Oregon Wetland Program Plan

2022 – 2026

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Oregon Department of State Lands

Aquatic Resource Management Program

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Enhancing State and Tribal Programs (ESTP) Initiative for Wetland Programs

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Regulation and management of aquatic resources falls under numerous agencies in Oregon. With the goal of developing a comprehensive Plan, DSL worked with our partners to identify various program's wetland goals, objectives and strategies. DSL continues to work within the original plan's framework to identify specific actions and activities for the 2022-2026 planning period.

Introduction

Oregon has approximately 1.4 million acres of wetlands, over 100,000 stream miles, 1,400 named lakes and an additional 3,800 ponds and reservoirs. Although historical loss of natural resources has taken its toll, Oregon has a more recent history of protecting its water and land resources. Through landmark statutes passed in 1967, the Oregon Legislative Assembly recognized that the protection, conservation, and best use of the water resources of the state is vital to the economy and well-being of the state and its people. The primary state law that authorizes the regulation of activities within the waters of the state is the Oregon Removal-Fill Law (ORS 196.795-990), which is administered by DSL.

Oregon has a no net loss of wetland goal and is required to "maintain a stable resource base of wetlands," to "encourage wetland restoration and creation," and to "offset losses of the functions and values of the water resources" of the state. In 1989, the Department of State Lands' wetlands program was established by statute through a comprehensive wetlands conservation bill. DSL's Aquatic Resources Management Program is responsible for issuing removal-fill permits, developing and maintaining the Statewide Wetland Inventory, providing wetland planning assistance, developing standards and tools, and providing public information and training.

In Oregon, many natural resource programs' requirements, decisions, and actions affect aquatic resources. Thus, effectively managing Oregon's aquatic resources requires extensive collaboration and partnering between programs that have varying natural resource directives and goals. In addition to DSL's programs, the primary regulatory and nonregulatory state programs and their requirements and strategies to protect, restore and manage Oregon's wetlands include:

- Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) administers the 401 Water Quality Certification program. DEQ's Oregon's Water Quality Monitoring Strategy and monitoring programs provide environmental information necessary to support resource management and water quality policies, standards and permits to protect the quality of Oregon's environment.

- Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) Habitat Resources Program and Conservation Program include in-water timing guidelines, habitat mitigation recommendations, fish passage and fish screening requirements, fish habitat distribution and barriers mapping, and scientific take permits. ODFW's Oregon Conservation Strategy is an overarching state strategy for protecting and enhancing fish and wildlife and their habitats.

- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is a leader in the conservation of Oregon's natural resources by helping Oregonians take care of streams, rivers, wetlands, and natural areas. OWEB administers the state's Watershed Enhancement Program that includes acquisition and restoration grants funded through the Oregon Lottery, supporting local watershed councils, and development of strategic action plans. OWEB coordinates The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds, which emphasizes the importance of monitoring the status of environmental factors that affect watersheds and habitat quality.

- Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) administers Oregon's 19 Statewide Planning Goals that include: Goal 5 requires local protection programs for significant freshwater wetlands, Goal 16 prohibits development in 98% of the remaining estuarine wetlands, and Goal 17 requires protection for major marshes along Oregon's coastal shore lands. Less directly, Goals 6 and 7 may address wetland management for water quality and flood management purposes.

- Oregon Water Resource Department's (OWRD) mission is to assure sufficient and sustainable water supplies and responsible water management through restoring and protecting stream flows and watersheds, requiring Water-Use and Stored-Water permits, and through Oregon's Integrated Water Resource Strategy.

- Oregon's Indian Tribal communities consist of nine federally recognized Tribes whose Tribal governments manage natural resources in reservation or trust lands that comprise over 875,000 acres, or 1.4 percent of land within Oregon's boundaries. In addition, the Ft. McDermitt Paiute Shoshone Tribe in Nevada has some reservation lands in Oregon.

