

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
Local Innovation Fund Proposals  
Review Panel Evaluation for December 1, 2005 Proposals**

**PROPOSALS RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING BY STAFF  
(Listed in priority order)**

**PRIORITY #1**

**The Juniper Group – Western Juniper Commercialization  
Feasibility Study for the Prineville Area**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-400

**APPLICANT:** Central Oregon Intergovernmental Council

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$15,000      **MATCH:** \$19,750

**PARTNERS:** OSU Extension, Crooked River Watershed Council, Crook County SWCD, USDA Forest Service, BLM, Central Oregon Partnership, Wy'East RC&D, NRCS, The Nature Conservancy, Sunergie Inc, and Lineshack Inc.

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** Conduct a feasibility study for commercialization of western juniper in Central Oregon. The mission of The Juniper Group is to “improve watershed health, reduce wildfire risk, and create family wage jobs by fostering the development of local businesses that remove and utilize Western Juniper.” The feasibility study will define supply, identify harvest and transport costs, identify priority removal areas for watershed benefit, identify potential products and their markets, and inventory workforce and available financing opportunities. The feasibility study will be shared with business people, community leaders, and federal land management agency personnel through a half-day workshop and the Juniper Group’s webpage to encourage the formation of businesses that utilize juniper.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** This was the first or second highest ranked proposal by each Review Panel member. The proposal has strong watershed and economic benefits. The scope and details of the project are clear. Finding real markets for juniper is probably the only way to address juniper that has gone beyond its historic range, given the scale of the problem. Applicant will work with the local watershed council and federal land managers to target juniper removal in priority areas for watershed benefit. Review Panel members requested that the applicant ensure that harvest occurs in low-impact manner to the landscape.

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**PRIORITY #2**

**Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Food**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-389

**APPLICANT:** Mary's River Watershed Council

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$14,520      **MATCH:** \$4,500

**PARTNERS:** The Food Systems Coalition, Long Tom Watershed Council, Yamhill Watershed Council, South Santiam Watershed Council, Cascade Pacific RC&D. Anticipated future partners include: Food Alliance, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Salmon Safe, Oregon Environmental Council, NRCS Conservation Security Program, Other Willamette Valley Watershed Councils and Soil and Water Conservation Districts, Oregon State University.

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** It is estimated by OSU Extension that less than 2% of the food eaten in Benton County is grown in Benton County. Increasing the consumption of locally grown food to just 10% or 20% would see dramatic changes in the local economies and the community's relationship with food. The goal of this project is to develop a replicable, collaborative programmatic approach to promoting local produce grown in a watershed friendly manner, with a designation such as Food Alliance Salmon Safe. This approach aims to support local farmers in their practice of environmentally friendly and sustainable agriculture. Goals are to increase landowner participation in watershed restoration and sustainable management practices, participation in certification programs, promote locally produced food within the watershed, and reintegrate family farms into rural and urban communities.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel thought this was an interesting idea. One member thought this proposal, of all of the proposals, best addressed supporting and strengthening the connections between the watershed, the local economy, and the local community. One member of the Review Panel noted that the workplan is refreshingly clear, and the applicant appears to have most of the right partners in place or in their outreach plan. Another member wasn't clear where these meetings would lead, and was concerned that the Council did not seem to have engaged agricultural producers yet. The Review Panel asked that the applicant make sure that outreach to agricultural producers and industry organizations like the Farm Bureau occurs as early as possible in the process. Outreach to local government officials should occur early as well. The application does not clearly reference other similar efforts by the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC) and NORPAC, although it does reference the OEC as a future partner. Staff should have conversations with the applicant to ensure that this effort partners with other groups working on the same issue.

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**PRIORITY #3**

**A Five-Part Comprehensive Plan for the South Coast**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-387

**APPLICANT:** South Coast Watershed Council

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$14,500      **MATCH:** Over  
25% anticipated

**PARTNERS:** Curry Soil and Water Conservation District, Oregon Small Woodlands Association, Local School District, Curry County Mentoring, Ocean Spray Cranberry Growers, Curry County Economic Development Department, Individual Landowners

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** The South Coast Watershed Council proposes a five-part approach to improve and celebrate the watersheds, economy, and communities of Oregon's southern coast, which has 10 salmon-bearing rivers, and the largest concentration of wild and scenic rivers in the lower 48 states. Due to its character, the Council calls Oregon's south coast "America's Wild Rivers Coast." The proposal includes: 1) Growing Watershed-friendly Cranberries; 2) A Mentoring Program for Young Farmers and Young Foresters; 3) Growing Markets for Sustainably Produced Wood; 4) Wild Rivers Coast Marketing; and 5) Development of a Marine Research Institute on the South Coast.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel appreciated the inspiring vision of the five-part comprehensive proposal, but felt that the scope was too large for the small amount of funding available. Given the specificity of the strategy to work with cranberry growers on the South Coast to manage bogs in a watershed friendly manner, and the potential synergy of this concept with The Wetlands Conservancy's proposal to work with cranberry growers, the Review Panel recommended funding the South Coast Watershed Council to work in partnership with the Wetlands Conservancy to assist local cranberry growers in managing bogs in a watershed friendly manner, and to investigate opportunities to market those cranberries as watershed friendly, or with a Food Alliance, Salmon Safe, or other certification. The Review Panel recommends that the South Coast Watershed Council be the grantee due to its trust relationship with landowners, and local knowledge. The Review Panel recommended that the South Coast Watershed Council work as a partner with The Wetlands Conservancy to benefit from its wetland protection expertise and branding ideas.

