Agency Overview, Mission and Structure

OSMB was created in 1959 in response to the growing popularity of recreational boating and the federal Boating Safety Act of 1958. OSMB has one office, located in Salem and no satellite, regional, or district offices. OSMB does not own or operate any boating facilities or real property. The agency has 39 staff and a biannual budget of approximately $34.6 million. OSMB does not receive any general fund revenue.

OSMB is dedicated to making the state’s waterways safe and enjoyable for all boaters and it’s our mission to: Serve Oregon’s recreational boating public through education, enforcement, access and environmental stewardship for a safe and enjoyable experience.

OSMB’s five member volunteer policy board (Board) is appointed by the Governor. The Director is appointed by the Board. OSMB sections include the following:

- Director’s office: reports to Board and Governor’s office, administration, business services, public information, information technology
- Registration: issue certificates of number and titles for recreational boats, register floating homes, houseboats and boat houses, register boat rental businesses, train bonded agents
- Boating Safety: contract with Oregon State Police and 32 counties for on-water patrol, marine enforcement, investigations, waterway markers, boating safety education. Provide training for marine patrol officers. Implement mandatory boater education program, train instructors and provide educational materials. Operate the outfitter/guide program and license ocean charter boats.
- Policy and Environment: develop and modify rules related to boating safety, enforcement, access and recreational environment. Administer aquatic invasive species prevention program, fund border inspection stations, inspectors, and decontamination equipment. Implement the abandoned/derelict vessel program and vessel turn in program. Certify marinas with “Clean Marina Designation”.
- Facilities: administers several grant programs to fund recreational boating facility improvements, renovations and maintenance such as boat ramps, docks, parking, sanitation, pumpout and dump stations for motorized and non-motorized boating access. Additionally administers a grant program for paddling safety, education and increased opportunities for underserved communities to experience kayaking, canoeing, rafting and standup paddle boarding. Provides survey, design and engineering services to applicants. Provides technical assistance for facility or waterway planning.

Agency Statement and Policy

OSMB’s policy promotes government to government relations between OSMB and Oregon’s federally recognized Tribes. The policy directs OSMB to include consideration of Tribal interests in the development and implementation of agency programs that may affect Tribes. OSMB recognizes and
respects the sovereign status of Oregon’s federally recognized Tribes and their respective authorities on Tribal lands.

**OSMB Executive Team Contacts**

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**Agency’s Designated Representative:**

Janine Belleque, Boating Facility Program Manager is OSMB’s liaison to tribal nations and the designated tribal cultural items liaison. She participates on the Cultural Resources Cluster and the Natural Resources Work Group.

OSMB determined for continuity to have an alternate attend meetings with Janine Belleque. This allows the alternate if necessary, to represent OSMB in a consistent manner. The alternate Joe Severson, Planner and GIS Coordinator works in the Facilities Program and reports to Janine.

**Agency Coordination Activities:**

*Boating Safety and On-water Training*

OSMB conducts a variety of boating safety and on-water training in support of contracted Marine Patrol programs. In 2020 Larry Risley, with CRITFE became an instructor and provided instruction at the marine academy this year. We invite tribal participation to our annual marine academy, whitewater training, drift boat training and jet boat operation training. This year we had two marine academy participants from CRITFE and one participant at drift boat training from the Confederated Tribes of
Umatilla Indian Reservation. The same participant was planning to attend jet boat training as well but had to cancel. This training opportunity with county sheriff office marine patrols and Oregon State Police helps improve communication and cooperation on waterways.

**Boating Facilities and Grants**

As previously mentioned OSMB does not own or operate any boating facilities, but we often provide grant funding and technical assistance to facility owners for the development, replacement and repair of recreational boating access sites.

We provide grant funding to local governments, state and federal agencies for the development, renovation, and repair of motorized and nonmotorized boating access sites. OSMB has noticed over the last few years that many grant applicants are unaware or inconsistently consult with Tribal Governments or only consult with one or two potentially interested Tribal Governments. As a result, we expanded the grant application process to include information about cultural resources laws and questions about tribal government consultation. We consulted with Tribal Cultural and Natural Resources staff prior to making staff recommendations for funding on grant applications. Comments are incorporated into grant agreement conditions if OSMB awards a grant to the applicant.

OSMB staff met with Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and City of Siletz onsite at Old Mill Park about the City’s future plans to improve recreational boating access.

Consulted with Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, CTSI, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua of Umpqua Tribe of Indians on the selection of Southern Oregon University to complete archaeological survey and report for Upper Rogue Regional Park in Shady Cove.

Initiated consultation with all Oregon Tribal Government Cultural and Natural Resources staff on boat operations of mini-jet boats. Formal requests were sent in early December requesting consultation and support to limit boat operations of mini-jet boats on certain waterways.

**Abandoned and Derelict Boat**

*During the Summer 2020 we were notified that a small fiberglass boat was abandoned in the Sandy River Delta area southwest of Gary Island on the Columbia River. Removal of abandoned boats is often coordinated with Department of State Lands and Department of Environmental Quality. The CTWS and CTUIR were contacted and the area was confirmed to be sensitive. OSMB went through the legal process for vessel seizure and coordinating with a contractor. Coordination with USFS archaeologist availability and contractor was complicated because of the 2020 and 2021 fires. DSL has issued a request for quotes for the boat to be removed.*

**Lower Willamette River Rulemaking**

The CTWS, CTGR and Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Natural and Cultural Resources staff were provided advanced information on boating operation rulemaking and OSMB staff offered to present information to any interested Tribal parties. That rulemaking effort concluded in January 2021 with new rules effective as of May 1, 2021.
Other Committee and Group Involvement

Lower Deschutes River Management Council, Lower Deschutes Managers Committee and John Day Core Team. The Lower Deschutes groups meet four times a year and the John Day group meets twice a year. OSMB has a permanent seat on these groups. The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (CTWS) is also on all three groups.

Agency-wide

OSMB’s participation in the Cultural Resources Cluster, Natural Resources Working Group, Annual Summit and Tribal consultation has continued to raise our awareness of the sensitivity of working along waterbodies and the high likelihood for cultural resources. Even though OSMB does not own property or boating facilities we are often out in the field surveying, looking at site development feasibility, inspecting active construction sites, inspecting and monitoring previously improved boating facilities, visiting unofficial user made access, inspecting existing access with no previous OSMB grant funding and boating on the water. As a result, OSMB Facilities Program requires staff to have training on inadvertent discovery protocols and carry a laminated quick reference card that includes phone numbers. Staff also watched “Killing the Klamath”, “First Foods, Life Cycles” by CTUIR and the Department of Forestry video Preserving Cultural Resources While Fighting Fire although not directly related to what OSMB does, the video contained powerful messages.

OSMB continues to participate in the Cultural Resources Cluster and Natural Resources Working Group providing updates on agency rulemaking, policy issues, projects and specific issues raised by Tribal representatives attending the meetings.