- Oregon Parks and Recreation Department's (OPRD) natural resource management objectives include protecting and restoring native ecosystems and cultural resources. The Department administers the state Scenic Waterways Program that provides protection for special rivers and adjacent lands, manages state park lands, and enforces the 1967 Beach Bill, which providesprotection and preservation of natural resource values found on the ocean shore.

- Oregon Department of Forestry's (ODF) administers the Oregon Forest Practices Act that sets standards on all nonfederal lands for any commercial activity involving harvesting trees on forestlands. The Department develops and implements a ten-year State Forests Monitoring Program Strategic Plan and regional state forests management plans to achieve management goals.

- Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Natural Resources Program Area addresses water quality and natural resource conservation on agricultural lands through the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program and the Soil Water and Conservation District Program, which provides technical assistance and grants. ODA, DSL, ODFW, along with interested stakeholders developed the Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance (ADCM) Program to maintain eligible agricultural channels while ensuring protection of wetlands, waterways, and fish and wildlife habitats. The Native Plant Conservation Program works to conserve native plant diversity.

Over the past 30 years, DSL with its partners have built the capacity of wetland regulation, planning, and restoration programs within the state, largely through the assistance of US Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Wetland Program Development Grant (WPDG) Program. For example, since the last plan was released in 2017, DSL has been awarded or completed several WPDG's including one that further refined and developed the Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment (ORWAP) protocol and framework for aquatic resource compensatory mitigation. That grant enabled DSL to add 100 additional sample sites to a new statistical dataset to improve the reference site data that provides the basis for ORWAP scores. Another WPDG covered several interdependent projects that enabled final development of and transition to DSL's current mitigation program that focuses on a functions-based, watershed-scale approach for aquatic resources and completed efforts to develop a function assessment for streams. DSL is currently wrapping up another grant that is developing a monitoring framework to evaluate mitigation program effectiveness, refining the Aquatic Resources Mitigation Framework (ARMF) training plan, and developing the training tools necessary to implement the plan. In addition, the project also addressing the need to update, modify, and maintain DSL's three map viewer tools and mitigation portal.

In addition to the multiple state agency and program directives, there are numerous federal agencies and programs that affect Oregon's aquatic resources. Thus, the Oregon Wetland Program Plan ("Plan") has a range of management activities and should be considered a work in progress that will be revisited and revised as needed. The Plan provides a framework and direction over the next five years for the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL) and its state, federal, and Tribal partners to guide future Wetland Program Development Grant applications to build, strengthen, and improve the state's ability to better protect and manage wetlands and other aquatic resources.

List of Acronyms

ADCM	Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance Program
ADV	Abandoned and Derelict Vessel Program
ARM	Aquatic Resources Management Program
ARMF	Aquatic Resource Mitigation Framework
BLM	US Bureau of Land Management
COE	US Army Corps of Engineers
DEQ	Department of Environmental Quality
DLCD	Department of Land Conservation and Development
DSL	Department of State Lands
EPA	US Environmental Protection Agency
GIS	Geographic Information System
LAS	Land Administration System Database
LWI	Local Wetlands Inventory
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NWCA	National Wetlands Condition Assessment
NWI	National Wetlands Inventory
OCMP	Oregon Coastal Management Program
ODA	Oregon Department of Agriculture
ODF	Oregon Department of Forestry
ODFW	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
ODOT	Oregon Department of Transportation
OPRD	Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
ORWAP	Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment Protocol
OWEB	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
OWLS	Oregon Water and Land Stewardship Database
OWRD	Oregon Water Resources Department
PMEP	Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership
SFAM	Stream Function Assessment Method
SSNERR	South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve
SWI	Statewide Wetland Inventory
SWMP	System Wide Monitoring Program
TMDL	Total Maximum Daily Load
USFS	US Forest Service
WPDG	Wetland Program Development Grant

Core Element: Monitoring and Assessment

Goal: To guide and coordinate statewide monitoring and assessment efforts to improve the DSL's ability to sustainably manage and conserve Oregon's wetlands.