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**PRIORITY #4**

**Mt. Hood Communities Forest Health and Woody Biomass  
Utilization Development Proposals**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-392

**APPLICANT:** Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$15,000      **MATCH:** \$65,500

**PARTNERS:** Clackamas River Basin Watershed Council, BARK, Oregon Hunters Assn, Clackamas County Business and Economic Development Department, Mt. Hood National Forest, Clackamas County Board of Commissioners, Sustainable Northwest, American Forest Resource Council, Assn of Oregon Loggers, OSU Extension – Clackamas County, Clackamas County Economic Development Commission, The Cedars, Mt. Hood Economic Alliance, Warm Springs (Tribe) Mill, Clackamas County Farm Forest Assn, JLB Tree Farms, EcoTrust, Edelweiss Farms, Interfor Forest Products, NRCS, David Evans & Associates, Portland State University, Congresswoman Darlene Hooley, Oregon Natural Resources Council, ODF, NW Oregon RC&D, Maple Grove Trading, Gifford-Pinchot Task Force

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** The Clackamas Collaborative Group Partners is a working group formed to bring together diverse and sometimes conflicting stakeholders to collaboratively discuss and agree upon future sustainable management of the Mount Hood National Forest. In particular, the group will discuss using USFS stewardship contracting fire reduction and forestry projects on federal land and projects on private lands to provide economic benefits to the county and using USFS stewardship contracting's retained receipts as an ongoing source of watershed restoration funding. The group is also discussing increasing the economic return from small diameter wood gleaned from thinning projects through a model log sorting and utilization yard to better market the wood. This group does not currently have dedicated staffing, which hinders its productivity. This proposal would provide a part-time staff position to provide facilitation and organization to the group, pursue funding opportunities, do community outreach and education, and develop and implement multi-party monitoring protocols for projects.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** Reviewers were impressed by the number and diversity of partners, and the clear focus on both watershed benefit and economic and community benefits. The plan to do multi-party monitoring will show accountability and effectiveness, and will allow for adaptive management. Because this funding would support a part-time coordinator for the working group, but is not tied to a specific

product, the Review Panel would like to require a final report from the grantee describing the progress made in action planning to accomplish the goals described.

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**PRIORITY #5**

**Creating a Model for Sustainable, Family Wage Restoration Jobs**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-383

**APPLICANT:** Coquille Watershed Association

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$8,250      **MATCH:** \$3,050

**PARTNERS:** The Coquille Watershed Association has a diverse group of partners at the local, state, and federal level; however, there are no direct partners listed for this project.

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** For the last eight years, the Coquille Watershed Association has maintained a full-time, year-round, family wage work crew doing watershed restoration and protection related work. The work crew has fluctuated between 7 and 11 employees. Maintaining the crew has not been easy, but has been a priority for the council, and has required “thinking beyond the fish.” Recently, the budgets of several of the council’s partners who provide a source of work for the crew have been cut and the current flow of work for the crew will likely decrease dramatically. The council has been sustaining the crew from year to year, but feels that it needs a better long-term plan for marketing and employing the work crew, and increasing its number. The goal of this project is to hire a business consultant to develop a sustainable work plan and mission for the Restoration Crew. The council plans for this project to serve as a model for other watershed councils to develop Restoration Crews in their basins.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The reviewers noted the similarity between this proposal and the proposal to plan for development of a restoration workforce in the Siuslaw Basin. The proposal in the Siuslaw requests almost twice as much funding, but is more sophisticated and focused on community-building, as described in the application. However, the Coquille Watershed Association has already proven its ability to develop and maintain a restoration work crew in an area with high unemployment. This track record inspired confidence in the reviewers. The reviewers felt that both proposals are meritorious, and because they may take different approaches, could both serve as helpful models for other watershed councils seeking to create a local restoration workforce. As with the Siuslaw proposal, the reviewers asked that OWEB require a white paper explaining how the analysis was done that will be shared with other watershed groups with similar goals.

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**PRIORITY #6**

**Developing a High Quality Restoration Industry in the Siuslaw Basin**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-381

**APPLICANT:** Ecosystem Workforce Program, Institute for a Sustainable Environment at the University of Oregon

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$15,000      **MATCH:** \$5,125

**PARTNERS:** Siuslaw Basin Partnership (Siuslaw Watershed Council, Siuslaw Institute, Siuslaw SWCD, and Port of Siuslaw), Siuslaw National Forest, Watershed Research and Training Center

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** The goal of this project is to develop an action plan for the Siuslaw Basin that links economic and workforce development with salmon, forest, and watershed restoration. The action plan will be developed by analyzing the basin's restoration and sustainable forestry needs in the future, the workforce capability in the basin to meet those needs, and any actions needed to develop a family wage, long-term, local workforce in the basin to meet those needs.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** This proposal received a high ranking by each Review Panel member. The reviewers hope is that it will be a transferable model to develop a sustainable restoration workforce in other places. The watershed benefit is twofold: having a highly skilled workforce with local knowledge will increase the likelihood of success for restoration projects, and employing a local restoration workforce will increase understanding about the watershed in the community. The economic and community benefit is in assisting in the creation of a local restoration workforce making a family wage by doing the research needed to pursue the best workforce model. One reviewer appreciated that this proposal is flexible. The proposed analysis seeks to determine the best model, and does not presume the result. All of the reviewers believe it will be useful to have a model for this analysis that can be used by other watershed groups that want to develop a family wage, long-term restoration workforce. The reviewers asked that OWEB require a white paper explaining how the analysis was done that will be shared with other watershed groups with similar goals.

