



An Oregon Solution: **Stream Restoration Partnership** Convener: Ken Bailey, CFO Orchardview Farms and Chair, Oregon Board of Agriculture

Environmental advocacy organization Freshwater Trust (formerly Oregon Trout) has worked for years to restore fish habitat and the health of watersheds. And for all the success the organization had historically enjoyed raising public awareness and changing public policies, they still were not seeing streams being restored at a pace that would make a difference. Why? The lengthy and burdensome state and federal permitting and funding processes. Indeed, many government agencies and private funders each take up to a year to approve applications.

So the Freshwater Trust undertook an ambitious effort to streamline and automate the process to make it easier for landowners to take action. By automating the process, most restoration projects that formerly took years to complete can be accomplished in a matter of months, while ensuring project quality.

To pull this off, the Freshwater Trust sought the assistance of Oregon Solutions. The neutral forum provided by Oregon Solutions, together with the designation by Governor Kulongoski, allowed for state and federal agencies, private landowners, and other environmental stakeholders to come together to develop a solution that met the common interests of all the parties, and led directly to stream restoration projects being undertaken quickly.

“Such a process should expedite approvals and deliver ecologically needed restoration projects in a way that is quicker, benefits the rural workforce, and empowers local efforts to restore and maintain a healthy, functioning landscape, said Governor Kulongoski in January 2008.

By bringing all the parties together to agree on an implementation plan for the automated system, the Oregon Solutions process leveraged investments in natural resources that would otherwise have been spread out over many years, while cutting down agency costs for application review and approval.

Convener Ken Bailey says, "Oregon Solutions has provided the needed forum for decision making and a collaborative process to accelerate restoration efforts."

“StreamBank is a revolutionary tool that will change the pace at which Oregonians can restore our precious freshwater systems,” said Joe Whitworth, Executive Director of Freshwater Trust. “StreamBank can accelerate restoration progress, and it can bring greater landowner incentives and local economic benefits tied to restoring freshwater health.”

