

Restoration & Enhancement Program



2021-2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

R&E was established by the Oregon Legislature in 1989 to invigorate the state's commercial and recreational fisheries. Since then nearly \$70 million – raised from recreational fishing license fees and commercial salmon fees – have been invested.

HATCHERIES

32 hatcheries raise **50 million+** salmon, steelhead and trout annually

In response to audit findings in 2015, ODFW began targeting priority projects that directly address the deferred maintenance backlog at ODFW facilities. For the 2021-23 biennium, R&E awarded 2 bundle grants totaling \$1.44M for facility upkeep, including dam apron repairs at the Oregon Hatchery Resource Center, new fish pumps at Trask Hatchery, and a new fish hatchery truck for Oak Springs hatchery. An additional \$100,000 was also allocated to the hatchery program to analyze the effects of and measure the resilience to climate change on ODFW hatcheries.



ANGLER ACCESS

\$2,947,000

in 2021-2023 to make fishing better

ODFW focuses on providing consistent and accessible fishing experiences for all Oregonians. R&E-funded projects create paved pathways, new docks, fish cleaning stations, and restrooms that are ADA-compliant and user-friendly. In Walterville, an old hatchery pond was turned into a community fishing pond, and the City of La Grande parks department received funding to install a new vault toilet, ADA parking, and educational signage at Morgan Lake.

FISH POPULATION ENHANCEMENT

The R&E Board focuses on tangibly lifting fish populations to benefit anglers or facilitate improved angler experience. Access projects, screening, passage and monitoring projects all play a role. As do education, invasive fish removal, and habitat enhancement projects. Here are some examples of projects from the 2021-2023 biennium:

Education:

R&E awarded funds to the Marine Resources Program to create lifelike replicas of popular bottomfish species to be used to educate anglers on various identification techniques.

Habitat Improvement:

In Curry County, near Port Orford the Iron Head Property owned by ODFW, along with the neighboring property, was cleared of invasive Himalayan Blackberries and English Ivy. Native trees and shrubs were planted, along with the installation of roughly 600 feet of livestock fencing to exclude cows from the property and the riparian area on the Elk River.

Invasive Fish Removal:

In Southeast Oregon, Heart Lake was treated to remove invasive Brown Bullheads and Fathead Minnows. This work will restore this popular rainbow trout fishery in Lake County.

In 2021-23,
every R&E dollar
awarded leveraged



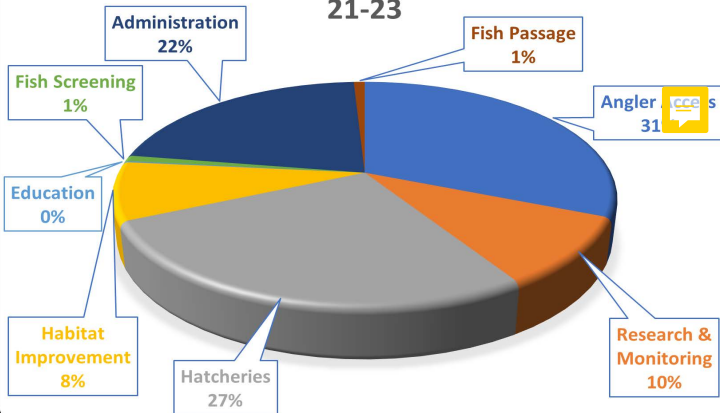
\$1.22

in matching
contributions

The need continues. While R&E awards in 2021-23 addressed **\$1.44 million** in deferred maintenance at state facilities, a backlog of at least **\$25 million** remains.

PERCENT OF AWARDS BY PROJECT TYPE

21-23



48.5% of awards went to Restoration and 51.5% were designated for Enhancement, meeting the statutory requirement for balance of funding.

6% of revenues and 6.7% of benefits were related to commercial fishing, meeting the statutory requirement to spend in proportion to revenues.

Fishing creates **23,600 jobs**
and generates **\$730 million**
in income for businesses.

Source: https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/budget/docs/13-15_budget_bid_forms/635_ODFW_Capital_Improvements_Round_2.pdf

SIGNIFICANT NEED INSPIRED PROGRAM

When R&E began, the state's hatcheries were more than 50 years old and in disrepair. In many cases fish runs were low and starting to be listed under the Endangered Species Act. More people were coming to Oregon and fishing was fueling an increase in tourism. R&E was designed to correct a "legacy of neglect."

Numerous examples from this last biennium still proved the need. For instance, Trask Hatchery in Tillamook County required a new fish pump for loading and moving fish into trucks as the old unit was no longer operable. R&E provided funds for this new pump, while also supporting other hatchery projects to increase or improve fish production.

R&E BENEFITS

Allocations are made with anglers in mind. The R&E Board prioritizes projects that leverage money from other sources to get the greatest benefit from its budget. These allocations:

- Support a commercial fishing industry that is vital to coastal economies
- Improve fishing opportunities and access to fishing areas for everyone across the state of Oregon.
- Restore aquatic resources, which enhance fish populations

R&E'S BOARD OF DIRECTORS

A seven-member board, appointed by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, includes three sport fishing representatives, three commercial salmon fishing representatives, and one public representative. The Board holds 2 public meetings per year to:

- Distribute funds to balance restoration of existing infrastructure and enhancement of fishing and fisheries
- Ensure funding benefits the sport and commercial interests in proportion to generated revenues
- Make good use of angler revenues

Recommendations are forwarded to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission for final approval.

The full version of this report is available online at www.dfw.state.or.us/fish/RE/history under the "R&E Legislative reports" heading.