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**PRIORITY #7**

**Rogue River Estuary Sand and Gravel Mining Restoration**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-386

**APPLICANT:** Lower Rogue Watershed Council

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$14,500      **MATCH:** \$23,900

**PARTNERS:** Freeman Rock, USFS, USFWS, NMFS, Army Corps of Engineers, DOGAMI, Curry County, South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve, ODFW, DSL, DLCD

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** This project proposes to continue a local sand and gravel operation serving the community's needs in Curry County in a way that minimizes impacts to the environment and the community, improves salmon habitat in the Rogue River Estuary, and provides community outreach and education about watershed health. This project will provide for enhanced salmon habitat restoration during the gravel mining operation, will provide for community education about the importance of salmon habitat in the estuary, and will provide an opportunity for research about the hydrology and habitat importance of the estuary. These funds will support surveying and modeling the hydrology of the estuary, a biological assessment, design for restoration in conjunction with gravel mining, and public outreach and education.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The watershed benefit of this proposal is strong. The project will restore key salmon habitat while allowing an important economic activity in Curry County to continue. The community engagement goals in this proposal impressed the Review Panel. The Review Panel was concerned about OWEB funds paying for another state agency employee's time. The proposal lists \$4,500 in OWEB funds supporting staff from DOGAMI as they provide technical assistance to the project design. The Review Panel suggested awarding \$10,000 for this project instead of the \$15,000 requested (\$5,000 is deducted to account for the \$4,500 proposed for DOGAMI plus approximately \$500 in related administrative overhead) in the hope that DOGAMI would recognize the importance of this project, and allocate time to it as a priority without additional funding.

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**PRIORITY #8**

**Sand and Gravel Industry Habitat Restoration Incentives at the Confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-391

**APPLICANT:** McKenzie Watershed Council

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$8,000      **MATCH:** \$10,000

**PARTNERS:** Wildish Sand and Gravel, Eugene Sand and Gravel, Delta Sand and Gravel, McKenzie River Trust, Riveridge Golf Course, McKenzie Flyfishers, USFWS, NOAA Fisheries, Army Corps of Engineers, DOGAMI, ODFW, DSL, Lane County Land Management

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** The McKenzie Watershed Council's McKenzie River Subbasin Assessment ranked the confluence of the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers as the highest priority for river channel, riparian, floodplain and wetland habitat enhancement in the McKenzie River Watershed. Most of the sand and gravel resources for the local community are derived from floodplain mining in the Confluence Area. This funding proposal would allow the council's Confluence Area Project Steering Committee to work with the sand and gravel industry, regulatory agencies, and stakeholder groups to develop an accepted framework for using incentives to integrate floodplain mining with fish and wildlife habitat enhancement. This proposal would assist in funding a part-time staffing position for ongoing stakeholder facilitation, habitat enhancement planning, and project management. The mining companies would donate equipment and personnel to the habitat enhancement projects, and bear much of the cost. The partners in this project hope that it will provide a model for integration of habitat enhancement into sand and gravel mining operations, and provide a vehicle to streamline the permitting process for habitat enhancement in conjunction with mining operations in a way that has wider applicability in the industry.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The reviewers noted that this is a priority area for habitat enhancement. They discussed the desirability of providing a model for incorporating habitat enhancement into mining operations, particularly if the model would have wide applicability. They noted that this project will go beyond required mitigation. The partners involved in the project represent the interests that should be at the table, and a good cross-section of stakeholders. The reviewers discussed the fact that the state and federal permitting process can significantly delay watershed enhancement projects. One reviewer was concerned about focusing efforts on permit streamlining for one industry, rather than on streamlining the permitting process for all restoration projects. It was noted that OWEB has worked with both NOAA Fisheries

and the Army Corps of Engineers on streamlining the permitting process for restoration projects. Another reviewer stated that the proposal seeks to provide many incentives for the integration of mining and habitat enhancement, and permit streamlining is only one. The proposal points out that the permitting process has prevented mining companies from doing restoration projects as part of their mining operation in the past, and that permit streamlining would attempt to remove that barrier to restoration.

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**PROPOSALS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING BY STAFF**  
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**Coastal Bogs: Branding and Marketing Cranberries**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-382

**APPLICANT:** The Wetlands Conservancy

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$14,250      **MATCH:** \$4,500

**PARTNERS:** Oregon Natural Heritage Information Center, South Coast Watershed Councils, Oregon Cranberry Growers Association and Individual Growers, USFWS Threatened and Endangered Species Program, NRCS

