**NEWS – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Awards Nearly $7 Million in Restoration Grants**

*Awards Include $250,000 in Salmon License Plate Revenues*

 **For More Information:**

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(John Day) – The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) awarded 47 grants totaling $6,884,425 in grants to local organizations statewide to support fish and wildlife habitat and water quality projects at their October 27-28, 2015 Board meeting.

“These investments will improve habitat for Sage Grouse, Coho Salmon, Steelhead and other species, while also improving water quality and supporting the local natural resource economy,” says Meta Loftsgaarden, OWEB’s executive director. Grants are funded across Oregon, primarily in the state’s rural areas.

Funding for these projects comes from three primary sources – the Oregon Lottery, Salmon License Plate revenues and Federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery funds. A listing of all awarded grants is available at: <http://www.oregon.gov/OWEB/docs/board/2015/2015_Board-funded-projects.pdf>

Specifically, the OWEB Board selected four projects to receive a portion ($62,500 each) of their award from Salmon License Plate revenues. These revenues come from Oregonians who purchase Salmon license Plates for their vehicles. Projects include:

* Fivemile-Bell restoration – Siuslaw Watershed Council (Douglas County) – a $300,000 project to reconstruct stream channels to increase Coho Salmon habitat complexity;
* East Fork Millicoma Oxbow Reconnection and Habitat Restoration – Coos Watershed Association (Coos County) – a $1.26 million project to reconnect over 16 miles and restore stream functions to support Chinook Salmon, Coho Salmon and Steelhead populations;
* Deer Creek Floodplain Enhancement Project – McKenzie Watershed Council (Lane County) – a $118,580 project that will place large wood in Deer Creek to increase the stream’s complexity and reconnect the stream to the surrounding floodplain, improving habitat for Chinook Salmon and Bull Trout;

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* Oxbow Dredge Mining Restoration - Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs (Grant County) – a $525,000 project that will improve Chinook Salmon and Steelhead habitat by reconnecting the Middle Fork John Day River to its floodplain and planting streamside (riparian) vegetation.

Since 1999, the Oregon Lottery has provided over $500 million to OWEB’s grant program that helps restore, maintain and enhance Oregon’s watershed along with additional investments from Salmon License Plate revenues. Combined, the Lottery has earned over $9 billion for watershed enhancements, public education, state parks and economic development. For more information about the Oregon Lottery visit [www.oregonlottery.org](http://www.oregonlottery.org)

For additional information about OWEB’s grant programs, contact Eric Hartstein at eric.hartstein@oweb.state.or.us.

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