Tina Kotek
Governor

Memo

To:	Environmental Restoration Council
From:	Geoff Huntington, Governor Kotek's Senior Natural Resource Advisor
Date:	April 27, 2026
Topic:	Agency Funding Pre-Proposal Description for May 6th Informational Agenda Item

SUMMARY. What a big moment this is for Oregon's environment. This marks the beginning of 100 years of investments to fund outcomes for our environment that natural resource agencies and partners are anxious to accomplish but have long been beyond our State's fiscal capacity. Working together, the Environmental Restoration Council, the Natural Resource Cabinet, the Governor's Office and partners will make great strides supporting and improving the natural resources of our state.

The Governor's Natural Resource Team submits the attached package of strategic investments on behalf of the natural resource cabinet agencies. Appendix A to this memo is a summary of the projects included in this package; Appendix B is a list of agency requests that are not being forwarded to the Council as part of this package; and Appendix C includes individual project descriptions for each of the investments included in the package. The total amount of investments contained in this package is currently $29.875 million with the understanding that (if approved by the Council in June) ultimate funding above $15 million is contingent on allocation of funds to the Council from the State Treasurer later in 2026. Funding amounts in Appendix A were modified to ensure the total package is within the anticipated funding availability and to ensure balance among the requests.

This package should be considered a "pre-proposal" for presentation to the Council at the upcoming May 6th meeting where there will be opportunity for questions and discussion with agency sponsors. Those discussions will guide refinement of a final proposal to be presented for action at the Council meeting in June.

PROCESS. The Governor's Natural Resources Team solicited natural resource cabinet agencies to put forward requests for funding from the State Agency Program Fund. A template for submitting proposals was sent to agencies on March 25th with a submittal deadline of April 14th. The template summarized eligible projects/programs as needing to consist of, but not be limited to, the following:

a. Have a nexus or connection with brownfields remediation or redevelopment
b. Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration
c. Result in improvements to air and water quality
d. Cleanup contaminated sites
e. Remediate impaired water bodies, sediments or soil
f. Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats
g. Have a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination, particularly the presence of PCBs and other toxins.

Each agency request included a summary of how the request met statutory eligibility criteria, what would be funded, why the projects/programs are priorities for the agency and for Oregon, how the project outcomes relate to adopted agency plans or Executive Orders, and who the agency intended to collaborate with. The requests also summarized the requested amount and identified if their request included a long-term funding commitment. Finally, agencies were asked to describe what the Council's investment will accomplish over the duration of the requested funding.

Considerations in the Framing of the Proposal. Foremost, the Governor's Office and agencies sought to provide the Council with a cross section of projects demonstrating opportunities presented by the Environmental Restoration Fund to accomplish demonstrable outcomes benefiting Oregonians and the environment. Collectively, we believe the package as presented does that. It also offers the opportunity to convey a strong narrative on behalf of the importance of the Environmental Restoration Fund and the Council's role in Oregon's future.

We also sought to help inform the Council's pending conversation about setting future priorities by demonstrating the different roles state agencies play implementing programs and initiatives capable of effectuating important outcomes of Oregon's environment. In support of this, the proposals have been grouped by the following categories:

- Site clean-up, remediation or redevelopment,
- Reducing human exposure to contaminants
- Remediation of impaired waterbodies
- Habitat/landscape restoration
- Improved environmental protection/resource management

The Governor's Office and cabinet agencies also worked to ensure that as presented the proposed package only includes initiatives that are clearly consistent with the Monsanto

Settlement and policy objectives of enabling legislation. The Governor's Office also gave priority to funding requests that are ready for immediate implementation, to those emphasizing collaboration with or direct benefits to partnering organizations and Oregonians, and to requests having a direct relationship to priorities established in existing Executive Orders of the Governor, strategic program implementation plans adopted by agencies, and/or initiatives demonstrating inter-agency and partner collaborations.

Conversely, agency requests seeking to establish new programs or planning processes, those with an elongated or an uncertain plan for implementation, or requests that involved an expectation of continued commitment of funds by the Council were not included in this consolidated proposal in recognition of the pending development of Council priorities. Finally, nothing in the package commits the Council to additional funding in the future, and all components are easily subject to clear reporting of outcomes associated with implementation. A list of agency requests not included in the package can be found in Appendix B.

NEXT STEPS

At the May 6, 2026 informational meeting, we will present the initial package of investments with agency staff present to answer questions and engage Council members in an open discussion. The Governor's Office will then work with agencies to incorporate the Council's feedback and will request the Council to make a funding decision during their June 22, 2026, meeting. This timeline allows agencies to seek authorization during September Legislative Days to accept and spend dollars in this biennium while also including expenditure authority in the Governor's Recommended Budget for the 2027/29 biennium. Thereafter we anticipate the Council's process in the future will be guided by the upcoming prioritization process and aligned with the biennial state budget process.

APPENDIX A: Project Pre-Proposal Summary

Site Clean-Up, Remediation, and Redevelopment

Agency	Title/Summary	Outcomes	Strategic Alignment	Amount Requested	Project Timeline
DEQ & OHA	**Oregon Priority Brownfields Initiative** DEQ and OHA are proposing a joint brownfield initiative that provides funding for DEQ to conduct site investigations and cleanups in parallel with OHA providing public health toxicology and risk communication support at sites with known contamination and public interest for site reuse. Brownfields are disproportionately located in communities with existing health disparities and environmental justice factors. Therefore, their cleanup is a pressing priority for under-resourced communities overburdened by pollution.	Reduces risk of public and environmental exposure to toxics through site characterization and cleanups. Removes or controls contamination to protect human health and ecosystems, and prevents further impacts to rivers and groundwater. Supports safe reuse of properties for community benefit, including affordable housing, greenspace, and other public and private uses. Examples include: Cully Park landfill redevelopment, Willamette Cove upland, Green Lents Community Orchard, JH Baxter, Bradford Island, Trainsong Park, Columbia River Slough, Black Butte Mine, Ellis Dry Cleaner, McCormick and Baxter. DEQ will use funding to conduct site characterization and/or cleanup using our environmental task order contractors, and support DEQ project	Highly aligned with settlement terms with immediate implementation and advances EO 25-26[1]	$6M	2 years

[1] EO 25-26 Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action To Promote The Resilience Of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters

		management oversight and community/tribal engagement. OHA will support project prioritization based on health risks and environmental justice criteria in conjunction with DEQ technical, cost effectiveness and other feasibility criteria. They will inform project planning regarding health risks of sites and collaborate with agencies and local communities in the design and implementation remediation projects.; 4) deliver health risk information to communities for specific remediation projects; and 5) empower local communities with facilitation and other grants. and 6) assist local communities with grant applications to federal and other sources of funding.			
DOGAMI	**Enhanced Reclamation of Mine sites** DOGAMI requests project-specific support for enhanced restoration implementation. This includes funds to facilitate landowner outreach, site assessment, restoration planning, partner coordination, contracting support, and program administration.	Revegetation restored riparian function, and/or restored flood plain connectivity for up to 13 abandoned mine sites in the Willamette Valley. Reduces surface runoff, creates off-channel fish habitat, supports native vegetation planting, provides off-channel refugia for fish, enhances the mixing of groundwater and surface water cooling river temperatures, and builds resilience to drought and flooding.	Demonstration Project with high potential for replication. Advances EO 25-26 by increasing habitat quality and connectivity	$1M	3 years

Reducing Human Exposure To Contamination

Agency	Title/ Summary	Outcomes	Strategic Alignment	Amount Requested	Project Timeline
DEQ	**Address Groundwater Contamination from Failing Septic Systems** Continues an existing septic loan and grant program for low and middle income homeowners that has been fully subscribed. Recapitalizes revolving loan program with Craft3 a non-profit community development financial institution (CDFI), as financing partner and supports partnerships with local public agencies to provide tailored grant/loan programs in wildfire recovery areas, coastal communities, and rural Eastern Oregon.	Assist at least 300 low- and middle-income rural households face failing or damaged septic systems each year. This funding will be used to provide low interest loans and grants focused on low- and moderate-income households. This investment will support approximately 160 septic repairs or replacements. 160 systems treat 13M gallons per year. Includes outreach focused on low- and middle-income households. Close alignment with OHA, ODA, and WRD .	Addresses a significant and widespread contamination problem with immediate implementation; Direct resources to address contamination issues with demonstrated need. Advances EO 25-26 and the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area Nitrate Reduction Plan	$4M	2 years
DEQ	**Expand Science and Monitoring Activities focused on Toxics Reduction and Restoration Grant Efforts** Expanded scope of ecological health sampling for contaminants in fish and shellfish tissue and waters of the state. DEQ is	This project will collect & analyze 60 water column samples and 60 tissue (shellfish and/or fish) samples for contaminants including PFAS and PCBs. Perform chemical analysis and final data reporting. This will involve a collaboration between DEQ, ODFW, OHA, Tribal	Addresses ongoing public health threat from contamination. Staged for immediate implementation. Demonstration	$2.1M	3 years

	collecting samples of fish in the major tributaries to the Columbia River and evaluating contaminants including PCBs and PFAS. These additional funds will allow the project to expand and investigate potential contamination statewide.	Nations, and interested CBO stakeholders on planning and project development. The project budget includes engagement with communities of stakeholders to share results and data collected.	project that will inform Council consideration of future investigations.; Advances EO 25-26; Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds; Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy: Oregon's Coastal Zone Area Management Plan; Oregon Non-point Source Pollution Management Plan; Oregon Conservation Strategy		
OHA	**Healthy fish Consumption Program Expansion** Expands the geographic scope of OHA's Healthy Fish Consumption Program that issues advisories with meal recommendations tailored to risk of vulnerable populations, such as children and pregnant people. OHA will engage communities and collect and analyze fish samples in places	Fish tissue will be collected and tested and permanent signage will be installed at common and popular fishing areas. This creates a more comprehensive picture and knowledge base of fish consumption risk statewide. Monitoring, public health communication, and community	Addresses key public health issue associated with environmental contamination.; Advances EO 25-26	$1.4M	4 years

	where people fish that are not aligned with the cleanup sites or wildlife restoration priorities of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).	engagement is expanded to areas of Oregon where people are fishing but where no natural resource agency is currently collecting fish tissue data for conducting cleanup, habitat restoration, or contaminated site assessments.			
OWRD	**Statewide Backflow Prevention Education, Inspection, and Testing** This program prevents fertilizer and other chemicals applied through irrigation from entering and contaminating Oregon's surface water and groundwater.	Rules will be amended to address backflow requirements when surface water is the source of irrigation water. OWRD will host 4-6 open houses per year and conduct roughly 1000 inspections in Groundwater Management Areas and surrounding areas aimed at decreasing incidents of contamination and improving water quality in both groundwater and surface water already identified as "hot spots" needing to be addressed	On-the-ground implementation of necessary inspection to identify and remediate contamination. Advances EO 25-26; Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy	$775,000	2 years
ODA	**Pesticide Applicator Training Modernization** ODA will engage professional services via contract to digitalize, modernize, and translate its pesticide applicator training and testing materials across all license categories. Oregon's current materials are largely static, text-based documents, many not substantively updated in over a decade, available only in English.	Modernized training and testing content across all pesticide license categories, covering current buffer zone science, ESA protections, IPM practices, and watershed-specific environmental requirements. Complete Spanish translation of all priority materials; multilingual platform capacity for additional languages. Baseline pass rates established by license category and language;	Strong alignment with eligibility criteria and interest in immediate implementation of steps to reduce einviromental and public health concerns.Advances EO 25-26	$1.5M	3 years