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** Oregon's coastal sphagnum bogs are rare and of high conservation concern. One species found in this habitat, the western lily, is a federally-listed endangered species that occurs only along the coast in southwestern Oregon and northwestern California. Cranberries are often grown in and near this habitat. This project proposes to research the feasibility of and promote a lily-friendly certification program for the cranberry industry and partnering organizations similar to the Salmon Safe certification which will provide an incentive for stakeholders to be more proactive in wetland identification and protection, and add market value to cranberries grown in a manner protective of this habitat. In addition to working with cranberry growers to manage their operations in a way that is protective of these threatened habitats and species, and developing economic incentives to support this management, The Wetlands Conservancy also proposes developing restoration and management prescriptions that support bog viability and function, and training a bog restoration and management crew.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel noted the synergy between this proposal and the South Coast Watershed Council's proposal to work with local cranberry growers on watershed friendly management practices. The Review Panel members like this idea, and the market incentives it would create for wetland-friendly cranberry bog management. However the Panel also felt that some questions remained unanswered, such as whether local cranberry growers are interested in this kind of project, whether the conservancy has a relationship with them, and whether there is room in the market for watershed or lily-friendly cranberries. The Panel members suggested doing market research about whether lily-safe would be the most effective brand. The Review Panel doubted that there is enough work on the coast for a bog restoration and management crew, and, if this appears to be true, suggested that the council and the conservancy train existing work crews, such as the Coquille Watershed Association's crew, and any restoration professionals who regularly work for the council on the South Coast, in bog restoration instead. In the end, the Review Panel felt that the South Coast Watershed Council has better relationships with local landowners, and

recommended funding the South Coast Watershed Council to work in partnership with the Wetlands Conservancy to assist local cranberry growers in managing bogs in a watershed friendly manner, and to investigate opportunities to market those cranberries as watershed friendly, or with a Food Alliance, Salmon Safe, or other certification. The Review Panel recommends that the South Coast Watershed Council be the grantee due to its trust relationship with landowners, and local knowledge, and that it turn to the Wetlands Conservancy as a partner to benefit from its wetland protection expertise and ideas regarding market branding.

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**Community Collaboration for Watershed Stewardship Program**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-384

**APPLICANT:** Lomakatsi Restoration Project

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$15,000      **MATCH:**  
\$152,700

**PARTNERS:** Upper Rogue Watershed Association, Applegate River Watershed Council, Willow Wind Community Learning Center, Southern Oregon Historical Society, The Nature Conservancy, Southern Oregon Land Conservancy, Rogue Valley COG, Alliance of Forest Workers and Harvesters

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** The Lomakatsi Restoration Project's proposal for the Community Collaboration for Watershed Stewardship Program is broad in scope, and appears to request funding to support a wide range of ongoing projects. It describes an overarching program integrating four initiatives: 1) Full Circle Schools, 2) Ecological Workforce Training, 3) Tree Planting and Revegetation, and 4) Restoration By-Product Utilization programs. More specifically, the Project would use OWEB funds to:

- develop restoration prescriptions on 7 sites,
- continue project implementation on at least 3 of the sites,
- involve watershed restoration professionals in projects mentoring youth and volunteers in projects,
- convene 2 regional meetings with environmental education collaborators to address native plant nursery needs, and
- develop a long-term collaborative plan for the region.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel was impressed with Lomakatsi's overall program, which seems to integrate watershed health, and the local economy and community through many projects. However, Panel members noted that Lomakatsi seems to be asking for funding to support their ongoing operations, rather than a specific project. Descriptions of the proposed use of OWEB funding were not clear or detailed. The Review Panel suggested that the Lomakatsi Restoration Project return to OWEB with a more specific project in the future.

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**Pocket Park Stormwater Fountain**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-385

**APPLICANT:** Twin Creeks Development Company

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$15,000      **MATCH:** not clear

**PARTNERS:** City of Central Point, Rogue Valley COG, Bear Creek  
Watershed Council

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** Twin Creeks is a 235-acre development in Central Point, located in the lower reaches of the Bear Creek Watershed. Two fish-bearing streams, Jackson Creek and Griffin Creek, flow through the development. Twin Creeks has made it a priority to incorporate best management practices (BMPs) into the development to naturally treat stormwater runoff before it flows into Bear Creek and its tributaries. These BMPs include a bioretention swale, and two constructed wetlands. However, in many areas of the development, there is not enough available space to use more traditional BMPs such as constructed wetlands. Twin Creeks seeks OWEB funding to design a Pocket Park Stormwater Fountain that will serve as both a play structure in a small park, and as a stormwater treatment structure for an area without enough space to use existing BMP for stormwater management.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel thought this was an interesting idea to deal with an important issue in urban areas. However, they noted that the project is site-specific, and not community-based. Furthermore, while this project would have watershed benefit, the watershed benefit is not as significant as in other proposals.

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**Small Wood Marketing and Fuel Reduction Initiative**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-388

**APPLICANT:** South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve  
(SSNERR)

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$14,048      **MATCH:** not clear

**PARTNERS:** USDA Bureau of Land Management, Coos County  
Department of Forestry, Oregon State University, Oregon Department of Forestry, Coos  
County Fire Protective Association, local timber companies, local watershed councils

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** The SSNERR proposes using OWEB funding to investigate potential local markets for small diameter wood from forest thinning projects, including branding the wood as linked to sustainable forest practices. These projects will be conducted to accelerate late successional habitat characteristics of the coastal forests in the SSNERR, and to reduce forest fire potential. Possible products using small diameter timber include wood chips used in the manufacture of paper and structural panels, furniture, fence posts, firewood, and biomass for commercial energy generation. The first product would likely be firewood, marketed through the Firewood Outreach Program, with the goal of increasing community awareness about the SSNERR. The SSNERR hopes that this project will enhance the potential for self-supporting forest restoration actions at the South Slough, and improve local community awareness of the benefits of healthy, functioning watersheds. OWEB funds would support a part-time intern in developing this project, and the cost of small wood products branding labels and brochures.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel thought that this project is certainly something the SSNERR should be doing. However, the Panel noted that this kind of effort is occurring on a larger scale in many places in Oregon and the Northwest. Panel members were concerned that the proposal did not mention these other efforts, and how it may build on the ground already covered. One Panel member was concerned that an intern would be responsible for the project, which in many other instances would be managed by someone with more expertise and experience.