Objective: Develop and maintain a wetland monitoring and assessment coordinated framework for Oregon, to monitor the status of wetlands in the state of Oregon consistent with *Elements of a State Water Monitoring and Assessment Program for Wetlands* (EPA 2006) by using EPA's three-tier approach, and to provide decision makers with the best possible information on the extent, type, and health of our state's wetlands and the ecosystem services they provide.

Action (a): Develop and maintain a wetland monitoring and assessment coordinated framework for Oregon					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Collaborate with state and federal aquatic resource partners to identify mutual data needs and uses, shared goals and objectives, and program decisions and environmental outcomes that would benefit from a statewide wetland monitoring and assessment program					
• Evaluate and develop monitoring standards, methods, protocols that best serve the monitoring objectives of the state	X	X	X	X	X
• Work toward integrating wetland monitoring efforts with other aquatic monitoring efforts	X	X	X	X	X
• Continue to develop and improve effectiveness of monitoring methods	X	X	X	X	X
South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR) staff will lead and participate in various wetland monitoring and assessment advisory groups (e.g., DSL workgroups, NERR workgroups, Wasson Creek Restoration Advisory Group, Coos Watershed Association) to provide input on and recommendations about wetland characteristics, processes, monitoring protocols, and funding opportunities	X	X	X	X	X

Activity	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
SSNERR will continue to collect water level data to better understand how sea level rise will affect tidal wetlands:					
• Use the Reserve's local geodetic control network to determine precise elevations of the water level sensors at all water quality stations of the System-Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) operated by the Reserve as well as groundwater wells installed in tidal wetlands	X	X	X	X	X
• Quantify changes in tidal inundation regimes at key tidal wetlands in the Coos estuary using long-term water level data from NOAA's tide stations, SWMP stations, tribally managed water quality monitoring stations, and site-specific groundwater wells	X	X	X	X	X
• Maintain groundwater wells and collect groundwater level and salinity data at Sentinel Site stations to characterize tidal wetland groundwater level and salinity regimes and quantify changes	X	X	X	X	X
•					
SSNERR will continue to characterize sedimentation and vertical accretion rates and changes to surface elevations in Coos estuary tidal wetlands:					
• Collect sediment dynamics data at existing and newly established sites to quantify tidal wetlands surface elevation and vertical accretion rates in the Coos estuary, including at Sentinel Site stations in the South Slough	X	X	X	X	X
• Use the Reserve's local geodetic control network to determine precise elevations of wetland surfaces and deep rod surface elevation tables	X	X	X	X	X
SSNERR will continue to characterize tidal wetlands plant composition, cover, and density at the Reserve's Sentinel Site stations to evaluate relationships between tidal wetland plant community characteristics and water quality, elevation, groundwater level, sedimentation, vertical accretion, and tide level data:					
• Collect percent cover, shoot density, and elevation data associated with emergent marsh plant communities, eelgrass beds, and forested wetlands at Sentinel Site stations	X	X	X	X	X
• Additionally, collect shrub and tree data at forested wetland sites	X	X	X	X	X
SSNERR will monitor wetlands at various stages of restoration (e.g., pre-restoration, post-restoration near term and long term) to assess differences in wetland quality and restoration effectiveness	X	X	X	X	X

Activity	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
SSNERR will map the presence and extent of invasive species impacting Reserve managed wetlands: • Use data to map the presence of invasive species affecting or threatening the Reserve, assess management effectiveness and identify data gaps • Utilize invasive species partnerships to support creating maps • Engage interns and volunteers to assist staff with mapping and ground-truthing as part of their job-training experience			 X X X	 X X X	 X X X
Continue utilizing DEQ's Monitoring Strategy for Oregon's Waters - An Inter-Agency Approach, (Oregon Stream Team, 2017) as a statewide water monitoring approach and tool for setting priorities until superseded by an updated strategy	X	X	X	X	X

