



Oregon's Fish Restoration and Enhancement Program 2015-2017 Biennium Report

Executive Summary



About the Restoration & Enhancement Program

On June 29th, 1989, the Oregon Fisheries Restoration and Enhancement Act was signed into law. Since then the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Program, under the guidance of the citizen-led R&E Board, has provided about \$55 million to a wide variety of sport and commercial fishery projects throughout Oregon. A seven-member volunteer board, appointed by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission (Commission), review project proposals submitted by non-profit organizations or public groups including the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Final funding approval for projects is determined by the Commission.

Funding, Revenue and Expenditures

Dedicated funding for the program includes a surcharge (\$1-\$10) on all Oregon angling licenses and commercial gillnet and troll permit fees (\$74 and \$64, respectively). A fee of \$0.05 per pound on all commercial salmon and steelhead landings also helps generate funding for the R&E Program.

The projected revenue for the 2015-17 biennium is approximately \$4.75 million. In addition, approximately \$2.6 million remained in the account at the end of the 2013-2015 biennium and was carried over. Added together, the projected amount of available funding for the current biennium is approximately \$7.25 million. To help spend down this carryover the limitation for 2015-17 was increased by \$1 million to \$5.64 million. Program awards through December 30th, 2016 total nearly \$470,000 for administrative activities and \$5 million for project grants.

Project Accomplishments

During this biennium, approximately \$2.51 million (44%) was awarded to restoration projects, \$3.14 (56%) million was awarded to enhancement projects. \$140,000 had not been awarded by the time of this report. The Commission approved 65 projects from July 2015 through December 2016. Of the 65 projects approved thus far, 12 were related to hatchery maintenance or propagation efforts, 16 were fishing access and opportunity projects, 11 were monitoring or research projects, 12 were habitat restoration projects, 12 helped improve or restore fish passage, 3 were education projects, 3 contributed to fish liberation activities, and 2 were classified as miscellaneous projects. Of these categories, the greatest proportion of R&E funding was allocated to hatchery maintenance and propagation projects (27%), followed by access projects (22%), passage projects (17%), and habitat restoration projects (13%).

R&E projects create economic stimulus in rural and urban communities throughout Oregon. Many local businesses not only supply materials for local R&E enhancement projects but also receive economic benefit from the anglers participating in fisheries that benefit from R&E Program activities.

An electronic copy of the full report is available at <http://www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/RE/history.asp> or by contacting the R&E Program Coordinator at (503) 947-6232 or odfw.step@state.or.us.