	They do not reflect current buffer zone science, updated label requirements, integrated pest management practices, or Oregon's most recent endangered species and water quality protections.	measurable improvement tracked against those baselines. Measurable reduction in violations that have a knowledge/training nexus, tracked through existing ODA compliance monitoring systems. Reduction in the English/Spanish pass rate gap, currently 62 percentage points. Partners: EPA Region 10, EPA Pesticide Safety Education Program, OSU Extension, OFS, OFB, Oregon Law Center, PCUN, Washington State Department of Agriculture.			

Remediation of Impaired Water Bodies

Agency	Title/Summary	Outcomes	Strategic Alignment	Amount Requested	Project Timeline
ODA	**Agricultural Water Quality Restoration Partnership** Grant program for on-the-ground implementation that existing grants can't fund. Grants remediate impaired water bodies with documented contamination including PCBs, elevated temperature, sediment, and nutrients across the state.	Sub-grants will be given for riparian fencing, off-channel watering, native vegetation establishment, and irrigation efficiency in at least three priority areas. Streams will be buffered, and acres of riparian vegetation established; these will be documented by sub-grantee. Landowners will be served who are in areas outside current OWEB and NRCS eligibility, particularly smaller operations. Irrigation districts will be engaged as sub-grant partners at scale not previously achieved under this program. State match documented: existing $1.2M in planning and TA funds will work alongside APF funding. EQIP and OWEB co-investment leveraged. Framework and partner relationships established for a scaled follow-on APF request.	Addresses and implements demonstrated need with funds targeted to address pre-identified areas of greatest concern.; Advances EO 25-26, Oregon Pland for Salmon and Watersheds; supports voluntary, citizen-led stewardship initiatives.	$500,000	3 years

Habitat/Landscape Restoration

Agency	Title/Summary	Outcomes	Strategic Alignment	Amount Requested	Project Timeline
ODFW	**Charting a future for Cleaner Water: Contaminant mitigation and habitat restoration in priority watersheds** This project advances restoration and assessment in the Santiam, Mid-Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue basins. ODFW will assess pollutant impacts on amphibians and other at-risk species, prioritize and design high-impact restoration and remediation projects for big impact, and will implement shovel-ready projects that strengthen watershed resilience.	In the Santiam and Mid Willamette Basins: 120-acre restoration project on a former brownfield near a remediated Superfund site; an alternatives analysis to convert a former quarry into wildlife habitat and a city park; a basin-wide contaminant assessment to guide restoration and source-water protection; an analysis identifying wetland restoration to reduce methylmercury impacts on amphibians; and the implementation of additional on-the-ground projects. In the Umpqua Basin: wetland restoration on a 77-acre former brownfield; initial cleanup and restoration on a 160-acre parcel affected by past mining and an illegal cannabis operation; and recovery work in a high-priority system for species of greatest conservation need impacted by the 2020 Archie Creek Fire. In the Rogue basin: reconnecting a 20-acre floodplain downstream of the 2020 Almeda Fire to capture	Allows for immediate on-the-ground implementation of projects that advance EO 25-26, the State Wildlife Action Plan, the Clean Water Act Integrated Report, the 2021 State Agency Climate Change Adaptation Framework, the OCAC Climate Action Roadmap to 2030, and multiple watershed and species recovery plans	$4.5M Santiam & Mid-Willamette: $1.7M Umpqua: $800,000 Rogue: $2M	3 years

		contaminants from agricultural lands, I-5, and nearby brownfields; designing a floodplain enhancement project upstream of Medford's drinking water intake on a former military base converted into a wildlife refuge; implementing soil-health treatment to reduce agricultural PFAS on impacted sites.			
ODFW	**From Assessment to Action: turning the tide on contaminants to restore Oregon's Aquatic Species and Habitats** In collaboration with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and other partners, ODFW will advance Tribal priorities for Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussel recovery and on-the-ground restoration for these species. Lamprey and freshwater mussels spend all or most of their lives buried in or resting on riverbed sediments, placing them at ground-zero for exposure to contaminants that accumulate there. Their declining numbers signal growing pressures that threaten not only aquatic ecosystems but also the cultural, ecological, and community values.	Provide Pacific lamprey passage in the Willamette through translocation and implementing two projects that address passage at the Cougar Tailrace and the Westland Diversion; support improved understanding of species conditions at Willamette Falls and other sites in Oregon; complete mussel restoration site evaluations at priority locations and other work to support Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussel recovery efforts. Collect data to inform broader efforts to support Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussel population recovery. Leverages shared expertise (OHA, DEQ, USGS USFWS) for data collection and restoration prioritization. ODFW anticipates contracting with DEQ's contaminants lab. Xerces will inform drivers and remediation opportunities for sudden freshwater mussel die-offs.	Allows for immediate implementation of on-the-ground priority projects aligned with eligibility criteria. Advances EO 25-26; the State Wildlife Action Plan, the Clean Water Act Integrated Report, the 2021 State Agency Climate Change Adaptation Framework, the OCAC Climate Action Roadmap to 2030, multiple watershed and species recovery plans.	$5M	3 years

Improved Environmental Protection/Resource Management

Agency	Title/Summary	Outcomes	Strategic Alignment	Amount Requested	Project Timeline
ODOT	**Research data and planning tools to prepare for the emerging tire contaminant 6PPD-quinone (6PPD-q).** Work with other state DOTs across the nation who share contamination concerns to develop additional 6PPD-q highway stormwater runoff monitoring sites in Oregon that improve predictive modeling of contamination "hotspot" roadside locations. Improved modeling directly enhances state planning level prioritization processes for future monitoring or mitigation. This is joint effort led by Oregon and supported by the FHWA called a Transportation Pooled Fund Research Project (TPF). Other participants are Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Washington, EPA, ODEQ, and the FHWA. 6PPD-q is a tire-derived toxicant that accumulates in road dust and runoff that contributes to Coho salmon mortality and is harmful to such as, rainbow trout and steelhead and chinook.	1) improved knowledge of where 6PPD-q contamination "hotspots" might be located on the state highway system 2) improved performance evaluation of current stormwater best management to inform new BMPs without costly retrofits 3) enhanced intra-state, Tribal and federal agency collaboration, including sharing of project deliverables and benefits. A known tire-derived toxicant that accumulates in road dust and highway runoff is 6PPD-q, which contributes to Coho salmon mortality. New research has shown that 6PPD-q is also harmful to other aquatic species present in Oregon, including key species in Oregon's ODFW Habitat Conservation Plans, like rainbow trout and steelhead, Chinook. DEQ and ODFW part of technical advisory committee. Opportunity to provide 20% match to FHWA funding.	Staged and ready for implementation addressing key and emerging contamination threat to at-risk aquatic species. Aligned with EO 25-26	$1.9M	4 years

OHA/OWEB	**Maintain OWEB Drinking Water Source Protection Program** OHA will partner with OWEB to maintain the Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program; program is scheduled to sunset after June 2027 due to the expenditure of all legislative appropriation. Advances a "triple bottom line" of public health protection, habitat conservation, and long-term water quality improvement.	Reduced exposure to contaminants—including PCBs, pesticides, heavy metals, and industrial toxins—by limiting activities on lands in drinking water watersheds. Prevents contaminants from reaching drinking water intakes or wells. OWEB will provide grants to public water suppliers to protect, restore, or enhance sources of drinking water through land acquisition and conservation. The focus is on water suppliers that serve rural communities and/or lower-income populations although it is not limited to these communities. Grants will be provided to communities to acquire land, easements or covenants from willing sellers that protect, restore or enhance a drinking water source.	Aligned with settlement; advances EO 25-26	$1.2M	3 years

Agency key:
DEQ – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
DOGAMI - Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
ODA- Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODF – Oregon Department of Forestry
ODOT – Oregon Department of Transportation
OHA – Oregon Health Authority
OWRD – Oregon Water Resources Department

APPENDIX B: List of Agency Requests Not Included in Pre-Proposal Package

Agency	Project title	Amount Requested
DEQ	Emergency Response Program Bridge Funding	$4M
DEQ	New DEQ Brownfield Program	$10.6 (includes $5M for projects recommended in pre-proposal)
DEQ	Comprehensive Clean-up Program Modernization	$2.6M
DEQ	Enhanced DEQ Nonpoint Source Watershed Restoration Grant Program	$1-3M
DOGAMI	Floodplain Stewardship and Mapping	$2,015,000
DSL	Derelict Vessel Removal	$2M
DSL/DLCD	Program Modernization of Wetland and Waterways for Land Use Planning (Goal 5)	$2.5M
ODA	Native Ecosystem Resilience, Invasive Species Prevention	$1.5M
ODF	East Oregon Forest Restoration	$5M
ODOT	Kellogg Creek Restoration and Community Enhancement Project	$15-20M
ODOT	Replacement of I 205 stormwater facility	$900,000
OHA	Environmental Justice Mapping Tool to Support Future Programs and Planning	$1.5M
OPRD	Sitka Sedge Estuarine Habitat and Fish Passage Restoration	$4M
OWRD	Assessment and Outreach: Commingling Wells in the Lower Umatilla Basin	$700,000

	Groundwater Management Area	
OWRD	Water Data Projects for Water Management	$850,000
OWRD	Water Right Clean Up	$835,000

Agency key:
DEQ – Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
DLCD – Department of Land Conservation and Development
DOGAMI - Department of Geology and Mineral Industries
DSL – Department of State Lands
ODA- Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODF – Oregon Department of Forestry
ODOT – Oregon Department of Transportation
OHA – Oregon Health Authority
OPRD – Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
OWRD – Oregon Water Resources Department

Environmental Restoration Council
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality Funding Concept:

Oregon Priority Brownfields Initiative: DEQ Role

DEQ and OHA are proposing a joint brownfield initiative that provides funding for DEQ to conduct site investigations and cleanups in parallel with OHA providing public health toxicology and risk communication support at sites with known contamination and public interest for site reuse.

