



Dual-Purposed Voluntary Acquisition Program

Chehalis Basin Board Meeting: April 4, 2024



2023-2025 BIENNIUM ACQUISITIONS

Board approved **\$575,000** to be allocated from Integrated funds to:

- Develop an Acquisition Program
- Write an Acquisition Manual

ACQUISITION MANUAL

Based on RCO manual

Will apply to all OCB programs

Input from many partners

Particularly important with transition away from RCO

VOLUNTARY ACQUISITION PROGRAM

Two goals for 2023-2025 biennium:

1. Development the Dual-Purposed Voluntary Acquisition Program
 - Draft criteria/process
 - Strategy-wide guidance
 - Multi-stakeholder workgroup
2. Acquire one or more properties

CHEHALIS ACQUISITION WORKGROUP MEMBERS

OCB /State agencies:

- ASRP
- CFAR
- Ecology
- RCO

Project sponsors:

- Forterra
- Grays Harbor CD
- Lewis County CD

Jurisdictions:

- Grays Harbor County
- Thurston County
- City of Aberdeen
- City of Centralia
- City of Cosmopolis
- Flood Control Zone District

Individual farmer/landowner

DUAL-PURPOSED VOLUNTARY ACQUISITION PROGRAM



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Program purpose: Provide flexibility to support the

- voluntary acquisition of property
- that benefits the Chehalis Basin Strategy
- *but that does not fit perfectly within the priorities of existing Strategy programs.*

What it will fund: Eligible

- incidental, administrative, and property costs for
- fee-simple or less-than-fee property rights.

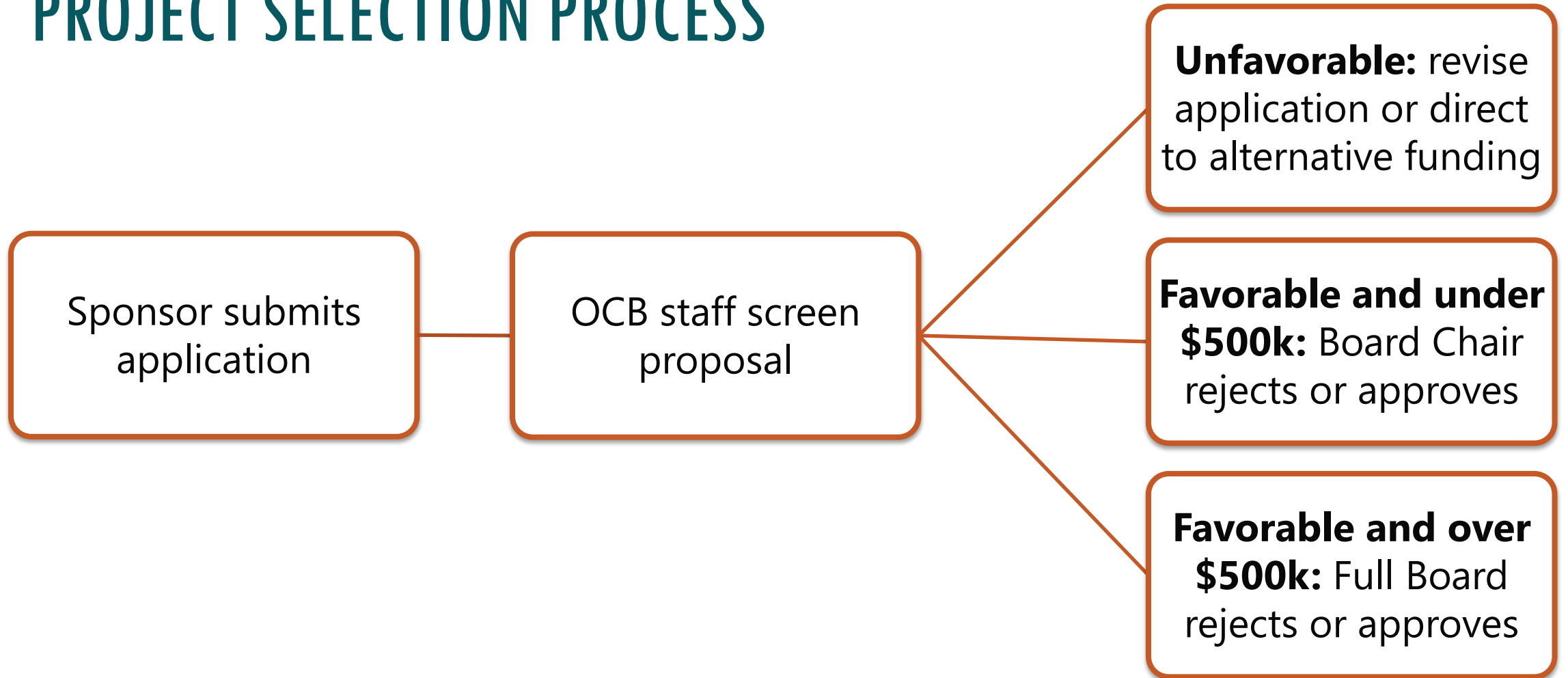
PROGRAM GOALS

1. Protect/restore habitat for aquatic species
2. Reduce the risk of flood damage
3. Advance equity where opportunity exists
4. Support the continued viability of the basin's working lands
5. Work in concert with local jurisdictions
6. Acquire the minimum amount of property necessary to meet the above goals

ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Board-established 'Integrated' criteria	Acquisition-specific criteria
<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Intent: Advances both habitat restoration and flood damage reduction goals✓ Expected benefits: Substantially addresses habitat restoration and flood damage reduction (equal emphasis not required)✓ Indivisible: Habitat and flood elements cannot be easily or meaningfully separated	<ul style="list-style-type: none">✓ Sponsor-led: Develops and manages the project, including long-term stewardship✓ Voluntary: Willing sellers only✓ Consistent with local goals and ordinances: Doesn't conflict with local planning✓ Best path for maximum benefits: Benefits cannot be achieved by alternative project types

PROJECT SELECTION PROCESS



SPENCER FARM PROJECT EXAMPLE

- **Sponsor:** Washington Farmland Trust, in partnership with Lewis Co CD
- **Project:** Purchase an agricultural conservation easement on 132-acre farm on the Newaukum River
- **Request:** \$500,000 (already has partial funding from ASRP for ongoing restoration efforts)



SPENCER FARM PROJECT EXAMPLE

- **OCB staff evaluation:** Unfavorable
 - Preventing possible future development is not enough to demonstrate significant or substantial flood damage reduction benefits
- **Next steps:** Working with ASRP and Lewis CD to determine, may resubmit to RCO's WWRP-Farmland Preservation grant



NEXT STEPS FOR PROGRAM

- Funding still available to support 1-2 projects
- Basin partners invited to submit applications
- Will engage Board as needed

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS?



EVALUATION CRITERIA

A favorable project will demonstrate...

- **Magnitude/scale of anticipated benefits:** Will significantly benefit documented restoration needs and either documented structural flood damage or substantial flooding to critical infrastructure
- **Support from an existing OCB program:** Is supported by an existing program but was not selected for funding or only qualified for partial funding
- **Matching external funds:** Has primary or supplemental funding from outside of the Strategy
- **Anticipated ease of implementation:** Sponsor has ID'd and has a plan to address any issues that would prevent closing