2024 Immediate Wildfire Response
PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND GUIDANCE
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Introduction

In October 2024, the OWEB Board approved up to $2 million in funding to support technical assistance grants in areas impacted during the 2024 wildfire season. These non-competitive grants are supported by state lottery dollars and support technical assistance and engagement activities including post-fire recovery assessments, cultural resource assessments, and landowner and partner engagement.

Eligibility

Eligible applicants
- Watershed Councils
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts
- Tribes
- Eligible non-profit organizations that operate in heavily impacted 2024 wildfire areas and are directly engaging in post-fire natural resources recovery

Ineligible applicants
- For-profit organizations
- Federal and State agencies may not apply directly, but may partner with eligible applicants

The project location
Eligible geographies for this program are the 29 fire impacted areas listed below. This program utilizes a sliding scale for funding based on fire size. This funding prioritizes work on non-federal lands (i.e., private, state, and tribal lands).

Maximum OWEB Award	$50,000 per fire area		$100,000 per fire area	$200,000 per fire area
Eligible Fire Area	Cottage Grove Complex	Huntington Mutual Aid	Badland Complex	Durkee
	Fossil Complex	Jack Canyon Mutual Aid	Battle Mountain Complex	Lone Rock
	0502 PR Durgan	Larch Creek	Cow Valley	
	0604 Elk Lane	Mutual Aid Inc. 215	Rail Ridge	
	0672 RV	Oak Canyon	Shoe Fly	
	Bonita Road	Porcupine		
	Copperfield	Powerline		
	Courtrock	Salt Creek Road		
	Crazy Creek	Telephone		
	Devils Knob/Dixon	Town Gulch		
	Falls	Wiley Flat		

At time of application, applicants will be required to show proof of outreach to and concurrence of lead status from other organizations working in the same impacted area(s) and with whom they will be partnering to submit a grant application and subsequently implementing proposed activities for one or more fire areas. Coordination among local partners should

include engagement with Tribes along with all partners that are directly involved in post-fire natural resources recovery, including non-traditional partners[1] as appropriate.

Program Structure

Project Type: Technical Assistance

For 2024 Immediate Wildfire Response grants, applicants must demonstrate how proposed technical assistance and engagement activities are guided by eligible assessments and/or analyses. Eligible assessments include federal, tribal, state, and local assessments. Where available, assessments that describe post-fire impacts should be used. If post-fire assessments are not available, other relevant assessments may be eligible and applicants should contact OWEB for approval prior to submitting an application.

- Eligible activities include technical assistance actions that support and implement planning efforts and collaborative engagement that will support long-term restoration in fire impacted areas. Eligible project activities include:
    - Resource assessment and planning to convene local teams to complete post-fire impact assessments and identify and/or plan prioritized restoration actions to address post-fire impacts; and
    - Engagement to secure landowner commitment and coordinate planning for future post-fire restoration actions.
- Restoration implementation activities are not eligible under this funding.
- Fires within a classified fire complex will use the total non-federal acres burned within the complex to determine appropriate size thresholds for funding maximums.
- Spot fires or other adjacent smaller fires to eligible fire footprints may also be included in the grant application if taking a landscape-scale approach.
- Only non-federal land may be included in the application, except in limited instances where taking a landscape-scale/cross-boundary approach requires inclusion of small portions of federal land. Contact OWEB for approval prior to submitting an application that includes federal land to ensure program alignment.
- In a single application, a lead organization may apply for funding for multiple eligible fire footprints in coordination with other partners. If applying for multiple fire footprints, the maximum amount requested must not exceed the funding maximum for each applicable fire (see table above for funding maximums by fire area).
- Each fire area is only eligible for a single allocation and duplicate requests for the same area by different applicants are not eligible. **For this reason, it is critical that lead organizations engage with all appropriate partners prior to submitting an application for a fire area.** Applicants will be required to submit written documentation (e.g., letters, emails, etc.) of outreach to and concurrence of lead status from all other appropriate partners as an upload with their application materials.

