



Environmental Restoration Council  
State Agency Funding Package

*Prepared by*

Governor's Natural Resource Office

June 12, 2026

**Tina Kotek**  
Governor



Memo

To: Oregon Environmental Restoration Council  
From: Geoff Huntington, Senior Natural Resources Policy Advisor  
Annette Liebe, Special Assignment  
Date: June 12, 2026  
Re: State Agency Program Fund Interim Allocation for the 2025-2027 Biennium

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**Background:**

At the March 18, 2026, Oregon Environmental Restoration Council (OERC) meeting, the Governor’s Office presented a proposal to allocate up to \$30 million in State Agency Program Fund (APF) dollars during the 2025-2027 biennium for state agency work on critical environmental issues that align with the Monsanto Settlement Agreement. At the May 6, 2026, OERC meeting, the Governor’s Office and state agencies provided an informational overview of the pre-proposal package of investments. This proposed allocation will utilize APF funds distributed and accumulated during the first and second years of the 2025-2027 biennium. This proposed interim allocation helps bridge the period while long term strategic priorities are being identified and adopted into rule by the Council and allows an initial group of projects addressing important and ongoing needs to be initiated much sooner than would otherwise occur.

**Proposal Summary:**

This proposal marks the beginning of a legacy of multi-generational investments to fund outcomes for Oregon’s environment. The proposal contains 11 investment areas totaling \$29,875,000 distributed across eight state agencies to advance projects that are foundational to restoring, maintaining, and enhancing Oregon’s land, air, water, wildlife and habitat, and Oregonians. Proposals are grouped into two phases of funding: Phase 1 proposals will be funded with \$15M in 2025 Agency Program Fund dollars and Phase 2 proposals will be funded with the 2026 Agency Program Fund dollars once available later in 2026. Please refer to the table below for a summary of the package as well as a summary of how each project meets the Monsanto Settlement Agreement and ORS 541.857 criteria. State agencies are excited to work with

partners across Oregon to begin this important work, and have worked closely with the Governor's office to ensure the funds also align and advance ongoing priorities and initiatives.

The Governor's Office understands the Council's desire to discuss and consider each project independently, and sponsoring agencies will be available for questions and discussion at the upcoming meeting. It is also understood that the Council has discretion to fund all or only some of the eleven proposals. Pre-proposals included in the May 6<sup>th</sup> meeting materials as Appendix B are not being submitted for the Council's consideration at this time, but may be ripe for further consideration in a future funding cycle.

### **Five Important Characteristics of the Package of Proposals:**

#### **1) Proposals that Restore Lands to Support Redevelopment and/or Habitat Values**

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Oregon Health Authority (OHA) will work together to conduct site investigations, health risk communication, and remediation at brownfield sites with known contamination and where there exists public interest for site reuse. The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) will restore floodplain function, improve riparian and aquatic habitat, reestablish native vegetation, and reduce environmental risks at up to 13 legacy mine sites.

#### **2) Proposals that Invest In Aquatic Environmental Damage Assessment, Restoration and Risk Reduction**

DEQ, OHA and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) will leverage expertise at each agency to collect, analyze and share data about fish tissue contamination from legacy and emerging toxics. This interagency collaboration strengthens each agency's ability to fill critical data gaps, act on contaminant-related risks, and help translate contaminant monitoring into targeted restoration and community safety actions.

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) will assess the extent of 6PPD-q contamination on the state highway system, model where it may be most problematic (e.g., "hotspot" prediction), and evaluate how effective current stormwater filtration facility types are at removing 6PPD-q. This compound is a tire-derived toxicant that can accumulate in road dust and highway runoff that is toxic to Oregon's iconic Coho salmon as well as other aquatic species.

#### **3) Proposals that Restore Aquatic Fish and Wildlife Habitat In Priority Basins**

ODFW will implement projects focused on improving watershed health in the Rogue, Umpqua, Santiam, and mid-Willamette basins, all affected by non-point pollution, brownfields, post-fire contamination, and other legacy impacts. ODFW will also identify and implement targeted freshwater mussel and Pacific Lamprey restoration actions in the Willamette Basin.

#### **4) Proposals that Remediate and/or Remove Known Sources of Environmental Contamination**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) will modernize and translate pesticide applicator training materials to ensure that the 14,000 licensed applicators making daily decisions across millions of acres of agricultural land, forest, and public rights-of-way understand current buffer zone science, calibrate equipment for site conditions, and follow label requirements to keep chemicals on target and out of waterways and to avoid important pollinators. ODA will also support implementation of restoration activities by small agricultural landowners to reduce temperature, sediment, nutrient runoff and chemical transport into waterways.

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) will take steps to keep fertilizers and other chemicals from flowing back into rivers, streams, and groundwater through irrigation systems. The agency will activate awareness programs and work directly with irrigators to highlight the benefits of backflow prevention equipment, in addition to carrying out approximately 1,000 inspections in areas with known contamination over two irrigation seasons. OWRD will also update its administrative rules to support these protections.

DEQ will pass through funds to contracted partners to repair and replace failing septic systems in priority areas with known groundwater contamination where malfunctioning systems are known to be a significant contributing source of contamination. High priority areas include the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area and specific areas on Oregon's South Coast, where localized septic failures are impacting lakes, streams, and drinking water sources.

OHA and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) will support safe, reliable drinking water by partnering with water suppliers that serve rural and lower income communities to protect land around drinking water sources, ensuring watersheds remain clean and free from contaminants before water reaches the tap. OHA's and DEQ's active support of water suppliers to prepare source water protection projects has created a pipeline of projects that are ready for these land protection transactions.

## **5) Projects that Support Partnerships and Collaboration Across State and Federal Agencies, with Tribes and Environmental Justice Communities, and other partners.**

Each project proposal identifies how agencies will collaborate and to ensure meaningful outcomes are achieved and resources are leveraged.

### Project Eligibility

The Monsanto Settlement Agreement and ORS 541.857 lay out the eligibility criteria listed below. Each of the projects in this proposal meets several of the eligibility criteria:

- Brownfields remediation or redevelopment
- Environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration
- Improvements in air or water quality
- Clean up of contaminated sites
- Remediation of impaired water bodies, sediments or soil
- Restoration or protection of wildlife, wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats, or
- Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination.

Projects were also evaluated for how they support the Governor’s Resiliency Executive Order (EO 25-26) as well as other statewide plans and frameworks. The legislation and temporary administrative rule also require that funds from the Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund (OERF) not be used as a replacement to funds from other existing sources.

After the May 6<sup>th</sup> OERC meeting, each project was refined to include:

- a spending plan,
- implementation timeline, and
- measurable outcomes for reporting.

Please refer to the project write-ups in Attachment 1 for that information.

The Interim Agency Program Fund Package Table below identifies two phases of funding: Phase 1 proposals to be funded with \$15M in 2025 Agency Program Fund dollars and Phase 2 proposals to be funded with the 2026 Agency Program Fund dollars once available later in 2026. Projects have also been listed in priority order for Phase 2 funding; priority is based on near-term impact.

**Recommendation:**

The Governor’s Office recommends that the Council approve funding for each of the projects as presented and phased for OERF funding in the Interim Agency Program Fund Package table below.

**Next Steps:**

Once the OERC has decided on projects to fund with this interim allocation, the Governor’s Office will work with state agencies on securing necessary budget and/or position authority during the September Emergency Board meeting (September 8-10, 2026). The first step in that process is a Notice of Intent from each agency to the Department of Administrative Services that is due July 27, 2026.

The Governor’s Office will ensure that the Governor’s Recommended Budget (due in December) includes limited duration positions funded by the Council that are contemplated for work beyond the current budget biennium. Given current schedules for the Legislature’s Emergency Board items and executive branch budget development in anticipation of the 2027 legislative session, it is unclear that a pathway exists for initiating agency projects until at least July 2027 absent a funding decision by the Council at the upcoming June 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

# Interim Agency Fund Package

TABLE 1

Table 1. Interim Agency Fund Package

Project		Summary	Agency	Total Project Request	Phase 1	Phase 2	Brownfields	Damage Assessments	Air & Water Quality	Clean Up contamination	Remediate Water & Soil	Restore & Protect Habitat	Health + Environment
1	Oregon Brownfields Initiative (Total: \$6M)	Supports brownfields site investigations and public risk outreach.	DEQ	\$5,400,000	\$3,400,000	\$2,000,000							
			OHA	\$600,000	\$600,000								
2	Aquatic Environmental Damage Assessment (Total: \$6,606,000)	Expands sampling and analysis for contaminants in aquatic species, leveraging expertise through interagency collaboration.	DEQ	\$2,100,000	\$1,700,000	\$400,000							
			ODFW	\$3,106,000	\$2,706,000	\$400,000							
			OHA	\$1,400,000	\$1,000,000	\$400,000							
3	Lamprey and Mussel Habitat Restoration	Advances Tribal priorities and recovery actions for Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussels.	ODFW	\$1,894,000	\$1,894,000								

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4	Restoration of Priority Watersheds	Advances restoration and assessment in the Santiam, Mid-Willamette, Umpqua and Rogue basins.	<b>ODFW</b>	\$4,500,000	\$1,700,000	\$2,800,000							
5	Enhanced Mine Reclamation	Supports restoration of mine sites.	<b>DOGAMI</b>	\$1,000,000		\$1,000,000							
6	Pesticide Applicator Training	Supports updates and translation for ODA's pesticide applicator training and testing.	<b>ODA</b>	\$1,500,000		\$1,500,000							
7	6PPD-Quinone Research	Improves predictive modelling of 6PPD contamination hotspots, aiding planning processes.	<b>ODOT</b>	\$1,900,000		\$1,900,000							

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8	Drinking Water Source Protection	Grant program that advances public health and water quality protection.	<b>OWEB</b> (per OHA request)	\$1,200,000		\$1,200,000							
9	Address Groundwater Contamination from Failing Septic Systems	Continues an existing septic loan and grant program.	<b>DEQ</b>	\$4,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$2,000,000							
10	Backflow Prevention	Prevents fertilizer and other agricultural chemicals from entering surface and groundwater.	<b>OWRD</b>	\$775,000		\$775,000							
11	Agricultural Water Quality Restoration Partnership	Grant program for targeted restoration that improves agricultural waterways and protects water quality.	<b>ODA</b>	\$500,000		\$500,000							
<b>Total</b>				<b>\$29,875,000</b>	<b>\$15,000,000</b>	<b>\$14,875,000</b>							

## Attachment 1

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# 1. Oregon Priority Brownfields Initiative (DEQ & OHA)

