Lower Deschutes Small Grant Program

Program Overview
The Small Grant Program is an easy-to-engage-in, competitive grant program that awards up to $15,000 for on-the-ground restoration projects principally carried out on private lands across Oregon. This program responds to a need for local decision-making about watershed restoration opportunities on a shorter timeframe than is available under OWEB's regular grant program.

The Small Grant Program enables landowners across the state to contribute to the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and the Oregon Conservation Strategy by committing "small acts of kindness" on their properties for the benefit of water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife. From planting native plants along stream sides to reducing sedimentation and erosion from upland farms and ranches, citizens everywhere can make a difference.

Eligible Projects
Instream Process and function

- Improve Instream Habitat: Place large wood, boulders, or salmon carcasses
- Manage Erosion: Bioengineer stream banks, slope stream banks, or develop water gaps, streambank barbs
- Eradicate or control exotic aquatic species

Fish Passage

- Remove Irrigation or Push-Up Dams: Install alternatives (e.g., infiltration galleries, point-of-diversion transfers) or convert from gravity diversion to pumps
- Remove and/or Replace Culverts (as a condition of funding, such projects require Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife (ODFW) or Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form; and for culverts under state roads, a 50% Oregon Department of Transportation match)
- Remove or Replace Stream Crossings (as a condition of funding, such projects require ODFW or ODF technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form)

Urban Impact Reduction

- Install Storm Water Runoff Treatments (e.g., create bioswales, pervious surfaces, native plant buffers, green roofs)
- Create Off-Channel Flood Storage
- Employ Integrated Pest Management

Riparian Process and Function

- Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs through managed grazing (e.g., fencing and developing off-channel watering) and plantings
- Manage Vegetation: Plant or seed native riparian species, propagate native riparian plants, or control weeds in conjunction with a restoration project
- Employ Integrated Pest Management

Wetland Process and Function

- Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs: Fence out livestock or develop alternative watering sites
- Manage Vegetation: Control weeds (in conjunction with a restoration project), or plant native wetland species
- Restore Wetlands: Excavate or remove fill, or eliminate drainage structures
- Employ Integrated Pest Management

Upland Process and Function

- Manage Erosion on Agricultural Lands: Terrace land, employ laser leveling, create windbreaks, install sediment basins (WASCBs), develop filter strips/grassed waterways, manage mud (e.g., gravel high-use areas, develop paddocks), seed bare areas (OWEB may require a grazing management plan, if appropriate, prior to release of fund. For post-fire areas, seed only where natural regeneration is unlikely — e.g., on slopes of 30% or more — or where it can be demonstrated that seeding would retard or prevent the spread of noxious weeds), or reduce tillage
- Manage Nutrient and Sediment Inputs to Streams through the management of grazing, vegetation cover, animal waste, or irrigation runoff
- Manage Vegetation: prescribed burning, except when conducted as part of a commercial harvest; non-commercial thinning; control/remove juniper (except late seral/old growth); plant or seed (native upland species or native beneficial mixes preferred); or control weeds (in conjunction with a restoration project). Projects for prescribed burning to reduce fuel loads require Oregon Department of Forestry technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form.
- Manage Wildlife: install water guzzlers
- Employ Integrated Pest Management

Water Quantity / Irrigation Efficiency

- Recharge Groundwater: Roof water harvesting
- Implement Irrigation Practices (e.g., pipe existing ditch, install drip or sprinkler systems, install automated soil moisture sensors where water and electrical savings can be documented, or recover or eliminate tail water). Such projects must either not adversely impact the current level of groundwater in a Groundwater Management Area, or must measurably reduce the diversion of water at the point of diversion. As a condition of funding, irrigation efficiency projects require local watermaster technical review and approval, or tribal government review and approval for projects on Tribal Trust Lands, using a standard OWEB form.

Private Road Impact Reduction

- Decommission Roads
- Improve Surface Drainage: surface road drainage improvements, gravel surfacing, stream crossings

Ineligible Projects

- Monitoring, outreach, and education projects

- Project planning and design not done in conjunction with the implementation of funded restoration or enhancement activities
- Routine maintenance
- Fish screens
- Constructed stream bank armoring
- Development of off-channel watering systems not done in conjunction with fencing a riparian area or managing nutrient and sediment inputs in upland areas
- Pond cleaning and pond creation (does not include off-channel watering systems and pump-back systems)
- Residential landscaping not done in conjunction with the implementation of funded riparian restoration or enhancement activities
- Weed control not done in conjunction with the implementation of funded restoration or enhancement activities
- Projects required as a condition of a local, state, or federal permit, order, or enforcement action (e.g., mitigation projects, manure storage and management projects that are required by a permit from ODA)
- Irrigation practices that do not result in decreased water use and any of the following: measurable increased instream flow, increased groundwater level, or improved water quality
- Irrigation water conservation projects that propose any of the following activities:
    - Irrigation system maintenance or renovation of existing pipe
    - Restoring a system that has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance and/or inadequate design
    - Portable pipe (does not include gated pipe) or ditch cleaning
    - Electrical costs resulting from conversion to pump from flood irrigation
    - Western juniper management that involves the removal of late-seral/old growth juniper

Project Requirements

On-the-ground restoration project in Oregon

Clearly demonstrates watershed benefit to aquatic species, wildlife, or watershed health

Uses and clearly identifies (by practice code or page number and paragraph) in the small grant application technical guidance from at least one of the six approved sources

Consistent with the Small Grant Team's priority watershed concerns and current list of eligible project types

Based on the total OWEB award; $0-$10,000 requires a 25% match, $10,001 - $15,000 require a 50% match.

For more information visit http://www.oregon.gov/oweb/grants/small-grants/Pages/small-grants.aspx

Or contact program manager Abbie Forrest at (541)296-6178 x102 or abigail.forrest@or.nacdnet.net