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**Hedges Creek Student Design and Business Outreach  
Restoration Design Course**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-390

**APPLICANT:** The Wetlands Conservancy

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$9,040      **MATCH:** \$4,430

**PARTNERS:** Open Meadow Alternative School, City of Tualatin, Clean Water Services

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** This Wetlands Conservancy project will connect the City of Tualatin's development of Phase II of its Urban Renewal Plan, development of a conservation and restoration plan for the 55 acre Hedges Creek wetland, education of high school students at the Open Meadow Alternative school in wetland restoration design, and outreach to neighboring landowners, local businesses, and the community at large about wetland function and protection. High school students from Open Meadow's Corps Restoring the Urban Environment program will work with The Wetlands Conservancy to develop and design a conservation and restoration landscape plan for the Hedges Creek wetland. The students will then do outreach to the City of Tualatin, neighbors, and local businesses about the plan to educate them about the importance of wetland protection in the city. This curriculum will be offered as a model to other educational institutions seeking guidance in project-based learning.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** While the project seems worthwhile, the Review Panel did not rate this project as high as many others because it appears to be a youth education and restoration project, which does not appear to fit the goals of the Local Innovation Fund. One reviewer suggested that The Wetlands Conservancy apply to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation's Five Star Program, which targets youth restoration projects. Another reviewer suggested involving local neighbors and businesses earlier in the design process, rather than waiting until the designs are done, so that outreach is more meaningful.

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**Sustainable Wool Fiber Branding and Marketing**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-393

**APPLICANT:** Oregon Wool Growers Association and Lane MicroBusiness

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$14,000      **MATCH:** \$16,000

**PARTNERS:** not clear

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** The Oregon Wool Growers Association and Lane MicroBusiness are proposing a national marketing and branding effort for small Oregon farms raising fiber animals that meet the sustainable agriculture certification standards of the Food Alliance. Food Alliance standards include soil and water conservation, reducing pesticides, safe working conditions, and wildlife habitat conservation. Lane MicroBusiness would work with these small business farms to help with marketing, technical business assistance, access to capital, and small business grants to qualified farms. This branding effort would be targeted toward a niche market of customers who are more environmentally and community conscious, and would be willing to pay more for sustainably produced wool products.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel thought this was a terrific business idea, and would benefit the watershed. However, Panel members felt that the watershed benefit was not strategic or well defined enough to compete with some of the other proposals to the Local Innovation Fund. The applicants mentioned linking wool growers with watershed councils in the application, but local watershed councils were not partners in the application, and it was not clear that they had been contacted, or had committed to be part of the project.

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**TMDL Compliance as a Funding Source for Ongoing Restoration**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-394

**APPLICANT:** Good Company

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$14,600      **MATCH:** not clear

**PARTNERS:** Eugene Water and Electric Board, Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, Willamette Partnership, Defenders of Wildlife, local watershed councils

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** This project will attempt to match funding used by the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB) and the Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission (MWMC) to meet regulatory requirements for clean drinking water and Total Maximum Daily Load temperature standards on the McKenzie and Willamette Rivers with landowners willing to do watershed restoration projects to use the available regulatory compliance funding in the most environmentally beneficial manner. Good Company hopes to work with its partners to develop a trading market that will help to direct regulatory compliance funding to the most strategic, effective uses. Good Company proposes spending the first half of 2006 to analyze the regulatory needs and restoration opportunities, do a “needs” mapping, and organize a working meeting of potential buyers, sellers, and key partners who will help direct the money strategically, and develop the first 3-5 potential transactions through the market.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel praised this as an excellent idea which is exactly the kind of big picture thinking that should happen. However, several Review Panel members felt that the applicant has unrealistic expectations about how quickly this kind of market can be developed, and is planning to move too fast. Such an important idea needs careful development, and could take several years. The Review Panel was unsure whether Good Company could afford to be involved for the time-period required to develop this project thoughtfully. One Review Panel member mentioned that the Environmental Protection Agency and the Oregon Economic and Community Develop Department’s clean water revolving fund would both be good funding sources for this project. Another Review Panel member expressed concern that the application did not acknowledge that the Willamette Partnership just received a large EPA grant to do the same work in the Willamette Basin, or discuss how this project would connect to the Willamette Partnership’s work.

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**Verde Native Plant Nursery and Restoration Services**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-395

**APPLICANT:** Verde

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$15,000      **MATCH:**  
\$226,000

**PARTNERS:** Latino Network, Worksystems, Inc., PCC, Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Oregon Environmental Council, Portland Office of Sustainable Development, Portland Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Water Bureau, Metro, OECDD, Ecotrust, The Wetlands Conservancy, Columbia Slough Watershed Council, and many others

