



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

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[www.oregon.gov/OWEB](http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB)



### NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

November 8, 2016

## Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Awards Nearly \$149,000 for Middle Crabtree and Upper Thomas Creek Riparian Restoration

*Board invests Salmon License Plate revenues in key restoration project*

### For More Information:

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(Ashland) – The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) selected the South Santiam Watershed Council to receive a Salmon License Plate grant at their October 25-26, 2016 Board Meeting.

Salmon License Plate revenues are generated from the extra fee Oregonians pay when they purchase Salmon Plates for their vehicles.

The grant, titled “Middle Crabtree and Upper Thomas Creek Riparian Restoration,” totals \$148,834 and will restore native vegetation on 25 acres adjacent to two South Santiam River tributaries that provide important spawning and rearing habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed spring Chinook Salmon and winter steelhead, which will benefit water quality in addition to improving fish habitat in Linn County.

“This project is a great investment of the state’s Salmon License Plate dollars,” says Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB’s executive director. “This investment benefits spring Chinook Salmon and winter Steelhead, while also supporting the local natural resource economy.”

In addition to the Middle Crabtree and Upper Thomas project, the OWEB Board selected three other projects to be awarded Salmon License Plate funding:

- Walker Creek Fish Passage Improvement – Siuslaw Watershed Council (Lane County) – a \$260,837 project to replace an undersized and failing culvert on Walker Creek in the Siuslaw watershed and restore passage for Coho Salmon to 1.5 miles of high-quality spawning and rearing habitat;
- Butcherknife Creek Culvert Replacement – Applegate Partnership (Josephine County) – a \$153,731 project to replace a fish passage barrier culvert with a 14'x36' bridge on Butcherknife Creek, a tributary to Waters Creek in the Applegate River watershed, which will restore access to more than 2.5 miles of cool water, "high value" Coho Salmon habitat;
- Fishers Bend Phase II Side Channel Restoration – Clackamas River Basin Council (Clackamas County) – a \$186,854 multi-stakeholder cooperative effort to create off-channel habitat for threatened salmonids on the lower Clackamas River, which is a priority migration corridor and rearing habitat for Endangered Species Act-listed salmon and steelhead.



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Salmon License Plate income totaled \$250,000 for the grant cycle, so each of the identified projects is only partially funded with license plate revenues. The rest comes from a combination of Lottery and federal funding.

In total, the OWEB Board awarded 80 grants totaling \$7,371,614 to local organizations statewide to support fish and wildlife habitat and water quality projects using Lottery, Salmon License Plate, and federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funding provided by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration at their October meeting. A listing of all awarded grants is available at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/GRANTS/docs/2016-Board-Awards.pdf>

For additional information about OWEB's grant programs, contact Eric Hartstein at [eric.hartstein@oregon.gov](mailto:eric.hartstein@oregon.gov).

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