*Joint Department of Environmental Quality & Oregon Health Authority*

## 1. Project Description:

- a. **Please provide a brief project description.** The Oregon Priority Brownfields Initiative is a joint DEQ/OHA proposal to conduct site investigations, health risk communication, and remediation at sites with known contamination and public interest for site reuse. In coordination with OHA, DEQ will develop and implement a data-driven site prioritization framework that incorporates environmental and social indicators to select sites for investigations and cleanups. Funding will also support community and Tribal engagement, task order contractors to implement site investigations and cleanup, and DEQ project management oversight. This funding will expand both DEQ and OHA's ability to support site reuse and restoration and meaningfully engage with and inform impacted communities and Tribes.
- b. **What is the problem this proposal will address?** Every Oregon city and county, whether rural or urban, has vacant, underused properties with real or perceived contamination. Contaminated sites throughout Oregon pose a risk to human health and the environment, impeding redevelopment, reuse, and habitat restoration. Current DEQ and OHA funding to investigate and clean up contaminated sites that provide community benefits and support proactive engagement and risk communication is extremely limited.
- c. **How will this investment move the needle on this problem?** DEQ and OHA know how to move these sites along the continuum from (i) initial site identification and characterization to (ii) detailed investigation and risk evaluation, (iii) cleanup and remediation planning, (iv) implementation of remedial actions, (v) site redevelopment for beneficial use. The barrier has long been a lack of funding to carry out this work, and to meaningfully partner with local communities and Tribes. This work will remove or control contamination to protect human health and ecosystems, prevent further impacts to rivers and groundwater, and depending on the site, make progress towards, or achieve community benefits such as sites for affordable housing, greenspace, habitat restoration, and other public uses.
- d. **Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the projects/programs are priorities for the Agency and for Oregon.** Funding will support community and Tribal engagement, including, resourcing local partners with mini-grants or facilitation contracts to help them reach the communities they serve. It will pay for state task order contractors to plan for and implement site investigations and cleanup, and fund DEQ/OHA staff and project management oversight for remediation projects. This funding will expand both DEQ and OHA's capacity to support site reuse and restoration that is responsive to community and Tribal priorities and helps overburdened communities transform blighted contaminated sites into community assets. The work is strongly aligned with DEQ Strategic Plan priorities, specifically Goal 2 (strengthening relationships with sovereign Tribal governments); Goal 3 (grounding DEQ work in environmental justice to address disproportionate environmental and health impacts), and Goal 4 (proactively address complex environmental challenges today and in the future). The Initiative advances OHA's overall agency goal to eliminate health inequities in Oregon, and its strategic plan goal of supporting Healthy Families and Environments by reducing the risk of exposure to toxics and promoting healthy and resilient environments.
- e. **Describe what the Council's investment in this work will accomplish over the anticipated life cycle of the project/program.** The Council's investment will support DEQ and OHA completion of site investigation, risk communication, and remediation at sites with known contamination and public interest. DEQ and OHA will develop a prioritization framework with consultation and input from the Environmental Justice Council. The prioritization framework will consider environmental and social criteria such as scope, technical feasibility, cost, health

and ecological risk, burden of contamination, geographic distribution and other factors. Applying this prioritization framework will allow for the identification of sites for this initiative in a publicly facing and transparent manner. Lessons learned from this pilot initiative will be used to inform and develop any future, larger scale brownfield cleanup program in Oregon, a priority for both agencies. Specific milestones over the timeframe of this project (October 2026 to June 2029), include the following: (i) recruit and hire limited duration DEQ positions to ensure work progress and completion; (ii) provide OHA with a fund source to pay for a combination of new limited duration and existing toxicology, community engagement, environmental health education and contracting staff; (iii) develop a project plan; (iii) develop a data-driven site prioritization framework that incorporates environmental and social indicators to select sites for investigations and cleanups; and (iv) develop and implement plans for individual site investigations, risk communication, engagement, and cleanups; and (v) track and report on projects.

**2. Requested APF Amount and Spend Plan Summary:**

Total amount requested: \$6M (\$5.4 M to DEQ and \$0.6M to OHA). DEQ will use funding for: i) supplies and services to conduct site characterization and/or cleanup using existing environmental task order contractors, and ii) personnel for DEQ project management oversight that will include community and tribal engagement. DEQ will partner with OHA, whose staff will provide Tribal and community engagement, public health toxicology analysis, health risk communication, contracting and grant support on these projects. Funding for personnel is intended to cover new limited duration positions as well as existing staff. DEQ and OHA will request position authority for 4.0 new limited duration positions (DEQ 3.0 and OHA 1.0).

	Total Amount	Personnel	Supplies and Services
DEQ	\$ 5.4 M	\$3.6M	\$ 1.8M*
OHA	\$ 0.6 M	\$400,000	\$ 200,000**

\* Exact amount of funds for supplies and services will depend on site selection. The numbers shown represent a conservative estimate of personnel costs. We anticipate actual staff costs to be lower, allowing for more funds to pay for investigation and cleanup work and resourcing local partners. As an example, if site prioritization process selects fewer sites in fewer communities, then fewer DEQ Cleanup Project Manager hours would be needed, resulting in lower personnel costs.

\*\* OHA may use contract funds to support local facilitation or mini-grants to community partners.

	Oct. 2026 - June 2027 Budget	July 2027 - June 2028 Budget	July 2028 - June 2029 Budget	July 2029 – Onward <i>Please include end date.</i>
DEQ	\$1,200,000	\$2,100,000	\$2,100,000	Use any remaining funds
OHA	\$150,000	\$300,000	\$150,000	Use any remaining funds

**a. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:**

Please indicate all that apply using the checkboxes below.

<p><b>Terms from Monsanto Settlement and SB 1561:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brownfields remediation or redevelopment</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result in improvements to air, land and water quality</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cleanup contaminated sites</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remediate impaired water bodies, sediments or soil</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination</li> </ul>	<p><b>Addresses other state plans or frameworks:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EO 25-26<sup>1</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> SWAP<sup>2</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> CWA TMDLs<sup>3</sup></li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> IWRS<sup>4</sup></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oregon DEQ Strategic Plan 2025-2027 Goal 2: Strengthen relationships with Tribal governments; Goal 3: Ground DEQ work in environmental justice to address disproportionate environmental and health impacts; Goal 4: Proactively address complex environmental challenges today and in the future through technology, modernization and innovation within and across programs</li> <li>• <a href="#">DEQ Cleanup Program 2050 Visioning</a></li> <li>• OHA’s strategic plan goal pillar of supporting Healthy Families and Environments</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**3. Collaborators:**

**a. Briefly describe the role of other state and federal agency collaborators in the work (if any). Are there funds being leveraged?**

In addition to collaborating with OHA, DEQ will coordinate with the State Historic Preservation Office, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife for natural resource damage, Business Oregon for additional funding resources, and existing and prospective EPA/Business Oregon Brownfield grantees. While no specific information on leveraged funds is currently available, possibilities include EPA 104k grants and Business Oregon funding to support site reuse and redevelopment. OHA may, in addition, engage with the federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry on technical health risk matters.

**b. What opportunities are there for engagement and input from Tribal and Environmental Justice communities in the work? What are the anticipated benefits to these communities (if any)?** DEQ and OHA are requesting this funding to meaningfully engage with and support local communities and Tribes in this initiative. Funding will support community and Tribal engagement, both in the development of the prioritization framework and site selection, as well as during the investigation and cleanup of selected sites. In addition, OHA will use funds to support local communities with facilitation or mini-grants and assist with grant applications to federal and other sources of funding. OHA will tap an extensive network of more than 200 current and past community-based organizations that have received OHA Public Health Equity Grants in recent years to help publicize the opportunity and identify potential local partners. Anticipated benefits include health risk information for specific remediation projects, increased understanding and participation in the cleanup process and grants, as well as the benefits from cleaning up contaminated sites for public reuse. Because brownfields are disproportionately located in communities with existing health disparities and environmental justice factors, their cleanup is a pressing priority for communities overburdened by pollution.

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

<sup>2</sup> 2026 Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

<sup>3</sup> ODEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report Total Maximum Daily Loads

<sup>4</sup> Oregon’s 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

**c. Are there other partners? Please briefly describe roles.**

DEQ and OHA will coordinate with: Tribal Nations, and local counties, municipalities, non-profits, local health departments, and other local community-based organizations as interested and depending on the final site selection.

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

**5. Timeline:**

	2026		2027 2028 2029								Onward including end date
	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.		
	Recruiting and Hiring	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Project Plan Development		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	1/31/2027
Prioritization Development and Site Selection		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	3/31/2027
Engagement with Communities & Tribes		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	06/30/2029
Project Implementation – DEQ Investigation / Cleanup			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	06/30/2029
Project Implementation – OHA Risk Communication			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	06/30/2029
Tracking and Reporting		■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	12/31/2029

## 2. Aquatic Environmental Damage Assessment (DEQ, OHA, ODFW)

### 1. Project Description:

#### a. Please provide a brief project description:

As contaminants can accumulate in the tissues of fish and other animals that live in freshwater, they serve as early-warning indicators that reveal hidden environmental pressures and exposure risks within Oregon's aquatic systems. These patterns of accumulation drive ecosystem vulnerability, species decline, and human health concerns.

There are many reasons why a better understanding of contaminant accumulation in aquatic ecosystems is important. DEQ monitors fish tissues to understand contaminant presence across aquatic systems. OHA depends on contaminant data to guide safe fish consumption recommendations for communities. ODFW seeks to better understand how these contaminants affect sensitive Species of Greatest Conservation Need, such as Pacific lamprey and mussels, and evaluate how contaminants are contributing to population declines. To address these shared priorities, DEQ, ODFW, and OHA will leverage the strength of experts at each agency to build an interagency collaboration to move the needle by addressing environmental harms to restore, maintain, and enhance the quality of Oregon's waterways.

**b. What is the problem this proposal will address?** Oregon's waterways face increasing contamination from PFAS, PCBs, mercury, and numerous other pollutants – posing a major threat identified in numerous state frameworks, including the State Wildlife Action Plan, the Integrated Water Resources Strategy, and the DEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report. Contaminants are public health hazards, accumulate across ecosystems, and contribute to population declines of sensitive species. Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussels are particularly vulnerable because they live in contaminated sediments and are directly exposed throughout their development. Declining populations of indicator species highlight growing pressures on aquatic ecosystems and the cultural, ecological, and community values that they support.

This investment represents a game-changing opportunity to address critical information gaps. ODFW has limited resources to evaluate the geographic distribution of contaminant loads and identify associated priority areas to support species recovery efforts. DEQ has limited resources for monitoring emerging contaminants and legacy bioaccumulative contaminants around the state. Meanwhile, OHA's fish consumption advisories have historically relied on data collected for cleanup-driven purposes rather than actual risk profiles of recreational and subsistence fishers. Combined, these factors have constrained the state's ability to analyze the health of our environment and its biota, and to communicate health risks effectively, especially to families who depend on fish for food security, or to update decades-old advisories, which may be erroneously and unnecessarily limiting access to healthy protein options for Oregonians. Taken together, these challenges illustrate the urgent need for additional support for this work.

**c. How will this investment move the needle on this problem?** This investment will move the needle by strengthening each agency's ability to fill critical data gaps, act on contaminant-related

risks, and help translate contaminant monitoring into targeted restoration and community safety actions.

For ODFW, supporting coordinated monitoring and analysis will improve understanding of contaminant pathways and species and ecosystem exposure, enabling more effective decision-making and prioritization across watersheds statewide. This work will fill longstanding data gaps and identify specific geographic areas where contaminated watersheds and substrates in water bodies are driving species declines in Pacific lamprey, freshwater mussels, and other sensitive species. This targeted understanding will allow restoration dollars to be directed where they will most effectively support species recovery and ecosystem resilience.

For DEQ, the study results will help investigators identify areas of potential concern and will provide information to affected communities and tribal partners about general contamination across the state and impacts to beneficial uses. The funding will accomplish an evaluation of fish/shellfish across the state for PFAS, PCBs, and mercury. These data will build on and complement current work in the Columbia River Basin and previous work done for PCBs and mercury as well as provide novel information on PFAS. DEQ has not previously sampled the state for PFAS (a known contaminant in fish and water).

For OHA, OERF funding will allow OHA to expand the geographic scope of engagement with communities, both directly and by resourcing local partners; collect and analyze fish based on where people fish, what they catch, and how they consume it; pay for and install permanent signage at key locations for both existing and new advisories; and increase support to Tribes as communities that disproportionately consume fish caught in Oregon's fresh waters. OHA has laid the foundation for a health risk-driven Healthy Fish Consumption Program, but the need is greater than available resources.

By working together and sharing data, ODFW, OHA, DEQ, and other partners will strengthen statewide capacity, pool technical expertise, and advance actions that enhance aquatic health and protect communities that rely on local fisheries. Through this unified approach, agencies will ensure efficiencies and prevent redundancies while advancing scientific understanding that meets the needs of all three agencies.

**d. Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the projects are priorities:**

ODFW, DEQ, and OHA will establish an interagency collaborative to leverage shared expertise and closely coordinate the work. Each agency will assign at least one representative to participate in this group, that will collectively prioritize locations where habitat and ecosystem restoration could occur, and fish consumption advisories may be needed. As part of this work, agencies will engage in discussions on project design and general site selection in ways that support shared understanding and avoid duplication, while allowing each agency to meet its own programmatic needs. Field staff from each agency will support site selection, and teams across all three agencies will support sample collection, processing, analysis, and reporting and outreach.