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** Verde is a new non-profit created to provide environmental jobs, training, and entrepreneurial opportunities to residents of the Hacienda Community Development Corporation (HCDC) affordable housing community in order to promote a more inclusive environmental movement. Its purpose is to build the connections between watershed health, community, and economic sustainability, and to partner with others to protect, restore, and maintain the region's watersheds. By addressing the community's daily economic concerns through environmental job and business opportunities, Verde hopes to provide a more direct connection between the community and environmental protection. Verde plans to use OWEB funding to support opening the native plant nursery, planting of the first native nursery stock, training new Verde nursery and restoration service employees in native plant cultivation and watershed restoration services, and doing outreach to potential partners and clients of the nursery and restoration services.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel loved the concept of linking community and economic development with environmental protection and education in an under-served community. One Review Panel member gave the application high marks for consulting with the organizations working on watershed restoration and protection in the Metro area. However, several other Review Panel members felt that the application did not adequately demonstrate clear watershed benefits that would flow from this project, or that the native plants grown and the restoration services would contribute to priority watershed enhancement actions. One Review Panel member expressed concern that obtaining pesticide applicator licenses was mentioned as a step in developing the nursery, without reference to integrated pest management practices. Despite great appreciation for this innovative concept, the Review Panel felt that a stronger connection to watershed health would need to be made before OWEB funding could be used.

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
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**PROPOSALS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING BY STAFF  
(Listed by Application Number)**

**Community Action Livestock Feeding Oregon (CALFO)**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-396

**APPLICANT:** Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$12,500      **MATCH:** \$76,000

**PARTNERS:** Many good potential partners are listed, such as OSU Extension, NRCS, ODA, Oregon Farm Bureau, and Oregon Food Bank; none appear to have signed on yet

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** This project proposes working with small acreage ranch and farm landowners in Central Oregon for whom agriculture is not the primary source of income to institute best conservation practices in livestock production, and donate much of the beef produced in an environmentally responsible manner to the Oregon Food Bank and its network of hunger relief agencies. The goals of this project are to encourage watershed-friendly land management, feed Oregonians in need, and support Community Food Security.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel liked this concept, but were not confident that small acreage landowners would be willing to participate. They suggested testing the market to determine whether there is enough interest to go forward. The Review Panel also felt that, while helping landowners institute good conservation practices is worthwhile, a direct, strategic watershed benefit was not clearly demonstrated in the application.

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**  
**Local Innovation Fund Proposals**  
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**PROPOSALS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING BY STAFF**  
**(Listed by Application Number)**

**Klamath Basin Watershed Enhancement Projects**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-397

**APPLICANT:** Oregon Institute of Technology Libraries

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$9,177 **MATCH:** not clear

**PARTNERS:** Klamath Watershed Council, Klamath Basin Ecosystem Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, and others

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** This project is the development phase of a website documenting enhancement and restoration projects in the Klamath Basin. The website will serve landowners and agencies wishing to undertake restoration projects by allowing them to easily share information on past projects and learn from the efforts of others, supporting the development of a shared vision.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel appreciated the potential benefits of this project, but noted that this has been done in several other places in Oregon, and is not innovative (see the North Coast and Willamette Basin Portals, funded by OWEB in partnership with the Oregon Geographic Information Council, and the Institute for Natural Resources at OSU.) The Panel also felt that this project is about information sharing and outreach, and does not meet the goals of the Local Innovation Fund: to provide direct watershed, economic, and community benefits. Several Panel members suggested that OIT seek funding and assistance for this project through other OWEB grant programs, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Stewardship Program.

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**  
**Local Innovation Fund Proposals**  
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**PROPOSALS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING BY STAFF**  
**(Listed by Application Number)**

**Klamath Outdoor Science School**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-398

**APPLICANT:** Klamath Outdoor Science School

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$15,000      **MATCH:** \$111,000

**PARTNERS:** ODF, OPRD, U.S. Forest Service, USDA Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Klamath County Commissioners, Oregon State University Extension, Klamath County School District, Klamath Tribes, Northwest Science Schools, and many others

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** The Klamath Outdoor Science School (KOSS) is a group of Klamath Basin teachers, parents, natural resource professionals and community volunteers dedicated to the education of the youth of the Upper Klamath Basin Watershed in the science and appreciation of the unique natural features of their own local area. The proposed project is the development of a year-round facility to be used as a residential outdoor science school in the Klamath Basin.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** While this sounds like an excellent project, the Review Panel felt that it is clearly an education project, and does not meet the goals of the Local Innovation Fund. The applicant has a pending grant with OWEB for education funds, and this request seems to be seeking additional funds to fill a budget shortfall.

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**  
**Local Innovation Fund Proposals**  
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**PROPOSALS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING BY STAFF**  
**(Listed by Application Number)**

**The Farmer's Screen**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-399

**APPLICANT:** Farmer's Conservation Alliance

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$15,000      **MATCH:** \$16,200