Action (b): Continue wetland mapping efforts and development of Level 1 Landscape Assessments and tools

Activity	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Participate in the National Wetland Mapping Consortium, which strives to support the management of wetland resources through enhanced wetland mapping and monitoring	X	X	X	X	X
Collaborate with and support the Institute for Natural Resources, the Wetlands Conservancy, and Oregon State University in the continued development of the Oregon Explorer to integrate and share wetland information and provide online wetland tools	X	X	X	X	X
Create a statewide Esri GIS dataset representing the study areas for all wetland and waters delineation and determination records in coordination with Lane Council of Governments; display layer on the Statewide Wetlands Inventory	X	X	X		
Conduct Status and Trends studies: • Complete the report Wetland and Land Use Change in the Willamette Valley: 2005 - 2020	 X				
SSNERR will work towards assessing changes to habitats in the South Slough watershed (coastal ecological features including landcover and land use) as compared to 2016 baseline maps, using National Estuarine Research Reserve system standard protocols.		X	X	X	X

Action (c): Development and refinement of Level 2 Rapid Assessment methods and tools					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Modify SFAM, or otherwise develop a function assessment method, for tidally influenced rivers			X	X	X
Complete the new Wetland Assessment for Planning in Oregon (WAPO) that is an off-site wetland assessment method to be conducted during development of local wetland inventories	X	X			

Action (d): Develop Level 3 Intensive Site Assessment methods and tools					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
SSNERR will work with partners, including the Pacific Northwest Coastal Blue Carbon Working Group, to quantify carbon stocks and characterize ecosystem drivers in estuarine wetland habitats across the Pacific Northwest	X	X	X		

Core Element: Regulatory

Goal: To avoid and minimize wetland losses, preserve wetland functions, and replace unavoidable or unauthorized losses with sustainable wetlands of at least equal size and functionality.

Objective: Continue development of strong and effective state regulatory programs by efficiently utilizing regulations, policies and technological advances; collaborating and streamlining; improving mitigation successes; developing tools; improving data management to maximize efficiency and assist in decision-making; strengthening enforcement efforts; providing outreach; and tracking and evaluating program activities and environmental results.

Action (a): More effectively utilize regulations, policies and technological advances to improve program effectiveness					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Complete the interagency (state/federal) development and implementation of Oregon's Aquatic Resource Mitigation Framework (ARMF) for streams, which includes a functions-based, watershed-scale approach	X	X			
Implement a Land Administration System (LAS) replacement solution that improves customer service, increases efficiency, enables data confidence and true agency integration, and modernizes information technology. Replacement solution is to be titled the Oregon Land and Water Stewardship (OWLS) database	X	X	X	X	X
Pursue an updated fee structure for DSL's removal-fill permits and wetland delineation reviews	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to develop an abandoned and derelict vessel (ADV) program that supports statewide response to the prevention of and a response to ADV issues, contributes to an interagency coordination plan, and is not funded by the Common School Fund	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to develop a sustainable strategy for responding to and managing long term camping on state-owned lands and waterways	X	X	X	X	X

Activity	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
SSNERR staff will lead training sessions with partners as requested on wetland processes, restoration techniques, and associated effectiveness monitoring protocols for DSL, COE and other wetland regulatory staff members and restoration practitioners	X	X	X	X	X
Develop and implement outreach and communication plans for DSL's Aquatic Resource Management (ARM) Program, which will include efforts that result in increased awareness/customers for technical assistance services and increased stewardship of state-owned waterways regarding wetlands identification, regulations, inventories, planning and conservation, and increased health and safety of state-owned waterways	X	X	X	X	X
Implement DSL's ARM Program staff training plan	X	X	X	X	X
Oregonians can use the Pacific Marine and Estuarine Partnership's (PMEP) 50% exceedance mapping, defined as the West Coast USA Current and Historical Estuary Extent layer, to determine where removal-fill permits maybe needed in tidally influenced waters and wetlands		X	X		

