

August 28, 2006

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Greg Sieglitz, Monitoring and Reporting Program Manager

**SUBJECT: Agenda Item G: Oregon Plan Monitoring
September 19-20, 2006 OWEB Board Meeting**

I. Introduction

This staff report asks the Board to fund two specific Oregon Plan Monitoring projects that have been before the Board in one form or another over the course of the last year. The first project is for water quality monitoring equipment for the Department of Environmental Quality. The second project is developing web-based access to OWEB's restoration database and web portal enhancements.

II. Background

At the January 2006 Board meeting, the OWEB Board approved a spending plan which reserved \$110,000 for Oregon Plan Monitoring and \$690,000 for Oregon Plan Products from the federal fiscal year 2006 allocation of Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) monies to Oregon.

III. Oregon Plan Monitoring Projects

A. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program Equipment Needs

The DEQ provides access to equipment, training, database support, and analytical assistance for watershed councils and soil and water conservation districts through the Volunteer Water Quality Monitoring Program funded by OWEB. The equipment, which is provided to local groups for use in conducting water quality monitoring, periodically requires refurbishment or replacement. The budget in Attachment A provides a detailed accounting of the equipment and reagents which are in need of updating. The total proposed budget for the equipment is \$27,322.75.

B. OWRI Web Access, Oregon Explorer, and Conservation Registry

At the March 2006 Board meeting, the Institute for Natural Resources (INR) and Oregon State University (OSU) Libraries approached the Board with a revised proposal to fund the Umpqua Basin Explorer in lieu of a \$150,000 Education grant that was not recommended for funding. The revised proposal was designed to focus on Umpqua Basin specific data through development of an Umpqua web portal. The Board approved funding for the proposal at \$37,500.

Subsequent to the March 2006 Board meeting, the INR and OSU Libraries approached staff with a proposal to fund the statewide Oregon Explorer infrastructure for \$75,000. Staff reiterated the Board's reservations expressed at the March Board meeting to fund the statewide web portal infrastructure when it was not recommended for funding by the Education grant review committee, and with the lack of detail provided regarding the use of the Willamette and North Coast Explorer Web portals to date. INR staff have provided a description of the varied funding they are currently pursuing from state agencies and private foundations, including the Department of Administrative Services and the Governor's office. INR staff recognize that OWEB cannot and should not fund the lion's share of the start up and maintenance of the statewide web portal.

Staff have worked with the INR to develop the current proposal (Attachment B), which would meet data management needs for both OWEB and the INR. The proposal provides a necessary and useful product for the Board, OWEB staff, and the public by making the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory data and maps available on the World Wide Web. In addition, the INR and OSU Libraries will develop data entry web based tools to allow grant recipients the capability to enter mandatory project completion data online. The current proposal also involves joint OWEB/OSU training for local groups on the use of the data and mapping tools, and will include and provide linkages to information from the Defenders of Wildlife Conservation Registry database, which is currently being developed.

All data and tools made possible through this proposal, if funded, would be made available through the statewide web portal and all other geographically or subject matter based web portals developed by the INR and OSU Libraries. An Oregon Statehood Day ceremony is planned for February 24, 2007, for the unveiling of the Oregon Explorer enhancements found in this proposal, including the OWRI web access. See Attachment B for more detailed information.

IV. Recommendation

Staff request Board approval of:

- A) \$27,322.75 to fund an Interagency Agreement with the Department of Environmental Quality for the replacement and refurbishing of volunteer monitoring equipment; and
- B) \$75,000 to fund an Interagency Agreement with the Oregon State University Institute for Natural Resources for the development of web access to and tools for the Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory, statewide Oregon Explorer web portal enhancements, and Registry of Conservation Actions.

Attachments

- A. DEQ Volunteer Monitoring Equipment Budget
- B. Oregon Explorer Proposal