

DRAFT



Agenda Item P:

StreamBank: Oregon Solutions Project Team

Background

In late 2006, Oregon Trout began development of a web-based software tool that aims to simplify and accelerate the process of funding, permitting, implementing, and reporting on stream restoration projects without sacrificing quality of outcomes. The tool advances ecologically needed restoration projects consistent with regulatory agency and funder sideboards and objectives. It also brings benefits to local restoration project coordinator capacity and the rural workforce, while empowering local landowners and communities to better control their future.

In 2008, Oregon Trout will test the tool, called StreamBank, on a wider scale, with up to 20 projects around the state. An Oregon Solutions project team will work to identify the needed resources for these projects and to assess the policy changes necessary for simplifying and accelerating the process for stream restoration projects.

Concurrently, the Department of State Lands is streamlining its authorization process for restoration projects. The Department sees the potential for restoration proponents using StreamBank to, at the same time, access a streamlined web-based application and reporting process resulting in good projects receiving expedited approvals.

The impetus for the StreamBank tool comes from the current situation where, despite growing threats to already compromised freshwater resources and rural economies, a system of long planning, funding and permitting cycles delays projects, or discourages landowners from undertaking projects altogether. Restoration projects require implementation on a meaningful scale for both ecological and economic benefits. By using technology and changing underlying systemic barriers to efficiency, Oregon can send a strong signal that it remains committed to environmental innovation.

Ken Bailey, CFO Orchard View Farms and member of the Oregon Board of Agriculture, is serving as the Governor's convener for this project. He is supported by Oregon Solutions staff Pete Dalke.

Oregon Solutions

The mission of Oregon Solutions is to develop sustainable solutions to community-based problems that support economic, environmental, and community objectives and are built through the collaborative efforts of businesses, government, and non-profit organizations.

The Community Governance System

1. **A problem or opportunity defined by the community** that addresses at least one sustainable community objective.
2. **An impartial community convener** from the local community, appointed by the Governor, who can lead a team to address the challenge.
3. **An Oregon Solutions Team** of federal, state, local, and other government entities, businesses, non-profits, and citizens who are needed, or can contribute to a solution.
4. **An integrated solution** that leverages the resources of the Solution Team to meet the challenge at hand and sustainability objectives.
5. **A declaration of cooperation** that team members sign that commits their resources and time in an integrated action plan.

StreamBank Objectives

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Oregon Solutions

2008

A. Implement Stream Restoration Projects

1. Solicit and select project applications
2. Fund, permit and execute 20 restoration projects across the state (using private and public funds through StreamBank)

Project types to consider:

- Large wood, boulder or gravel placement (DSL GA-permitted)
 - Culvert removal or replacement
 - Riparian invasive weed removal
 - Riparian planting with native vegetation
 - Fence construction
 - Off-channel watering
3. Secure public and private funds for project work
- Address agency funder needs and comfort level with partnership funds
 - Address needs of other partners regarding funding comfort (prioritization, source of funds, etc.)

B. Advance Expedited Permitting

1. Work with regulatory entities to explore expediting permits in coordination with 2008 non-wood and boulder StreamBank pilot projects. Use the Oregon Solutions process and the narrow 2008 pilot project scope to give agencies security in exploring expedited permitting for other restoration actions with a low-risk approach. (They may not need to set any precedents outside of this 2008 experiment.)
2. Work to ensure DSL, COE, NOAA, USFWS and ODFW have a coordinated approach to large wood and boulders that will truly expedite the process for the end user
 - Clarify what is and is not covered by new SLOPES, RGP, DSL GA and other ongoing agency work, where gaps or a lack of coordination exist in agency approaches and standards
 - Make application forms consistent
 - Standardize reporting
 - Address cultural resource efficiency issues
 - Assess need for additional Programmatic Biops and NEPA
 - Get SLOPES approved

C. Develop StreamBank Tool

1. Develop “single entry” system for landowners to apply for funding, permitting, contracting, reporting, and monitoring
2. Assess whether the StreamBank tool delivers funds to projects in a manner that meets the requirements of agencies and funders
3. Establish and prioritize data and GIS integration needs and opportunities for:
 - E-permitting
 - Project monitoring
 - Aligning with the Oregon Conservation Strategy and other assessments and restoration priorities
 - Syncing and exchanging data with the Conservation Registry, the Oregon Explorer, the Nature Conservancy, the Wetlands Conservancy (and others?)
4. Assess ongoing operation and maintenance needs for the StreamBank tool

2009 and beyond

A. Continue Developing StreamBank Tool

- Develop additional tools for landowners to access habitat restoration and ecosystem market opportunities.
- Advance expedited permitting (including e-permitting) for additional types of restoration projects
- Advance data and GIS integration and links and data sharing with conservation partners
- Develop and implement an operation and maintenance plan for StreamBank