Action (b): Coordinate and collaborate among agencies and programs to support program goals and streamline efforts

Activity	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Continue to develop and maintain clear guidelines for roles, responsibilities, and procedures for review of permits for activities that require approval from more than one state/tribal agency	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to identify opportunities to streamline permit procedures and forms • DSL will develop and implement General Permits for activities that are similar in nature or recurring and have predictable outcomes and effects	X	X	X	X	X
Provide support and technical input to the COE on federal Clean Water Act related issues	X	X	X	X	X
Support the Governor's Regulatory Streamlining and Simplification Roadmap (developed in 2012) to improve regulatory effectiveness	X	X	X	X	X

Activity	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026
Support the objectives, critical issues and recommended actions outlined in Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy, a framework for better understanding and meeting instream and out-of-stream water needs, including water quantity, water quality, and ecosystem needs	X	X	X	X	X
Conduct monthly interagency Kaizen meetings as a coordination tool and to provide comment and feedback to prospective applicants for large, complex, or controversial projects	X	X	X	X	X
Support the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) voluntary restoration grant programs through participation on review teams, reporting, and permit streamlining for habitat improvement projects	X	X	X	X	X
Support the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds by participating in inter-agency discussions, supporting strategies and policies for salmon recovery and watershed restoration, and contributing to biennial reports	X	X	X	X	X
Work in partnership with the Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) to ensure Oregon's coastal and ocean resources are managed, conserved, and developed consistently with statewide planning goals	X	X	X	X	X
Update the interagency (EPA, COE, DSL) Wetland Delineation Report Guidance	X	X			
Work in partnership with ODA, ODFW and interested stakeholders to develop and implement the Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance Program (ADCM) to maintain eligible agricultural channels while ensuring protection of wetlands, waterways, and fish and wildlife habitats	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to develop statewide TMDL responses, including siting criteria for mitigation to replace water quality functions and avoidance of wetlands with high water quality functions in areas that have water quality limited streams	X	X	X	X	X
Maintain support for the Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) to accurately identify wetlands and waters at risk of impacts from transportation related infrastructure improvements	X	X	X	X	X
Develop and maintain partner relationships with local, state and federal natural resource agencies and Non-Governmental Organizations: • Conduct interagency cross training of staff on regulatory authorities, policies, and procedures	X	X	X	X	X
• Regularly review and update memoranda of understanding with other agencies and organizations	X	X	X	X	X

Action (c): Improve mitigation success and ensure assessments and mitigation lead to desired environmental results					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Examine the effectiveness of DSL's removal-fill compensatory mitigation program	X	X	X	X	X
DSL will track and review monitoring reports for permittee-responsible mitigation	X	X	X	X	X
Evaluate and revise, as needed, DSL's Routine Monitoring Guidance that provides a standard way to collect and report data for wetland mitigation monitoring, including:					
• Refine post-construction monitoring protocols to create consistency for monitoring of compensatory mitigation sites	X	X			
• Evaluate the routine wetland compensatory mitigation performance standards developed in 2009 to determine their effectiveness in obtaining functional replacement	X	X			
Develop and implement a mitigation framework for stream impacts					
• Develop and implement a framework for developing performance standards and monitoring for stream compensatory mitigation projects based on various criteria	X	X	X	X	X
• Develop and implement a stream mitigation accounting method	X	X	X	X	X
Evaluate and improve strategies for long-term protection and management of mitigation sites including legacy mitigation banks	X	X	X	X	X
Continue coordination between DSL and the COE to ensure the approved In-Lieu-Fee program is working successfully	X	X	X	X	X
Encourage establishment of new mitigation banks throughout the state	X	X	X	X	X

