

Restoration & Enhancement Program

30 years of strengthening fishing



2017-2019 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

At a new children's pond in Prineville, children catch their first rainbow trout. While at a Benton County hatchery, winter steelhead eggs incubate and volunteers rear the smolts before releasing them into the Alsea River. Projects in streams throughout the state restore habitat, allowing fish to pass easily to spawning grounds. All of this thanks to investments by the ODFW Fish Restoration & Enhancement program (R&E).

R&E was established by the Oregon Legislature in 1989 to invigorate the state's commercial and recreational fisheries. Since then some \$60 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 R&E-supported hatcheries. For the 2017-19 biennium, R&E awarded a bundle grant of \$2.1M for hatchery repairs, including modernizing hatcheries, repairing aging raceways, improving water efficiency and facilitating improvements to both the quality and quantity of released fish.

ANGLER ACCESS

\$721,000 in 2017-2019 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 Reedsport, there's a new cleaning station at the new boat ramp, while Union County has new fishing platforms. Volunteers in Jefferson installed a new boat ramp. Parking areas throughout the state were also improved.

FISH POPULATION ENHANCEMENT

The R&E Board focuses on tangibly lifting fish populations to benefit anglers or facilitate delisting. Fish habitat, screening, passage and monitoring projects all play a role. Here are some examples from 2017-19:

Brownell Dam removal: R&E awarded \$68K to remove one of the oldest and highest-priority fish passage barriers on the Umatilla River. In all, R&E awarded nearly \$250K to improve fish passage in 2017-19 across Oregon.

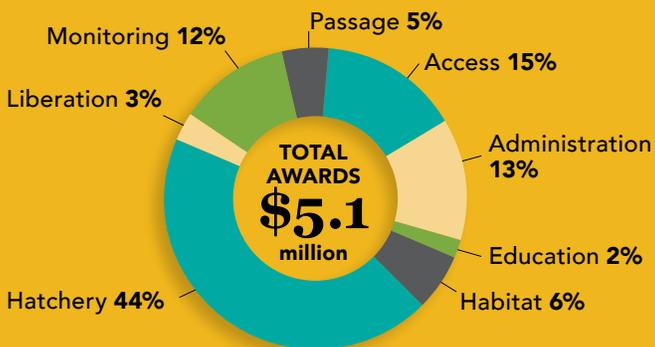
Filling a funding gap at the **Coquille Working Landscapes project:** With \$200K in R&E funds, it was possible to move forward with work on habitat and passage to improve fish access to 1,700 acres of wetland habitats and 287 acres of restored wetlands. As a result, it's likely that 3,000-5,000 additional adult Coho will return each year to the Coquille basin. R&E awarded nearly \$285K to improve fish habitat this biennium.

Wildfire impact study: On the south coast, R&E funding provided staff and equipment to assess the impacts from recent wildfires, as well as study the movement of hatchery fish to improve hatchery operations. For 2017-19, R&E awarded more than \$588K for fish monitoring, as well as research to improve understanding of fish populations.

In 2017-19,
every R&E dollar
awarded leveraged
\$4.60
in matching
contributions

The need continues. While R&E awards in 2017-19 addressed **\$1.5 million** in deferred maintenance at state hatcheries, a backlog of at least **\$25 million** remains.

Awards by Project Type 2017-19



51% of awards went to Restoration and 49% were designated for Enhancement, meeting the statutory requirement for balance of funding.

9% of revenues and 11% 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 proved the need. For instance, Cedar Creek Hatchery in Tillamook County required significant repairs, including replacing a rotting pipeline that could have broken and ruined the entire hatchery production. R&E repaired and modernized this and other hatcheries, while also supporting habitat improvements to protect crucial spawning areas and increase natural fish production.

R&E BENEFITS

Allocations are made with anglers in mind. The R&E Board also 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
- 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 3-4 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.