This work will also leverage the expertise of each agency. ODFW staff will identify species-specific site locations and collect tissue samples for laboratory analyses of contaminant loads.

Field sample collection and site identification efforts will also be supported by DEQ staff and OHA partners. Water Quality Monitoring experts at the DEQ laboratory will develop sampling methods for contaminants of concern. To the extent that the DEQ lab has the capacity, DEQ will coordinate, process, and analyze samples, providing quality assurance review and lab supplies. OHA will analyze data to inform fish consumption health advisories. OHA will also help to communicate updated guidance by installing permanent signage at common harvest areas, cover translation services, and resource local partners to carry out community engagement and education. This outreach will be supported by DEQ and ODFW to broaden communication channels and extend public reach. The data will be shared publicly.

While DEQ, OHA, and ODFW have collaborated in the past around this kind of work, the formality and scale of this coordinated effort, and the potential resources supporting the proposed expansion of this work, are unprecedented. This investment is a priority because it is strongly aligned with the terms of the Monsanto settlement and supports a unified, iterative, and science-informed approach to strengthening Oregon’s abilities to understand exposure pathways, evaluate restoration needs, and improve decision-making over time. The investment also supports DEQ’s Strategic Plan 2025-27, DEQ’s PFAS Strategic Plan, OHA’s Strategic Plan, and ODFW’s State Wildlife Action Plan by expanding available data about contaminants in fish and shellfish tissue.

**e. Describe what the Council’s investment in this work will accomplish.** Council investment will deepen Oregon’s understanding of how contaminants affect lamprey, mussels, and other at-risk species and the ecosystems they reside in, and how those effects intersect with human health considerations. By strengthening interagency and Tribal coordination, this project will establish durable partnerships and shared scientific baselines that support long-term, statewide habitat restoration planning for areas with high contaminant loading in the environmental and animal tissues.

This investment will also identify, communicate, and reduce human health risks associated with consumption of contaminated fish in areas where environmental 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 by specific population (e.g. children, pregnant people due to reproductive risks, adults). It will also increase the amount of analyzed fish tissue data available to natural resource agency partners.

Analytical data generated from this project will be uploaded into DEQ’s publicly available Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS) database. This ensures the sample results are available for viewing and use by the public, agencies and all interested parties.

**2.a. DEQ - Requested APF Amount and Spending Plan Summary:**

Total Amount	Personnel Services	Supplies and Services
\$2,100,000	\$1,845,672 (4 FTE)*	\$254,328

\*New limited duration FTE

Oct. 2026 - June 2027 Budget	July 2027 - June 2028 Budget	July 2028 - June 2029 Budget	July 2029 – Onward <i>Please include end date.</i>

\$335,742	\$1,037,500	\$726,758	end June 2029
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**2.b. ODFW – Requested APF Amount and Spending Plan Summary**

Total Amount	Personnel Services	Supplies and Services
\$3,106,000	\$800,226 (4.25 FTE)*	\$2,305,734

\*New limited duration FTE

Oct. 2026 - June 2027 Budget	July 2027 - June 2028 Budget	July 2028 - June 2029 Budget	July 2029 – Onward <i>Please include end date.</i>
\$112,192	\$1,496,904	\$1,496,904	\$0

**2.c. OHA – Requested APF Amount and Spending Plan Summary**

Total Amount	Personnel Services	Supplies and Services
\$1,400,000	\$400,000 (1.25 FTE)*	\$1,000,000

\* New limited duration FTE and continuation of expiring job rotation

Oct. 2026 - June 2027 Budget	July 2027 - June 2028 Budget	July 2028 - June 2029 Budget
\$200,000	\$600,000	\$600,000

**3. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:**

Please indicate all that apply using the checkboxes below.	
<p><b>Terms from Monsanto Settlement and SB 1561:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Brownfields remediation or redevelopment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result in improvements to air and water quality</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup contaminated sites</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remediate impaired water bodies, sediments or soil</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination</p>	<p><b>Addresses other state plans or frameworks:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EO 25-26<sup>5</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAP<sup>6</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CWA TMDLs<sup>7</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IWRS<sup>8</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 State Agency Climate Change Adaptation Framework</li> <li>• OCAC Climate Action Roadmap to 2030</li> <li>• Watershed and species recovery plans</li> <li>• OHA Strategic Plan 2024-2027</li> <li>• DEQ Strategic Plan 2025-27</li> <li>• Oregon Plan for Salmon &amp; Watersheds</li> <li>• Oregon’s Coastal Zone Management</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> EO 25-26 Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action To Promote The Resilience Of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters

<sup>6</sup> 2026 Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

<sup>7</sup> ODEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report Total Maximum Daily Loads

<sup>8</sup> Oregon’s 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Oregon Non-point Source Pollution Management Plan</li> <li>• Oregon DEQ PFAS Strategic Plan</li> <li>• CWA Integrated Report Framework</li> </ul>
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#### 4. Collaborators:

**a. Briefly describe the role of other state and federal agency collaborators in the work (if any). Are there funds being leveraged?**

ODFW, OHA, and DEQ will collaborate closely and will work alongside other partners and technical experts to jointly conduct fish tissue sampling, leveraging shared expertise and creating efficiencies across agencies. Provided the DEQ laboratory has capacity, ODFW will contract with the laboratory for contaminant analyses, and resulting data will be provided to OHA to inform fish consumption advisories. Staff from OHA, DEQ, and ODFW, along with other technical experts and partners, will participate in an interagency collaborative to guide work and review and analyze data. Agencies will be leveraging the capacity and knowledge of existing agency experts to help lead this work, and additional leverage support is coming from the EPA. Recognizing that major rivers and basins in Oregon share jurisdiction with neighboring states, data and planning considerations from these efforts will be shared at regional and national EPA Communities of Practice related to fish and shellfish in order to amplify the impact of the information that is obtained.

**b. What opportunities are there for engagement and input from Tribal and Environmental Justice communities in the work? What are the anticipated benefits to these communities (if any)?**

Enhancing engagement with Tribes and affected communities directly advances strategic priorities for OHA, ODFW, and DEQ.

A central focus of OHA's work in this project is to increase engagement with members of Tribal and Environmental Justice communities by resourcing local partners to gather their input about fishing practices, identify locations and types of fish relevant to their fishing, and inform best practices to communicate with them about safe amounts and preparation of the fish they catch. This work will allow OHA to increase its capacity to collaborate with all of the nine Federally Recognized Tribes.

Close coordination between ODFW, DEQ, and OHA, and communication out to Tribes, will also allow for synergistic opportunities for tribal partners, who have expressed an interest in increased data sovereignty. This funding will allow for additional opportunities for paired sampling events and robust datasets that can complement independent inquiries the tribes would like to conduct in tandem with sampling by state agencies, and which might otherwise be prohibitive based on scope and/or cost.

**c. Are there other partners? Please briefly describe roles.**

In addition to the agency and local community-based organization partners already mentioned, OHA will partner with local (county) public health authorities and in some cases municipalities.

ODFW also works closely with numerous nonprofit partners and anticipates consulting with these partners on sampling locations and within future restoration planning.

**5. Identify measurable outcomes for annual reporting:**

ODFW, OHA, and DEQ will report on the following outcomes each year: staff hired; completion of Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) and of Sampling and Analysis Plan (SAP); partners engaged to align data collection and interpretation of other state monitoring and remediation efforts; the number of distribution sites and specimens per site assessed for contaminants to ascertain environmental organismal association patterns; the development of public messaging and information platforms including final technical report following completion.

**6. Timeline:**

	2026		2027			2028			2029			Onward including end date
	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.			
Planning	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Partner coordination	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Contracting	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Recruiting	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Implementation: field sampling & sample analysis			■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Evaluation: data analysis, technical reporting, data to partners, public data release						■	■	■	■	■	■	

### 3. Lamprey and Mussel Habitat Restoration (ODFW)

#### 1. Project Description:

**a. Please provide a brief project description:** Pacific lamprey and mussels face higher risk related to contaminant exposure because they spend most of their lives in stream sediments where pollutants accumulate. This proposed project is supported by work in the separate combined OHA, DEQ, and ODFW Aquatic Environmental Damage Assessment OERC proposed project. Through a coordinated Know-Plan-Do framework, the project will examine freshwater mussel die-offs and advance understanding of contaminant levels in mussels, Pacific lamprey, and associated habitats. This understanding will support the identification and implementation of targeted restoration actions in collaboration with state, federal, Tribal, and local partners.

**b. What is the problem this proposal will address?** Contamination from a broad array of pollutants, including legacy industrial chemicals, agricultural runoff, and other emerging contaminants, is prevalent across Oregon's waterways, creating ecological and public health challenges. The Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan identifies as pollution as a key conservation issue. Species that live within contaminated aquatic sediments, such as lamprey and freshwater mussels, are especially vulnerable because their unique life histories cause them to be directly exposed to contaminants. The decline of these indicator species highlights mounting pressures on aquatic ecosystems and raises concerns for communities that rely on these species as essential components of their food systems and cultural traditions.

**c. How will this investment move the needle on this problem?**

This proposed work closes data gaps and supports collaborations and on-the-ground restoration actions needed to address both the causes and consequences of degraded water quality affecting lamprey and freshwater mussels. Investigating mussel die-offs provides the scientific foundation necessary to understand how contaminants are affecting some of Oregon's most contamination-sensitive species. By identifying the specific drivers behind recent die-offs, this work allows ODFW to target remediation efforts, improve restoration planning, and prevent further population losses. Because mussels are long-lived, sediment-dwelling filter feeders, understanding causes of sudden mortality events provides insight into the lasting impacts to species living in Oregon's waterways. Acting now prevents additional declines and informs recovery strategies before more populations collapse. By improving access to high-quality habitats, conducting population assessments at key locations such as Willamette Falls, and strengthening our understanding of how contaminants affect these species, the project will work to provide clearer insight into the conservation needs and continued safe availability of these First Foods. These efforts collectively build the foundation needed to reverse declining trends for species already under increasing stress.

**d. Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the projects are priorities:**

*Investigating mussel die-offs:* In collaboration with The Xerces Society, ODFW will support an assessment to investigate 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 efforts. Because mussels are long-lived species, sudden die-offs are concern, and this assessment will support the data gathered through the contaminant study

contained in the combined ODFW, DEQ, and OHA request. 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.

*Advancing lamprey and mussel recovery with Tribal partners:* In collaboration with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) and other partners, ODFW will help support the advancement of Tribal priorities for Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussel recovery. Work includes improving Pacific lamprey access to key habitat through translocation in the Willamette and implementing two projects at the Cougar Tailrace and the Westland Diversion; supporting improved understanding of species conditions at Willamette Falls and other sites in Oregon; 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.

**e. Describe what the Council’s investment in this work will accomplish.** This project will rely on and contribute to the joint DEQ, ODFW, OHA proposal assessing damage to aquatic ecosystems. Additionally, this project supports efforts to understand how contaminants are contributing to acute die-offs observed in freshwater mussel populations, an essential step for informing long-term recovery strategies. These data and the data collected in the ODFW, OHA, and DEQ interagency assessment proposed to the OERC be shared so that each effort can contribute to and inform the other. The investment will also provide Pacific lamprey with access to high quality habitat in key locations, enable targeted species translocation, and advance restoration actions aligned with Tribal priorities. Collectively, these outcomes will improve ecological resilience and support the recovery of culturally significant species.

**2. Requested APF Amount and Spending Plan Summary:**

Total Amount	Personnel Services	Supplies and Services
\$1,894,000	\$0 (0 FTE)	\$1,894,000

\*0.0 FTE is contingent ODFW’s other OERC request (4.25 FTE), who will assist with this work.