Action (d): Develop or refine standards and tools to more effectively and consistently administer regulatory activities and provide decision support					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Maintain DSL's internal database: • Prepare for and implement a transfer of data from LAS to DSL's new Oregon Water and Land Stewardship (OWLS) database	X	X			
Design and implement permit application/authorization workflows in the OWLS database that improve effectiveness and consistency	X	X	X		
Implement new features in the OWLS database to track gains/losses of wetland and stream functions	X	X	X		
Maintain the interagency mitigation portal on the Oregon Explorer website to provide data and tools to support wetland and stream mitigation decisions	X	X	X	X	X
DSL will continue to enhance and update Oregon's Statewide Wetlands Inventory (SWI): • Create a statewide Esri geographic information system (GIS) dataset representing the study areas for all DSL wetland and waters delineation and determination records	X	X	X		
• Maintain and support continued development of on-line wetland SWI mapper that includes data fromthe NWI, Local Wetlands Inventories, and DSL-approved compensatory mitigation sites, delineations as new data becomes available	X	X	X	X	X
• Continue outreach to local governments on the benefits of the updated SWI	X	X	X	X	X
Integrate climate change considerations into program policies and operations to increase resiliency	X	X	X	X	X
DSL will develop an ORWAP web-based training platform for consultants and restoration specialists	X	X			
DSL will develop a web-based training platform for the field portion of SFAM for consultants and restoration specialists	X	X			

Action (e): Promote and assist in development of local government wetland planning solutions and tools					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Coordinate with the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) and local governments on their natural resource planning and local protection programs					
• Continue working with local governments on development of Local Wetlands Inventories (LWIs)	X	X	X	X	X
• Work with local governments on improved evaluation for opportunities to restore wetlands, including guidance and exploring rule changes in Division 86 to include this task in the development of LWIs.	X	X	X		
• DSL will revise the tools and criteria used by local governments to determine locally significant wetlands through Division 86 rulemaking	X	X			
Aid the Governor's Regional Solutions Teams to support community development needs and solutions by focusing and integrating agency's resources on regional environmental priorities	X	X	X	X	X
Support Oregon Solutions whose mission is to develop solutions to community-based problems through collaborative efforts	X	X	X	X	X

Action (f): Improve data management to maximize efficiency and assist in decision-making					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Continue to evaluate and refine data collection and database infrastructures to meet program goals and objectives • Improve the ability to perform database queries and reporting in OWLS	X	X	X		
• Implement new capabilities in OWLS, including a customer portal for access to information by the public and for submittal of information to the Department, and a GIS interface	X	X	X	X	X

Action (g): Improve and strengthen enforcement efforts to ensure replacement of unavoidable or illegal losses					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Complete the Removal-Fill Enforcement Guide for staff use.	X				
Continue to conduct compliance checks for specific permits for known compliance issues, and for complaints received for unauthorized activities; evaluate and improve enforcement and compliance mechanisms to deter violations and monitor compliance	X	X	X	X	X
Continue coordination with Oregon State Police to assist in enforcement in the field	X	X	X	X	X
Continue coordination between DSL, the COE and EPA on selected strategic enforcement cases	X	X	X	X	X
Develop GIS related tools to assist in enforcement investigations and contested case proceedings	X	X	X	X	X
Improve the ability to perform enforcement-related workflows, tracking, and reporting in OWLS	X	X	X		
Utilize DSL's LAS/OWLS database's enforcement module to track enforcement cases, particularly related to timely resolution and effective tracking of outcomes	X	X	X	X	X
Statistically monitor permits for compliance with the type of authorization issued and specific conditions described in the authorization	X	X	X	X	X