Current DEQ and OHA funding to support site investigations, cleanup, and risk communication beyond preliminary site investigations is limited. Decreased federal funding (which is the only source of DEQ brownfield funding) and increased limitations on how federal funds can be spent, has significantly decreased our collective ability to support overburdened communities and Tribes. This funding will expand both DEQ and OHA's ability to address brownfield barriers to support site reuse and restoration and meaningfully engage with and inform communities and Tribes.

The following provides information on DEQ's role and funding request for this proposed initiative.

Requested APF Amount

$7M total to support brownfields planning, assessment and remediation/restoration over two years (through the end of the 2027-29 biennium). Permanent and sustainable funding to resource brownfield remediation and restoration will be requested once the OERC strategic priority funding process is established.

Project Description

DEQ will use funding to: 1) conduct site characterization and/or cleanup using our environmental task order contractors, and 2) support DEQ project management oversight that will include community and tribal engagement. DEQ will partner with OHA, who will provide risk communication and public health toxicology support on these projects.

A list of potential/proposed sites is attached. Sites will be evaluated for funding using a multi-layered, data-driven site prioritization framework that incorporates environmental and social indicators to provide the greatest benefits to people and the environment. This approach is currently being used for the Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction- Small Scale Distressed Properties project.

In addition to partnering with OHA, DEQ will coordinate with: Tribes and the State Historic Preservation Office, counties, municipalities, non-profits, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for natural resource damage, Business Oregon for additional funding resources, local health departments, existing and perspective EPA/Business Oregon Brownfield grantees.

Conducting cleanups will remove barriers for site reuse, including for the construction/reuse of the built environment, greenspace, and habitat restoration. This will support economic development, housing, and community resiliency associated with climate impacts from wildfire, flooding, and drought. These are connected to the following Executive Orders: Determination of a State of Drought Emergency in Baker, Deschutes, and Umatilla Counties 2026-5, and Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action to Promote the Resilience of our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters, 2025-26. In addition, the fund will support the following goals in Oregon DEQ's Strategic Plan 2025-2027 - **Goal 2:** Strengthen relationships with sovereign Tribal governments to promote meaningful and respectful engagement, **Goal 3**: Ground DEQ work in environmental justice to address disproportionate environmental and health impacts. In addition, this funding continues and

supports the DEQ Cleanup Program – Cleanup 2050 Visioning Process and Listening Sessions: https://www.oregon.gov/deq/hazards-and-cleanup/env-cleanup/pages/strategic2050.aspx.

Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:

This initiative has a tight nexus to all the uses identified by DOJ as being in alignment with the terms of the Settlement Agreement. Funding will support planning for and implementing site investigations and cleanups at sites where contamination poses a risk to people and wildlife. This information will inform health risk communication and remove barriers for site reuse and restoration that will benefit people, wildlife, and the natural environment, particularly in overburdened communities and Tribal lands and waters.

Describe Anticipated Outcomes:

The proposed funding will support site characterization and cleanups that will remove or control contamination to protect human health and ecosystems, prevent further impacts to rivers and groundwater, and support safe reuse of properties for community benefit, including affordable housing, greenspace, and other public uses across the basin.

The number of sites where site characterization and cleanup can be completed will depend on the scope and cost of the projects. For context, DEQ completed site investigations and cleanups using limited EPA grant funding (128a State Response) for 24 projects over a 6-year period. With additional staff capacity and funding to support cleanup planning, and cleanups, the number of cleanups will only increase over a similar timeframe.

In addition, DEQ's Cleanup Program has an established partnership with OHA at brownfield and cleanup sites across the states. Examples include: Cully Park landfill redevelopment, Willamette Cove upland, Green Lents Community Orchard, JH Baxter, Bradford Island, Trainsong Park, Columbia River Slough, Black Butte Mine, Ellis Dry Cleaner, McCormick and Baxter, and many others across the state.

The Cleanup Program has an established process for tracking and reporting on Cleanup and Leaking Underground Storage Tanks projects as part of the semi-annual EPA grant reporting requirements. This process includes contracting dollars encumbered and spent for task order contractors to perform site investigations and cleanup planning, as well as progress on projects. DEQ will apply this process to prepare progress reports and interim information requests to the OERC.

Attachment 1: Priority Brownfield Initiative - Potential Site List

Site Name	DEQ Region	Town/County
Johnson Oil (former)	NWR	Clatskanie
Pope and Talbot	NWR	Scappoose Bay
Jensen's BP	NWR	Warrenton
Cornelius Etsby II (former)	NWR	Cornelius
Clackamette Cove	NWR	Oregon City
Banks Gun Club	NWR	Banks
Estacada Mill (former)	NWR	Estacada
Gold Hill Power Plant	WR	Gold Hill
Shaniko Mill	ER	Shaniko
King Salvage	WR	Toledo
Frenchglen Mercantile	ER	French glen
Forest Creek	WR	Josephine County
Hood River Powerdale (former)	ER	Hood River
Swan Lake Lumber Company	ER	Klamath Falls
Texaco Bulk Plant (fomer)	ER	Klamath Falls
Judy's Country Store	WR	Donald
Ramsey Norge Laundry (former)	WR	Medford
Armstrong	NWR	St Helens
Chiloquin Forest Products (ECSI 4485)	ER	Chiloquin
Astoria Marine	NWR	Astoria
Lone Elk Market	ER	Spray
B & M Equipment Prospective Purchaser Agreement	ER	Nyssa
Elmira Family Store	ER	Elmira
Ivy's Jiffy Market	ER	Madras
DEQ Leaking Underground Storage Tank Backlog List (over 900 sites)	Statewide	Statewide

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COUNCIL
OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY FUNDING CONCEPT:

OREGON BROWNFIELDS INITIATIVE – OHA ROLE
April 24, 2026

DEQ and OHA are proposing a joint brownfield initiative that provides funding for DEQ to conduct site investigations and cleanups in parallel with OHA providing public health toxicology and risk communication support at sites with known contamination and public interest for site reuse.

Current DEQ and OHA funding to support site investigations, cleanup, and risk assessment and communication beyond preliminary site investigations is limited. Decreased federal funding (which is the only source of DEQ brownfield funding) and increased limitations on how federal funds can be spent, has significantly decreased our collective ability to support overburdened communities and Tribes. Staff implementing OHA's Environmental Health Assessment (toxicology) Program do not have capacity to deliver the increased level of support to DEQ and communities with current funding, or cannot charge staff time against federal grants. This funding will expand both DEQ and OHA's ability to address brownfield barriers to support site reuse and restoration and meaningfully engage with and inform communities and Tribes.

The following provides information on OHA's role and funding request for this proposed initiative.

Requested APF Amount:

a. $900,000 over two years.
b. OHA is requesting:
    - $300,000 a year for two years to staff a joint DEQ-OHA Brownfields Initiative Team with portions of existing or limited duration public health toxicologists, program analysts, public health educators, community engagement specialists and fiscal staff.
    - $150,000 a year for two years ($300,00 total) in contractual funding to support local facilitation of community engagement and/or grants to local community partners for Initiative-prioritized sites, until such time as the OERF Community Impact Fund is available. OHA is able to channel such funding through existing financial agreements with local (county) public health authorities and with community based organizations through OHA's Public Health Equity Grant Program or other funding mechanisms.
c. This request is to enable early action on known brownfields sites. The agencies expect this Initiative to lay the foundation for a more robust ongoing Oregon Brownfields Program for which the agencies would seek ongoing support from Agency Program Funds once the Council establishes it formal processes.

Project Description:

a. OHA to 1) support project prioritization based on health risks and environmental justice criteria in conjunction with DEQ technical, cost effectiveness and other feasibility criteria; 2) inform project planning and analysis by sister agencies regarding health risks of sites; 3) collaborate with agencies and local communities in the design and implementation remediation projects; 4) deliver health risk information to communities for specific remediation projects; 5) empower local communities with facilitation and other grants; and 6) assist local communities with grant applications to federal and other sources of funding. Because brownfields are disproportionately located in communities with existing health disparities and environmental justice factors, their cleanup is a pressing priority for under-resourced communities overburdened by pollution.
b. The Initiative connects to OHA's overall agency goal to eliminate health inequities in Oregon, and its strategic plan goal pillar of supporting Healthy Families and Environments by reducing the risk of exposure to toxics and supporting community assets like access to greenspace, walkable communities and economic well being.
c. The entire focus of the program will be to partner with sister agencies and local communities.

Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:

This Initiative has a tight nexus to all the uses identified by DOJ as being in alignment with the terms of the Settlement Agreement.

Anticipated Outcomes:

The proposed funding will support site characterization and cleanups that will remove or control contamination to protect human health and ecosystems, prevent further impacts to rivers and groundwater, and support safe reuse of properties for community benefit, including affordable housing, greenspace, and other public uses across the basin.

The number of sites where site characterization and cleanup can be completed will depend on the scope and cost of the projects. OHA has a long track record of partnership with DEQ in evaluating health risks at contaminated sites across the state, convening community advisory committees to inform health risk assessments that answer community questions, and communicating health risk information. Examples include: Cully Park landfill redevelopment, Willamette Cove upland, Green Lents Community Orchard, JH Baxter, Bradford Island, Trainsong Park, Columbia River Slough, Black Butte Mine, Ellis Dry Cleaner, McCormick and Baxter, and many others across the state. Documentation of OHA's Environmental Health Assessment Program Site Investigations is available online.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COUNCIL
DOGAMI FUNDING PROPOSAL/CONCEPT

April 23, 2026

1. Requested APF Amount

DOGAMI proposes a two-part funding structure for enhanced reclamation of closed mine sites. First, DOGAMI requests $150,000 in upfront staffing and startup funds to facilitate landowner outreach, site assessment, restoration planning, partner coordination, contracting support, and program administration. Second, DOGAMI requests project-specific support for enhanced restoration implementation, with indirect charged to each project. Based on the current 13-site example portfolio, direct project costs vary by site and associated indirect totals about scale with site complexity. DOGAMI anticipates a heavy initial expenditure in the first year for startup and early project development, followed by phased project implementation over multiple years as landowner agreements, design, permitting, and construction sequencing mature.

