expected OWEB grant approval.

Enhancement

Project Number:	13-028
Project Title:	Hartman Pond Access
Project Type:	Access
Sponsor:	Oregon Bass & Panfish Club
Enhancement/Restoration:	Enhancement
Funds Recommended:	$27,200
Total Project Cost:	$39,200

Match:

Oregon Bass & Panfish – cash		$2,500
Oregon Bass & Panfish – in-kind		$7,000
ODFW – In-kind		$2,500
	Total Match:	$12,000

Description:
The overall objective is to increase fishing access to the pond and to establish safe and easy access for all anglers at existing access points around Hartman Pond, a public fishing area near Multnomah Falls which is owned by ODFW and the Oregon Parks & Recreation Department. Funds would be used to replace the rails and deck materials on an existing angling pier, and repair a 40-ft. floating dock so it can be used by ADA anglers. An ADA accessible trail connecting the two access structures will also be constructed, including the installation of a culvert. This trail will also connect the pond to a small wetland area.

Board discussion:
Many board members agreed that this is a very popular pond for both trout and warmwater anglers, and it is an important urban fishing access project.

Project Number:	13-033
Project Title:	Eckman Lake Angling Dock Replacement Project
Project Type:	Access
Sponsor:	ODFW – Mid-Coast District
Enhancement/Restoration:	Enhancement
Funds Recommended:	$68,801
Total Project Cost:	$82,301

Match:

ODFW In-kind		$2,500
OR Parks and Rec Dept – Cash		$10,000
OR Parks and Rec Dept- In-kind		$1,000
	Total Match:	$13,500

Description:
Funds secured with this request would be used to replace the angling dock on Eckman Lake at the WB Nelson State Wayside managed by Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. The current wooden angling dock provides access to open water in the deepest (10 feet) part of the lake. It has served local anglers well for over 30 years but has deteriorated beyond repair. WB Nelson State Wayside facilities were used by 42,128 visitors last year for fishing and boating activities. The ODFW stocked Eckman Lake with 2,494 rainbow trout this year and has stocked the lake annually for the last 40 years. This year 400 kids and adults participated in the 16th annual Eckman Lake Family Fishing Event held at this location. Eckman Lake, a 45 acre impoundment adjacent to Highway 34, is an important recreation site for the Waldport community.

Board discussion:
This project will greatly support easy angling access for kids, which is an important part of the 25-Year Recreational Angling Access Plan.

Project Number:	13-035
Project Title:	Willamette Hatchery Disease Risks
Project Type:	Hatchery Restoration or Improvement
Sponsor:	Oregon State University
Enhancement/Restoration:	Enhancement
Funds Recommended:	$39,946
Total Project Cost:	$363,008

Match:

ODFW – Cash		$9,967
ODFW Fellowship – Cash		$205,964
Army Corps - Cash		$107,110
	Total Match:	$323,062

Description:
Hatcheries and fish released from hatcheries are assumed to serve as sources of pathogens responsible for declines in naturally reared fish populations. The aim of the proposed research is to evaluate pathogen transmission between hatchery and naturally reproducing populations, and the degree of pathogen amplification that occurs in hatcheries. This study will inform hatchery operations by determining if disease risks support the use of water disinfection of hatchery influent or effluent and inform timing of prophylactic treatments during disease outbreaks. In addition, it would address information gaps that would further our understanding of disease interactions between hatchery and wild fish. R&E funds would be used to complete the final field season of this project and would cover two terms of graduate student stipend, tuition and fees.

Board discussion:
Most of the board members agreed that this is a very necessary study for this time, especially given all of the controversy surrounding the effects of hatchery fish on wild fish populations.

Project Number:	13-036
Project Title:	Catching Creek Basin Coho Eyed-Egg Injection
Project Type:	Research
Sponsor:	Coos Watershed Association
Funds Recommended:	$12,684
Total Project Cost:	$17,644

Match:

ODFW – In-kind		$2,560
Coos STEP – In-kind		$2,400
	Total Match:	$4,960

Description:
This research project will evaluate the effectiveness of coho salmon eyed-egg supplementation to jump-start wild coho populations in portions of the Coos Watershed (Catching Slough and its tributaries). Currently this system has very little natural coho production. Spawning surveys will be conducted for a total of 2 winter seasons (2013-14 & 2014-15) to help with the collection of baseline data that is needed to properly evaluate current adult returns in the Catching Slough Basin. Results from this project will help ODFW decide whether it is important to consider the implementation of coho salmon eyed-egg injection programs in the Coos and other Oregon watersheds.

Board discussion:
The board had questions for the applicant about whether this kind of research had already been conducted in the past. The applicant believed that it had only been done in Alaska with chum salmon, but that there had been some promising results.

