

Within Our Reach Conference 2016

Working Together for a Healthier Willamette

Deadline for Submission: June 15, 2016

The Within Our Reach 2016 Planning Committee invites **proposals for posters and break-out sessions** for the fourth **Within Our Reach Conference, December 7 - 9, 2016, at OSU's CH2MHill Alumni Center in Corvallis.**

Within Our Reach is a biennial gathering of funders, river restoration professionals, landowners, public agencies, scientists, students and community members focused on improving the health of the Willamette River and its tributaries. Presented by the **Meyer Memorial Trust** and **Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**, Within Our Reach provides a unique opportunity for a broad group of stakeholders to come together, share and learn from one another. The goal of Within Our Reach is to provide a platform to reflect on the challenges facing the river and its tributaries, learn about restoration efforts in and beyond Oregon, and craft practical strategies to ensure that a healthy river system is a secure part of our future. Though the Willamette River Basin varies greatly – from forested tributary headwaters to agricultural land and riverside cities – the Willamette is one connected system and its health is in our hands.

We invite you to help shape the conference by submitting a proposal for a break-out session and/or poster. Concurrent break-outs will take place on December 8 – 9. The Planning Committee will select 20 posters to display in the foyer of the conference center and feature in a dedicated poster session on December 8.

Concurrent Break-Out Sessions

Guiding Themes for Proposals

Throughout the event, attendees can expect to explore some big questions on the theme of **Working Together for a Healthier Willamette**. We invite proposals that explore the full range of issues and topics related to the conference theme, including:

- **Restoration accomplishments** - Project case studies; restoration summaries by geographic area, program or partnership; lessons learned.
- **The practice of partnership** – What makes a successful partnership? What are the challenges and benefits of working together? Partnership case studies and lessons learned, as well as ideas for the future.
- **New science and research** – What have we learned about the Willamette Basin in recent years, and where do gaps in knowledge remain? How can we connect the latest science with on-the-ground restoration efforts? We welcome proposals that: focus on salmonids or other aquatic species (e.g. lamprey, frogs, turtles) and their habitats; consider the impact of shifting demographics and climate change on land use in the Willamette Basin; explore the connection

between human health and watershed health; and/or inform future planning and restoration priorities.

- **Diverse perspectives** – How can Willamette restoration efforts be more inclusive of the knowledge and values of indigenous cultures, multigenerational landowners, racially and ethnically diverse communities, and other groups that historically have been underrepresented in watershed restoration and management?
- **The importance of water** – Drinking water, source water protection; water quality and emerging toxics/pharmaceuticals; flow management; how water maps to people’s values, both here and elsewhere, and how that can inform efforts to protect and improve water quality and availability.
- **People and the river** – Ongoing efforts and new ideas to help Willamette Basin communities embrace the river and its tributaries. May include a range of topics, such as recreation, education, access, storytelling, history, culture, youth, etc.
- **Funding the future** – What opportunities exist for creative grant seeking and effective non-grant fundraising? In the long-term, how can the base of support to sustain this work be expanded, secured and diversified?

Format Types

The Planning Committee encourages interactive and learning-oriented session formats. Following are some examples of possible session formats. Please note that this is not an exhaustive list, and we welcome proposals for sessions using formats not cited below. If you would like feedback or assistance on making your presentation more interactive please contact Monica at monica@socialenterprises.net.



Panel Discussion: Panel discussions will consist of 2 - 3 speakers and a moderator. Discussions are organized around a particular topic or issue upon which each speaker contributes a brief presentation (10-15 minutes; 8-10 slides), followed by a minimum of 20 minutes of moderated discussion and/or audience Q & A.

You may apply as a complete panel or as an individual. If you apply as an individual, you may be grouped with other speakers presenting on the same theme.



Interactive Space: These sessions provide a space for moderators and session participants to explore topics in small or full group discussions. Organizers of interactive space sessions will bring mixed perspectives together to tackle big picture challenges related to the proposed issue. Applicants can propose any interactive discussion format; examples are outlined below.

Roundtable Discussion: In this format, the moderator will coordinate small group discussions after introducing a big picture challenge or opportunity to the full group. Small groups may each discuss a different set of questions related to the topic, or groups may all discuss the same

list of questions. At the end of the discussion time, groups report out on key points and ideas that emerged. Roundtables where all groups discuss the same questions may also utilize a 'jigsaw' approach, where, after a set amount of time, the moderator instructs one person from each group to rotate to a new group, thus increasing the level of interaction and idea sharing between groups.

World Café: The world café format is designed to mimic a café environment to enable a better flow of conversation between participants. The session normally consists of several meeting stations / tables positioned around the room where a question or theme is posted for participants to discuss, with an assigned facilitator and note-taker at each table. Participants are encouraged to rotate around the room to engage with the conversations at each table, with a suggested timeslot of 10-15 minutes per table. The session moderator will set up the session by proposing a big picture topic and three or four key related questions. The key questions will be discussed at the different tables. Table facilitators will guide the discussion and report back to the whole group at the end of the session, which can then be opened up to a whole group discussion.



How-To Workshops: These workshops are designed to be skill-building opportunities for session attendees.

Selection Criteria for Concurrent Break-Out Sessions

The Planning Committee will use these criteria to evaluate proposals:

1. **Active participation.** We encourage proposals that inspire engagement by and between participants. All proposals should outline how the presenter(s) and/or moderator will encourage discussion and active participation by audience members.
2. **Connectivity.** This event brings a wide range of Willamette partners and stakeholders together to foster collaboration within and across sectors. We encourage proposals that explore cross-sector connections between landowners, regulatory agencies, scientists, NGOs, city officials, business and industry, community members and/or other river-related interests.
3. **Relevance.** The strongest proposals will fit within the theme of the conference and cover topics that are timely and relevant to a wide cross section of Willamette partners and stakeholders. When possible, proposals should describe whether and how the presentation takeaways might be carried forth beyond the conference.
4. **Overall fit.** Proposals will be selected based on how well they fit into the overall program, including other concurrent sessions and plenaries.

During the session selection process, the Planning Committee may contact applicants to suggest alternative session formats, reasonable modifications to session content, or combinations of speakers to best fit overall program needs and support the learning experience of the conference as a whole.

Posters

The Planning Committee invites proposals for posters to be displayed for the duration of the conference in the venue's foyer and highlighted during a dedicated session on December 8. The goal of the poster session is to showcase a range of ongoing restoration, research and other projects throughout the Willamette Basin. The Planning Committee will select 20 project posters to feature at the conference.

Submission Guidelines for Poster: To submit a proposal for a poster, provide a description of the project to be highlighted, how it contributes to the overall health of the Willamette watershed, and how it addresses the conference theme.

Selection Criteria for Posters

The Planning Committee will use these criteria as a means for evaluating posters:

1. **Connectivity.** This event brings a wide range of Willamette partners and stakeholders together to foster collaboration within and across sectors. We encourage proposals that explore cross-sector connections between landowners, regulatory agencies, scientists, NGOs, city officials, business and industry, community members and/or other river-related interests.
2. **Relevance.** The strongest poster proposals will fit within the theme of the conference and cover topics that are timely and relevant to a wide cross section of Willamette partners and stakeholders. Posters that present new research or have potential for peer-to-peer learning will receive preference.
3. **Overall fit.** Proposals will be selected based on how well they fit into the overall set of posters to ensure a diverse collection of projects is represented.

The deadline for proposals is June 15, 2016. Applicants will be notified of Planning Committee decisions by July 5, 2016. If you have any questions, contact Monica Carson at monica@socialenterprises.net or 503.984.6650.