Action (h): Provide outreach, education, and technical assistance to promote sustainable protection, conservation and best use of the state's water resources					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Update the DSL website(s) to support Oregonians in connecting with our information, and our team in managing our website for maximum usability.	X				
Continue to make program information easily accessible and widely available (via website,fact sheets, brochures, presentations, video, etc.)	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to develop clear guidance and/or training for the regulated public on how to identify waters of the state and how to determine permitting needs	X	X	X	X	X
Maintain the Removal-Fill Guide (that is designed to help applicants with the regulatory process)	X	X	X	X	X
Maintain an effective, organized, and comprehensive communications & outreach plan • Create and execute a communications campaign designed to raise awareness of wetlands and direct the public to resources about how to identify potential wetlands on their property	X	X	X	X	X
• Provide community education and outreach programming related to the importance of wetlands and waterways and action-based stewardship practices	X	X	X	X	X
Develop and implement on-line training on wetland tools for local governments • DSL will develop a web-based training platform for local government planning staff for the Wetlands Land Use Notification protocol				X	X
Engage citizens and stakeholders in continued improvement of Oregon's resource programs • Develop and implement a track within the program communications & outreach plan to specifically engage and educate stakeholders in the continued improvement of Oregon's natural resource programs	X	X	X	X	X
SSNERR staff will continue to provide outreach and education about the values of wetland conservation to K-12 students, teachers and other public audiences through programs, materials, and events	X	X	X	X	X

Action (I): Track, measure and evaluate permit program activities and environmental results to better inform water resource decisions					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Continue to track permit activities and periodically revisit the type of information that needs to be tracked	X	X	X	X	X
Prepare the Aquatic Resource Management Program Annual Report; provide a summary of the report to the Oregon Land Board and web access to the report on DSL's web site	X	X	X	X	X
Create a statewide Esri geographic information system (GIS) dataset representing approved compensatory mitigation site records	X	X			
Adaptively manage specific permit types or permit conditions that have compliance issues identified through the Department's statistically valid sampling approach	X	X	X	X	X

Core Element: Voluntary Wetland Restoration and Protection

Goal: Maintain, improve, and increase healthy wetland ecosystems through protection and restoration.

Objective: Protect wetlands from degradation or destruction; restore wetland acres, condition, and functions; monitor and track progress over time; and modify practices as appropriate.

Action (a): Build and maintain strong partnerships with local, state, tribal, and federal agencies, nonprofit organizations and private landowners for watershed and habitat restoration and conservation					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Explore partnerships and opportunities to promote watershed scale restoration projects and combine resources from compensatory mitigation and voluntary habitat restorations	X	X			
Promote coordination between natural resource agencies and partners to establish common goals for wetland protection and restoration efforts throughout the state	X	X	X	X	X
Identify new, and expand existing strategic partnerships that leverage funds and knowledge to achieve healthy watershed and community outcomes	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to apply wetland, stream, and habitat restoration permit streamlining processes where feasible • Review and update General Authorizations intended to facilitate habitat restoration efforts	X				
• Continue to provide training, reporting, and compliance reviews for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) / U.S. Forest Service (USFS) General Permit for use on restoration projects on federal lands	X	X	X	X	X

Action (b): Consider watershed planning and other strategic approaches for identifying protection or restoration needs and identifying solutions that would sustain and restore resilient ecosystems					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Integrate restoration/protection efforts on a watershed or landscape scale • Continue to participate in inter-agency initiatives to evaluate wetland and watershed condition and strategize placement of waters-related mitigation according to watershed needs (E.g., Partnered Conservation and Mitigation Planning effort by Oregon's Interagency Water Core Team)	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to develop protocols and tools necessary to apply strategic conservation in grant decisions and maintain updated information about watershed and wetland priority areas for conservation and restoration	X	X	X	X	X
Collaborate with partners to identify watershed priorities and develop protocols to coordinate and concentrate mitigation efforts where there is high ecological value	X	X	X	X	X
SSNERR will continue to facilitate the Partnership for Coastal Watersheds and their community driven projects including: inventory and mapping of tidal wetlands that would benefit from restoration, have already been restored or can be used as reference sites; coastal hazards vulnerability assessment and adaptation planning for the Coos estuary and surrounding communities; and a hydrodynamic model of estuary circulation, salinity, temperature and sediment transport -- all of which address estuarine planning and wetland management	X	X	X	X	X
Work with local governments on improved evaluation for opportunities to restore wetlands, including guidance and exploring rule changes in Division 86 to include this task in the development of LWIs	X	X	X		