Oct. 2026 - June 2027 Budget	July 2027 - June 2028 Budget	July 2028 - June 2029 Budget	July 2029 – Onward <i>Please include end date.</i>
\$1,114,130	\$641,144	\$138,726	\$0

**3. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:**

<b>Please indicate all that apply using the checkboxes below.</b>	
<b>Terms from Monsanto Settlement and SB 1561:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Brownfields remediation or redevelopment	<b>Addresses other state plans or frameworks:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EO 25-26 <sup>9</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAP <sup>10</sup>

<sup>9</sup> EO 25-26 Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action To Promote The Resilience Of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters

<sup>10</sup> 2026 Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result in improvements to air and water quality <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup contaminated sites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remediate impaired water bodies, sediments or soil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CWA TMDLs <sup>11</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IWRS <sup>12</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 State Agency Climate Change Adaptation Framework</li> <li>• OCAC Climate Action Roadmap to 2030</li> <li>• Watershed and species recovery plans</li> </ul>
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#### 4. Collaborators:

**a. Briefly describe the role of other state and federal agency collaborators in the work (if any). Are there funds being leveraged?**

The work outlined in this proposal will help to inform the interagency collaboration within the aquatic environmental damage assessment (joint ODFW, DEQ, and OHA) request, where these three agencies, alongside other partners, will be conducting fish tissue sampling and leveraging shared expertise across agencies. ODFW will invite CRITFC and Xerces staff, to the capacity and interest that they have in being involved, to the interagency collaboration forming that will help guide sampling sites and review and analyze data. Leverage support of \$400,000 will be coming from private donors and OWEB.

**b. What opportunities are there for engagement and input from Tribal and Environmental Justice communities in the work? What are the anticipated benefits to these communities (if any)?**

Through this proposed initiative, ODFW will directly support priority work that the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC) has identified for the recovery of Pacific lamprey and freshwater mussels.

**c. Are there other partners? Please briefly describe roles.**

ODFW will be collaborating with The Xerces Society freshwater mussel experts, who will be leading the investigation work into freshwater mussel die-offs and will be supporting the protection of freshwater mussels during instream restoration led by local partners statewide.

#### 5. Identify measurable outcomes for annual reporting:

ODFW will report on the following outcomes: CRITFC Tribal priority projects addressed; partners engaged to align data collection and interpretation with other monitoring and remediation efforts; funds leveraged.

#### 6. Timeline:

<sup>11</sup> ODEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report Total Maximum Daily Loads

<sup>12</sup> Oregon's 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

	2026		2027		2028		2029		<b>Onward including end date</b>
	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.		
Planning									
Implementation									
Partner Coordination									
Evaluation									

## 4. Contaminant Mitigation and Habitat Restoration in Priority Watersheds (ODFW)

### 1. Project Description:

#### a. Please provide a brief project description:

Oregon faces a growing conservation crisis, with over 300 species at risk and many others lacking sufficient data. Pollution is one of the most pervasive threats, affecting wildlife across aquatic systems, especially amphibians, fish, and other highly vulnerable species. This proposal advances ODFW's Know-Plan-Do framework to fulfill the intent of the Monsanto Settlement by identifying contaminant risks, planning high-impact restoration and remediation, and implementing projects that improve watershed health in the Rogue, Umpqua, Santiam, and mid-Willamette basins, all affected by non-point pollution, brownfields, post-fire contamination, and other legacy impacts.

**b. What is the problem this proposal will address?** Contaminants, such as pesticides, industrial chemicals, wildfire-related pollutants, heavy metals, and agricultural runoff, are accelerating declines in Oregon's native wildlife. Amphibians are particularly at risk due to their permeable skin and vulnerable life stages, while fish and other species face threats from direct toxicity and bioaccumulation throughout the food web. These risks are prevalent in the priority watersheds ODFW plans to work in, which are listed by DEQ for a range of 303(d) list impairments. ODFW will work to reduce these impairments – mercury, biocriteria, and phosphorus – while also tackling additional contaminants present in stretches of these basins, including PFAs, pesticides, and herbicides. Without intervention, pressures from contaminants will intensify species declines, threaten drinking-water sources, and undermine watershed resilience.

#### c. How will this investment move the needle on this problem?

This investment will implement the on-the-ground restoration needed to reverse contaminant-related declines and restore ecological function across priority basins. Through targeted assessments, the project will also identify sources of contaminants, evaluate effects to wildlife, and analyze where specific restoration actions, such as wetland reconnection, floodplain enhancement, or soil-health treatments, will have the greatest ecological payoff. By combining rigorous science with shovel-ready implementation, the work will transform degraded sites into functioning habitat, improve water quality for communities, and create durable, landscape-scale benefits. This approach accelerates the cleanup, restoration, and long-term resilience goals central to the Monsanto Settlement Agreement.

#### d. Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the projects are priorities:

*Santiam Watershed and Mid-Willamette Contaminants Assessments and Restoration Projects:* This package advances restoration and contaminant assessment in a heavily impacted region. Work includes 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 source-water protection and ecological restoration; identification of wetland restoration opportunities to reduce methylmercury impacts

on amphibians; and implementation of additional restoration projects across degraded sites. S&S request: \$1,761,400.

*Umpqua Watershed Restoration Projects:* This package restores habitats on contaminant-impacted lands, including wetland restoration on a 77-acre former brownfield; cleanup and initial restoration on a 160-acre site affected by historic mining and illegal cannabis activities; and recovery actions in a high-priority watershed for species of greatest conservation need impacted by the 2020 Archie Creek Fire. S&S request: \$900,000.

*Rogue Watershed Restoration Projects:* This package includes a diverse set of restoration efforts, such as reconnecting 20 acres of floodplain downstream of the 2020 Alameda Fire to capture contaminants from agricultural lands, I-5, and nearby brownfields; designing a floodplain enhancement project on a former military base turned wildlife refuge upstream of Medford’s drinking-water intake; piloting soil-health treatments to reduce PFAS on agricultural sites; and implementing additional restoration projects in degraded areas. S&S request: \$1,838,600.

**e. Describe what the Council’s investment in this work will accomplish.** Council support will enable ODFW and partners to identify and address the contaminants driving species declines and impairing watershed function, while accelerating cleanup and restoration in some of the state’s most impacted basins. The investment will produce actionable science that guides restoration priorities, generate measurable improvements to habitat quality, and create long-term benefits for wildlife, water resources, and community resilience. By restoring contaminated sites, reconnecting floodplains, improving wetland function, and advancing large-scale remediation, this effort will strengthen ecological health across multiple basins and provide durable benefits well beyond the life of the award.

**2. Requested APF Amount and Spending Plan Summary:**

Total Amount	Personnel Services	Supplies and Services
\$4,500,000	\$0 (0.0 FTE)*	\$4,500,000

\*0.0 FTE is contingent ODFW’s other OERC request (4.25 FTE), who will assist with this work.

Oct. 2026 - June 2027 Budget	July 2027 - June 2028 Budget	July 2028 - June 2029 Budget	July 2029 – Onward <i>Please include end date.</i>
\$789,502	\$2,336,071	\$1,374,427	\$0

**3. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:**

Please indicate all that apply using the checkboxes below.	
Terms from Monsanto Settlement and SB 1561:	Addresses other state plans or frameworks:
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brownfields remediation or redevelopment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EO 25-26 <sup>13</sup>

<sup>13</sup> EO 25-26 Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action To Promote The Resilience Of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result in improvements to air and water quality</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cleanup contaminated sites</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remediate impaired water bodies, sediments or soil</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats</li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAP<sup>14</sup></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CWA TMDLs<sup>15</sup></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IWRS<sup>16</sup></li> <li><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2021 State Agency Climate Change Adaptation Framework</li> <li>• OCAC Climate Action Roadmap to 2030</li> <li>• Watershed and species recovery plans</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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**4. Collaborators:**

**a. Briefly describe the role of other state and federal agency collaborators in the work (if any). Are there funds being leveraged?**

ODFW will be consulting DOGAMI on the Quarry Park restoration site, and ODFW will likewise be providing input on the work that DOGAMI is scoping in their APF request. The methylmercury assessment in the Santiam basin will be led by contaminant experts from the USGS Forest and Rangeland Ecosystem Science Center in Corvallis. ODFW will also be collaborating with partners in the USFS on the implementation of restoration in the Umpqua. Leverage support of over \$2.9 million will be coming from NOAA, BPA, OWEB, DWPP, Medford Water, NRCS, and Jackson SWCD.

**b. What opportunities are there for engagement and input from Tribal and Environmental Justice communities in the work? What are the anticipated benefits to these communities (if any)?**

ODFW will be supporting the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians to implement the Big Creek Parcel Restoration, a 77-acre wetland restoration project on a former brownfield at a high priority wetland restoration site in the Umpqua basin. In addition to supporting partner engagement, the work scoped in the South Santiam also supports direct community engagement with rural communities (residents and youth in the City of Sweet Home) within the Quarry Park alternatives analysis, empowering members of this rural community to provide input on ideas for restoration and recreation development at this quarry turned to park. Collaborating with the North Santiam Watershed Council and Elderberry Wisdom Farms, ODFW will support career development for Indigenous youth and people of color through internship programs tied to restoration activities.

**c. Are there other partners? Please briefly describe roles.**

For project implementation, ODFW will also be collaborating with municipalities and other community partners, including Medford Water Commission, Rogue Watershed Council, City of

<sup>14</sup> 2026 Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

<sup>15</sup> ODEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report Total Maximum Daily Loads

<sup>16</sup> Oregon’s 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

Central Point, Cascade Stream Solutions, Illinois Valley Watershed Council, Jackson SWCD, Umpqua Native Plant Partnership, North Santiam Watershed Council, City of Salem, Marion County, South Santiam Watershed Council, City of Sweet Home, Calapooia Watershed Council, and Ducks Unlimited.

**5. Identify measurable outcomes for annual reporting:**

ODFW will report on the following outcomes: acres restored; number of restoration designs completed; number of degraded or contaminated habitats repaired; funds leveraged; and number of partners engaged.

**6. Timeline:**

	2026		2027			2028			2029			Onward including end date
	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.			
Planning												
Partner Coordination												
Community Engagement												
Implementation												
Evaluation												

## 5. Enhanced Mine Reclamation (DOGAMI)

### 1. Project Description

**a. Please provide a brief project description:** The Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) proposes a three-year initiative to advance the enhanced reclamation of up to 13 mine sites in Oregon. The project will focus on restoring floodplain function, improving riparian and aquatic habitat, expanding native vegetation, and addressing environmental risks at legacy mine sites. Working in partnership with landowners, key state agencies, restoration organizations, permitting entities, and other stakeholders, DOGAMI will identify priority sites, develop restoration plans, implement reclamation projects, and monitor ecological outcomes.

**b. What is the problem this proposal will address?** Historically, Oregon's rivers, including the Willamette River, supported extensive networks of side channels, wetlands, floodplain forests, and seasonal backwaters that provided critical habitat for native fish and wildlife. Over the past two centuries, dams, flood-control infrastructure, channelization, and land use changes have substantially reduced these habitats. As a result, many native salmonid populations have declined significantly, and several species are now listed as threatened or endangered.

At the same time, many mine sites throughout Oregon represent an underutilized opportunity for environmental restoration. DOGAMI regulates approximately 1,000 surface mine sites statewide, many of which are located within floodplains and forested landscapes. Although existing reclamation requirements ensure sites are stabilized, they generally do not support the additional work needed to reestablish thriving native plants, restore floodplain processes, connect aquatic habitats, or support functioning ecosystems. Closed mine sites offer the clearest near-term opportunity for voluntary participation because operations have ceased, restoration work does not compete with active extraction, and landowners are more willing to consider enhancements that increase ecological value. Sites that were closed before modern environmental regulations were enacted in 1972 may also contain unresolved environmental hazards that can be addressed through restoration efforts.

**c. How will this investment move the needle on this problem?** This investment will enable DOGAMI and its partners to transform mine sites into functioning ecological assets that support fish, wildlife, and watershed health. The project will implement a combination of revegetation-focused and floodplain connectivity projects tailored to site-specific conditions and opportunities.