**PARTNERS:** Hood River Watershed Council, Hood River County, ODFW,  
Farmer's Irrigation District, NOAA Fisheries

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** The majority of the approximately 60,000 water diversions in Oregon are unscreened. Several thousand of these are a high priority for screening due to their impact on threatened or endangered fish populations. Most current fish screen technology is expensive to install, and requires maintenance and repair on a regular basis. The Farmer's Irrigation District, with funding from OWEB and many other sources, designed and installed an innovative horizontal flat fish screen and diversion that has no moving parts, and requires very little maintenance and repair. The Farmer's Irrigation District formed a non-profit corporation, The Farmer's Conservation Alliance, to find a way to deliver this technology at a low price to priority diverters, and to seek other innovations that protect watershed resources and support the economic viability of agricultural operations. The small profit from horizontal fish screens manufactured and installed by the Farmer's Conservation Alliance will fund research into new innovations to cultivate and benefit "the New Agrarian Economy" where families, fish, and farms thrive. The Farmer's Conservation Alliance seeks OWEB funding to support initial education and outreach, permit streamlining, and business development strategies to ensure that 24 demonstration Farmer's Screens are installed in 2006 on high priority diversions with a beneficial impact on fish populations. The Farmer's Alliance will focus on 1-5 cfs diversions in the State of Oregon, identify 24 landowners with an appropriate site for the Farmer's Screen, build screens in bulk, and deliver screens only during the in-water work window for construction. Using the practices traditionally used by the private sector, it is expected that each screen will cost \$16,000-\$20,000, which is a dramatically lower price than most current screening technology. The Alliance is also working with state screen shops and engineers to be able to use The Farmer's Screen technology for additional diversion sites and sizes.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel praised this idea, but felt that several important pieces of information were missing from the application that left questions unanswered. It was unclear how the Farmer's Conservation Alliance is coordinating with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to avoid duplication of effort and ensure that priority diversions will be screened. One Review Panel member wondered why this effort is necessary given ODFW's statutory charge

and funding to do this work. The specific economic benefits of this project were not discussed in any detail. It could be assumed that manufacturing these screens would create jobs. However the number of jobs and whether they would be family wage jobs was not discussed in the application. While the watershed benefit of installing these screens on diversions that would otherwise remain unscreened is clear, the economic benefit was not clear enough for the Review Panel to recommend funding.

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
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**PROPOSALS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING BY STAFF  
(Listed by Application Number)**

**Ochoco Irrigation District Water Efficiency Optimization Project**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-401

**APPLICANT:** Dr. Charlotte Schell, Portland State University, and  
Dr. Aaron Wolf, Oregon State University

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$14,977      **MATCH:** not  
specified

**PARTNERS:** Members of the Ochoco Irrigation District Water Efficiency Optimization Project, including Oregon Trout, Deschutes Resources Conservancy, Ochoco Irrigation District, Crook Soil and Water Conservation District, and Oregon State University Extension Service

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** The applicant proposes an in-depth study of the challenges facing effective communication and cooperation between stakeholders in Central Oregon to produce a guide for implementing economically and environmentally sustainable community oriented processes for resolving conflict in regional water management. The study will focus on an existing project, the Ochoco Irrigation District Water Efficiency Optimization Project (WEOP), being conducted by the Wy'East Resource Conservation and Development Council in the Deschutes Basin. The goal of WEOP is to work with farm and ranch operators to optimize existing irrigation practices, using less water while producing greater farm profits, leaving more water in-stream for salmon, and reducing non-point source pollution. The applicant proposes using a Collaborative Learning model to assist the WEOP process, so that the resource use communities develop and take part in a process of actively learning about the complexities of the conflict situation they share – including new methods and skills for managing conflict situations and resource problems. The applicant requests OWEB funding to support 1) assessing the collaborative potential of stakeholders in the area, 2) evaluating any obstacles to the potential for a Collaborative Learning Process, 3) offering suggestions for dealing with any obstacles, 4) offering suggestions for widening the spectrum of stakeholders, 5) facilitating the Collaborative Learning process, if it is appropriate, and 6) preparing outreach and education materials to generate attention for the collaborative approach. Letters of support for this application were received from Gail Achterman, Director of the Institute for Natural Resources at OSU, and Joe Whitworth, the Executive Director of Oregon Trout. Letters of support for the WEOP project itself were attached from Governor Kulongoski and Representative Greg Walden.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel agreed that the issue of water efficiency is a high priority, and noted that the partners involved in the underlying WEOP project have strong reputations. However, the Review Panel felt that the Local Innovation Fund is not the appropriate funding source for what seems to be an academic research project. Collaborative learning is a useful tool, but if this work is truly important to the partners involved in the Ochoco Irrigation District Water Efficiency Optimization Project, then the application would have come from them. This approach does not seem well-integrated into the WEOP process.

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board  
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**PROPOSALS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING BY STAFF  
(Listed by Application Number)**

**Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol (CROP), Forest Monitoring, Small Diameter Wood Processing Facility, and Biomass Operation in South Central Oregon**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-402

**APPLICANT:** The High Desert Partnership

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$15,000      **MATCH:**  
\$140,000

**PARTNERS:** Harney County Court, Harney Soil and Water Conservation District, U.S. Forest Service, Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center, and many others

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** In 2004 one of the nation's first biomass evaluations was completed in Harney County focusing on implementing a new *Coordinated Resource Offering Protocol* (CROP) between public agencies in watershed landscapes. The CROP model was developed by Corvallis-based Mater Engineering in 2002 in an effort to identify a consistent supply of woody biomass within a watershed landscape that would be sufficient to attract investment into economically-depressed regions. The CROP analysis had the following goals: 1) Address forest health issues on a landscape level; 2) Create economic investment in the local region; 3) Increase the value of the resource being offered and reduce the volume of "valueless" resources; 4) Create local employment opportunities based on sustainable natural resources; 5) Increase the potential for economic opportunity for private forest landowners by creating biomass markets; 6) Preserve cultures associated with timber practices; and 7) Open lines of communication and foster trust between all parties interested in forest health.