Project Number:	13-039
Project Title:	Stream Nutrient Enrichment Expansion
Project Type:	Miscellaneous Enhancement
Sponsor:	Association of Northwest Steelheaders
Enhancement/Restoration:	Enhancement
Funds Recommended:	$25,800
Total Project Cost:	$56,360

Match:

ANWS – Cash		$10,160
ANWS – In-kind		$4,667
Sandy Basin WC – In-kind		$6,267
Clackamas Basin WC – In-kind		$6,267
ODFW – In-kind		$3,200
	Total Match:	$30,560

Description:
This project would involve purchasing a 28' freezer trailer, a 20' flatbed trailer, and accessories needed to significantly increase the placement of marine-derived nutrients in the streams in and around the Portland and Salem metro areas. Once equipment has been purchased, this will be an ongoing project for at least five years. Volunteers from watershed councils and fishing organizations already participate in nutrient enhancement, volunteering their time to take excess salmon carcasses from hatcheries to place them in their local watersheds; however, the logistics of this creates many problems in that carcasses are typically only available in the fall, and volunteers scramble at a one or two day notice to participate. Purchasing a freezer unit to store carcasses would give organizations wishing to participate in nutrient enhancement the ability to do it year-round and to plan volunteer events months in advance.

Board discussion:
A few board members had concerns over the true need for the freezer, but others were convinced that the purchase of this freezer would allow the Steelheaders to get more volunteers involved and that carcass placement is a great alternative way to create a connection between people and fish (the resource).

Project Number:	13-040
Project Title:	Triangle Lake Ladder Evaluation
Project Type:	Fish Passage Improvement
Sponsor:	ODFW Mid-Coast District
Enhancement/Restoration:	Enhancement
Funds Recommended:	$6,750
Total Project Cost:	$16,750

Match:

ODFW In-kind		$5,000
BLM In-kind		$5,000
	Total Match:	$10,000

Description:
The Triangle Lake fish ladder, built in 1989, has generated concern among the public and agencies about the ability of coho salmon and steelhead to pass through the ladder. At certain times during peak migration, hundreds of coho salmon have been observed holding or jumping at the falls and do not appear to be able to utilize the fish ladder effectively. This project would involve the purchase and installation of an underwater camera and DVR recorder (powered by a hydro unit) to evaluate the number of coho salmon, steelhead and cutthroat trout that successfully migrate through the ladder.

Board discussion:
All board members agreed that this was a good way to gain necessary knowledge for a small amount of funding.

Project Title:	Jack Horner Creek LWD Enhancement
Project Type:	Habitat Restoration
Sponsor:	Lower Nehalem Watershed Council
Funds Recommended:	$70,000
Total Project Cost:	$107,961

Match:

OWEB – Cash		$10,000
Longview Timber – In-kind		$11,420
ODOT – In-kind		$2,000
Steve Trask Bio-Surveys - In-kind		$700
ODFW – In-kind		$9,646
Tillamook Estuary Partnership - Cash		$4,195
	Total Match:	$37,961

Description:
A tributary of Soapstone Creek and the North Fork Nehalem River, Jack Horner Creek is part of a very productive system for Oregon fisheries. This particular tributary is lacking habitat complexity and is scoured to bedrock in many segments. The proposed project would remove a current fish barrier to the creek, introduce large woody debris over a 1.2 mile reach to increase spawning gravel recruitment, provide optimal pool and riffle habitat for fish, and increase connectivity to floodplain and off-channel habitat. The improved habitat will enhance natural production of local native fish stocks thus leading to increased recreational fishing opportunities.

Board discussion:
At first, several board members were concerned about why the creek has not accumulated woody debris naturally at this point, and whether the designer was certain that the system did not have the potential to move some of these trees out of place and down the river after they were placed, but were later convinced that the contracted project designer had plenty of experience in creeks of this gradient type, etc.

Project Number:	13-043
Project Title:	McKenzie Watershed Council Education & Outreach
Project Type:	Education
Sponsor:	McKenzie Watershed Alliance
Enhancement/Restoration:	Enhancement
Funds Recommended:	$4,590
Total Project Cost:	$8,190

Match:

OWEB – Cash		$3,600
	Total Match:	$3,600

Description:
The McKenzie Watershed Council works in collaboration with a variety of agencies, schools, organizations and private landowners to conduct a range of watershed enhancement and monitoring activities. A majority of these projects are done in partnership with local students, and focus on assisting with implementation, maintenance and monitoring of riparian restoration projects as well as gathering biological data in order to help identify opportunities and priorities for future work. R&E funds would be used to purchase equipment for field-based education projects throughout the watershed. Requested equipment would replace failing equipment and supplement existing equipment currently used by students and volunteers.

Board discussion:
All board members agreed this was a good use of R&E funds for educational purposes.

Project Number:	13-045
Project Title:	Grants Management System for R&E Program
Project Type:	Administrative – Miscellaneous Enhancement
Sponsor:	ODFW – Headquarters, R&E Program

Enhancement/Restoration: Enhancement
Funds Recommended: $40,670
Total Project Cost: $40,670

Match:
R&E Coordinator cannot use time spent on project as match, since that time is already paid with R&E dollars

Total Match: $0

Description:
The current online R&E application software (developed and hosted by ODFW) is antiquated and in need of many repairs, but the agency does not currently have the staff or the resources to address these problems or to develop a new and improved system. The R&E Program Coordinator, with the approval of ODFW Fish Division, is requesting R&E funding to hire an experienced contractor to develop and maintain a flexible and configurable grant management system for the Program. The new system will be much more user-friendly for applicants (or external users) and internal users alike. It will also provide a venue for all users to easily track/manage the status of their grant through the entire process, from application submission to project completion and follow-up.

Board discussion:
The board agreed that this seemed like a well-researched proposal, and that it will be good to make the grant application more accessible and easier to navigate. They hoped that this investment will last longer than the Program's investment in the original online application.