

# *Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee*

## **EXHIBIT E: OREGON CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUND (OCRF) RULE AMENDMENT**

*September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022*

**Dr. Charlotte Regula-Whitefield, OCRF Coordinator**



# OCRF Background and History

**In 2019, Oregon House Bill 2829 established the OCRF to carry out activities to protect, maintain or enhance fish and wildlife resources in Oregon.**

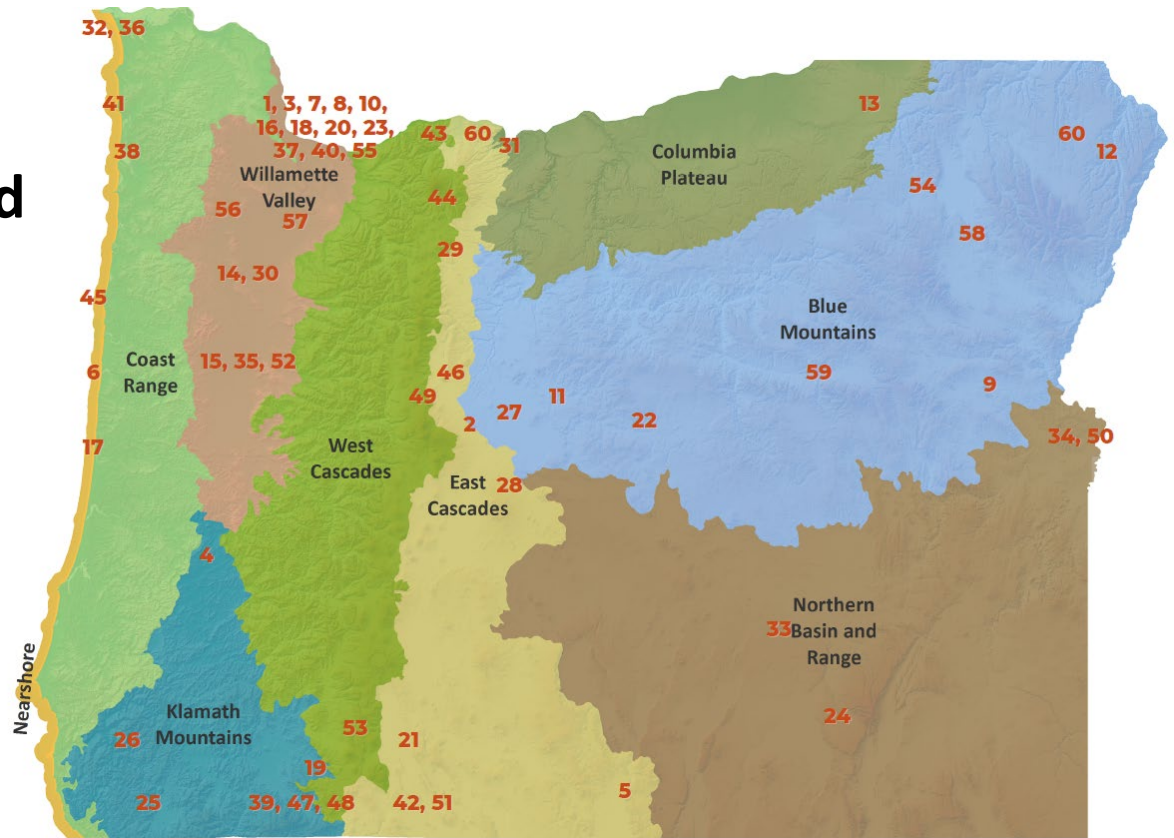
- Prioritizes projects that implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy,
- Invests in outdoor recreation opportunities that connect Oregonians to the natural world and increase equity for underserved communities.



# OCRIF Projects

**Over 90 projects funded throughout the State**

*Grants totaling roughly \$2.5M*



# OCRF Granting Structure

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee was created to advise the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission on expenditures from the Fund.

