

State of Oregon
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

Date: July 27, 2015

To: Environmental Quality Commission

From:  Dick Pedersen, Director

Subject: Agenda item H, Informational item: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board investments and strategic initiatives
Aug. 12-13, 2015, EQC meeting

Why this is important Staff from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board will present to the commission regarding OWEB's strategic investments and initiatives for Oregon's watersheds. This item is an opportunity for commissioners and staff to communicate directly on areas of shared interest and oversight.

Background OWEB is a state agency that provides grants to help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands and natural areas. Community members and landowners use scientific criteria to decide jointly what needs to be done to conserve and improve rivers and natural habitat in the places where they live. OWEB grants are funded from the Oregon Lottery, federal dollars, and salmon license plate revenue. The agency is led by a 17-member citizen board drawn from the public at large, tribes, and federal and state natural resource agency boards and commissions.

In April 2015, the Board approved Focused Investment Partnership Priorities for the 2015-2017 biennium. The priorities will inform the grants awarded in 2015, and are:

- Sagebrush/Sage-Steppe Habitat
- Oregon Closed Lakes Basin Wetlands Habitat
- Dry-Type Forest Habitat
- Oak Woodland and Prairie Habitat
- Coho Habitat and Populations Along the Oregon Coast
- Aquatic Habitat for Native Fish Species
- Coastal Estuaries in Oregon

EQC involvement and next steps Commissioner Rider serves as the EQC representative to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Her role as liaison to this body will continue through the duration of her term as EQC commissioner.

Information provided by OWEB, report prepared by Stephanie Caldera