2. Project Description

Mine sites represent a significant and underused environmental restoration opportunity in Oregon. DOGAMI's Mineral Land Regulation and Reclamation program holds permits for about 1,000 surface mine sites statewide, many in floodplains and forests. Oregon law establishes minimum reclamation requirements, but those standards generally do not fund the additional work needed to restore floodplain processes, expand native riparian cover, or reconnect aquatic habitat. ORS 517.840 and OAR 632-038 already provide authority for a Voluntary Reclamation Program to go beyond minimum standards, but the program has never been funded.

DOGAMI conducted a rapid screening of more than 130 floodplain mine sites in the Willamette Valley using aerial imagery and lidar. The initial prioritization was narrowed to closed mine sites because these properties generally present the clearest near-term opportunity for voluntary participation: operations have ended, restoration work does not compete with active extraction, and landowners are more willing to consider enhancements that add ecological value. The screening identified two principal restoration pathways: revegetation only, where sites lack native cover because of poor or compacted soils; and revegetation plus floodplain connectivity, where grading or excavation could improve hydrologic connection, fish passage, and habitat complexity.

If funded, DOGAMI would use the startup position and project-specific implementation funds to secure landowner participation, conduct site assessments, evaluate revegetation and connectivity opportunities, consult with restoration partners and permitting agencies, develop site-specific plans and budgets, implement projects, and monitor ecological outcomes. Partners would include landowners, Tribes, local governments, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, ODFW, OWEB, DSL, OWRD, DLCD, conservation nonprofits, and other restoration practitioners.

3. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement

The proposed work would restore, maintain, and enhance Oregon's land, water, habitat, and other natural resources at former mine sites. Enhanced reclamation can improve riparian condition, reduce erosion and surface runoff, increase native vegetation cover, improve water infiltration, restore floodplain function, reconnect off-channel habitat, and strengthen long-term resilience to drought and flooding. These outcomes fit squarely within the restoration and

natural resource enhancement purposes of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement by improving water quality, land condition, fish and wildlife habitat, and broader ecosystem function.

4. Describe Anticipated Outcomes

Program outcomes are best framed in acres of reclamation completed and improved ecological function achieved, anticipated to align with EO25-26 targets. The lower-cost project type is revegetation only. At site 24-0039 near Jefferson, about 8.4 acres could be improved through soil preparation, seeding, planting, and related work at an estimated cost of about $50,000 to $85,000, or roughly $6,000 to $10,000 per acre. These projects can restore native cover, increase riparian habitat, reduce erosion, improve water infiltration, store carbon, and provide shade and water-quality benefits at comparatively modest cost.

The higher-cost project type combines revegetation with floodplain connectivity. At site 22-0035 near Lebanon, about 11.21 acres could be evaluated for grading or excavation to improve floodplain connectivity, with an additional 20.9 acres evaluated for native vegetation establishment. DOGAMI estimates a total cost of about $325,000 to $560,000 for this example site. This project type restores more acreage overall and can deliver substantially greater habitat and hydrologic benefit, but it requires earthwork and design that make the cost per acre materially higher than revegetation alone. In practice, the program will balance these approaches: revegetation-only projects can deliver more acres of visible reclamation per dollar, while connectivity projects cost more but can generate deeper, longer-lasting benefits for floodplain function, fish passage, and aquatic habitat.

Environmental justice considerations would be integrated into project screening, landowner outreach, and implementation so that restoration benefits are shared fairly. DOGAMI would emphasize transparent engagement with landowners, Tribes, local governments, watershed councils, and community-based partners; prioritize projects that improve water quality, reduce flood risk, increase shade and cooling, and expand habitat where they also provide meaningful community co-benefits; and document both ecological outcomes and community benefits through progress reporting.

Table 1. Enhanced Reclamation Opportunities

MLRR ID#	Type of Restoration	County	Site Name	Estimated Cost	Indirect	Total Cumulative Cost
Startup / staffing	Startup	-	Upfront staffing and startup	150,000	-	150,000
27-0025	Connectivity & Vegetation	Polk	Perry Mills Pit	145,000	48,285	343,285
22-0132	Vegetation	Linn	Conte Site	50,000	16,650	409,935
24-0019	Vegetation	Marion	Mahoney Bar	65,000	21,645	496,580
24-0073	Connectivity & Vegetation	Marion	Keizer Bar	305,000	101,565	903,145
36-0016	Connectivity & Vegetation	Yamhill	Dorsey Pit	205,000	68,265	1,176,410
22-0024	Connectivity & Vegetation	Linn	Unnamed	300,000	99,900	1,576,310
24-0039	Vegetation	Marion	Unnamed	85,000	28,305	1,689,615
22-0112	Vegetation	Linn	Unnamed	85,000	28,305	1,802,920
27-0023	Vegetation	Polk	Hanna Ranch	100,000	33,300	1,936,220
22-0034	Vegetation	Linn	Jensen	100,000	33,300	2,069,520
22-0039	Vegetation	Linn	Owen-Irish Bend	60,000	19,980	2,149,500
22-0035	Connectivity & Vegetation	Linn	Unnamed	560,000	186,480	2,895,980
27-0030	Connectivity & Vegetation	Polk	Swope Bar	355,000	118,215	3,369,195

DEQ Proposal: Address Groundwater Contamination Resulting from Failing Septic Systems

Requested APF Amount

a. Total amount requested:
DEQ requests $4-6 million in funding

b. An approximation of funding expenditures per fiscal year for an estimated number of years to accomplish project objectives:
$2 million per fiscal year to meet demand for septic system repairs and replacements.

c. Whether/how the requested funding allocation is part of a longer-term initiative/program that will continue to seek Agency Program Funds from the Council in the future:
In Oregon, funding to support financial assistance for the repair/replacement of failing septic systems has come from a variety of sources. This request would allow for the continuation of an existing septic loan and grant program for homeowners that has been suspended due to lack of funding. DEQ and program partners are exploring additional/alternative sources of funding and the program also has long term plans to revolve repayment of loan funds through its partnership with a non-profit community development financial institution (CDFI). However, regular recapitalization of this fund is likely needed to sustain this program's ability to provide new grants/loans for the next 5-10 years.

Project Description

a. Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the projects/programs are priorities for the Agency and for Oregon (i.e. why these programs, and why now).
   - This funding will be used to support financial assistance low interest loans and grants focused on low- and moderate-income households struggling to finance repair/replacement of failing septic systems that are a key contributing factor to contamination of groundwater and surface waters across the state.
   - Rural Oregonians continue to be faced with the challenge of financing septic system repairs and replacements which can cost between $5,000-$30,000 for a repair and upwards of $45,000 for a full system replacement. Homeowners insurance does not typically cover these costs, even when caused by a natural disaster such as flood or wildfire.
   - Oregon has identified three Groundwater Quality Management Areas (GWMAs) in different parts of the state that have nitrate contamination levels exceeding federal and state drinking water standards, and plans to restore healthy groundwater conditions include addressing failing septic systems in these areas.
   - Since federal and state funds have been successfully distributed, the program has been temporarily suspended due to lack of funding. Funding would allow for a timely restart of activities providing financial assistance in support of groundwater remediation.

b. Connection to priorities identified in existing agency adopted plans and frameworks, or Executive Orders.

- Addresses as a critical need for supporting the Lower Umatilla Groundwater Quality Management Area (LUBGWMA) Nitrate Reduction Plan
- Addresses priorities for affordable housing by providing environmental and public health improvements to septic systems for rural households and small multi-unit options.

c. Identification of any interagency collaboration and/or collaboration with external partners (e.g. community-based organizations, conservation non-profits, Tribes, others) planned as part of the work.
   - DEQ is closely aligned with OHA, ODA, WRD on the development and implementation of the LUBGWMA Nitrate Reduction Plan
   - Craft3, a non-profit Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI) has been the primary financing partner that DEQ has contracted with to administer the statewide financial assistance loan program. In addition, DEQ has partnered with local public agencies to provide tailored grant/loan programs to meet community needs in wildfire recovery areas, coastal communities, and rural Eastern Oregon

Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:

- Damage assessment and restoration (a): Septic funding programs include required site evaluations by county inspectors to determine local conditions including high water tables, damage from natural disasters, and proximity to surface and groundwater resources.
- Water Quality Improvements and protection of public health (c, e, f, g): Failing septic systems contaminate ground and surface waters with nitrates, pharmaceuticals and potentially PFAS pollutants. They also cause a public health concern when sewage backs up into household plumbing or surfaces at ground level. Exposure to high nitrate levels in drinking water can have serious health effects, including Methemoglobinemia (blue-baby syndrome).
- Cleanup contaminated sites and remediate impaired water and soil (d, e): In areas of known groundwater impairment, septic systems can contribute to nitrate and other pollution. Groundwater management areas are identified areas needing remediation. Replacing aging and failing systems with modern systems for long-term treatment of wastewater directly contributes to cleaner water.

Describe Anticipated Outcomes:

- This project will help address the ongoing and unmet need to assist at least 300 low- and middle-income rural households that are faced with failing or damaged septic systems each year. A $2,000,000 investment would fund approximately 80 septic repairs or replacements.
- Outreach efforts will focus on low- and moderate-income households. Based on our experience with the Oregon septic loan program, about 54% of recipients were low income (up to 80% of median area income); An additional 41% were middle income (81-120% of median income).
- Wastewater gallons treated: A typical household system is designed to treat about 450 gallons per day, translating to 164,250 per year of improved wastewater treatment. For 80 systems this would exceed 13 million gallons of wastewater treated each year.

DEQ Proposal: **Expand Science and Monitoring Activities focused on Toxics Reduction and Restoration Grant Efforts**

Requested APF Amount

a. Total amount requested:
   - $2.1 million

b. An approximation of funding expenditures per fiscal year for an estimated number of years to accomplish project objectives:

The requested dollar amount includes limited duration field staff and limited duration analytical staff as well as supplies and services for travel costs, analytical and field supplies.

