

(e) Increased ecosystem resiliency to climate change impacts; and

(f) Improvements that address one or more limiting ecological factors in the project watershed.

(4) The evaluation of the social or cultural benefits for a project shall be based on the changes in social or cultural conditions expected to result from the project, including but not limited to conditions related to:

(a) The promotion of public health and safety and of local food systems;

(b) A measurable improvement in conditions for members of minority or low-income communities, economically distressed rural communities, tribal communities or other communities traditionally underrepresented in public processes;

(c) The promotion of recreation and scenic values;

(d) Contribution to the body of scientific data publicly available in this state;

(e) The promotion of state or local priorities, including but not limited to the restoration and protection of native fish species of cultural significance to Indian tribes; and

(f) The promotion of collaborative basin planning efforts, including but not limited to efforts under the state integrated water resources strategy. [2013 c.784 §8]

Note: See note under 541.651.

541.675 [1985 c.545 §3; renumbered 196.755 and then 196.890 in 1989]

541.677 Target outcomes for scoring and ranking criteria. (1) The Water Resources Commission shall design the minimum criteria for the project scoring and ranking system described in ORS 541.669 to achieve the following outcomes:

(a) The issuance of grants or loans only to projects that provide benefits in each of the three categories of public benefit described in ORS 541.673.

(b) Preference for partnerships and collaborative projects.

(c) The funding of projects of diverse sizes, types and geographic locations.

(d) If a project proposes to divert water, preference for projects that provide a measurable improvement in protected streamflows.

(e) If a project proposes to increase efficiency, preference for projects that provide a measurable increased efficiency of water use.

(2) The Water Resources Department shall review the loan and grant program on a biennial basis to assess to what extent the outcomes described in subsection (1) of this section are being achieved, and shall report

the review findings to the Water Resources Commission. The commission shall modify the project selection process as necessary to better achieve the outcomes described in subsection (1) of this section. [2013 c.784 §9]

Note: See note under 541.651.

541.680 [1985 c.545 §4; renumbered 196.760 and then 196.895 in 1989]

541.681 Conditions of grants for developing certain types of above-ground storage facilities. (1) The recipient of a grant from the Water Supply Development Account must agree to the condition set forth in subsection (2) of this section if the grant is for the development of a new or expanded above-ground storage facility that:

(a) Impounds surface water on a perennial stream;

(b) Diverts water from a stream that supports state or federally listed sensitive, threatened or endangered fish species; or

(c) Diverts more than 500 acre-feet of water annually.

(2) Twenty-five percent of the newly developed water from a project described in subsection (1) of this section must be dedicated to in-stream use.

(3) To establish that a project complies with subsection (2) of this section, the grant recipient may include water dedicated to in-stream use as a result of the conditions of federal, state or local permits for the project. [2013 c.784 §10]

Note: See note under 541.651.

541.683 Demonstration of public benefits of project. (1) A project that receives a loan or grant from the Water Supply Development Account must:

(a) Demonstrate social or cultural benefits and economic benefits sufficient to qualify the project under the scoring and ranking system described in ORS 541.669; and

(b) Except as otherwise provided in ORS 541.681, demonstrate environmental benefits:

(A) By dedicating 25 percent of conserved water or newly developed water to in-stream use; or

(B) By demonstrating environmental benefits that are sufficient to qualify the project under the scoring and ranking system described in ORS 541.669.

(2) The description of public benefit requirements in subsection (1) of this section does not exempt any project from meeting the minimum criteria designed by the Water Resources Commission under ORS 541.677.

(3) To establish that a project complies with subsection (1)(b) of this section, the loan or grant recipient may include water dedicated to in-stream use as a result of the