



STAFF SUMMARY

Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) – Project Funding Approval and Board Member Appointment

Background

The Department is proposing to request the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission's approval of funding for ten Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Board-recommended projects and appointment of a new member to the R&E Board to represent ocean and inland recreational fishing interests.

Project approvals:

For this round of funding, The R&E board received 12 applications for funding and is recommending ten of those projects for approval by the Commission. All recommended projects provide direct benefits to sport anglers, commercial salmon gillnet fishermen, or commercial salmon troll fishermen across Oregon. Details of the 10 projects are available on the R&E Program's grant management website, which can be found by following this link and clicking the projects tab located in the upper left corner of the page;

<https://nrmp.dfw.state.or.us/RE/default.aspx?p=1>. Projects are also summarized here:

- Marr Pond Access Improvements – Upgrades the access road and adds lighting and security to ensure safer, more reliable angler access.
- Metolius Pond Solar Aeration – Installs a solar aerator to improve water quality, supporting better fishing opportunities for youth and anglers with disabilities.
- North Coast Equipment Purchase – Funds a brush mower and trailer to maintain habitat and hatchery grounds.
- Aldrich Point Boat Ramp Maintenance – Repairs dock decking, adds an ADA-compliant ramp, and improves parking to keep this high-use access point safe and functional.
- Camp Polk Acclimation Electrical Upgrade – Installs reliable, buried power to ensure consistent operation of the water pump that supports salmon and steelhead acclimation.
- NWWD Broodstock Facility Repairs – Fixes pumps, intakes, and infrastructure at multiple acclimation sites to maintain dependable broodstock operations across the district.
- St. Paul Ponds Water System Upgrade – Replaces leaking pipes and installs durable PVC lines and screens to improve water delivery and fish containment at the warmwater facility.
- Willamette Valley Channel Catfish Stocking – Purchases and stocks ~1,000 catchable catfish to create unique, easily accessible warmwater fishing opportunities.

- Duckworth Boat Motor Replacement – Replaces the outboard motor on a workboat essential for fisheries monitoring and habitat work in the North Willamette district.
- Roaring River Hatchery Egg Picker – Purchases an automated egg sorter to improve hatchery efficiency, fish health, and production reliability.

Board Member Appointment

The R&E Board consists of seven members that are appointed by the Commission: three members represent ocean and inland recreational fisheries, three members represent the commercial salmon industry, and one member represents the public. The term of office of a member of the Board is four years. A member of the Board is eligible to serve a total of two 4-year terms, which may be consecutive. One Board member will reach the end of their first 4-year term on December 16th, 2026. ODFW posted a recruitment notice to solicit applications to fill this position to represent ocean and inland recreational fisheries. Public notices were sent out through Department news releases and posted on the ODFW website. The results of this on-going recruitment will be presented to the Commission.

Public involvement to date

The Restoration and Enhancement Program provides opportunities for public involvement throughout its project review and approval process. R&E Board meetings are publicly noticed through Department news releases and posted on the ODFW website, where meeting materials are made available in advance for public review.

Members of the public may submit written comments or attend meetings either in person or virtually to provide testimony on proposed projects or broader program direction. The R&E Board most recently met in John Day on September 29th, 2026, where the recommended projects were reviewed in a public setting. There was no public comment submitted prior to or at the meeting.

Overview of proposed Commission action

The Commission would approve or deny the funding of R&E Board-recommended projects and approve or deny the appointment of one new Board member.