



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

Restoration and Enhancement Program Project Approval and Board Appointment
December 15, 2023

BACKGROUND

This exhibit includes information on two topics that require Commission review and action. (1) The approval of funding for projects recommended by the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Board. (2) The appointment of two R&E Board members.

The R&E program was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1989 to help fund fish restoration and enhancement projects throughout the state. The program is funded by a surcharge on sport and commercial fishing licenses and commercial poundage fees and is overseen by a seven-member citizen board made up of three ocean and inland fisheries representatives, three representatives of the commercial salmon industry and one representative of the public. The R&E Board meets four times each biennium in various communities throughout the state to review applications for project funding, to hear public testimony, act as liaisons between the program and the public, and to conduct other program business.

ISSUE 1

Approval of the R&E Board-recommended restoration and enhancement projects

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Issue 1: Approval of the R&E Board-recommended restoration and enhancement projects

Public comment on applications for funding is taken at R&E Board and Commission meetings, which are open to the public and are public meetings under the Oregon Public Meeting laws. Notice of upcoming meetings and the proposed agenda is provided on request, listed on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) website, and distributed via news release to statewide and local media.

ANALYSIS

On September 20, 2023, the R&E Board recommended funding two projects. The total recommended for funding for the two projects was \$353,363.00. This is the second of four funding cycles for the 2023-2025 biennium. If the Commission approves these recommendations, \$5,548.00 of the projected biennium allocation will remain. The board typically recommends allocating most of the funds during the first two requests for proposals in a biennium to allow project proponents sufficient time to complete projects. The department

expects that the remaining balance will increase as a result of unspent funds being returned from projects that close out prior to the end of the 2023-2025 biennium. A summary of the R&E projects recommended for funding is presented in Attachments 2 and 3.

OPTIONS

1. Approve the R&E Board recommended projects.
2. Reject all projects.
3. Reject individual projects.

ISSUE 2

Appointment of Restoration and Enhancement Board representatives

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Issue 2: Appointment of Restoration and Enhancement Board representatives

ODFW solicits board recruitments via news release to statewide and local media and outreach to stakeholder groups.

ANALYSIS

ODFW recruited to fill two open positions on the Restoration and Enhancement Board. One open position represents sport fishing interests, and one open position represents the commercial salmon fishing industry. ODFW received three applications for the position that represents sport fishing interests, and one application for the position that represents commercial salmon fishing interests. To inform the recommendation, several ODFW staff reviewed applications (Attachment 4) and ranked candidates based on their qualifications and the following criteria:

- Angling interests;
- Participation in fishing organizations;
- Familiarity with Oregon’s fish management programs;
- Understanding of ODFW and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission;
- Contribution to diversity of the board;
- Availability for R&E Board duties;
- Interpersonal skills;
- Experience working with or representing the public;
- Experience with public service (boards, committees, etc.); and

- General “fit” with current board members (e.g., area of expertise, location in state).

The R&E Board is comprised of seven members, three members represent ocean and inland recreational fisheries (sport fishing), three members represent the commercial salmon industry, and one member represents the public at-large. When appointed, a board member serves a four-year term that can be renewed for a total of eight years of representation on the board. Currently there are two vacancies on the board. One to represent sport fishing interests and one to represent commercial salmon industry interests.

Recommendation for Sport Fishing Representative

Staff recommend that Fred Cholick be appointed by the Commission to fill the vacant seat on the R&E Board to represent the sport fishing community. Mr. Cholick was born and raised on Sauvie Island, and grew up fishing the Multnomah Channel, along with the Willamette and Columbia Rivers. Fred currently resides in Bend, Oregon, where he enjoys fishing the Deschutes River and the Cascade High Lakes. In addition to being an avid sport angler, Fred is the current President of the Central Oregon Flyfishers organization, and he has been a certified Angler Education Instructor for the last six years. Fred has served on various boards, including the United States Department of Agriculture National Agricultural Research, Extension, Education, and Economics Advisory Board, along with being on the board of directors for the Kansas Wheat Alliance, where he was part of a review team for international wheat research in Kazakhstan. Fred’s knowledge of statewide fishery issues and his ability to work as part of a team will serve him well as a member of the R&E Board.

If Fred Cholick is not appointed, as an alternate staff recommend that Ken Lollich be appointed to fill the vacant seat on the R&E board to represent the sport fishing community. Mr. Lollich lives in Grants Pass, he is the Vice President of the Middle Rogue Steelheaders, and is the co-chair of the local angler education program. Ken is an avid sport angler and is involved with the local Salmon and Trout Enhancement Program projects in his community.

Recommendation for Commercial Fishing Representative

Staff recommend that Brett Montague be appointed by the Commission to fill the vacant seat on the R&E Board to represent the commercial fishing community. Brett Montague lives in the central coast town of Seal Rock and owns a commercial salmon trolling vessel in Newport. Brett has been an avid fisherman for most of his life and has been involved in commercial fishing off the Oregon and California coast since 2016. Brett not only fishes for Salmon, but he is also active in the Albacore Tuna fishery and currently serves on the Oregon Albacore Commission. Brett owns his own boat, but also will occasionally work for other commercial owners. Brett has a broad knowledge of the commercial fisheries in Oregon and is also an avid sport fisherman who enjoys fishing for Winter Steelhead when he has time. Brett’s knowledge of the commercial salmon fishing industry and his deep connection to the commercial fishing community on the central coast will serve him well as a member on the R&E board.

OPTIONS

1. Approve staff recommendations for the R&E Board.
2. Reject staff recommendations and appoint other applicant(s).
3. Reject staff recommendations for the R&E Board appointments and direct ODFW to continue with an open recruitment to fill the vacant positions on the R&E Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: ISSUE 1

1. Approve the R&E Board recommended projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: ISSUE 2

1. Approve staff recommendations for the R&E Board.

DRAFT MOTIONS:

Issue 1: I move to approve the projects recommended by the Restoration and Enhancement Board as set forth in Attachments 2 and 3.

Effective Date: December 15, 2023.

Issue 2: I move to appoint Fred Cholick to a four-year term as a Sport Fishing Representative on the Restoration and Enhancement Board, and I move to appoint Brett Montague to a four-year term as a Commercial Fishing Representative on the Restoration and Enhancement Board.

Effective Date: December 15, 2023.