

# **PFA Advisory Committee**

## **Staff Report**

Meeting Type: Virtual

Meeting Date: Tuesday, January 14, 2025

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The purpose of this report is to inform the Private Forest Accord Advisory Committee (MAC) and the public about recent developments in the PFA Grants Program and ongoing staff efforts.

The PFA Advisory Committee (Committee) has finalized the following important documents:

- ✓ [Advisory Committee Operating Procedures](#)
- ✓ [Oregon Administrative Rules](#)
- ✓ [Expenditure Framework](#)
- ✓ [Meeting Agendas](#)

**Agenda item:** 4. Governors Recommended Budget Update

**Presented by:** Sarah Reif, ODFW Habitat Division Administrator (Acting ODFW Deputy Director)

**Topics Covered:**

- Sarah will update the Committee on the status of the Governors Recommended Budget, which may be found here: [https://www.oregon.gov/das/financial/documents/2025-27\\_gb.pdf](https://www.oregon.gov/das/financial/documents/2025-27_gb.pdf)
- Details in regards to the PFA Grant Program may be found on page 142 of the budget, under “*Habitat Division.*”

**Agenda item:** 5. ODFW Staff Update

**Presented by:** Andy Spyrka, Private Forest Accord Grant Coordinator

**Topics Covered:**

### **1. Project Funding Update**

- The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission approved the \$29,000.00 funding increase request on Friday, December 13, 2024 for the Rock Berm Removal and Blue Heron Channel Connection Project along the Bear Creek corridor in Phoenix, OR
- Department staff will work with the Grantee to modify and amend any agreements.

### **2. Overview of the 2024 Review Cycle and Timelines**

- The previous solicitation period closed on November 13, 2024.

- ODFW staff continues to coordinate with program partners to organize review teams across Oregon in preparation for the review cycle.
- Reviewing partners participating in this cycle include USFWS, NOAA, ODF, and ODFW staff.
- Andy will present further details on review timelines and process to the MAC.

**3. Overview of the NEW Grant review and ranking process – See attachment 04\_Proposed PFA Grants Committee Review and Ranking Process Change**

- Andy Spyrka will discuss a new proposed method to reviewing and ranking proposals in regard to the Committee review and ranking process.
- The Process is detailed in the attached document. The Committee will have the opportunity to review and adopt this new process or use last year’s method.

**4. Stream Bio Presentation Format – See attachment 05\_Stream Bio Presentation**

- The Committee has an opportunity to review and provide any additional feedback in regards to the PFA Stream Bio Presentation template that is used to present to the Committee during the in-person Committee meeting in March when selecting projects for funding.

**5. MAC In-person meeting update**

- Winter conditions make travel to project sites near waterways unsafe and impractical during the yearly MAC meeting.
- ODFW staff recommends holding this year’s March in-person meeting in Salem, following last year’s two-day schedule.
  - Contact Tiffany promptly regarding travel arrangements. She will coordinate accommodations and meals.
  - The meeting will follow last year’s format, including a dinner in downtown Salem on the first night.
- ODFW Staff recommends we hold a yearly in-person mid-late summer field trip instead.

**Agenda item:** 6. PFA Grant OAR Revisions – See attachment 06\_PFA OAR Revision Recommendations.

**Presented by:** Andy Spyrka, Private Forest Accord Grant Coordinator

**Topics Covered:**

- Andy Spyrka will provide a detailed presentation on the proposed changes to the PFA Grant Program Oregon Administrative Rules (OARs).
- The Committee will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback.

- ODFW staff recommends the Committee consider the line-item changes outlined in Attachment 6. If approved, ODFW staff will present these changes to the Oregon Commission in February for final approval.

Please note the following key points when reviewing the changes in the OARs:

- **Formatting:** OAR edits are presented as [~~strikethroughs for old language in brackets~~] and **bold underlined** for new language.
- **Major Revisions (All approved by DOJ for legal sufficiency):**
  - **Unified Grant Pathway:** Removed the distinction between Urgent Grants and Regular Grants, consolidating them into a single grant pathway.
  - **Simplified Rules:** Removed outdated rules that previously addressed separate funding pathways.
  - **Program Name Change:** "Mitigation" has been removed from the Grant Program Name and Advisory Committee name, confirmed as legally sufficient by DOJ.
  - **Pre-Award Work Authorization:** Revised OAR 635-097-0090 to allow pre-award work to begin before project agreements are executed, addressing a key request from grantees.
  - **Project Flexibility:** Added provisions for the Committee and Department to make minor project changes without requiring Commission approval, within reasonable limits.
  - **Updated Definitions:** Included new definitions for "covered species" and "Tribe," and clarified others to better align with the program's intent and avoid misconceptions that it is only a "mitigation" grant program.
  - **Acquisition Language:** Updated to match exactly what the Statute states.