



Kate Brown, Governor



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ENHANCEMENT BOARD

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## **2021 Post-Fire Natural Resources Recovery OWEB Funding Request**

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### **Background**

The 2021 fire season in Oregon burned 817,782 acres of private, tribal, state, and federal lands. These wildfires followed a devastating fire season in 2020, which burned over one million acres in Oregon and resulted in the first-ever activation of the State's disaster recovery plan. The 2020 disaster recovery process identified many post-fire natural and cultural resource recovery needs that are common across wildfire impacted areas and aim to reduce risks to human life and safety, drinking water-source areas, and aquatic and upland habitat.

During the 2021 Legislative session, several agencies received funding to support post-fire natural resources recovery following the 2020 fire season. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) received \$19.75 million in General Funds to fund grants for riparian and upland restoration and floodplain restoration and reconnection in 2020 fire areas (along with some funding for administrative costs). The agency developed and is implementing three grant offerings to distribute this funding to local partners working to restore watersheds impacted by the 2020 fires.

### **2021 Post-Fire Recovery Actions**

Watersheds impacted by the 2021 fire season also require post-fire natural resources recovery actions. Partners from areas impacted by the Bootleg, Cougar Peak, Skyline Ridge, Elbow Creek, Fox Complex, and other fires, have expressed the need for funding assistance for this work. This funding request by OWEB will support grants for on-the-ground recovery actions in 2021 fire affected areas, including:

- Soil stabilization and erosion control;
- Early detection, and rapid-response treatment of invasive species;
- Replanting and re-seeding of burned areas;
- Instream and floodplain habitat restoration; and
- Culvert repair, among others.

### **2021 Post-Fire Recovery Funding Request**

OWEB requests \$5,586,091 in General Funds for 2021 post-fire natural resources recovery. This request includes \$5,000,000 for grants and \$586,091 for operational and administrative costs to support the grant program.