

**RESTORATION AND ENHANCEMENT (R&E) PROJECT APPROVALS:  
PROJECT SUMMARIES AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

2023-2025 Biennium – Cycle 1 of 4

The R&E Board met in person on March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2023, in Salem, Or. During the meeting, the R&E Board recommended funding eleven of the project proposals that were submitted, plus the R&E program administration package. Four board member votes are required to pass a project funding recommendation; six of seven board members attended this meeting.

This attachment includes a summary of the recommended projects and a summary of the R&E Board review.

Copies of applications are available on the R&E Grant Application Website <https://nrimp.dfw.state.or.us/RE/> by selecting cycle 23-1. The R&E Board recommends funding the following projects:

<b>Restoration</b>	
Project Number:	23-011
Project Title:	Cycle 23-1 Hatchery Maintenance Bundle
Project Type:	Hatcheries
Sponsor:	Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, HQ Hatchery Program
Enhancement/Restoration:	Restoration
Funds Requested:	\$ 1,850,000.00
Other Funds:	\$ 35,000.00
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 1,885,000.00</b>

**Project Summary**

Funds will be used to replace the pipeline that delivers water to the Big Creek Hatchery, and to replace two hatchery raceways that will provide additional rearing flexibility at Elk River Hatchery.

**Board Summary: Votes: 6Y, 0N**

The Board unanimously supported the project after discussions to clarify why the pipeline at the Big Creek Hatchery was so expensive to replace. Scott Patterson explained that the budget for the new pipeline was based on an estimate from ODFW engineering and a similar project done at Clackamas Hatchery.

<b>Enhancement</b>	
Project Number:	23-001
Project Title:	Diamond Lake Monitoring/Invasive Species Removal
Project Type:	Monitoring/Research
Sponsor:	Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife, Umpqua District
Enhancement/Restoration:	Enhancement
Funds Requested:	\$ 89,951.00
Other Funds:	\$ 67,642.00
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 157,593.00</b>

**Project Summary**

Tui chub presence was confirmed in Diamond Lake in 2015. As per the Diamond Lake Restoration Project FEIS (2004), Diamond Lake Management Plan (2009), and Diamond Lake Oregon Administrative Rule 635-500-0703, action continues to be taken by ODFW to manually remove tui chub and golden shiner, and stock piscivorous trout. Funds will be used to maintain a premier,

blue-ribbon trout fishery in Diamond Lake by removing invasive cyprinids and evaluating the effectiveness and impact of the removal on the tui chub population.

**Board Summary: Votes: 5Y, 1N**

The Board supported the project after discussion about the apparent need to fund this project on an ongoing basis. Board stated that funding this project and managing the tui chub population has an immediate and profound impact on Diamond Lake and the trout fishery in the lake. Board members voiced their support for the project stating that they had seen the effects of the tui chub population explosion firsthand. The one no vote was because of the concern for on-going funding from the R&E Program for this project.

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Project Number:	23-002
Project Title:	Warrenton Rain Water Connection
Project Type:	Education/Outreach
Sponsor:	Warrenton High School Fisheries
Enhancement/Restoration:	Enhancement
Funds Requested:	\$ 18,000.00
Other Funds:	\$ 5,000.00
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 23,000.00</b>

**Project Summary**

This project will connect 4 downspouts from the roof of the Warrenton High School gymnasium to a water collection system that the High School Fisheries program uses for their fisheries program. This rainwater collection system reduces the dependence upon municipal water that must be treated prior to using for egg incubation or fish rearing projects associated with the fisheries class.

**Board Summary: Votes: 6Y, 0N**

The Board unanimously supported the project.

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Project Number:	23-004
Project Title:	Astoria High School Hatchery Upgrade
Project Type:	Education/Outreach
Sponsor:	Astoria High School
Enhancement/Restoration:	Enhancement
Funds Requested:	\$ 181,431.00
Other Funds:	\$ 187,000.00
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 368,431.00</b>

**Project Summary**

This project is seeking funds to renovate and upgrade the existing salmon and trout hatchery for the fisheries program at Astoria High School. The project would include replacement of the fish rearing tanks, head tanks, incubators, renovation of the Underlab, and installation of a new concrete floor and drainage trench. The result will be a safer, more efficient learning environment that is ADA compliant and accessible for all students.

**Board Summary: Votes: 4Y, 2N**

R&E Board discussed the need for stamped, engineered plans for the project and who would be responsible for oversight and design of the project. ODFW engineers would review the plans, but the responsibility of design work and implementation would be handled by the Astoria High School or an outside contractor. Board members asked about the long-term commitment to the project, and applicant stated the program has been in place since the 1970's and will continue into the

future. The R&E Board did have concerns about the amount of direct angler benefit from the project and it was stated that this is a project that focuses on educational benefit more than a project to produce fish for the angler. Board members stated that the education that the fisheries program students get from this program is beneficial. The 2 no votes were because R&E Board members felt there was a lack of direct benefit to the angler.

