



Project Committee Meeting August 31st, 2023

- **Old Business**

- **Nehalem River Basin Mitigation Fund Planning** is stalled while we await a funding framework proposal from the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council.
- **Two Rivers Side Channel and Main Stem Project** is a multi-partner effort to improve critical habitat conditions in a Wild and Scenic River that supports the recovery of Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed salmon and steelhead. Lack of habitat complexity and connectivity of side channels to the mainstem are prevalent issues limiting salmonid productivity in the Clackamas River Basin. The objectives are to restore the form and function of the floodplain and existing side channel and create new cover habitat in the side channel and mainstem for resident and at-risk anadromous fishes.
- **The Estacada Lake Large Wood Fish Habitat project** will be constructed at the upstream end of Estacada Lake in partnership with Applied River Sciences and Aquatic Contracting. Five large wood structures will be designed and constructed to provide cover habitat and high velocity refugia for adult salmon and Pacific lamprey. While fish use through the project reach is high, the available cover habitat is limited and primarily concentrated along banks and shoreline where velocities are slower and vegetation provides cover and organic material.
- **AtB Grant, Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network** implementation planning has begun with Pacific Birds and Klamath Bird Observatory. OWF will receive and administer the funds in partnership with Pacific Birds and KBO.
- **Highway 30 Harborton Frog Crossing Project** planning is well underway. Along with our contractors, we're meeting with the Bureau of Development Services, City of Portland, to determine next steps. We have a tentative understanding with ODOT that a box culvert will be installed under highway 30 at Harborton Drive to facilitate frog movement from west to east and return. No egress under the railroad tracks or NW Marine Way is planned.
- **Foundation Fund Guide** - the revised Guide is available in the Project area of our website.

- **New Business**

- **Oregon Native Trout Challenge Fiscal Sponsorship** - we arranged a meeting with this group, Mike Harrington (ODFW Fish Division Administrator) and Shawn Clements (Deputy Administrator). The Department has agreed to support this project and provide technical assistance. They are excited for Oregon to have it's own Native Trout Challenge program.
- **Five Rivers Subbasin LWD Helicopter Treatment Project** - this is a multi-partner effort to help recover coastal coho in the mid-coast region through treatment of multiple stream reaches with large wood structures - many of these are inaccessible by ground equipment or the on-the-ground conditions too

challenging except through placement using a helicopter. This was #2 in OWEB's North Coast Region Spring funding cycle. It was also the largest funding request in the state. Consequently, while highly-rated in the region, it was unlikely to be funded once the statewide priority list of projects was compiled. Our region representative asked us to consider withdrawing our application and reapplying in the Fall cycle but with a lower amount of funding requested.

- **Deer Creek Willow Planting Project** is the beneficiary of the withdrawal of our other OWEB funding request. This was ranked #4 in the region and is now likely to receive a "fund" recommendation from OWEB staff.
 - **Elk Creek Floodplain to Forest Restoration Project** - this is an America the Beautiful Grant Program request by ODFW. If it's awarded, OWF will administer these funds in partnership with Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture.
 - **Willamette Valley Resilient Landscapes Project** - this is another America the Beautiful Grant Program request by ODFW. If it's awarded, OWF will administer these funds in partnership with Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture.
 - **Big Elk & Sugar Bowl Creeks LWD Project** - this is a partnership between ODFW and OWF to treat reaches of Big Elk and Sugar Bowl creeks on land owned and managed by Pacific Forest Trust (PFT); a nonprofit land trust with holdings in Oregon and California. PFT is planning a large thinning project to improve forest health and will set aside select trees for stream placement. OWF funding would cover equipment rental and operator expenses. ODFW will manage the project and design the structures.
 - **Forest Park Red-legged Frog Pond Habitat Development** - Portland Parks & Recreation is tentatively allowing the development of suitable pond habitat for red-legged frogs in Forest Park. This is another strategy to reduce red-legged frog mortality on highway 30 by providing them with breeding pond habitat closer to where they live. PP&R has informally requested that the Foundation take the lead in communications, fundraising, and contracting.
 - **Haek Estate - Umpqua River frontage** - the Foundation is now the legal owner of this 2.5 acre parcel of land on the Umpqua River near Elkton. Along with the property, the Foundation also received a 2nd distribution from the estate; \$165,000. It is anticipated that some amount of these funds will be used to clean up the property to make it suitable for bank fishing.
 - **Fly Creek Ranch Conservation Easement** - Phil Nance approached the Foundation and asked us to hold a conservation easement on his family's ranch property which is located due west of Grandview (Lake Billy Chinook) at the head of Fly Creek canyon. This is one of a handful of privately owned properties in this area which is part of the [Metolius Mule Deer Winter Range](#). Fly Creek Canyon is also a migration corridor for animals moving from the winter range area to the foothills of the Cascades near and around Black Butte.
- **Additional New Business (if time allows)**



- **OCRF Strategic Planning** - OWF, on behalf of the Department, has engaged the services of a consultant to guide the OCRF Advisory committee and staff through a strategic planning process that will establish goals and objectives for the next two bienniums. There's a likely support role for OWF to play in communications, fundraising, project development or a combination of these.
- **Coastal Coho Recovery** - ODFW has asked OWF to serve as the fiscal administrator for Federal funds they're seeking to support the recovery of coastal coho. This would be for a portfolio of projects that include the Five Rivers project and others along the coast.
- **The NE Oregon Wildlife Passage Coalition** is beginning to take shape. Tentatively, OWF will be a funder, aggregate \$, and manage the rfp and contracting processes.