

# Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund



## Exhibit B

Staff presentation by:

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## **Issue 1:**

Expenditure Recommendation from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund for the special project request “Let’s talk about beavers: Using social science to reduce conflict and enable coexistence in a changing climate”.

## **Issue 2:**

Expenditure from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund up to \$8,000 to support insurance requirements for a limited number of projects that were awarded funding on December 16th, 2023, by the Commission.



# **Engaging landowners in beaver coexistence: a social science study**

Dr. Megan Jones, Oregon Coop Unit & Adrienne Averett, ODFW

# Project Question

How can private landowners be supported to take coexistence actions that are mutually beneficial for their needs and beaver populations in Oregon?

Defining coexistence as restoration + conflict management

# Project Approach

1. **Systematic scoping of ongoing efforts:** baseline interviews and social network analysis
2. **Facilitating dialogues among practitioners:** problem-solving as a community of practice
3. **Wrapping up:** final round of interviews, social network analysis, and facilitated reflections on learning

# Potential directions



# How will we know if it worked?

1. Changes to the community of practice
  - Such as increased connectivity, fewer 'holes', and increased diffusion of information and ideas
2. Changes within and by the participants
  - Such as increased knowledge of new strategies, self-efficacy or confidence using different strategies, and self-reported changes in practice
3. Changes in ODFW practice and strategy
  - Such as actions under the Beaver Habitat Action Plan

# ODFW Beaver-Modified Landscapes Action Plan

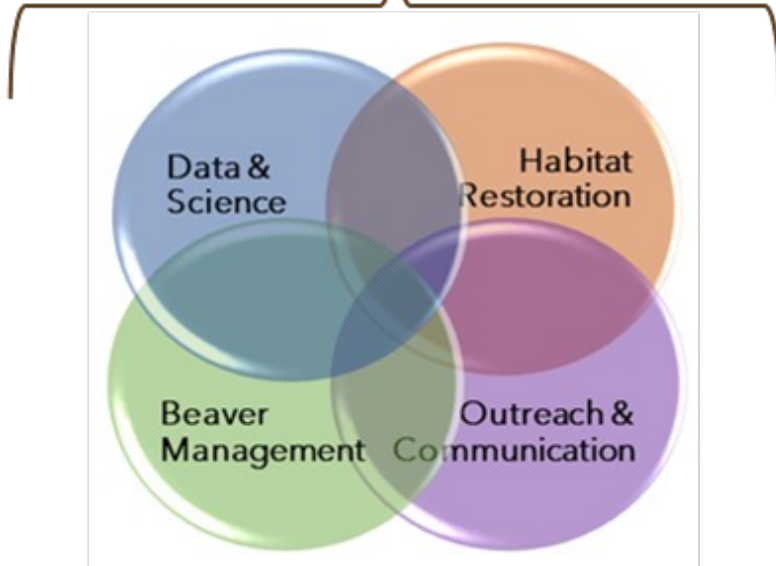
## ODFW Mission

To protect and enhance Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

## Beaver Habitat Action Plan Overarching Goal

ODFW staff will take action in the short term to accelerate the restoration of beaver habitat and beaver-modified habitat at the landscape-scale in Oregon.

## *Supporting Pillars*



# Pillar 4: Outreach & Communication



*Goal: Increase awareness of the benefits of beaver-modified habitat.  
Increase implementation of human-beaver coexistence strategies across Oregon.*

## Core Action

4A Coordinate with Oregon State University to conduct a social science study to develop, refine and test engagement strategies for working with private landowners to a) increase participation in - and tolerance for - beaver-related habitat restoration and b) increase adoption of non-lethal techniques for managing human-beaver conflict.



# OSU Study – ODFW Action Plan Outcomes

*OSU Study Objective 1: Increasing participation in beaver-modified habitat restoration (Action Plan Pillar #2).*

*OSU Study Objective 2: Increasing adoption of non-lethal measures to reduce human-beaver conflict (Action Plan Pillars #1 & 3).*



## Expanding the Toolbox

- Engagement efforts and tools that work for private landowners in beaver-modified habitat restoration and/or human-beaver conflict scenarios.
- Tools and strategies ODFW staff/partners can use in the field to increase adoption of coexistence across the spectrum of immediate damage solutions to long-term habitat restoration projects.

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# August/October 2022 Granting Process

- On December 16<sup>th</sup> 2022, the Commission Approved the funding of 25 projects.
- In January 2023, the department received new guidance from the Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) regarding the requirement of specialized insurance for grant programs.
- All projects are now contracting with the Department, and in the process of acquiring adequate insurance levels.
- Additional insurance requirements have been identified as a financial barrier to several grantees with smaller programs.

# *Staff Recommendation*

**Approve Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund expenditures as recommended by the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund Advisory Committee.**

## **DRAFT MOTION:**

I move to approve expenditures from the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund of \$137,501 for the project “Let’s talk about beavers: Using social science to reduce conflict and enable coexistence in a changing climate” and \$8,000 to support insurance requirements for selected projects that were awarded funding on December 16th, 2023, by the Commission.