



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

ISSUE 1

Approval of the R&E Board-recommended Restoration and Enhancement Projects

BACKGROUND

This exhibit includes information on two topics that require Commission review and action.

(1) The approval of funding for projects recommended by the Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Board. (2) The appointment of two new Board members to the R&E Board.

The R&E program was created by the Oregon Legislature in 1989 to help fund fish restoration and enhancement projects throughout the state. The program is funded by a surcharge on sport and commercial fishing licenses and commercial poundage fees and is overseen by a seven-member citizen board made up of three ocean and inland fisheries (sport fishing) representatives, three representatives of the commercial salmon industry and one representative of the public. The R&E Board meets four times each biennium in various communities throughout the State to review applications for project funding, hear public testimony, act as liaisons between the program and the public, and to conduct other program business.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

Issue 1: Public comment on applications for funding is taken at R&E Board meetings, which are open to the public and are public meetings under the Oregon Public Meetings laws. Notice of upcoming meetings and the proposed agenda is provided on request, listed on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) website, and distributed via news release to statewide and local media.

Issue 2: ODFW solicits board recruitments via news release to statewide and local media and outreach to stakeholder groups.

Additionally, for both of these issues, there is an opportunity for public comment and testimony at the Commission meeting where the issues will be reviewed.

ANALYSIS

On September 30th, 2025, the R&E Board reviewed twelve project applications that were submitted for R&E funding. The R&E Board recommended funding six of the twelve projects submitted. The total amount for all recommended projects is \$882,002.00.

This is the second of four funding cycles for the 2025-2027 biennium. If the Commission adopts these recommendations, \$3,151,951.00 of the \$3,250,000.00 projected biennium funding available for the R&E Program will be allocated and only \$98,049.00 will remain available for additional projects.

A summary of the R&E projects recommended for funding is presented in Attachment 2, and a summary of all submitted projects is presented in Attachment 3.

OPTIONS FOR ISSUE 1:

1. Approve the R&E Board recommended projects.
2. Reject all projects.
3. Reject individual projects.

ISSUE 2

Appointment of Two New Restoration and Enhancement Board Representatives

ANALYSIS

As of January 1st, 2026, there will be two vacancies on the R&E Board: one representing ocean and inland recreational fisheries and one representing the commercial salmon industry. A total of seven candidates applied for the two open R&E Board positions; their interest forms can be found in Attachment 4.

To inform the recommendation, several ODFW staff reviewed the applications and ranked candidates based on their qualifications and the following criteria:

- Angling interests;
- Participation in fishing organizations;
- Familiarity with Oregon’s fish management programs;
- Understanding of ODFW and the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission;
- Contribution to diversity of the board;
- Availability for R&E Board duties;
- Interpersonal skills;
- Experience working with or representing the public;
- Experience with public service (boards, committees, etc.); and
- General “fit” with current Board members (e.g., area of expertise, location in state).

The R&E Board comprises seven members: three members represent ocean and inland recreational fisheries (sport fishing), three members represent the commercial salmon industry, and one member represents the public. When appointed, R&E Board members serve a 4-year

term that can be renewed for a total of eight years of representation on the R&E Board. As of January 1st, 2026, there will be one vacancy on the R&E Board to represent ocean and inland recreational fisheries, and one vacancy to represent the commercial salmon industry.

Recommendation for the Ocean and Inland Recreational Fishing / Sport Fishing Representative:

ODFW recommends that Steve Janego be appointed by the Commission to fill the vacant seat on the R&E Board to represent ocean and inland recreational fisheries. Mr. Janego is an avid angler who has lived in Oregon for the last 50 years and has fished for multiple species across the State including salmon and steelhead, trout, bass and panfish, halibut, and other ocean species. Steve currently lives in Philomath, and prior to that he lived in Sisters, where he served for 8 years as the Central Oregon representative on the Salmon and Trout Advisory Committee (STAC). Not only is Steve an avid angler, he also enjoys hunting and camping and is passionate about the outdoors in general. Steve believes in giving back to his community, he was a volunteer member on the Sisters Parks and Recreation board, and he has been a long-time volunteer with ODFW's Salmon Trout Enhancement Program where he gave his time to help as a teacher, a mentor, and a volunteer at local events. Steve spent 27 years as an I.T. specialist at Hewlett Packard where he led various working groups from around the world and following that he worked 10 years for St. Charles Health System in Central Oregon in various leadership roles. From his career in the I.T. field, his leadership roles in the medical field, and his extensive time spent as a volunteer, both with the STAC Board and the Sisters Parks and Recreation department, Steve understands the importance of group collaboration. Steve will represent the sport fishing constituents across Oregon very well, and we are fully supportive of Mr. Janego being appointed to the R&E Board.

As an alternate to Steve Janego, ODFW recommends that Karen Hans be appointed to fill the vacant seat on the R&E Board to represent Ocean and Inland recreational fisheries. Karen lives in Albany; she is an avid angler and has recently retired from ODFW.

Recommendation for the Commercial Salmon Industry Representative:

ODFW recommends that Tim VonSeggern be appointed by the Commission to fill the vacant seat on the R&E Board to represent the commercial salmon industry. Mr. VonSeggern lives in the coastal town of Nehalem and has been involved in commercial fisheries for a good part of his life. Tim has been a commercial gill net fisherman on the lower Columbia River for the last 25 years. Tim has a strong interest in improving handicap and ADA access for mobility impaired individuals, and he believes that public access for anglers across Oregon is a high priority. Tim has worked for the Portland Fire Bureau; he sits on the board for SEIU (Service Employees International Union) and is currently employed by the Oregon Youth Authority. Tim's experience and his connection with the Commercial Salmon Industry as an active gill net fisherman will serve him well as a member of the R&E Board, and ODFW is supportive of Mr. VonSeggern being appointed to the R&E Board.

OPTIONS FOR ISSUE 2:

1. Approve the staff recommendation for the R&E Board appointments.
2. Reject the staff recommendation for the R&E Board and direct ODFW to continue with an open recruitment to fill one or both of the vacant positions on the R&E Board.
3. Reject individual staff recommendations and appoint a different applicant (*note that there is only one commercial salmon industry applicant, so this would not be an option for that position*).

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: ISSUE 1

Option 1. Staff recommend approving the R&E Board recommended projects.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: ISSUE 2

Option 1. Staff recommend the appointment of Steve Janego as a Sport Fishing Representative on the R&E Board. Staff recommend appointing Tim VonSeggern as a Commercial Salmon Industry Representative on the R&E Board.

DRAFT MOTIONS:

Issue 1: I move to approve the six projects recommended by the R&E Board as set forth in Attachment 2.

Effective Date: December 12, 2025.

Issue 2: I move to appoint Steve Janego to a four-year term as a Sport Fishing Representative on the R&E Board and Tim VonSeggern to a four-year term as a Commercial Salmon Industry Representative on the R&E Board.

Effective Date: January 1, 2026.