   - FY27 - $150,000, FY28 and FY 29 - $1.95M

c. Whether/how the requested funding allocation is part of a longer-term initiative/program that will continue to seek Agency Program Funds from the Council in the future:

This proposal expands a project that is currently funded by EPA grant funds in the Columbia River basin. This project is part of overall monitoring for contaminants in the ecosystem that will require future funding to assess trends and/or address new emerging contaminants of concern.

Project Description

a. Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the projects/programs are priorities for the Agency and for Oregon (i.e. why these programs, and why now).

Building on efforts currently underway under CR grant, OERF funding would support an expanded scope of sampling for contaminants in fish and shellfish tissue and waters of the state. DEQ is collecting samples of fish in the major tributaries to the Columbia River and evaluating contaminants including PCBs and PFAS. These additional funds will allow the project to expand and investigate potential contamination statewide. These data are used to inform fish or shellfish consumption advisories and outreach materials to local communities. These data also inform impairment of beneficial uses and serve as a basis to evaluate toxic contaminants through our Clean Water Act Impaired Waters Rule. In addition, this sampling may identify priority areas for remediation or clean-up. Data provided to DEQ's clean-up program may be used to evaluate areas that are identified and move toward clean-up actions.

This funding closes an important gap in resources for monitoring of emerging contaminants and legacy bio-accumulative contaminants around the state. It will inform identification of areas of potential concern, general contamination across the state, impacts to beneficial uses, and provide information to local communities and tribal partners.

b. Connection to priorities identified in existing agency adopted plans and frameworks, or Executive Orders.

- Governors Executive Order 25-26 for Resilient Landscapes;
- Oregon Salmon Plan;
- Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS);
- Oregon's Coastal Zone Area Management Plan;
- Oregon Non-point Source Pollution Management Plan;
- Oregon Conservation Strategy

- Oregon DEQ PFAS Strategic Plan

c. Identification of any interagency collaboration and/or collaboration with external partners (e.g. community-based organizations, conservation non-profits, Tribes, others) planned as part of the work.

DEQ is interested in collaboration across agencies to leverage resources, coordinate efforts, and avoid duplication in its monitoring. This will allow our agencies to collect relevant data across a wide area of the state. This also allows agencies to leverage existing skills, strengths and authorities of each agency. This proposal could be leveraged in conjunction with proposals from other agencies including ODFW and OHA.

Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:

Oregon currently lacks sufficient funding to investigate contaminants of emerging concern (such as PFAS, microplastics, 6-PPDq, etc.) as well as continue the investigation of historic bio-accumulative contaminants such as PCBs. This funding will enable DEQ to conduct a limited, statewide survey of contaminants including PFAS and PCBs. The data may be used to evaluate inputs into the environment and solutions to reduce those inputs whether they be airborne or water inputs and inform areas of contamination for clean-up and remediation.

Fish and shellfish are important food sources for Oregonians, both subsistence and recreational fishers. This work will inform fish and shellfish consumption advisories providing vital information to Oregonians. In addition, ecosystem health and wildlife such as marine mammals and predatory birds may be affected through decreased reproduction and growth.

Describe Anticipated Outcomes:

Through planning and project development collaboration with state agencies (ODFW, OHA), Tribal Nations, and interested parties, DEQ will produce project management, sampling and analysis plans to identify emerging and bioaccumulative contaminants in fish and shellfish in all Oregon's major basins except the Columbia Basin. The new monitoring efforts will include collection & analysis of 60 water and 60 tissue (shellfish and/or fish) samples for contaminants including PFAS and PCBs. Chemical analysis and final data reporting will provide quality data to be used for toxics identification and informing toxics reduction strategies in Oregon. Data will be shared within DEQ to support evaluation and assessment of potential toxic contaminant "hot spots" where high concentrations of toxics may have disproportionate impacts to ecological or human health, as well as support evaluation of potentially impaired waters. Data will be shared with other agencies, including OHA, for determination of applicable fish / shellfish consumption advisories (if warranted). The data will support preparation of presentation materials, online resources, and community engagement conversations, including making data and information accessible in formats for the public to understand the condition of toxics in fish, shellfish and water in Oregon.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COUNCIL
OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY FUNDING CONCEPTS:

HEALTHY FISH CONSUMPTION PROGRAM EXPANSION

April 24, 2026

OHA is requesting funding to expand the geographic scope of OHA's Healthy Fish Consumption Program that issues advisories with meal recommendations tailored to risk of vulnerable populations, such as children and pregnant people. OERF funding would permit OHA to engage communities and collect and analyze fish samples where the places people fish are not aligned with the cleanup sites or wildlife restoration priorities of our sister agencies, the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW).

OHA has long had strong cooperative data sharing from both agencies, as well as federal agencies, and has developed advisories based on that data, with PCBs and mercury being the contaminants driving the highest health risks. OHA would continue to collaborate closely with DEQ and ODFW where agency interests in fish tissue data collection align. OERF funding would allow OHA to engage with communities to collect and analyze fish based on where they fish, what they catch, and how they consume it; to pay for and install permanent signage at key locations for both existing and new advisories; and increase support to Tribes as a communities that disproportionately consume fish caught in Oregon's fresh waters. The funding is primarily for contracting and allowing existing staff to charge against this funding, no new positions needed.

Requested APF Amount:

a. $1.4 million over four years (FY2027-2031)
b. $250,000 annually for contractual spending for tissue collection and testing, signage and installation, and mini-grants to partnering organizations; $100 annually for existing toxicology, program analyst, education and outreach and fiscal staff.
c. This funding could continue to be funded beyond the proposed four years based on determination of need, scope, and progress of the project.

Project Description:

a. The funding would support fish tissue collection and testing, install permanent signage at common and popular fishing areas, support community engagement and education, and provide fiscal management of extensive contracting. The funding would expand the geographic scope of fish contamination data collection and increase outreach and education to areas where people fish and consume those fish beyond areas where contaminated site cleanup and aquatic habitat and species restoration already occurs. This would create more comprehensive picture and knowledge base of fish consumption risk statewide.

b. An expansion of the fish consumption program, associated data collection, and advisement information and education aligns with OHA's strategic pillar to ensure Healthy Families and Environments.
c. OHA conducts its fish consumption advisory program in partnership with DEQ, ODFW, Tribes and waterbody managers.

Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:
The proposed expansion of OHA's Healthy Fish Consumption Program will directly contribute to restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of Oregon's natural resources by identifying, communicating, and reducing human health risks associated with contaminated fish in areas where agencies are not currently monitoring or conducting cleanup activities. PCBs and mercury are the most commonly-identified contaminants requiring recommendations of reduced or no consumption of fish.

This work aligns with the terms of the settlement agreement eligibility criteria because it:
- Addresses human health risks associated with environmental contamination,
- Supports environmental assessment by generating new fish tissue contaminant data.
- Help identify impaired water bodies, sediments, and habitats in need of remediation.
- Provides information that can guide future cleanup and restoration actions by partner agencies.
- Enhances protection of wildlife and aquatic resources through improved monitoring and public communication.
- Informs risks to human health caused by environmental contamination.

Anticipated Outcomes:
The Council's investment will allow OHA's Healthy Fish Consumption Program to expand monitoring, public health communication, and community engagement in areas of Oregon where people are fishing but where no natural resource agency is currently collecting fish tissue data or conducting cleanup, habitat restoration, or contaminated site assessments. This investment will generate new environmental health data, improve public awareness of contamination risks, and support long-term protection of human health and natural resources. Some key milestones would include:
- Completion of a finalized sampling plan and prioritized list of waterbodies based on suspected contamination and community fishing.
- Execution of contracts for fish tissue collection and laboratory analysis.
- Collection and analysis of fish tissue samples, followed by data review and identification of locations where advisories may be warranted.
- Execution of contracts for the construction and installation of permanent advisory signage at priority sites.
- Completion of community engagement to share findings and co-develop outreach approaches, including awarding mini-grants.
- Ongoing coordination with DEQ and ODFW to align data collection and interpretation with other state monitoring and remediation efforts.

OREGON
WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Memorandum

TO:	Governor's Natural Resources Office
FROM:	Ivan Gall, Director, Oregon Water Resources Department
CC:	Maggie Sommer, Oregon Water Resources Department
DATE:	April 21, 2026
SUBJECT:	OERF Proposal – Backflow Prevention Education, Inspection, and Testing Program

The Oregon Water Resources Department proposes to use Agency Program Funds (APF) for a new statewide **Backflow Prevention Education, Inspection, and Testing Program** for the **2027-29 biennium.** This program would help prevent fertilizer and other chemicals applied through irrigation from entering and contaminating Oregon's surface water and groundwater.

Requested APF Amount

OWRD requests a total of $830K to launch and run the program for the 2027-29 biennium.

Item	Cost
NRS 3 Program Coordinator	$300K
Two NRS 2 Field Inspectors (west side and east side)	$515K
Outreach and Education	$15K
Total	**$830K**

A short-term allocation would launch the program and target high priority areas. A long-term initiative would better improve water quality. As farm owners/operators change over time, and irrigation infrastructure is replaced, continued inspecting and testing is necessary.

Project Description

Oregon requires the installation and maintenance of backflow prevention devices on irrigation systems connected to groundwater sources when chemicals or fertilizers are applied (Oregon Administrative Rule 690-215-0017). Although this rule has been in effect since the 1990s, enforcement has been limited until recently. Legislation in 2025 expanded OWRD's authority to also require backflow prevention devices on surface water. No rules exist for surface water and while not required, they are recommended part of this project as they would facilitate equitable, efficient, and effective inspection and enforcement.

This program would build upon the success achieved through active enforcement of these requirements in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management (LUBGWMA) in 2025. That effort demonstrated that 1) many systems were not in compliance and at risk of contamination

events and 2) that outreach and inspection greatly increased compliance. In addition to extensive local outreach, OWRD conducted over 750 inspections at 660 sites throughout the LUBGWMA. Out of the 660 wells visited, 175 were using chemicals in the irrigation systems, therefore requiring a backflow device. **At the beginning of the irrigation season, nearly none of the inspected irrigation systems were fully in compliance – by the end of September, over 99% of these sites were in compliance.** Most irrigators voluntarily installed backflow prevention devices when notified they were not in compliance. There were 21 cases that required additional enforcement actions to gain compliance, resulting in 21 Notice of Violations, with six of these escalating to a Notice of Assessment. This demonstrates the value of active outreach and inspection.