Lower-cost revegetation projects will establish native vegetation, reduce erosion and runoff, improve infiltration, increase shade, and enhance carbon storage. More complex connectivity projects will restore hydrologic connections between mine ponds, floodplains, and river systems, creating off-channel habitat, improving fish passage, and increasing the resilience of aquatic ecosystems. Together, these actions will help restore ecological functions that have been lost across Oregon's river corridors. According to the USGS and other academic assessments, gravel mine ponds within the Willamette River floodplain present a rare opportunity to create new habitat in a heavily populated region without displacing other land uses, such as agriculture.

**d. Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the project is a priority:** APF funding will support a phased approach to enhanced mine site reclamation. During the initial phases, funds will be used for project staffing, partner coordination, landowner outreach and participation, site assessments, evaluation of restoration opportunities, consultation with restoration and permitting partners, development of site-specific restoration plans and budgets, and procurement of contractual services. Implementation funding will support on-the-ground restoration activities such as native planting, habitat enhancement, earthwork, and floodplain reconnection. The final phase will support monitoring, project closeout, and reporting.

This work comes at a critical time for Oregon’s riparian and aquatic species. As climate change continues to threaten the health of Oregon’s ecosystems, action is urgently needed to re-establish refugia for endangered species. These projects are also a priority for DOGAMI because they build upon the agency’s existing role in mine reclamation while leveraging a unique opportunity to achieve broader environmental benefits beyond regulatory requirements.

**e. Describe what the Council’s investment in this work will accomplish.** The Council’s investment will enable DOGAMI to identify, plan, and implement enhanced reclamation projects at up to 13 closed mine sites, creating lasting environmental benefits that extend well beyond the project period. Restoration activities will improve riparian condition, increase native vegetation cover, reduce erosion and surface runoff, improve water infiltration, restore floodplain processes, reconnect off-channel habitats, and strengthen ecosystem resilience to drought, flooding, and other climate-related stressors.

These investments will create and improve habitat for fish and wildlife, enhance water quality, address environmental risks at legacy mine sites, and support long-term watershed health. The project directly advances the restoration and natural resource enhancement goals of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement by improving land, water, fish and wildlife habitat, and broader ecosystem functions.

**2. Requested APF Amount and Spending Plan Summary:**

Total Amount	Personal Services	Supplies and Services
\$1,000,000	\$350,000	\$650,000

Oct. 2026 - June 2027 Budget (9 months)	July 2027 - June 2028 Budget (12 months)	July 2028 - June 2029 Budget (12 months)	July 2029 – September 2029 (3 months)
\$150,000	\$375,000	\$375,000	\$100,000

**3. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement**

Please indicate all that apply using the checkboxes below.	
<b>Terms from Monsanto Settlement and SB 1561:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Brownfields remediation or redevelopment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration	<b>Addresses other state plans or frameworks:</b>

<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result in improvements to air and water quality</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup contaminated sites</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remediate impaired water bodies, sediments or soil</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EO 25-26<sup>17</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAP<sup>18</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CWA TMDLs<sup>19</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IWRS<sup>20</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OWEB’s Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watershed and Willamette Focused Investment Partnership - SAP</li> <li>• DLCD’s Natural Hazard Mitigation Plan</li> <li>• Lane Council of Government’s Willamette River Open Space Vision and Action Plan</li> </ul>
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**4. Collaborators**

**a. Briefly describe the role of other state and federal agency collaborators in the work (if any). Are there funds being leveraged?** DOGAMI will collaborate closely with several state and federal partners, including ODFW, OWEB, DSL, BPA, and EPA, to ensure that enhanced reclamation projects align with existing restoration priorities, regulatory requirements, and watershed objectives. These agencies will provide technical expertise, help identify priority restoration opportunities, and coordinate with ongoing conservation and habitat improvement efforts. DOGAMI will actively seek opportunities to leverage funding from partner agencies, grant programs, and other restoration initiatives to expand the scale and impact of reclamation activities beyond what can be accomplished through APF funding alone.

**b. What opportunities are there for engagement and input from Tribal and Environmental Justice communities in the work? What are the anticipated benefits to these communities (if any)?** DOGAMI will seek opportunities to engage Tribal governments, Environmental Justice communities, and other interested stakeholders during project planning and site selection. Enhanced reclamation projects have the potential to provide benefits that extend beyond individual properties; this includes benefits to environmental and human health at a watershed scale. Site-specific engagement opportunities and benefits will be evaluated as projects move forward and locations are selected.

**c. Are there other partners? Please briefly describe roles.** The success of this project depends on strong partnerships among mine site owners, local organizations, conservation groups, and watershed stakeholders. Property owners will play a critical role by voluntarily participating in site assessments, project planning, and implementation activities. Additional partners may include soil and water conservation districts, watershed councils, and conservation organizations. These organizations will contribute technical expertise, local knowledge, restoration experience,

<sup>17</sup> EO 25-26 Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action To Promote The Resilience Of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters

<sup>18</sup> 2026 Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

<sup>19</sup> ODEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report Total Maximum Daily Loads

<sup>20</sup> Oregon’s 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

and community connections that help identify opportunities, refine project designs, and support implementation. Conservation partners will also provide insight from previous restoration efforts and help ensure that projects are responsive to local ecological conditions and community needs.

**5. Identify measurable outcomes for annual reporting.**

The primary measurable outcome of this project is the completion of enhanced reclamation at up to 13 mine sites. Key project milestones include staffing the project team, establishing criteria for site selection, identifying the project sites, completing project designs and permitting, securing contractual support, executing the reclamation projects, and submitting the final report to the Council.

**6. Timeline: 3-year project**

	2026		2027			2028			2029		Onward including end date
	Oct - Dec	Jan - June	July - Dec	Jan - June	July - Dec	Jan - June	July - Dec	Jan - June	July - Dec		
Phase 1: Project administration, outreach											
Phase 2: Site selection, design, permitting											
Phase 3: Reclamation project execution											
Phase 4: Evaluation, closure											

## 6. Pesticide Applicator Training Modernization Initiative (ODA)

**a. Please provide a brief project description:** Pesticides are essential, federally regulated tools for Oregon agriculture, forestry, and public land management. Applied as labeled, they stay on target; applied without current training, they are more likely to move off site through drift or runoff. This project rebuilds ODA's official applicator training and testing materials: updated across all license categories, translated into Spanish and additional priority languages, and delivered in modern, multimedia formats. Better training keeps chemicals on target, protects water quality, and supports the workforce that sustains Oregon agriculture.

**b. What is the problem this proposal will address?** Oregon's roughly 14,000 licensed applicators make daily decisions across millions of acres, and the strongest control on whether chemicals stay on target is the training behind those decisions. That training is outdated. Some materials reference products that have been banned, and most are static and text-based. For the Spanish-speaking workforce that performs the most hands-on application, accessible materials barely exist. The result is a workforce applying regulated products without the current, understandable guidance that keeps those products out of Oregon's waterways.

**c. How will this investment move the needle on this problem?** Every applicator who receives current, accessible training becomes a point of environmental protection on the landscape. Updated materials will reflect current federal label and certification standards, buffer zone requirements, endangered species protections, and integrated pest management, consistent with ORS 634.122(2) and 7 U.S.C. § 136i. An applicator who calibrates equipment for site conditions and follows the label keeps product on target and out of water. Across 14,000 applicators on lands that drain into every major watershed in Oregon, this is one of the most direct and scalable water quality investments the Council can make.

**d. Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the projects are priorities:** The full \$1,500,000 is contracted funding for content development, translation, and multimedia production, obligated at contract award with payment on deliverables. No FTE are requested; ODA's existing Pesticide Program staff administer the procurement and manage the contract within current resources. Consistent with ORS 541.869(2)(b), this funding supplements ODA's program and does not supplant it: no existing source covers content development, translation, or material production. ODA is ready to execute immediately upon funding.

**e. Describe what the Council's investment in this work will accomplish:** This investment delivers a durable, modern content platform covering all license categories in multiple languages and formats. Once built, ODA will update individual modules as regulations evolve using existing operational resources, so the initial investment compounds over decades. No future APF requests are anticipated. The first build targets the highest-impact license categories and Spanish as the priority language and is structured so additional languages and categories can be added if future funding becomes available.

**Requested APF Amount and Spending Plan Summary:**

Total Amount	Personnel Services	Supplies and Services
\$1,500,000	\$0 (0 FTE)	\$1,500,000

Oct. 2026 – June 2027	July 2027 – June 2028	July 2028 – June 2029	July 2029 – Onward (end date)
\$1,500,000	\$0	\$0	\$0 (end date Jan. 2028)

**Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:**

Please indicate all that apply using the checkboxes below.	
<p><b>Terms from Monsanto Settlement and SB 1561:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Brownfields remediation or redevelopment</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result in improvements to air and water quality</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup contaminated sites</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Remediate impaired water bodies, sediments or soil</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination</p>	<p><b>Addresses other state plans or frameworks:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EO 25-26<sup>21</sup></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> SWAP</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> CWA TMDLs</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> IWRS</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: FIFRA; EPA Certification Plan requirements</p>

**Collaborators:**

**Briefly describe the role of other state and federal agency collaborators in the work (if any). Are there funds being leveraged?**

ODA is the sole authority for pesticide applicator certification content in Oregon under ORS 634.306, and the materials align with FIFRA, EPA Worker Protection Standards, and ORS 634. ODA creates the official materials; others put them to use. OSU Extension’s Pesticide Safety Education Program delivers applicator training statewide, soil and water conservation districts conduct local outreach, and Oregon OSHA administers Worker Protection Standard enforcement and has independently identified the need for bilingual resources. Existing pesticide program funds cover administration. This is a one-time content investment with no ongoing funds leveraged.

**What opportunities are there for engagement and input from Tribal and Environmental Justice communities in the work? What are the anticipated benefits to these communities (if any)?**

<sup>21</sup>EO 25-26 Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action to Promote the Resilience of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters

The Spanish-language component directly benefits environmental justice communities. National Agricultural Workers Survey data shows roughly 62% of farmworkers nationally identify Spanish as their primary language, and Oregon’s share is higher. These workers have the most direct, hands-on contact with these products and the fewest current resources to support safe use, so accessible materials lower their exposure risk. ODA will invite farmworker-serving organizations and Spanish-speaking applicators to review draft materials for clarity and usability. Separately, ODA is consulting with Oregon tribes on a 2027 legislative concept to strengthen training and licensing for pesticide activity in Indian Country, where modernized content is a necessary foundation.

**Are there other partners? Please briefly describe roles.**

OSU Extension’s Pesticide Safety Education Program is the primary delivery partner for the finished materials, with SWCDs and commodity organizations extending reach to applicators statewide.

**Identify measurable outcomes for annual reporting:**

The primary outcome is ODA’s receipt and acceptance of the final deliverable: modernized training and testing content across license categories, translated into Spanish, in multimedia formats ready for deployment. ODA will report once to the Council upon acceptance and will continue to track applicator exam pass rates by language and license category and compliance-related events through existing program publications.

**Timeline:**

Phase	2026–27	2027	2028	2029
RFP development & release (Jun–Oct 2026)	■			
Proposal review & award (by Jan 2027)	■			
Contractor work (12 months)		■	■	
Final deliverable & report (Jan 2028)			■	

**End date: January 2028.** RFP releases June 2026 and closes October 2026; ODA awards the contract by January 2027; the contractor delivers over 12 months; ODA submits a final report to the Council upon acceptance.

## 7. 6PPD-Quinone Research (ODOT)

### *Predicting High-Risk Locations and Cost-Effective Stormwater Runoff Treatment Strategies for Tire-Derived Contaminant 6PPD-q*

#### **a. Project Description:**

This project proposes to assess the extent of 6PPD-q contamination across the state highway system, model where it may be most problematic (e.g., “hotspot” identification), and evaluate how effective current stormwater filtration facility types are at removing 6PPD-q. This will be accomplished by adapting available water quality models into a planning-level tool for contaminant prediction. It will also include field and laboratory components to evaluate the planning-level tool and test stormwater BMPs. A critical component of the project is to provide the DOT (and transportation entities) with cost-conscious guidance regarding 6PPD-q mitigation prioritization and recommended treatment designs.