The Harney County CROP was completed in 2004 through a partnership between Harney County, the Harney County SWCD, and the U.S. Forest Service. The High Desert Partnership seeks OWEB funding to work with the CROP sponsors and other stakeholders to implement the following recommendations from the Harney County CROP report:

1. Monitor the performance in meeting CROP planned supply offerings and update CROP model. Document the watershed restoration benefits as a result of implementing the CROP model.
2. Develop a baseline business plan for establishing a local small log processing facility.
3. Develop a baseline business plan for establishing a local wood pellet processing facility.

4. Develop a baseline business plan for establishing a Hines Biomass Industrial Park and Energy Center.
5. Complete new product design trials for new product development for the Louisiana-Pacific laminated veneer lumber (LVL) facility in Hines.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** Several members of the Review Panel were familiar with the High Desert Partnership, and think highly of the group and its mission. The Review Panel members would like to encourage partnerships like this one, particularly in rural eastern Oregon. The Panel also praised the goals of the project. However, the Panel felt that this particular proposal was too broad and ambitious for the small amount of funding available from OWEB, particularly given the Partnership's limited capacity. While the economic benefits of the proposal are clear, the Panel also felt that the application lacked any specificity about the watershed benefits of the project. It was unclear how the \$15,000 requested would be spent, given a \$155,000 budget for the next year. The Partnership's role and responsibilities in the overall project was also not clear. The Review Panel suggested that the High Desert Partnership either choose one small piece of this project, or start with a smaller project with more concrete outcomes. The Panel also suggested that the partnership pursue a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation Strategic grant, and National Fire Plan funding for this project.

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**  
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**PROPOSALS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING BY STAFF**  
**(Listed by Application Number)**

**Wallowa County Hands On Land Watershed Stewardship Work Program**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-403

**APPLICANT:** Oregon Solutions

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$15,000      **MATCH:** \$5,000

**PARTNERS:** Wallowa Resources, Wallowa County Commission, Wallowa County Natural Resource Advisory Committee (NRAC)

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** Oregon Solutions seeks funding from OWEB to support working with federal, state, and local partners in Wallowa County to develop a collaborative watershed stewardship work program that will provide jobs to unemployed and underemployed youth, displaced loggers, veterans, and other citizens in Wallowa County to address priority management needs on federal lands. The goals of the “Hands on Lands” Watershed Stewardship Work Program include establishing strong relationships and cooperation among federal, state, county, and local groups so that a shared vision of land stewardship in Wallowa County is sustained over time. The priority federal land management needs that have already been identified for the program are hazardous fuels reduction in the Upper and Lower Joseph Creek Watersheds, which was prioritized in the Wallowa County Community Wildfire Protection Plan, and trail system maintenance in the Hells Canyon National Recreation Area and the Eagle Cap Wilderness Area. Federal budgets for this kind of land management have declined for the last 15 years, and are projected to continue to decline over the next 3-5 years. The final plan developed through a collaborative community-based process will establish targets for annual job creation and training. Continuing employment and skill transfer from the experience and training received from the program will be tracked by the Wallowa County Office of the Oregon Department of Employment. Wood removal to local mills, pole plants, or other wood processing facilities will be tracked by the U.S. Forest Service and Wallowa Resources, as will the use of maintained trails. Work prescriptions for both the trail work and the hazardous fuel reduction work will be provided by the U.S. Forest Service, and personnel from the U.S. Forest Service and Wallowa Resources will conduct collaborative monitoring on the sites. Wallowa Resources will publish monitoring reports on the actions taken.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** The Review Panel praised the work that Wallowa Resources and the Wallowa County Commission have done in the past on natural resource and job creation issues. Both entities have excellent reputations. The Panel thought that the economic and social benefits of the proposal were excellent. One Panel member did express the hope that attention would be paid to the lessons learned from

the unsuccessful aspects of the Jobs in the Woods Program. While fuels reduction and trail maintenance are both important issues, and have ecological benefit, the Panel felt that the proposed actions did not rise to the level of watershed benefit necessary to be competitive with other applications that had a stronger focus on watershed restoration and protection.

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**  
**Local Innovation Fund Proposals**  
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**PROPOSALS NOT RECOMMENDED FOR FUNDING BY STAFF**  
**(Listed by Application Number)**

**Snake River Vineyards and Winery**

**APPLICATION NO.:** z206-404

**APPLICANT:** Eagle Valley Soil and Water Conservation District

**AMOUNT REQUESTED:** \$12,800      **MATCH:** \$5,000

**PARTNERS:** NRCS, EPA, DEQ

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**PROPOSAL SUMMARY:** The town of Richland has suffered a decline in family wage jobs and a sense of community with the loss of its dairy industry. The Eagle Valley SWCD, working with a private landowner, proposes reclamation of an old feedlot to plant vineyards and establish a winery on the site. The Eagle Valley SWCD seeks OWEB funding to support reclamation and cleanup of the old feedlot, which was closed by the EPA due to clean water violations. Reclamation would reduce the erosion of soil and animal waste into the Snake River. Planting vineyards and establishing a winery would provide agricultural business opportunities to other local landowners to grow grapes, and could draw visitors to the area, providing economic inputs that may help to revitalize the local economy and community.

**REVIEW PANEL COMMENTS:** Providing agricultural jobs locally by creating a wine industry is a creative idea. The Review Panel liked the potential economic and community benefits of this project, but felt that the watershed benefit was not as clearly demonstrated. The Panel thought that the reclamation phase of the project could be submitted to OWEB's Restoration Grant Program. It was suggested that the Eagle Valley SWCD speak with the Oregon Economic and Community Development Department about possible grant or loan programs through the agency that provide support for this kind of project.