This project supports implementation of 1) Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (Priority 1.4 Expand efforts to protect the quality of surface and groundwater sources that provide drinking water to Oregonians), 2) Executive Order 25-26, and 3) OWRD's Strategic Plan. Critical coordination and partnership will be needed for education and outreach efforts, including with Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon State University Extension, and local Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement

Ensuring installation and testing the function of backflow prevention systems is critical to ensuring fertilizers and other chemicals applied through irrigation systems do not contaminate Oregon's waters. This program would restore and maintain the quality of Oregon's water by:

(1) Improving water quality by reducing contamination by fertilizer and other chemicals from irrigation systems into streams, lakes, and aquifers
(2) Restoring and protecting aquatic wildlife habitats, which are sensitive to contamination
(3) Reducing nitrate contamination in water bodies that serve as sources of drinking water.

Anticipated Outcomes

Over the lifecycle of the program, OWRD expects to see increased understanding of the importance of backflow prevention in irrigation systems that apply chemicals or fertilizers, increased compliance with the requirement, decreased incidents of contamination, and improved water quality in both groundwater and surface water. OWRD anticipates that **in the first biennium it would adopt/amend rules and focus outreach and inspections in/around the three existing Groundwater Management Areas (GWMAs), hosting 4-6 open houses per year, and conducting roughly 1000 inspections in the GWMAs and surrounding areas**. Interim milestones include:

- Outreach and engagement (e.g., informational videos, backflow demonstration systems, open houses, water right research, information letters, etc.)
- New surface water backflow rules and updated groundwater backflow rules
- Program Implementation Plan that prioritizes areas for inspection and testing
- Inspections during the 2028 irrigation season and early part of 2029 irrigation season
- Annual reports on inspections and compliance rates

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COUNCIL

State Agency Funding Proposal: Oregon Department of Agriculture

Pesticide Applicator Training Modernization

1. Requested APF Amount

Total: $1,500,000 (one-time) | FY2026–2029 | Future APF: No

Expenditures by fiscal year: The full funding request upfront to secure a professional service contract. Funding is committed at project launch and disbursed as contracted deliverables are completed.

Sustained initiative: No. Once the content is built and delivered, maintaining and updating modules as regulations evolve is a routine operational cost ODA absorbs within existing capacity.

2. Project Description

a. What will be funded and why: ODA will engage professional services to digitalize, modernize, and translate its pesticide applicator training and testing materials across all license categories. Oregon's current materials are largely static, text-based documents, many not substantively updated in over a decade, available only in English. They do not reflect current buffer zone science, updated label requirements, integrated pest management practices, or Oregon's most recent endangered species and water quality protections. These are state-specific materials that cannot be sourced from federal programs or other states. They must be developed and maintained by ODA, which is anticipated to be done with existing fee revenue.

The project has three components: (1) Digitalization and content modernization: all materials across every license category converted from static documents to interactive, multimedia digital modules incorporating current science and regulatory requirements. (2) Spanish translation: Professionally translate technical federal core and state-specific materials into Spanish. From 2020 to 2024, 75% of English-language exam takers passed; only 13% of Spanish-language exam takers did. (3) Flexible capacity: Modern materials, developed and stored digitally, lower the ongoing costs to maintain and provide in languages or formats as future needs are identified.

b. Existing plans and frameworks: FIFRA; EPA Pesticide Worker Protection Standards; ORS 634 and OAR 603-057; Executive Order 25-26; HB 3010 (2025), which passed House Agriculture with bipartisan support before stalling in Ways and Means.

c. Partners: EPA Region 10, EPA Pesticide Safety Education Program, OSU Extension, OFS, OFB, Oregon Law Center, PCUN, Washington State Department of Agriculture.

3. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement

The settlement's language directs funds toward restoring, maintaining, and enhancing Oregon's natural resources. ‘Maintaining and enhancing' is forward-looking; it covers preventing the next generation of contamination while remediating the last.

Improvements to air and water quality: An applicator who understands current buffer zone requirements, calibrates equipment correctly, and follows label requirements keeps chemicals on target and out of waterways. Across 14,000 licensed applicators working landscapes that drain into every major watershed in Oregon, the aggregate benefit is substantial.

Nexus with risks to human health (PCBs and other toxins): Pesticides are among the "other toxins" DOJ guidance identifies alongside PCBs. Spanish-language materials close an accessibility gap for agricultural workers who currently receive training only in English, the workers facing potential exposure on the landscape.

Protect wildlife habitats: Applicators who understand endangered species protections and aquatic buffer zone requirements prevent contamination from reaching sensitive habitats across Oregon's working landscapes.

4. Anticipated Outcomes

- Modernized training and testing content across all pesticide license categories, covering current buffer zone science, ESA protections, IPM practices, and watershed-specific environmental requirements
- Complete Spanish translation of all priority materials; multilingual platform capacity for additional languages
- Baseline pass rates established by license category and language; measurable improvement tracked against those baselines
- Measurable reduction in violations that have a knowledge/training nexus, tracked through existing ODA compliance monitoring systems
- Reduction in the English/Spanish pass rate gap, currently 62 percentage points
- Durable content platform designed for ongoing maintenance; the investment compounds rather than degrades

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COUNCIL

State Agency Funding Proposal: Oregon Department of Agriculture

Agricultural Water Quality On-the-Ground Restoration Partnership

1. Requested APF Amount

Total: $900,000 | FY2026–2029 | Future APF: Yes

Expenditures by fiscal year: FY2026: $50,000 (framework design, partner agreements, priority site assessment); FY2027: $350,000 (first sub-grant awards); FY2028: $350,000 (second sub-grant awards); FY2029: $150,000 (project completion). Spending will ramp up as sub-grant periods open. These implementation funds will be awarded concurrently with existing Ag Water Quality grants, which currently only cover planning and technical assistance.

Sustained initiative: Yes. This first request builds the framework and delivers two rounds of sub-grants. If results are demonstrated, ODA would return with a follow-up request sized to match landowner demand in documented priority areas. Requests would position APF dollars next to NRCS EQIP and OWEB grants where projects qualify.

2. Project Description

a. What will be funded and why: Oregon's agricultural water quality system has a gap between planning and implementation. ODA's AgWQ Program administers approximately $1.2M in state grants for planning, technical assistance, and compliance outreach through SWCDs. OWEB and NRCS fund larger projects on lands meeting specific eligibility thresholds. Between those two tiers sits a wide range of landowners, scoped projects, and documented water quality need that none of the existing programs reach. Smaller landowners do not compete well for OWEB or NRCS grants. Practices like riparian fencing, off-channel watering systems, and vegetation establishment are not fundable under ODA's existing planning grants. Producers identified through ODA's compliance work as ready to act have nowhere to turn for implementation costs.

Geographic targeting focuses on Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) and Groundwater Management Areas (GWMAs), priority zones where documented water quality impairment and landowner readiness align. Examples of where funding would flow:

- Mid-Coast SIA (Lincoln/Lane counties): Small dairy and livestock operations along tributaries to 303(d)-listed streams impaired for temperature and sediment. Landowners have SWCD-developed plans but may not be able to access OWEB due to parcel size. APF funds may support riparian fencing and off-channel watering systems.
- Southern Willamette Valley SIA (Linn/Benton/Lane counties): Mixed agriculture in subwatersheds with elevated nitrate in groundwater and surface water. Landowners have completed ODA-required Water Quality Management Plans but lack funds for the fencing and riparian buffer establishment those plans specify.
- Eastern Oregon priority basins in John Day, Malheur, and Umatilla GWMAs. We will engage irrigation districts as sub-grant partners for water use efficiency and tailwater recovery improvements that reduce nutrient loading at the source.

b. Existing plans and frameworks: Agricultural Water Quality Management Act (ORS 568.900–568.933); Clean Water Act Section 319; TMDLs and Agricultural Implementation Plans; ORS 468B.180 (GWMAs); Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds; Oregon Nutrient Management Strategy; Executive Order 25-26.

c. Partners: SWCDs (primary sub-grant delivery channel), irrigation districts, NRCS (EQIP co-investment), OWEB, DEQ, OSU Extension, FFA chapters and high school agricultural programs.

3. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement

Environmental and natural resource restoration: Sub-grants translate completed planning and technical assistance work into physical restoration on the landscape.

Improvements to water quality: Riparian fencing reduces sediment and pathogen loading and allows stream temperatures to recover. Native vegetation stabilizes banks and filters nutrients and contaminants. Irrigation efficiency upgrades reduce return flow volumes and the legacy contaminants they carry.

Remediate impaired water bodies and soil: Targeting prioritizes 303(d)-listed waterways, SIAs, and GWMAs where impairment is documented. PCBs have been found in agricultural waterways across the Willamette, Columbia, John Day, and Umatilla basins. DEQ confirmed PCBs were historically used in pesticide formulations, creating a direct link between agricultural land management history and the contamination the settlement addresses.

Restore wildlife habitats: Functioning riparian areas provide habitat for fish, aquatic invertebrates, and terrestrial species. Projects in SIAs adjacent to salmon-bearing streams directly benefit ESA-listed fish species.

Human health nexus: Agricultural waterways are drinking water sources for rural communities. Reducing nitrate in GWMAs and chemical runoff in priority surface water basins protects community drinking water supplies.

4. Anticipated Outcomes

- Sub-grants for riparian fencing, off-channel watering, native vegetation establishment, and irrigation efficiency in at least three SIA priority areas
- Linear feet of stream buffered, and acres of riparian vegetation established, documented by sub-grantee
- Landowners served in areas outside current OWEB and NRCS eligibility, particularly smaller operations
- Irrigation districts engaged as sub-grant partners at scale not previously achieved under this program
- State match documented: existing $1.2M in planning and TA funds working alongside APF implementation dollars on the same landscapes
- EQIP and OWEB co-investment leveraged wherever projects qualify
- Framework and partner relationships established for a scaled follow-on APF request

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Environmental Restoration Council State Agency Fund Concept

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COUNCIL

ODFW FUNDING PROPOSAL/CONCEPT: CHARTING A FUTURE FOR CLEANER WATER: CONTAMINANT MITIGATION AND HABITAT RESTORATION IN PRIORITY WATERSHEDS

April 14, 2026

Requested amount: $4,715,131, scalable depending on funding. The funding will be spent between January 2027 (or earlier depending on approval by legislature) and June 30, 2029, with a heavier expenditure rate anticipated in the second two years (July 1, 2027-June 30, 2029). This requested funding allocation is part of a longer-term initiative that ODFW anticipates requesting additional funding for in future APF request cycles.