Budget Guidance
Funding for this program is retroactive to October 23, 2024, and will expire on January 31, 2027. Minimum match required is 5%, though additional match is encouraged. Applicants may only use the Federally Accepted 'de minimis' Indirect Cost Rate (up to 15% of direct project costs).

NOTE: an update to OWEB's online application system will occur on January 27, 2025, resulting in the de minimis rate increasing from 10% to 15% to match the new federal indirect rates. Applicants should consider this when submitting applications. Applications submitted before January 27, 2025 will receive the 10% indirect cost rate. Applications

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[1] Non-traditional partners include those defined under ORS 182.535 such as communities of color, communities experiencing lower incomes, communities experiencing health inequities, tribal communities, rural communities, remote communities, coastal communities, communities with limited infrastructure and other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes and adversely harmed by environmental and health hazards, including seniors, youth, and persons with disabilities.

submitted on or after January 27, 2025 will receive the new 15% federal indirect cost rate. The application is open for submissions from December 18, 2024 through May 29, 2025.

Applicants should refer to the table on page 1 of this document to determine OWEB award maximums by fire area. Funding requests may not exceed allowable maximum by fire area. Applicants applying for more than one fire area must break out costs in the budget to make clear how costs are to be allocated to each fire area (e.g., "post-fire assessment – Crazy Creek Fire", "post-fire assessment – Rail Ridge Fire").

For additional information about eligible costs and budget development, refer to OWEB's GoBig document.

Reporting Requirements
Progress reporting: One progress report will be due 12/31/25.

Project completion reporting: Grantees will be required to 1) report on any past restoration or fire resilience treatments that occurred on the project landscape and if and how those past treatments affected fire behavior and 2) report lessons learned from their experiences with technical assistance and engagement in the project area.

Grant Cycles and Application Process

Evaluation Process
Evaluation of grant applications will be done by OWEB staff through an expedited process. This is a non-competitive grant program and award decisions are to be made within approximately 2 weeks following application submission.

Timeline
The 2024 Immediate Wildfire Response grant application will open December 18, 2024. OWEB will accept applications on a rolling basis until 5 p.m. on May 29, 2025. The deadline to submit an application will be 5 p.m. on May 29, 2025. Applicants are encouraged to submit an application earlier than the deadline as needed and applications will be reviewed upon submission.

Applications
The expectation is that applications demonstrate local partner coordination of activities to leverage strengths and maximize efficiency and effectiveness of technical assistance work that will lead to long-term restoration in the fire impacted areas.

OWEB strongly recommends that applicants submit their grant applications at least 24 hours before the application deadline. OWEB's online grant applications include a verification step that will flag missing and incomplete information in the application. Verifying and submitting your grant application at least 24 hours in advance allows time for applicants to correct errors that are found during verification. All applications must be successfully submitted through OWEB's online grant application system by 5 pm on May 29, 2025. No exceptions will be made.

Applicants should carefully review all guidance and information (including iButtons) in the online grant applications. This review will help applicants confirm before submitting their application that all questions are answered completely, based on the guidelines included in the application, and all required uploads are provided.

Under this grant program, grantees will be required to complete progress reporting and submit a project completion report.

Additional Resources for Applicants

For additional information about applying for OWEB grants, see OWEB's Online Application Guidance. While not specific to the 2024 Immediate Wildfire Response Grant Program, this general guidance may provide helpful tips.

For information about grant budgets, getting access to OWEB's Grant Management System, understanding insurance requirements, or using OWEB's online applications, see the video resources.

For informatiton about the 2024 wildfire season and impacts, see the Oregon Wildfire Response and Recovery website httttps://wildfire.oregon.gov/.

For eligibility questions or other questions about the 2024 Immediate Wildfire Response Grant Program, please contact: Rachel Thompson, Post-fire Recovery Specialist, rachel.thompson@oweb.oregon.gov or 503-910-6433.