

tion, the board shall consider local economic and social impacts among the criteria.

(d) Shall support development and implementation of a system that enables standardized collection, management and reporting of natural resources information in Oregon, including water data, geographic information system data and information on native fish and wildlife and habitat.

(e) Shall promote the availability of information on the effects of watershed enhancement.

(f) May not have regulatory or enforcement authority except for the fiscal responsibilities described in ORS 541.890 to 541.969.

(2) In addition to any other expenditures consistent with ORS 541.945, moneys in the Watershed Conservation Operating Fund may be expended in the form of grants or allocations:

(a) To soil and water conservation districts and watershed councils for costs of employing staff to further the development and implementation of activities, projects and programs for the purposes described in ORS 541.945; or

(b) For a specific project or program application or for implementation of an approved action plan.

(3) To the maximum extent practicable, soil and water conservation districts and watershed councils shall share technical staff. [Formerly 541.371]

**Note:** See note under 541.890.

**541.932 Watershed enhancement project assistance; criteria for funding approval; acquisition of interest in land or water.** (1)(a) The following entities may submit a request for funding for, or for advice and assistance in developing, a project under ORS 541.890 to 541.969:

- (A) A person;
- (B) An Indian tribe;
- (C) A watershed council;
- (D) A soil and water conservation district;
- (E) A community college;
- (F) A public university listed in ORS 352.002;
- (G) An independent not-for-profit institution of higher education; or
- (H) A political subdivision of this state that is not a state agency.

(b) A state agency or federal agency may apply for funding under this section only as a coapplicant with an entity described in paragraph (a) of this subsection.

(2) The request under subsection (1) of this section shall be filed in the manner, be

in the form and contain the information required by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, regardless of the anticipated funding source for the project.

(3) The board may establish a grant program through soil and water conservation districts organized under ORS 568.210 to 568.808 and 568.900 to 568.933 that provides funds for local implementation of watershed enhancement, education and monitoring efforts.

(4) The board may fund implementation of action plans based on a watershed assessment that addresses water quality and aquatic resources of the watershed.

(5) A project may use mechanical, vegetative or structural methods including, but not limited to, management techniques, erosion control, streambank stabilization, forest, range or crop land treatment, site specific in-stream structures, acquisitions or leases of land or water rights from a willing owner, watershed assessments, landowner incentives and action plan development, implementation and monitoring.

(6) The actions of a soil and water conservation district carried out pursuant to a grant program established by the board under subsection (3) of this section shall not be subject to review and approval by the Natural Resources Division under ORS 561.400.

(7) If a project or a portion of a project is not subject to the funding criteria described in ORS 541.958 and applies to receive funding from the board, the board may approve the project or portion of a project for funding only if the project or portion of a project:

- (a) Is based on sound principles of native fish or wildlife habitat conservation or watershed management;
- (b) Uses methods most adapted to the project locale;
- (c) Meets the criteria established by the board under ORS 541.906; and
- (d) Contributes to either:

(A) The improved health of a stream, lake or reservoir and toward the achievement of standards that satisfy the requirements of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (P.L. 92-500), as amended; or

(B) The conservation or restoration of habitat for, or of watershed or ecosystem function for, native fish or wildlife.

(8) The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board may fund a project for the restoration of a riparian area or associated upland that is carried out in conjunction with a storage structure. However, the board shall not approve funding for any proposed project that