Project Description:
Oregon faces a growing conservation crisis. The 2025 update to the State's Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP) identified 76 additional at-risk species, bringing the total to more than 300 species (compared to 10-years prior) – and nearly 100 more lack sufficient information to assess their status. Over 60% of Oregon's amphibians, 40% of fish, and numerous other species are in decline. These trends underscore the need for timely, coordinated action.

Environmental pollution is a key threat to fish and wildlife in Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan, with many species particularly vulnerable due to life history traits. For example, amphibians readily absorb pollutants through their permeable skin, egg masses, and larval stages. Fish and other species face risks from both direct toxicity and bioaccumulation in the food web. These vulnerabilities amplify the impacts of contaminants across Oregon's waterways.

This proposal advances ODFW's "Know-Plan-Do" framework to fulfill the core intent of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement by identifying contamination risks, restoring ecological function, and driving large-scale cleanup and remediation. In priority watersheds, ODFW will assess pollutant impacts on amphibians and other at-risk species ("Know"), prioritize and design high-impact restoration and remediation projects for big impact ("Plan"), and will implement shovel-ready habitat and environmental quality projects that strengthen watershed resilience ("Do"). Initial work will focus on the Rogue, Umpqua, and Santiam basins, with additional opportunities in the Siletz, Willamette, and Columbia systems – areas facing pressures from runoff, brownfields, agricultural chemicals, wildfire-related pollution, and other non-point sources. These results will also provide co-benefits for drinking water, public health, and climate resilience.

<table>
<tr><td colspan="3">Project: Santiam Watershed and Mid-Willamette Contaminants Assessments and Restoration Projects</td></tr>
<tr><td>Approximate Total Cost: $1,761,400</td><td>Position Cost: $0 (contingent on the other ODFW request)</td><td>S&S Cost: $1,761,400</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Partners: USGS, North Santiam Watershed Council, City of Salem, Marion County, South Santiam Watershed Council, City of Sweet Home, Calapooia Watershed Council, NOAA, BPA, and Ducks Unlimited</td></tr>
<tr><td colspan="3">Description: This project package advances restoration and assessment in the Santiam and Mid-Willamette basin, including a 120-acre restoration project on a former brownfield near a remediated Superfund site; an alternatives analysis to convert a former quarry into wildlife habitat and a city park; a basin-wide contaminant assessment to guide restoration and source-water protection; an analysis identifying where wetland restoration would best reduce methylmercury impacts on amphibians; and the implementation of additional on-the-ground projects in impacted areas.</td></tr>
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Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
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Project: Umpqua Watershed Restoration Projects		
Approximate Total Cost: $900,000	**Position Cost:** $0 (contingent on the other ODFW request)	**S&S Cost:** $900,000
Partners: Umpqua Native Plant Partnership and Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians		
Description: This project package advances restoration in the Umpqua basin on contaminant-impacted sites, including wetland restoration on a 77-acre former brownfield; initial cleanup and restoration on a 160-acre parcel affected by past mining and an illegal cannabis operation; and recovery work in a high-priority system for species of greatest conservation need impacted by the 2020 Archie Creek Fire.		

Project: Rogue Watershed Restoration Projects		
Approximate Total Cost: $2,053,731	**Position Cost:** $0 (contingent on the other ODFW request)	**S&S Cost:** $2,053,731
Partners: Medford Water Commission, Rogue Watershed Council, City of Central Point, USFS, Cascade Stream Solutions, Illinois Valley Watershed Council, USGS, Jackson SWCD		
Description: This project package advances restoration in the Rogue basin through a variety of different projects. A few examples include a 20-acre floodplain reconnection project downstream of the 2020 Almeda Fire to capture contaminants from agricultural lands, I-5, and nearby brownfields; design support for a floodplain enhancement project upstream of Medford's drinking water intake on a former military base converted into a wildlife refuge; implementation of a pilot soil-health treatment to reduce agricultural PFAS on impacted sites, and the implementation of additional on the ground projects in impacted areas.		

Frameworks, Plans, and Executive Orders:
All projects scoped address key priorities within conservation opportunity areas identified within the ODFW State Wildlife Action Plan. This work also advances priorities in EO 25-26, the ODEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report, the 2021 State Agency Climate Change Adaptation Framework, the OCAC Climate Action Roadmap to 2030, multiple watershed and species recovery plans.

Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:
The proposed work closely aligns with all major components of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement. ODFW will assess contamination impacts on species of greatest conservation need and prioritize sites for mitigation and restoration. The portfolio includes actions that support brownfields remediation; cleanup of contaminated sites; remediation of impaired water bodies, sediments, and soils; and restoration and protection of wildlife and habitat. Implemented projects will also improve air and water quality and, through collaboration with DEQ and OHA, contribute to improved public health outcomes.

Describe Anticipated Outcomes:
Significant ecological restoration will occur in priority watersheds benefiting both wildlife and local communities. The work will support species recovery, restore ecosystem function, and reduce the legacy impacts of pollution across Oregon. ODFW will implement shovel-ready projects, advance additional project designs and permits, and strengthen partnerships to support coordinated, landscape-scale conservation. The agency will also reduce key information gaps, assess pollutant-related risks, and develop a prioritized portfolio of restoration sites to guide future investment. Progress will be tracked through key milestones, including completed assessments, prioritized project lists, permits obtained, projects implemented, and measurable environmental improvements.

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Environmental Restoration Council State Agency Fund Concept

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COUNCIL

ODFW FUNDING PROPOSAL/CONCEPT: FROM ASSESSMENT TO ACTION: TURNING THE TIDE ON CONTAMINANTS TO RESTORE OREGON'S AQUATIC SPECIES AND HABITATS

April 14, 2026

Requested amount: $5,584,869, scalable depending on funding. The funding will be spent between January 2027 (or earlier depending on approval by legislature) and June 30, 2029, with a heavier expenditure rate anticipated in the second two years (July 1, 2027-June 30, 2029). This requested funding allocation is part of a longer-term initiative that ODFW anticipates requesting additional funding for in future APF request cycles.

Project Description:
Oregon's most sensitive aquatic species—lamprey, freshwater mussels, and amphibians—are sounding an early alarm about the health of our waterways. Exposure to environmental toxins, including pesticides, fertilizers, heavy metals, and other pollutants, is a key threat identified in the ODFW State Wildlife Action Plan, and contaminants particularly impact Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussels due to unique life-history traits. Lamprey and freshwater mussels spend all or most of their lives buried in or resting on riverbed sediments, placing them at ground-zero for exposure to contaminants that accumulate there. Their declining numbers signal growing pressures that threaten not only aquatic ecosystems but also the cultural, ecological, and community values tied to these species.

This proposal advances ODFW's "Know-Plan-Do" conservation framework to address the needs of some of Oregon's most vulnerable aquatic species. With early OERF funds, ODFW will implement targeted monitoring, planning, and restoration actions that build on proven approaches used to recover species across the state. These collaborative assessments, planning processes, and implementation focus on landscape-scale opportunities that support lamprey, mussels, and other at-risk species.

Collaborative contaminant assessment and restoration planning: Working with OHA, DEQ, USGS, USFWS, and other partners, ODFW will assess contaminant impacts on Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussels, evaluate potential human-consumption risks, and inform future restoration. By leveraging shared expertise, this approach would maximize efficiency and expand statewide data collection and restoration prioritization. Discussions are underway with these partners, and the S&S costs ODFW is specifically requesting would cover lab fees, supplies, equipment, contracts, and other costs. While ODFW will work with an outside lab if needed, ODFW hopes to contract with DEQ's contaminants lab for sample analysis and encourages the OERC to support DEQ's possible OERC request for additional lab analytical capacity. S&S request of $2,095,064 (Know/Plan).

Investigating mussel die-offs: Data gathered through the contaminant study above combined with additional assessments carried out by freshwater mussel experts at Xerces will help to inform the investigation of the drivers of sudden freshwater mussel die-offs at known and emerging sites to determine the possible role of contaminants and prioritize remediation to support population recovery. Freshwater mussel die-offs have been observed in the North Umpqua, Crooked, and John Day Basins. This request will also support Xerces staff to identify and protect freshwater mussels during instream restoration projects led by local partners statewide. S&S request of $809,000 (Know/Plan/Do).

Advancing lamprey and mussel recovery with Tribal partners: In collaboration with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission and other partners, ODFW will help support the advancement of Tribal

priorities for Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussel recovery and the implementation of on-the-ground restoration for these species. Work includes providing Pacific lamprey passage in the Willamette through translocation and implementing two projects that address passage at the Cougar Tailrace and the Westland Diversion; supporting improved understanding of species conditions at Willamette Falls and other sites in Oregon with the potential to inform broader efforts to assess contaminant impacts on these species; mussel restoration site evaluations to determine suitability in terms of water quality and contaminants at priority locations; and other work to support Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussel population recovery efforts. S&S request of $1,588,000 (Know/Plan/Do).

All the above: Each of the project elements above require ODFW capacity and expertise specific to Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussels. This capacity will be essential for the assessment and investigation, population and habitat restoration, project management, contracting, and coordination. To ensure success of all these elements, ODFW requests the following positions: a limited duration Supervising Fish and Wildlife Biologist position and four seasonal Biological Science Assistant positions to support data collection, analysis, prioritization, and partner coordination across all elements within this request and ODFW's other OERC APF request. ODFW is also requesting an additional S&S to support staff travel, computers, software, waders, and other necessary staff-specific supplies, professional development, and other costs. PS request of $822,805, S&S request of $270,000.

Frameworks, Plans, and Executive Orders:
This work advances priorities in the ODFW State Wildlife Action Plan, EO 25-26, the ODEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report, the 2021 State Agency Climate Change Adaptation Framework, the OCAC Climate Action Roadmap to 2030, multiple watershed and species recovery plans.

Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:
The proposed work closely aligns with the major components of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement. ODFW will assess contamination impacts on species of greatest conservation need and prioritize sites for mitigation and restoration. The portfolio includes actions that support cleanup of contaminated sites; remediation of impaired water bodies, sediments, and soils; and restoration and protection of wildlife and habitat. Implemented projects will also improve air and water quality and, through collaboration with DEQ and OHA, contribute to improved public health outcomes.

Describe Anticipated Outcomes:
Investments through this proposal will meaningfully advance the conservation and recovery of Pacific lamprey, freshwater mussels, and amphibians—three of Oregon's most vulnerable aquatic species groups. The work will support species recovery, restore ecosystem function, and reduce the legacy impact of pollution across Oregon.

ODFW will implement shovel-ready projects and strengthen partnerships to support coordinated, landscape-scale conservation. The agency will also reduce key information gaps, assess pollutant-related risks, and develop a prioritized portfolio of restoration sites to guide future investment. Progress will be tracked through key milestones, including completed assessments, prioritized project lists, permits obtained, projects implemented, and measurable environmental improvements.

April 21st, 2026

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COUNCIL
STATE AGENCY FUNDING PROPOSAL

1. Requested APF Amount:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Total
Predicting High-Risk Locations and Cost-Effective Stormwater Runoff Treatment Strategies for Emerging Contaminants including Tire-Derived Contaminant 6PPD-q	$354,900	$828,100	$709,800	$473,200	**$2,236,000**

No future funding request anticipated. Cost estimated from ODOT current USGS and University research contracts for highway stormwater runoff research and stormwater instrumentation, monitoring, modeling, and reporting.

2. Project Description:

State DOTs are generally responsible for managing and treating highway stormwater runoff when and where required. A known tire-derived toxicant that accumulates in road dust and highway runoff is 6PPD-q, which contributes to Coho salmon mortality. New research has shown that 6PPD-q is also harmful to other aquatic species present in Oregon, including key species in Oregon's ODFW Habitat Conservation Plans, like rainbow trout and steelhead, Chinook salmon, and coastal cutthroat trout. The potential decline of these species may have direct and indirect impacts on communities, economies, and especially Tribes. Other state DOTs across the nation share contamination concerns and are engaged in a joint effort supported by the FHWA called a Transportation Pooled Fund Research Project (TPF) led by Oregon DOT. Other state DOT partners include Alaska, California, Colorado, Maine, Nevada, Pennsylvania, and Washington, and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) members include EPA, ODEQ, and the FHWA. Unfortunately, this joint effort only includes one monitoring location in Oregon at the current Pooled Fund funding level. If the proposed funding is awarded, ODOT has the unique opportunity to secure additional federal match (80% federal share with a 20% match). The primary goal of this proposal and any matched federal funds is to develop additional 6PPD-q highway stormwater runoff monitoring sites in Oregon, which directly improve predictive modeling of contamination "hotspot" roadside locations in the state. Improved modeling directly enhances state planning level prioritization processes for future monitoring or mitigation.

Interagency collaboration is vital to this work. The USGS is currently leading the Pooled Fund research effort and is a top candidate to lead the state-focused research effort in this proposal. Additional collaboration with both the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) is underway. ODOT has existing and long-held relationships with both agencies and engages with these and other partners in the Oregon 6PPD-q Science Subcommittee and the Regional 6PPD-q Working Group. If the project is funded, ODFW and ODEQ are invited to sit on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the research project. TAC roles are highly influential and link multidisciplinary expertise with the evolution of each project deliverable. This means that subject matter experts from ODFW and ODEQ can review and critique each of the research deliverables to guide the final research products. Importantly, Tribal partnership, particularly for the selection of desired locations for 6PPD-q hotspot monitoring sites, is a highly desired aspect of this work and an opportunity to monitor potential problem areas on the state highway system of interest to our tribal partners. Outreach to Tribes has been drafted by ODOT, however the agency will engage only after funding is secured to reduce strain on limited tribal capacity.

The proposed project may benefit multiple state agencies, federal agencies and Tribes. Specific The proposed project benefits multiple state agencies, federal agencies and Tribes. Specific project objectives include:

1. Determine if and model where highway stormwater 6PPD-q concentrations may be problematic by leveraging and adapting available stormwater contaminant models into a planning-level tool for initial prediction of potential problem areas along Oregon's highway network statewide. Three ODOT highway stormwater control measures will be monitored for runoff over a three-year period and incorporated into a national highway runoff database for model training.
2. Model effectiveness of 6PPD-q removal for representative ODOT stormwater facilities. At least six separate field locations together with laboratory methods will be used to validate and optimize the planning-level prediction tool.
3. Provide cost-conscious guidance with recommended treatment design and prioritization process.

3. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement: Importantly, the proposed project directly aligns with the Monsanto Settlement Agreement terms including: C, for water quality improvement; D, for identification of 6PPD-q contaminant hotspots; F, for protecting native migratory fish, and given more recent reporting, G, as a nexus with risk to human health. Water quality in Oregon, and coho salmon most directly, would substantively benefit from identifying hotspot locations and targeting low-cost mitigation measures. While sites with significant 6PPD-q inputs are unknown at this time, predictive modeling, on-site testing and identification of effective mitigation measures will greatly advance Oregon's capacity to locate and target water bodies with the highest inputs. Lastly, human consumption of aquatic species is the current best-known pathway for human health risk. However, aerosolization of 6PPD-q is under investigation and a growing body of research indicates fine particle transport is a threat to air, soil and water contamination. As the science of 6PPD-q fate, transport and toxicity advances, Oregon agencies and Tribes will be better positioned to restore and protect an expanding list of aquatic and terrestrial species impacted by 6PPD-q with investment in this project.

4. Anticipated Outcomes: It is already understood that 6PPD-q is generated by tire wear particles and that high concentrations can exist near state highways and potentially in highway runoff. The anticipated outcomes of this work include 1) improved knowledge of where 6PPD-q contamination "hotspots" might be located on the state highway system 2) improved performance evaluation of current stormwater best management to inform new BMPs without costly retrofits 3) enhanced intra-state, Tribal and federal agency collaboration, including sharing of project deliverables and benefits.

In addition to providing data and tools for cost-effective management decisions, this work will provide community assurance and transparency that ODOT is taking a proactive management approach. The outcomes of this work will likely have ecological significance, cultural and tribal importance, legal significance for ODOT, support the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Healthy Watersheds, and likely add economic value to the state. Support for this project may be matched by FHWA to significantly enhance state investment and will primarily increase the number of Oregon-based 6PPD-q monitoring sites. This information benefits Tribes and several state agencies with interest in reducing contamination. A full set of anticipated final project deliverables includes 1) an online GIS map of 6PPD-q hotspots, 2) field-tested assessments for at least three stormwater control measures to mitigate 6PPD-q 3) a planning level economic assessment, 4) cost-effective methodology and process recommendations, 4) design considerations recommended for inclusion in ODOT's Stormwater Design Manual, 5) quarterly reports to stakeholders, 6) workshops and 7) a final published report.

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION COUNCIL
OREGON HEALTH AUTHORITY FUNDING CONCEPT:

COMMUNITY DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION

April 24, 2026

OHA is proposing continued resourcing of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program established by the legislature in House Bill 2010 (2023). OHA supports OWEB's Program with technical assistance. However, the Program will sunset after June 2027 due to the expenditure of all of the legislative appropriation. As is the case with all OWEB programs, this Program works only with willing landowners. OHA does not have the expertise in land acquisition to assume this program directly, but this would be a public health priority for OERF funding that would also align with habitat protection and water quality improvement priorities of other natural resource agencies. Through the DWSP Grant Program, OWEB could continue to provide grants to public water suppliers to protect, restore, or enhance sources of drinking water through land acquisition and conservation. The program focuses on water suppliers that serve rural communities and/or lower-income populations but is not limited to these communities. The Program would be able to continue to provide grants to communities to acquire land, easements or covenants from willing sellers that protect, restore or enhance a drinking water source. This is an opportunity to achieve a "triple bottom line" of health, habitat and water quality protection.

Requested APF Amount:

a. $3 million over 3 years
b. $3 million to be spent over 3 years to continue the program beginning July 1, 2027, by providing OWEB additional funding for grants to initiate a new funding round and allowing OWEB to convert an existing limited duration 1.0 NRS4 to a permanent position.
c. This funding allocation would be part of a longer-term continuation of the Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program where Agency Program Funds from the Council could sustain the program directly through awards to OWEB.

Project Description:

a. Through the DWSP Grant Program, OWEB provides grants to public water suppliers to protect, restore, or enhance sources of drinking water through land conservation and protection.
b. Since OHA is proposing on behalf of OWEB, OWEB could provide information on connection to agency priority. However, this program would connect to OHA's strategic goal pillar of supporting Healthy Families and Environments, by providing environments that continue to serve clean safe drinking water to rural and smaller communities.
c. OHA partners with OWEB to maintain the Drinking Water Source Protection Grant Program (HB 2010, 2023) which OHA supports with technical assistance. This work is done in collaboration with potential grantees that include small cities, public water systems, water associations and districts.

Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:
Protecting drinking water sources is a core public health function. The program helps communities reduce exposure to contaminants—including PCBs, pesticides, heavy metals, and industrial toxins—before they reach drinking water intakes or wells. This is particularly critical for rural and lower-income communities that the DWSP Program prioritizes and that may lack resources to address contamination after it occurs.

Anticipated Outcomes:
The Council's investment will accomplish the following:

- Maintain a statewide, community-focused source water protection grant program that would otherwise expire due to exhausted legislative appropriations.
- Enable rural and lower-income communities to secure land, easements, or covenants from willing sellers to protect critical drinking water source areas.
- Reduce contamination risks before they reach drinking water intakes or wells, lowering treatment burdens and long-term system costs.
- Advance a "triple bottom line" of public health protection, habitat conservation, and long-term water quality improvement.

Milestones:

- Year 1 (Program Continuation and Transition Planning)
    - Maintain uninterrupted operation of the DWSP Grant Program as HB 2010 funds phase out.
      Open the first continuation grant cycle using OERF-supported staff position.

- Years 2–3 (Project Implementation and Community Impact)
    - Complete multiple rounds of grants to public water suppliers for land acquisition and conservation.
    - Report on acres protected, easements secured, and watershed conditions addressed.
    - Demonstrate early outcomes such as decreased contamination risk, riparian restoration, and increased resilience in priority source areas.