#### **b. What is the problem this proposal will address?**

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 continued decline of these species has direct and indirect impacts on communities, economies, and especially Tribes. This is an emerging contaminant with potential to impact air, soil and vegetation, and human health.

#### **c. How will this investment move the needle on this problem?**

This project will meaningfully move the needle on water quality, habitat, human health, and aquatic species protection. This will be accomplished through a focused assessment of the degree and scope of the 6PPD-q contamination problem, together with an evaluation of contaminants of emerging concern (e.g. microplastics, PAH) and additional stormwater pollutants that could be used as economical proxies for 6PPD-q detection. If found, we will come away with lower-cost alternatives that help Oregon and everyone else pivot toward needle-moving actions like monitoring and potential mitigation. The study aims to identify hotspot locations for 6PPD-q runoff to waterways, which will facilitate locating mitigation measures efficiently and effectively. The study will assess the effectiveness of current stormwater best management practices at mitigating 6PPD-q. The project moves the needle by increasing the number of Oregon monitoring sites from 1 to 4. This increase in data richness provides the opportunity for a more state-specific detection model that predicts high-impact mitigation locations with greatest benefits to water quality, habitat, fish and aquatic species health. It also supports national mitigation efforts in two key ways: the predictive model could inform nation-wide modeling useful to all transportation entities, and ODOT can leverage the proposed project funds as match to boost the national 6PPD-Q pooled fund up to \$9M. The increase in funding could be used to add even more Oregon and Pacific Northwest monitoring sites for even better model accuracy. To be clear, adding data richness to the model at the earliest stages of this effort significantly improves quality. The better our ability to predict hotspots, the more effectively we can mitigate

the problem. Monitoring and model-building are large, up-front investments (non-flashy work horses) that clear a path to higher quality long-term benefits.

**d. Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the projects/programs are priorities for the Agency and for Oregon**

The project will deliver several outcomes, including a planning-level GIS-based potential 6PPD-q hotspot map for Oregon. This is a practical product that can be easily accessed and used by ODOT, ODEQ, ODFW and anyone else. Our starting point is testing runoff mitigation measures we have in place now. A three-year field assessment of the effectiveness of at least three stormwater control measures to improve water quality and mitigate 6PPD-q will be funded as proof-of-concept model. Critical related elements of the study include providing a planning-level economic assessment for mitigation as well as a potentially cheaper detection proxy for 6PPD-q. This will be accompanied by cost-effective methodology and process recommendations. As mitigation is needed, success requires that we distill methods and processes to be accessible to on-the-ground practitioners and shared nationally to all transportation entities. The project will provide design considerations recommended for inclusion in ODOT’s Stormwater Design Manual thereby institutionalizing new practices. Workshops will be offered to share information from the study. This is an effective approach to translating science into practice, supported by peer-to-peer learning. A final independent published report will be shared detailing research and methods for direct uptake and evolution of this work. This is fundamental to scientific value and advancement.

**e. Describe what the Council’s investment in this work will accomplish over the anticipated life cycle of the project/program.**

This work will rely on contracts to accomplish the following: monitoring site instrumentation, highway stormwater runoff sampling, stormwater facility performance evaluation including recommendations with cost details, model building, 6PPD-q hotspot mapping, reporting and presentations. At project conclusion, Oregon will better understand the scope of the 6PPD-q contamination problem, where contamination is likely the worst, and have improved knowledge about mitigation methods and costs. There are no other efforts in Oregon that would advance understanding of this problem or potential solutions at this scale at this time.

**2. Requested APF Amount and Spending Plan Summary:**

Total Amount	Personnel Services	Supplies and Services
\$1,900,000	\$ 100,000 (0.12 FTE)	\$1,800,000

Oct. 2026 - June 2027 Budget	July 2027 - June 2028 Budget	July 2028 - June 2029 Budget	July 2029 – Dec 2030
\$310,000	\$477,500	\$492,250	\$620,250

**3. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:**

Please indicate all that apply using the checkboxes below.	
<b>Terms from Monsanto Settlement and SB 1561:</b>	<b>Addresses other state plans or frameworks:</b>

<input type="checkbox"/> Brownfields remediation or redevelopment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result in improvements to air and water quality <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup contaminated sites <input type="checkbox"/> Remediate impaired water bodies, sediments or soil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EO 25-26 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAP <input type="checkbox"/> CWA TMDLs <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IWRS <input type="checkbox"/> Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• _____</li> <li>• _____</li> </ul>
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**4. Collaborators:**

**a. Briefly describe the role of other state and federal agency collaborators in the work (if any). Are there funds being leveraged?**

Representatives from the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Environmental Protection Agency sit on the project’s Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) (Tribes to be invited to join). Their role is to review deliverables as they develop, advise progress through final steps, and support dissemination of project deliverables (e.g., model usage, BMP updates, webinars, project reports). Seven other states, the Federal Highway Administration and the US Geological Survey are collaborators in the 6PPD-q pooled fund. The states collectively fund monitoring sites and USGS’ stormwater collection, BMP testing and database development, proxy testing and model updating. This proposed project leverages the already existing pooled fund contract with the USGS Oregon Water Science Center. The USGS is known for standard-setting stormwater quality data collection and analysis with decades of leadership experience. ODOT could leverage the proposed project funds as match to boost the national pooled fund up to more than \$9M, with the potential to increase monitoring and data specific to the Pacific Northwest.

**b. What opportunities are there for engagement and input from Tribal and Environmental Justice communities in the work? What are the anticipated benefits to these communities (if any)?**

If funded, ODOT will invite interested tribes to select at least one monitoring site of high consequence. There is anticipated value in targeting locations of high interest to Tribes. Tribal site data will inform the statewide model but also generate site-specific water quality information that may be of interest for additional study and testing. Interested tribal representatives may also join the TAC to be engaged in the evolution of deliverables over the life of the project.

**c. Are there other partners? Please briefly describe roles.**

Washington, California, Alaska, Colorado, Nevada, Pennsylvania and Maine DOTs are the 6PPD-q pooled fund partners. These states are collectively funding a national-level effort to study and share information about 6PPD-q mitigation strategies ([FHWA TPF-5\(524\)](#)). They also play technical and advisory roles throughout the life of the project on the TAC.

**5. Identify measurable outcomes for annual reporting:**

- Year 1: Equipment installation status, including site selection and design. FHWA National Pooled Fund preliminary data release for Oregon site 1 monitoring results.
- Year 2: Preliminary USGS Data Release for monitoring results for all Oregon sites.
- Year 3: Preliminary USGS Data Release for monitoring results for all Oregon sites.
- Year 4: USGS finalized database, modeling tool and training materials, GIS-based planning level map, workshop(s).

**6. Timeline:**

	2026	2027		2028		2029	
	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.
<i>Task 1: Equipment Installation, Monitoring, Data Processing, and Reporting</i>							
<i>Task 2: Model Development, Visualization tools, and User Documentation</i>							
<i>Task 3: Communication and Outreach with Final Publication of Findings</i>							

## 8. Drinking Water Source Protection (OHA, OWEB)

### a. Please provide a brief project description:

This investment of \$1.2 million would leverage existing grantmaking infrastructure at the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and enable grants to public water suppliers through OWEB's Drinking Water Source Protection (DWSP) grant program to acquire land, easements, or covenants from willing sellers to permanently protect their drinking water sources. This allows the grantees to manage their watersheds for water quality, water quantity, and forest and watershed health in perpetuity. The program primarily focuses on water suppliers that serve rural communities and/or lower-income populations since they often have the greatest need. OHA's and DEQ's active support of water suppliers to prepare source water protection projects has created a pipeline of projects that are ready to go if funds become available. At the same time, the program is already built, meaning the infusion of new funding could be awarded to communities within months of the allocation from the ERC, making the DWSP Grant Program a "shovel ready" project for the Agency Program Fund.

### b. What is the problem this proposal will address?

Numerous communities in Oregon are facing drinking water challenges – both in water quality and water availability. Land management that is not directly focused on drinking water protection can result in negative impacts to water quality, and at the same time, climate change and drought are impacting water supplies across the state. Protecting drinking water at the source through land conservation and stewardship actions is one of the most effective and cost-efficient ways to ensure communities have clean and sustainable drinking water. Helping communities secure lands to protect source water areas and limit allowable activities on these lands reduces exposure to contaminants—including PCBs, pesticides, heavy metals, and industrial toxins—before they reach drinking water intakes. This benefit is particularly critical for rural and lower-income communities prioritized by the DWSP Grant Program, because these communities lack resources to address contamination after it occurs and are disproportionately impacted.

### c. How will this investment move the needle on this problem?

This ERC investment will significantly move the needle for source water protection in one to five communities across Oregon, depending on individual project scopes and costs. Some drinking watersheds are small, meaning that protection of even a limited number of acres significantly benefits drinking water. This is a strategic investment of Monsanto Settlement Funds because it aligns with three of the settlement terms, advancing a "triple bottom line" of public health priorities, water quality improvements, and wildlife and habitat protections.

The DWSP Grant Program advances EO 25-26 by conserving natural lands and waters to act as resilience anchors in the face of climate change impacts. The program connects to key conservation issues within the State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP), including climate change, land use changes, water quality and quantity, and pollution. Additionally, the SWAP identifies late successional mixed conifer forests as a key habitat, which is one of the primary habitats protected by previously funded DWSP projects. The DWSP Grant Program aligns with Goal 2 of the Integrated Water Resource Strategy: Meet Oregon's Water Resource Needs through supporting healthy ecosystems, clean water, and public health. Additionally, support of Clean Water Act TMDLs is also possible; many streams throughout the state are impaired, so it is likely

that some of the individual projects will help to meet water quality (Total Maximum Daily Load) goals. This investment also aligns with OHA’s strategic plan goal of Fostering Healthy Families and Environments by reducing the risk of exposure to toxics and sustaining community systems that support health, as well as OWEB’s Strategic Plan priority of increasing the connection of urban and working lands to watershed health.

**d. Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the projects are priorities:**

Approximately \$1 million will be awarded as grants to local communities and water suppliers to purchase or otherwise protect land in their drinking watersheds. This investment is estimated to support 1-5 projects, depending on number of applications and funding requested by individual projects. Approximately \$200,000 will be used for program administration (including a continued limited-duration Natural Resources Specialist 4 [July 2027-June 2028] and contracted services required to support complex land transactions [e.g., appraisal and title review]). Grant funding will be committed in grant agreements after the OWEB board awards funding in April 2027. However, funds will be disbursed on a reimbursement basis over the subsequent 18 months between grant execution and closing of the land transaction (anticipated final payments in October 2028).

**e. Describe what the Council’s investment in this work will accomplish.**

Anticipated outcomes of the ERC’s investment in the DWSP Grant Program include:

- Enable rural and lower-income communities to secure land, easements, or covenants from willing sellers to protect critical drinking water source areas.
- Improve water quality with a shift in forest and watershed management to focus on activities that protect and restore drinking water sources.
- Reduce contamination risks before they reach drinking water intakes, lowering treatment burdens and long-term system costs.