Two funding mechanisms exist for OCRF to utilize: competitive grants and direct awards

## 1) Competitive granting process *(twice a year - Dec/Feb and Aug/Oct)*

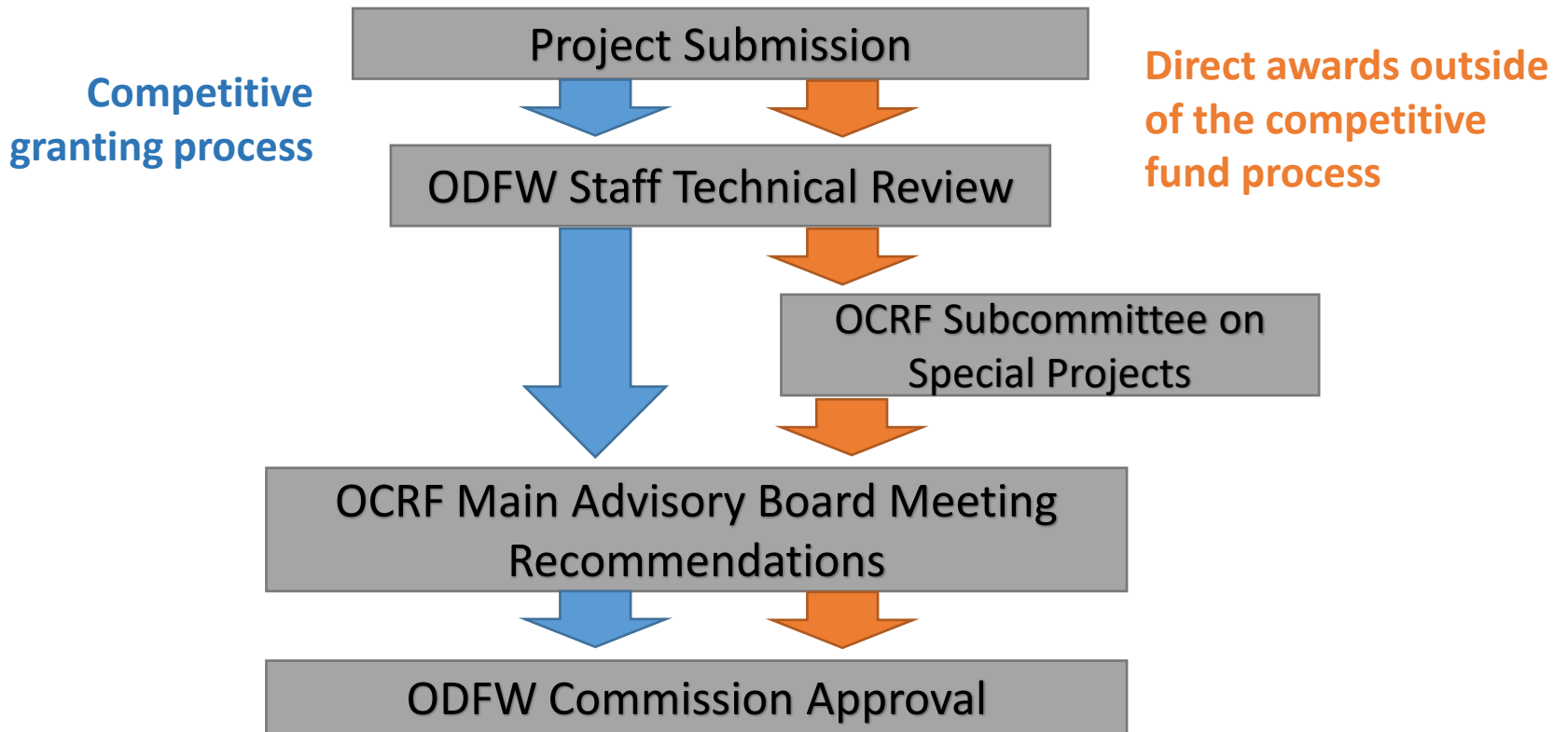
- *Funding levels have been on the scale of \$10K to \$50K*
- *Project timelines of 1 – 3 years*

## 2) Direct awards outside of the competitive fund process

*(as needed, and at the discretion of the OCRF)*

- *Special project requests must be brought forward by an OCRF Advisory Committee Member*
- *Vetted through the OCRF Special Projects Subcommittee*
- *Voted on for expenditure by the main OCRF Advisory Committee*

# OCRF Grant Review Process



# OCRF Proposed Rule Amendment

- Current rules require proposal submittal 60 days prior to a scheduled meeting
- For direct awards, this restriction has limited the efficiency of review
- Proposed rule amendment removes the 60-day restriction
- Allows for expedient review of special projects with time sensitivities
- Does not undermine OCRF Expenditure Framework
- Competitive granting process will retain > 60 days for review

# Staff Recommendation

Amend Conservation and Recreation fund rules in Division 98 as proposed by staff

**DRAFT MOTION:**

I move to amend OAR 635-098-0060 as proposed by staff.