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Project Number:	23-006
Project Title:	Internships Invasive Removal in High Lakes 23-24
Project Type:	Habitat Enhancements
Sponsor:	Oregon State University/ODFW Deschutes District
Enhancement/Restoration:	Enhancement
Funds Requested:	\$ 41,165.00
Other Funds:	\$ 42,992.00
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 84,157.00</b>

### **Project Summary**

East Lake, Paulina Lake, and Lava Lake are popular trout angling waters that are infested with invasive chub. Large numbers of chub in the lakes have a detrimental effect on trout and angling. Invasive catfish have also overpopulated in Crane Prairie Reservoir. Interns will work with ODFW staff to remove invasive fish and monitor trout and water quality in these lakes.

### **Board Summary: Votes: 5Y, 1N**

The R&E Board supported the project after discussion of the on-going need for continued funding for this project and whether the project in the past to remove invasive species has had a beneficial outcome for the fisheries in these lakes. The answer was yes, there has been a direct benefit to the angler at these lakes by removing invasive species. The one no vote was because of the concern for continued funding from R&E towards this project year after year.

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Project Number:	23-007
Project Title:	Cape Meares Lake Invasive Weed Treatment
Project Type:	Habitat Enhancement/Angler Access
Sponsor:	ODFW – North Coast
Enhancement/Restoration:	Enhancement
Funds Requested:	\$ 80,000.00
Other Funds:	\$ 7061.00
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 87,061.00</b>

### **Project Summary**

This project will increase angling opportunity and access in Cape Meares Lake by contracting out treatment and removal of invasive Eurasian Milfoil which has grown so densely in the lake over the past few years that it is currently restricting angling and boat access.

### **Board Summary: Votes: 6Y, 0N**

Board discussed what the benefit to the angler would be. Before the weed infestation what was the public's utilization of the resource? Mike Sinnot, North Coast Asst. Fish Biologist said that prior to the weed infestation, the lake was heavily utilized by both boat and bank anglers, however the R&E funded dock is not currently usable for launching boats because of the weeds. Anglers currently can't angle from bank because of weeds. Removing and treating the weeds restores the angler's ability to utilize this popular lake on the North Coast. R&E Board unanimously supported the project.

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Project Number: 23-009  
 Project Title: Coquille River Predatory Fish Reduction Project  
 Project Type: Habitat Enhancements  
 Sponsor: ODFW – Coos/Coquille District  
 Enhancement/Restoration: Enhancement  
 Funds Requested: \$ 67,604.00  
 Other Funds: \$ 99,360.00  
**Total Project Cost:** \$ 166,964.00

**Project Summary**

The serious depletion of Coquille fall Chinook salmon since 2018 has been directly linked to the illegal introduction of smallmouth bass. ODFW staff started direct removal efforts of non-native predatory fish, along with looking for opportunities to improve habitat. The goal of the project is to reduce freshwater predation on salmonid juveniles in the Coquille River and its tributaries.

**Board Summary: Votes: 6Y, 0N**

The R&E Board asked if the population crash was due to the bass and the answer was yes, because the crash was so much bigger than the decline observed in all the surrounding rivers. Mike Gray, Coos/Coquille District Fish Biologist stated that we know that in 2015-16 we had the warm ocean blob that persisted for 2 summers in a row. Looking at the graphs from the coastal river Chinook populations, the Resource Evaluation Data and Decision (REDD) group was tasked with looking at potential limiting factors of the Chinook salmon population. The REDD group determined that the warm ocean was a major factor in population decline, and while many rivers' populations have rebounded, the Coquille hasn't. The consensus is that the bass population is the reason. The R&E Board unanimously supported this project.

Project Number: 23-012  
 Project Title: Fishing Facilities Bundle 23/25  
 Project Type: Angler Access  
 Sponsor: ODFW – H.Q.  
 Enhancement/Restoration: Enhancement  
 Funds Requested: \$ 262,037.00  
 Other Funds: \$ 5255.00  
**Total Project Cost:** \$ 267,292.00

**Project Summary**

This bundle includes improvements to 2 high use fishing sites, 1 at Empire Lake in Coos Bay, and the other at EE Wilson Pond near Adair Village. The 2 fishing sites to be improved are both priority sites for ODFW, and the work proposed will improve fishing access, use, and enjoyment by anglers and the public at each location. The Empire Lake project will provide a new ADA accessible walkway and fishing dock, and the work on the project at the EE Wilson fishing pond will improve existing ADA access to the pond, along with other repairs to the infrastructure at the fishing pond.