**2. Requested APF Amount and Spending Plan Summary:**

Total Amount	Personnel Services	Supplies and Services
\$1,200,000.00	\$185,000.00 (0.5 FTE)	\$1,015,000.00 (\$1M in special payments for grants)

Oct. 2026 - June 2027 Budget	July 2027 - June 2028 Budget	July 2028 - June 2029 Budget	July 2029 – Onward
\$1,000,000.00	\$200,000.00	\$0	\$0

**3. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:**

Please indicate all that apply using the checkboxes below.	
<b>Terms from Monsanto Settlement and SB 1561:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Brownfields remediation or redevelopment <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration	<b>Addresses other state plans or frameworks:</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EO 25-26 <sup>22</sup>

<sup>22</sup> EO 25-26 Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action To Promote The Resilience Of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result in improvements to air and water quality <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup contaminated sites <input type="checkbox"/> Remediate impaired water bodies, sediments or soil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAP <sup>23</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CWA TMDLs <sup>24</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IWRS <sup>25</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OHA Strategic Plan</li> <li>• OWEB’s Strategic Plan</li> </ul>
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**4. Collaborators:**

**a. Briefly describe the role of other state and federal agency collaborators in the work (if any). Are there funds being leveraged?**

OWEB houses the program because of the agency’s expertise in land transactions and grantmaking. OHA and DEQ support the program with technical support and advice. OHA and DEQ also provide key assistance to public water suppliers to prepare source water protection projects and access the DWSP Grant Program. Additionally, OHA and DEQ, as well as other state, federal, and Tribal agencies are members of the Technical Review Team that evaluates project proposals for alignment with source water protection principles and priorities. To date, the DWSP Grant Program has leveraged approximately a one-to-one federal match funding from the Forest Legacy Program (U.S. Forest Service) and the Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund loan programs (federal funds administered by DEQ and OHA, respectively).

**b. What opportunities are there for engagement and input from Tribal and Environmental Justice communities in the work? What are the anticipated benefits to these communities (if any)?**

OWEB has engaged Tribal governments at various steps in the DWSP process, including administrative rulemaking, technical review, and opportunities to comment on funding recommendations. Tribal public water systems are eligible applicants for this program, and environmental justice communities are prioritized in the application evaluation criteria so that they can benefit from accessing this program.

**c. Are there other partners? Please briefly describe roles: N/A**

**5. Identify measurable outcomes for annual reporting:**

OWEB will report annually to the ERC on measurable outputs (e.g., number of grant awards made) and outcomes (e.g., number of acres permanently protected upon completion of projects). We expect to permanently protect approximately 600 acres within 1-5 community drinking watersheds by the end of 2028 (estimate based off the average cost per acre in the first grant cycle).

<sup>23</sup> 2026 Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

<sup>24</sup> ODEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report Total Maximum Daily Loads

<sup>25</sup> Oregon’s 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

**6. Timeline:**

	2026		2027			2028			2029			Onward including end date
	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.			
OWEB staff solicit grant applications												
OWEB staff and reviewers evaluate grant applications												
OWEB Board awards grants & commits funds												
Grantees conduct due diligence for transactions												
Closing deadline for grantees' land transactions												
Report annually to ERC												Final 12/28

## 9. Groundwater Quality Protection: Oregon Septic Program (DEQ)

### 1. Project Description:

Brief project description: DEQ is requesting funding to improve groundwater quality and public health for rural Oregonians by providing financing solutions for the repair and replacement of failing septic systems. Failing septic systems contribute to groundwater contamination and water quality concerns statewide. This project focuses on areas of concern including the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) and the Southcoast region where properties with failing septic systems are impacting coastal lakes and streams. Additional focus areas for the funding may include other sensitive groundwater areas and financial assistance will be tailored toward low- and moderate-income households. Properly operating septic systems provide affordable and effective wastewater treatment. However, when these systems fail or are damaged by natural disasters, partially treated sewage will leach into the groundwater and nearby conveyances and surface waters. The requested funding will recapitalize a successful septic loan and grant program for homeowners which has been suspended due to lack of funding.

Problem addressed: This project addresses three inter-related problems. First, many rural areas with impacted groundwater or sensitive surface water habitats rely primarily on septic systems. Sensitive ground and surface water will be degraded if failing septic systems are not addressed. Failed and leaking septic systems result in sewage contaminating adjacent ground and surface waters with high levels of nitrates, pathogenic bacteria and potentially other viruses or pathogens, which can cause gastrointestinal issues, spread of pathogenic viruses, hepatitis, or nitrate poisoning (blue-baby syndrome). Nitrate and phosphorous from septic systems can flow to lakes and streams leading to harmful algal blooms. Septic wastewater pollutants also concentrate in fish tissue, which can harm endangered species and people who consume fish regularly in their diets. Second, the incidence of major natural disasters, wildfires, rising sea levels, and flooding is increasing and often results in severely damaged treatment systems and drainage fields. Lastly, affordable financing is a critical need because home insurance typically excludes failing septic systems. The cost of repairing and replacing septic systems can range from \$5,000 for a simple repair, to \$20,000 for a basic septic system, or over \$50,000 for a system needing advanced treatment or with complex topography and soil profiles.

How this investment will address the problem: Replacing aging and failing septic systems with modern systems and advanced technologies where needed will directly improve water quality by adequately treating nitrates, bacteria, pharmaceuticals, and other sewage-related pollutants. Last year DEQ enacted regulations that allow regulators to require advanced treatment technologies proven to reduce nitrogen in areas that are sensitive to nitrate-nitrogen pollution including groundwater management areas, coastal lakes, and other areas of groundwater concern. See OAR 340-071-0345(8)(d). Repairing and replacing septic systems has consistently been identified as a priority for funding in the LUBGWMA Oregon Nitrate Reduction Plan including the most recent 2025 Report. While there are other significant sources of nitrate pollution, septic system improvements are a critical mechanism for protecting local groundwater and neighboring drinking water wells. In addition, replacing failing and outdated septic systems will increase the

climate resilience of communities reliant on decentralized wastewater treatment that are subject to extreme weather events. Re-capitalizing the septic loan and grant program will provide financial assistance to address and prevent nitrate and other sewage-related groundwater pollution while DEQ and our partners work to identify other durable solutions to the funding gap.

Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and connection to agency priorities: Funding will primarily be used to support households with permitting and constructions costs for septic systems (tanks, treatment systems, and drainage fields) and for septic to sewer conversions. DEQ will contract with a third-party qualified financial institution that will provide loans to reimburse homeowners or to directly pay contractors for these services. Low-income residents may also qualify for grant funds for these purposes. This project is a priority because reducing septic system pollution is an actionable and proven method to protect groundwater, surface water, and drinking water and would fill the gap where low-cost financing for septic system repairs and replacements is lacking. It will also address impacts and local concerns related to failing septic systems, as documented in Oregon’s 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy.

What the Council’s investment in this work will accomplish over the anticipated life cycle of the project:

Investing in the septic loan and grant program will directly improve local groundwater quality and protect human health and water resources by reducing nitrates and other pollutants. DEQ estimates that this project will fund between 140 and 200 septic repairs and replacements (new construction will not be eligible). A typical household system is designed to treat about 450 gallons per day or 164,250 per year. This translates to more than 16.4 million gallons of cleaner wastewater entering the groundwater for every 100 upgraded systems.

**2. Requested APF Amount: Total amount requested: \$4,000,000**

DEQ expects to award \$3,960,000 to one third-party qualified financial institution, which will be expected to allocate at least 90% of that award directly to financial assistance for septic system repairs and replacements. DEQ will reserve approximately \$40,000 for personnel costs such as outreach and education about the program, contract administration, and oversight and reporting. DEQ will reimburse the financial institution for eligible costs associated with the repair and replacement of septic systems, including construction and permitting costs.

**3. Spend Plan Summary:**

Total Amount	Personnel	Supplies and Services
\$4,000,000	\$40,000	\$3,960,000

Oct. 2026 - June 2027 Budget	July 2027 - June 2028 Budget	July 2028 - June 2029 Budget	July 2029 – March 31, 2030 <i>Please include end date.</i>
\$100,000	\$1,200,000	\$1,500,000	\$1,200,000

**a. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:**

**Please indicate all that apply using the checkboxes below.**

<b>Terms from Monsanto Settlement and SB 1561:</b>	<b>Addresses other state plans or frameworks:</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> Brownfields remediation or redevelopment <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result in improvements to air and water quality <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup contaminated sites <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remediate impaired water bodies, sediments or soil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EO 25-26 <sup>26</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> SWAP <sup>27</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CWA TMDLs <sup>28</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IWRS <sup>29</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: OREGON NITRATE REDUCTION PLAN Annual Report 2025 for the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area

#### 4. Collaborators:

In implementing the septic grant and loan program, DEQ would coordinate with Oregon Health Authority regarding known areas of environmental and public health concern. DEQ regularly works with the Governor's Office staff and members of the Regional Solutions Team to help communities leverage opportunities and assist with outreach to environmental justice communities impacted by nitrate pollution such as Groundwater Management Areas. DEQ will make outreach materials available in Spanish or other languages upon request for targeted communities. An example is that in the LUBGWMA, DEQ is actively collaborating with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Morrow and Umatilla Counties, city governments, businesses, landowners, residents and community groups to address groundwater contamination. This project may also provide an opportunity to engage with Tribes related to coastal lakes impacted by septic pollution.

- 5. Identify measurable outcomes for annual reporting:** Measurable outcomes will include septic system upgrades and related water quality improvements for septic system discharges, focused outreach and lending to areas of highest geographic concern and providing grants and lowest interest rates to households with highest financial need. DEQ can report on the amount of funding obligated and expended (pace of spending); number of septic systems repaired, replaced, or converted to sewer connection; outreach efforts to targeted environmental justice communities; project location and general proximity to sensitive groundwater areas; estimated gallons of improved wastewater quality, and household income of financial aid recipients. DEQ expects that limited grant funds will be available to low-income households such as those with 50% or lower Area Median Income. Moderate income

<sup>26</sup> EO 25-26 Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action To Promote The Resilience Of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters

<sup>27</sup> 2026 Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

<sup>28</sup> ODEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report Total Maximum Daily Loads

<sup>29</sup> Oregon's 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

households will receive lowest interest rates and flexible repayment options. Households with incomes above 120% AMI would pay higher interest rates.

- 6. **Timeline:** DEQ’s experience administering septic financial aid programs will enable us to re-establish this program within a few months. The initial step will be procurement and contracting with a qualified financial institution. The project period will begin with contracting and procurement between DEQ and the financial institution, followed by targeted outreach coordinated with DEQ staff and the contractor, to promote the availability of funding. DEQ anticipates that the financial institution will begin reviewing and administering financial assistance applications in January and then continue on a rolling basis. DEQ will reimburse the financial intuition for costs incurred after construction of each septic project is completed and passes required inspection by county agents. DEQ will require interim reporting every six months along with the annual reporting required by OERC. Final reporting is planned for March 2030.

	2026		2027			2028			2029			Onward including end date
	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.			
Procurement and contracting	■	■										
Outreach			■	■	■	■						
Loan/grant application receipt and review			■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Construction				■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
Project reporting (Semiannual and final)			■		■	■		■	■		■	03/31/2030

## 10. Backflow Prevention Education, Inspection and Testing (WRD)

### 1. Project Description:

- a. Brief project description: The backflow of fertilizers and other chemicals from an irrigation system into an aquifer or surface water source can contaminate Oregon's rivers and aquifers, degrading water quality, threatening fish and wildlife habitat, and impacting human health from environmental degradation. These contamination events can be prevented through the installation and maintenance of backflow prevention equipment. This proposal requests funding for staff and outreach to provide the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) the capacity to adopt rules, develop education materials and help irrigators understand requirements and the value of backflow prevention equipment, and conduct approximately 1,000 inspections in/around known areas of contamination over two irrigation seasons. This funding prevents further contamination.
- b. What is the problem this proposal will address? Oregon law requires the installation and maintenance of backflow prevention equipment on irrigation systems connected to groundwater sources when chemicals or fertilizers are applied through the irrigation season. A party that uses chemigation (the injection of chemicals into an irrigation system) is responsible for the installation and maintenance of the backflow prevention equipment. OWRD has not had the resources to conduct outreach and inspect for compliance outside of one instance described below. In 2025, SB 1154 expanded the requirement for backflow equipment when chemigating with a surface water source within an Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)-adopted groundwater quality area of concern (GAC) or groundwater management area (GWMA). Outside of these areas, Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Agriculture Water Quality Program prohibits the discharge of chemicals or fertilizer to waters of the state. Rules are needed to implement SB 1154.
- c. How will this investment move the needle on this problem? This work builds upon the backflow prevention success achieved through active outreach and enforcement of these requirements in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management (LUBGWMA) in 2025. The 2025 effort demonstrated: 1) that many chemigation 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 field inspections at 660 sites throughout the LUBGWMA. Out of the 660 wells visited, 175 were actively using chemicals in the irrigation systems, therefore requiring a backflow device. At the beginning of the irrigation season, almost none of the inspected irrigation systems had all the components installed to meet the requirement, and by the end of September, over 99% of these sites were fully 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. This demonstrates the value of active outreach and inspection to avoid backflow of fertilizers and other chemicals that would contaminate Oregon's aquifers and streams.
- c. Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the program is a priority. These requested dollars provide funding for a program coordinator, two seasonal

field inspectors, outreach materials, and educational events. Oregon’s aquifers and streams support Oregon’s environment, community, and economy. Ensuring those chemigating have the required backflow equipment will prevent contamination.

