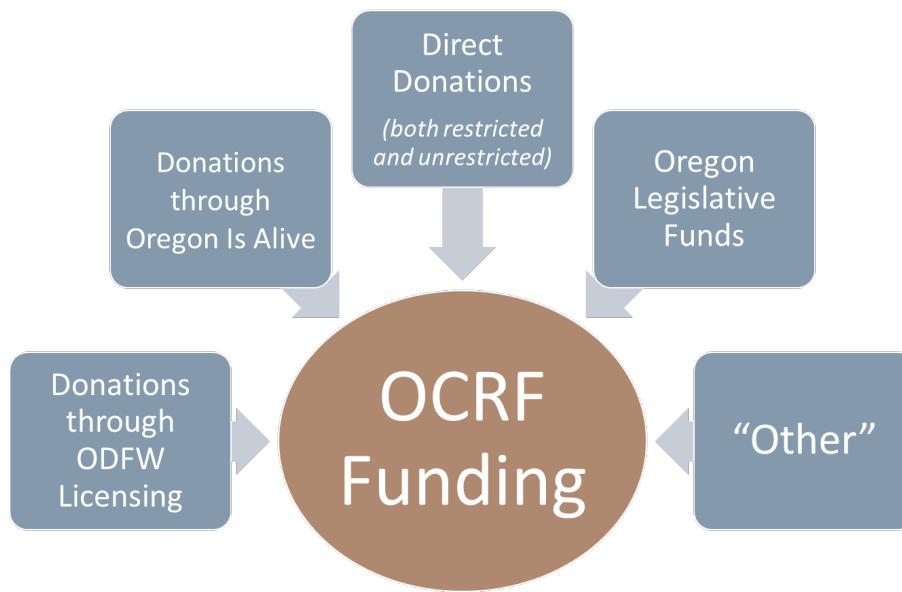




## Funding Update Spring 2022

### Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF)

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) was legislatively created in 2019 as a new way for Oregonians to support a broad range of conservation and recreation efforts throughout the state. Specifically, OCRF supports work that protects and enhances the species and habitats identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and creates new opportunities for wildlife watching, urban conservation, community science, and other wildlife-associated recreation. The OCRF has been a successful example of the power of a public-private partnership, where state General Fund dollars have been used to leverage and match private donations from Oregonians (Figure 1).



**FIGURE 1: Types of Funding Sources that encompass the main OCRF account**

**Donations through ODFW Licensing:** These are funds that are donated as part of the ODFW electronic licensing system through upwards of 700 voluntary donation option when individuals purchase hunt or fishing related tags or endorsements. Donations tend to peak around key times when hunting and fishing tags/endorsements occur. **Cumulative Yearly Donations to date is \$275,959 (2020/2021)**

**Donations through Oregon is Alive:** These are funds that are collected through a cooperative agreement with the Oregon Wildlife Foundation and the OCRF public facing website (OregonisAlive.org). There has been roughly 100 donations range in size from a few dollars to several hundred dollars. **Cumulative Donations \$71,471 (2020/2021)**

**Direct Donations:** These funds are donated directly to the OCRF accounts from private individuals, trade organizations, businesses, among other groups. Donations are either restricted (greater than \$10,000)

that can be directed towards a specific project, or unrestricted (less than \$10,000) that are used for general OCRF project funding. There has been roughly 50 unrestricted donations and 19 restricted donations (2020/2021). **Cumulative unrestricted donations of \$16,573.45 and restricted donations of \$582,832 (2020/2021)**

**Oregon Legislatively Appropriated Funds:** In 2022, the OCRF received substantial changes to its operational framework and funding structure because of shifts in State General fund allocations and priorities.

- The OCRF account received a total of \$6 million, with \$5 million from the General Fund for use on drought related work (\$1 million of which will be used for broader OCRF mission related work) as well as \$1 million for outdoor recreation related work from federal funds associated with COVID relief. (Table 1)
  
- The OCRF program became part of implementing the Private Forest Accord (PFA) through the creation of a new subaccount of the OCRF, new long-term funding for mitigating the impacts of forestry on aquatic ecosystems (\$10 million initial allocation, additional ~ \$2.5 million yearly allocation for subsequent 20-50 years), and a new PFA Advisory Committee affiliated with the OCRF Advisory Committee. However, these funds are not available for use by the wider OCRF Advisory Committee or the wider missions of the OCRF granting program (beyond forest-associated aquatic ecosystems).

**TABLE 1: Funds allocated to the OCRF main account during the 2022 Legislative Session**

2022 Bill Number	Funding Level	Legislative Intent
HB 5202 (Section 400)	- \$1M General Fund	Removes the E-board funding from HB 2171 (2021): this was monies set-up for donor matching.
HB 5202 (Section 401)	+ \$5M General Fund	Provides funding as part of the State’s drought relief package – monies are directly deposited in OCRF account, do not have match requirements, and can carry over into the next biennium
HB 5202 (Section 95)	+ \$1M* “confirms” appropriation from 2021 session	Provides funding as part of the Federal CARES act state allocation – monies to be spent by December 31 <sup>st</sup> , 2024

**“Other”:** There are also several pending sources of federal, private, and legal settlement funding that could be directed to the OCRF in part over in the coming months and years. These additional funds are likely to be programed as grants, which will vary in geographic region, scope of work, and scale of awards. The OCRF is committed to providing more information as it becomes available (2020/2021).