**Board Summary: Votes: 6Y, 0N**

There was limited discussion from the R&E Board about either project in this bundle. R&E Board unanimously approved the project request.

Project Number: 23-013  
 Project Title: Poison Creek Reservoir Aeration System  
 Project Type: Habitat Enhancements

Sponsor: ODFW – Southeast District  
Enhancement/Restoration: Enhancement  
Funds Requested: \$ 12,488.00  
Other Funds: \$ 4,833.00  
**Total Project Cost:** \$ 17,321.00

**Project Summary**

Poison Creek Reservoir suffers from occasional fish kills due to low oxygen levels in the winter when the lake ices over. An aeration system will reduce aquatic macrophyte growth during summer and provide an oxygen source during ice up through the winter.

**Board Summary: Votes: 5Y, 1N**

The R&E Board supported the project after discussion about how effective the aerator would be and if the solar system would be prone to vandalism. The one no vote was due to concern about how much angler benefit this project creates.

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Project Number: 21-014  
Project Title: ROV Replacement for Nearshore Video Surveys  
Project Type: Monitoring/Research  
Sponsor: ODFW – Mid Coast District  
Enhancement/Restoration: Enhancement  
Funds Requested: \$ 200,000.00  
Other Funds: \$ 0.00  
**Total Project Cost:** \$ 200,000.00

**Project Summary**

Purchase a replacement Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) which will allow the Marine Program to extend and increase the accuracy of video surveys of multiple fish species and other invertebrate species in nearshore rocky habitats. Use of the new ROV would start in 2024 and would last for at least 20 years.

**Board Summary: Votes: 5Y, 1N**

Board expressed concern that there was no match funding from other sources to help purchase the ROV. Applicant did state that they are currently pursuing other sources of grant funding for the project. The one no vote was due to lack of match funding from other partners.

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Project Number: 23-016  
Project Title: St. Paul Ponds Security and Sustainability Project  
Project Type: Angling Opportunity  
Sponsor: ODFW – Clackamas  
Enhancement/Restoration: Enhancement  
Funds Requested: \$ 23,000.00  
Other Funds: \$ 2,800.00  
**Total Project Cost:** \$ 25,800.00

**Project Summary**

The proposed project would use R&E funding to purchase and install a steel forestry style gate at the entrance of the St. Paul property to prevent unauthorized access to the facility. Warmwater fish are held in the earthen ponds at this property prior to being transferred to public fishing ponds in the Willamette Valley to augment popular put and take fisheries. There has been a recent increase of vandalism and theft of ODFW property at this site and the gate will minimize this activity. Funds

will also be used to acquire a mower deck for an ODFW owned tractor which will be used to maintain the St. Paul property and preserve access to the ponds.

**Board Summary: Votes: 5Y, 1N**

The R&E Board supported the project with limited discussion. The one no vote was due to lack of direct angler benefit and an overall low score from the ODFW internal review team.

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Project Number:	23-A0 through A8
Project Title:	R&E Administration & Operational funds
Project Type:	Angler Access & Education/outreach
Sponsor:	ODFW – H.Q.
Enhancement/Restoration:	50% Restoration, 50% Enhancement
Funds Requested:	\$ 1,277,693.00
Other Funds:	\$ 0.00
<b>Total Project Cost:</b>	<b>\$ 1,277,693.00</b>

**Project Summary**

The R&E Administration and operational funds are used to cover the costs of the R&E program for the 23/25 biennium. These costs include staff time for the Program Coordinator and Program Assistant, charges associated with meetings and travel, and general office expenses. The Administration funds cover charges for program publicity, maintenance and upgrades to the online grant management system, and the R&E emergency grant program. The Construction Project Manager is also covered under the R&E administration package. STEP fish food, STEP education, and the STAC mini-grants are also covered by the R&E administration package.

**Board Summary: Votes: 6Y, 0N**

The R&E Board discussed how the R&E program is seeing a large ask from applicants during cycle 1, and subsequently how a large portion of the projected funding is being awarded at the start of the biennium. One board member was concerned about the amount of work that the program staff would have if all the projects were awarded at the start of the biennium. Other R&E Board members and program staff explained that there is still a tremendous workload for the Program Coordinator and the Program Assistant related to tracking grants from cycle 1, assisting with grant processes for the remainder of the biennium for cycles 2, 3, & 4, and general day to day operation of the program. The R&E Board unanimously supported the R&E Administration and Operation package.