- d. What the Council’s investment will accomplish over the anticipated life cycle of the program. Over the life cycle of the project OWRD will work with the Water Resources Commission to adopt rules, and will conduct an informational campaign about the requirements and 1,000 inspections.

**2. Requested APF Amount and Spending Plan Summary:**

Total Amount	Personnel Services	Supplies and Services
\$775,000	\$760,000 (~ 2.75 FTE)	\$15,000

Oct. 2026 - June 2027 Budget	July 2027 - June 2028 Budget	July 2028 - June 2029 Budget	July 2029 – December 2029 Budget
\$37,000	\$302,500	\$302,500	\$133,000

**3. Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:**

Please indicate all that apply using the checkboxes below.	
Terms from Monsanto Settlement and SB 1561: <input type="checkbox"/> Brownfields remediation or redevelopment <input type="checkbox"/> Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result in improvements to air and water quality <input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup contaminated sites <input type="checkbox"/> Remediate impaired water bodies, sediments or soil <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination	Addresses other state plans or frameworks: <input type="checkbox"/> EO 25-26 <sup>30</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> SWAP <sup>31</sup> <input type="checkbox"/> CWA TMDLs <sup>32</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IWRS <sup>33</sup> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• DEQ, ODA, OWRD, OHA: Nitrate Reduction Plan</li> </ul>

<sup>30</sup> EO 25-26 Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action To Promote The Resilience Of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters

<sup>31</sup> 2026 Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

<sup>32</sup> ODEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report Total Maximum Daily Loads

<sup>33</sup> Oregon’s 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

#### **4. Collaborators:**

State Agencies: OWRD’s work in the LUBGWMA involves close coordination with ODA and DEQ, and OWRD will continue this coordination in other GWMA. Collaboration includes initial outreach events, assistance with Agricultural Water Quality Violations, joint site visits, cross training, and coordination on best practices.

Federally Recognized Tribes: As in the LUBGWMA, where OWRD worked closely with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, we would work with the federally recognized tribes in the areas targeted on the project goals and site visits to ensure tribal trust and tribal fee wells are meeting the existing rule requirements while respecting tribal sovereignty.

Environmental Justice (EJ) Communities: An important environmental justice community is one whose drinking water is sourced from aquifers at risk of backflow contamination events. OWRD will build on its engagement with Oregon Rural Action to work with this and other EJ communities.

Trade associations, local vendors, and other experts: OWRD worked extensively with local irrigation, welding, and pump companies, and irrigation experts in the LUBWGMA. We collaborated on education, outreach, and best practices and solutions for a multitude of irrigation practices. We plan to continue and grow these partnerships in other areas of the state to ensure requirements are clearly understood as well as ensure that materials and solutions are available to meet requirements. There are also opportunities to partner with agriculture education outlets to help educate irrigators about these requirements. As we adopt surface water rules related to backflow prevention, the Department plans to work with irrigation districts and agriculture groups like the Oregon Farm Bureau, soil and water conservation districts, and OSU Extension Service.

#### **5. Identify measurable outcomes for annual reporting:**

Updated rules: Rules will be amended to address backflow requirements when surface water is the source of irrigation water in GACs and GWMA.

Education and outreach: OWRD will host 2-3 open houses in the GWMA leading up to the irrigation season inspections as well as present/table at other local events such as fairs and partner meetings. OWRD will develop materials to share with irrigators and partners.

Inspections and testing: Over the course of two irrigation seasons (April through September 2028 and 2029) OWRD will conduct roughly 1,000 inspections in GWMA and surrounding areas. This work is 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.

Evaluation: After each irrigation season, OWRD will document lessons learned. Lessons from the first irrigation season (March 2028-September 2028) will be incorporated into the plan for the 2029 inspections. Lessons from both years will be used to provide recommendations for action in 2030 and beyond, including a prioritized list of future areas to inspect.

**6. Timeline:**

	2026		2027			2028			2029		
	Oct. - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.	Jan. - June	July - Dec.		
Recruiting (NRS 3 Program Coordinator)											
Rulemaking and Planning											
Recruiting (2 seasonal NRS 2 Inspectors)											
Outreach and Education											
Inspections											
Evaluation, improvement and reporting											

## 11. Agricultural Water Quality On-the-Ground Restoration Partnership (ODA)

**a. Please provide a brief project description:** Oregon's family farms and ranches are the front line of water quality on agricultural land. This project funds on-the-ground restoration that reduces documented impairments in agricultural waterways: riparian fencing, off-channel watering, vegetation establishment, and irrigation efficiency. The work flows through the soil and water conservation districts, irrigation districts, and watershed councils already trusted in Oregon's agricultural communities. APF dollars fund the implementation that ODA's existing planning and technical-assistance grants identify but cannot pay for.

**b. What is the problem this proposal will address?** Degraded riparian areas and agricultural nonpoint source pollution are among the primary drivers of impaired water quality in Oregon: sediment, elevated stream temperature, nutrient runoff, and chemical transport. ODA's voluntary AgWQ Program already funds the front end of the work, roughly \$1.2 million in state grants for planning, technical assistance, and landowner outreach through SWCDs, prioritized through Strategic Implementation Areas. That money scopes and permits the project. Then it stops. The existing grants cannot fund implementation, and competitive OWEB and NRCS programs tend to favor larger operations. The plan sits on the shelf until a willing landowner finds money elsewhere, or gives up.

**c. How will this investment move the needle on this problem?** APF dollars fill that gap. They run alongside the existing grant program, not in place of it: state planning and technical-assistance funds keep identifying priority areas and scoping projects, and APF covers the implementation that turns those plans into results. Because the planning is already done, most sub-grant projects will be scoped, permitted, and ready when restoration dollars arrive. These are the same waterways where broader OERF restoration dollars are invested, and what happens on the farm upstream determines whether those downstream investments hold.

**d. Summary of what will be funded with APF funds and why the projects are priorities:** The full \$500,000 flows as sub-grants through SWCDs, irrigation districts, and watershed councils for on-the-ground practices: riparian fencing, off-channel watering, vegetation establishment, and irrigation efficiency. The full amount is obligated when the first round is awarded, with payment on completed deliverables. The program launches with the 2027-2029 biennial water quality grant cycle, so implementation dollars arrive alongside the state funds that scope the projects. No FTE are requested; existing AgWQ Program staff administer the sub-grants within current resources. Consistent with ORS 541.869(2)(b), this funding supplements the existing program and does not supplant it.

**e. Describe what the Council's investment in this work will accomplish:** This first request funds a complete round of measurable restoration that stands on its own; it does not depend on future funding to finish or to produce results. What is ongoing is the opportunity, not the dependency. As long as willing landowners and documented need remain, additional rounds can put more APF dollars to work, each sized to demand and structured to draw NRCS EQIP and

OWEB co-investment onto the same landscapes. Every completed project builds partner capacity and landowner trust, the assets that compound over the life of the Fund.

**Requested APF Amount and Spending Plan Summary:**

Total Amount	Personnel Services	Supplies and Services
\$500,000	\$0 (0 FTE)	\$500,000

Oct. 2026 – June 2027	July 2027 – June 2028	July 2028 – June 2029	July 2029 – Onward (end date)
\$0	\$500,000	\$0	\$0 (end date June 2029)

**Alignment with Terms of the Monsanto Settlement Agreement:**

Please indicate all that apply using the checkboxes below.	
<p><b>Terms from Monsanto Settlement and SB 1561:</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Brownfields remediation or redevelopment</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conduct environmental or natural resource damage assessment or restoration</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Result in improvements to air and water quality</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Cleanup contaminated sites</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Remediates impaired water bodies, sediments or soil</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Restore or protect wildlife or wildlife habitats including fish, aquatic life, marine mammal or bird habitats</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Has a nexus with risks to human health caused by environmental contamination</p>	<p><b>Addresses other state plans or frameworks:</b></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EO 25-26<sup>34</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SWAP<sup>35</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CWA TMDLs<sup>36</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IWRS<sup>37</sup></p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Ag. Water Quality Management Act (ORS 568.900–568.933); OAR 603-090; ORS 468B.180; CWA § 319</p>

**Collaborators:**

**Briefly describe the role of other state and federal agency collaborators in the work (if any). Are there funds being leveraged?**

The work flows through local partners, not from Salem. SWCDs serve as sub-grant recipients for implementation and landowner outreach, irrigation districts partner on water delivery efficiency and tailwater management, and watershed councils support coordination and monitoring. OSU Extension contributes applied research and DEQ provides water quality data and TMDL coordination. NRCS and OWEB provide co-investment where projects qualify. The existing \$1.2

<sup>34</sup>EO 25-26 Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action to Promote the Resilience of Our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters

<sup>35</sup>2026 Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan (SWAP)

<sup>36</sup>ODEQ Clean Water Act Integrated Report Total Maximum Daily Loads

<sup>37</sup>Oregon’s 2025 Integrated Water Resources Strategy

million in state AgWQ grants runs in parallel on the same landscapes: state dollars scope and permit projects, APF dollars fund the implementation those grants cannot cover, and sub-grants will be structured to draw NRCS EQIP and OWEB dollars in, extending each APF dollar.

**What opportunities are there for engagement and input from Tribal and Environmental Justice communities in the work? What are the anticipated benefits to these communities (if any)?**

This program reaches the landowners existing funding leaves behind. Competitive OWEB and NRCS grants tend to favor larger operations with the staff and match to assemble a strong application, while small and limited-resource family farms, many in rural and economically stressed communities, often want to do the work but cannot cover the upfront cost of fencing, planting, or a watering system. By funding implementation through local SWCDs, the program puts restoration within reach of those landowners and treats the cost as a shared investment in cleaner water. The benefit does not stop at the property line: many priority watersheds feed community drinking water sources and waters of cultural and first-foods significance to Oregon tribes. Where the work touches waters of importance to affected tribes, ODA will coordinate through the AgWQ Program’s existing engagement channels.

**Are there other partners? Please briefly describe roles.**

Oregon’s agricultural education network offers another channel: FFA chapters and high school ag programs can build student projects around water quality and riparian stewardship, with materials distributed through OSU Extension.

**Identify measurable outcomes for annual reporting:**

ODA will report on linear feet of stream where riparian buffers are established or protected, sub-grants awarded, landowners served (with attention to smaller operations), and co-investment leveraged from NRCS and OWEB. Metrics integrate with existing AgWQ Program reporting and align with the biennial reporting requirement under ORS 541.869. ODA will report to the Council at intervals agreed upon with staff.

**Timeline:**

Phase	2026–27	2027	2028	2029
Program design & partner agreements (Jul–Dec 2027)		■		
Sub-grant solicitation & award (late 2027–2028)		■	■	
On-the-ground implementation (2028–Jun 2029)			■	■
Reporting & first-round report (by Jun 2029)				■

**End date: June 2029** (close of the 2027-2029 biennium for the first round). The program launches with the biennial water quality grant cycle in July 2027; partner agreements and solicitation run through late 2027; implementation proceeds through the biennium, with reporting integrated into existing AgWQ cycles.