Action (c): Develop guidance and tools to assist in strategic decisions					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Share priorities via the Oregon Explorer, a web-based natural resources digital library, with other organizations involved in wetland protection and restoration	X	X	X	X	X
Develop guidance that demonstrates how to take a watershed priority approach (when requesting an exception to in-kind compensatory mitigation as part of a removal-fill permit)	X				

Action (d): Support an enduring, high-capacity local infrastructure for conducting watershed and habitat restoration and conservation					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Develop funding opportunities for distribution of funds collected by DSL in-lieu of mitigation (Removal-Fill Mitigation Fund)	X		X		X
Encourage private landowners to enroll properties in ODFW's Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program (WHCMP) or other programs to voluntarily conserve and restore wetlands and streams	X	X	X	X	X
Foster collaboration of citizens, agencies, and local interests	X	X	X	X	X
Support and fund landowner projects that improve watershed health	X	X	X	X	X
Coordinate and sponsor meetings and conferences to share ideas and expertise	X	X	X	X	X

Action (e): Monitor and track progress over time, document results, and modify practices as appropriate					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Continue to track voluntary restoration projects that require a removal-fill permit in reporting wetland gains/losses	X	X	X	X	X
Continue to support OWEB's Oregon Watershed Restoration Inventory (OWRI) database by including reporting requirements as conditions for general authorization notices	X	X	X	X	X

Action (f): Provide information to help Oregonians understand the need for and engage in activities that support healthy watersheds					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
Provide community education and outreach programming related to the importance of wetlands and waterways and action-based stewardship practices	X	X	X	X	X
Encourage projects and "capacity-building" grants that foster cooperation, promote education about watershed concepts, and supports citizen groups (including SSNERR)	X	X	X	X	X
Support programs that increase awareness of the importance and value of wetlands and waterways and encourage stewardship actions (including SSNERR)					
• Provide career development and hands-on volunteer opportunities in the fields of natural resource management, research, and science education	X	X	X	X	X
• Provide professional development opportunities for teachers	X	X	X	X	X
• Create in-class learning activities and hands-on field trip experiences to teach students about estuarine and coastal systems	X	X	X	X	X
• Provide technical assistance for state initiatives related to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math (STEAM), career-connected learning, outdoor education, and environmental literacy	X	X	X	X	X
Contribute to reports on the progress of the state's programs and plans and how they are working to restore watershed conditions, including the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and the Aquatic Resource Management Program Annual Report	X	X	X	X	X

Core Element: Water Quality Standards for Wetlands

Goal: To restore, maintain and enhance the quality of Oregon's wetlands in accordance with the Clean Water Act as well as to work with Oregonians for a healthy, sustainable environment.

Objective: Integrate water quality monitoring and assessment into the State and Tribal wetland monitoring strategies.

Action (a): Work toward developing standards for wetlands that best serve the state's goals					
Activity	**2022**	**2023**	**2024**	**2025**	**2026**
SSNERR staff will continue to collect data at the System-Wide Monitoring Program (SWMP) water quality monitoring sites, established along the South Slough's estuarine gradient in 1995,to enable researchers to track short term variability and long terms change in a variety of water quality attributes (pH, temperature, dissolved oxygen, nutrients, etc.)	X	X	X	X	X
Evaluate National Wetlands Condition Assessment (NWCA) monitoring results when made available	X	X	X	X	X
Collaborate with monitoring partners to identify monitoring designs and indicators for use in program effectiveness monitoring and as performance standards for compensatory mitigation sites	X	X			