

OREGON CASCADES WEST COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS REGION 360 NEWS

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OCWCOG RECEIVES \$1 MILLION GRANT FOR BROWNFIELDS PROJECTS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Last month, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) selected 7 Oregon projects to receive brownfields funding to expedite the assessment and cleanup of multiple brownfield sites in the state. Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments is the recipient of \$1 million in brownfield funds to support a variety of projects in Linn and Benton Counties.

These brownfield funds will support 20 Phase 1 and 11 Phase 2 environmental assessments, four clean-up plans, four site reuse plans, the development of a Public Involvement Plan, and a variety of community engagement activities.

Since its inception in 1995, EPA's Brownfields Program has worked to help states, Tribal Nations, and communities around the country revitalize brownfield sites. As brownfield sites are transformed into community assets, they attract jobs, promote economic revitalization, and transform communities. We fully expect that these brownfield projects will provide benefits to the environment and economy of local communities.

Oregon Cascades West Council of Governments has completed a variety of brownfield projects in Lincoln County thanks to a previously awarded EPA Brownfields Community-Wide Assessment Grant. This grant supported brownfield redevelopment in developed areas within the Yaquina River watershed, which included the cities of Newport and Toledo, and the areas of Lincoln County located near the Yaquina River between the two cities. With the support of additional EPA funds, OCWCOG is looking forward to completing more brownfields projects that will benefit the region.



Pictured: King Salvage Site, a petroleum brownfield site, prior to clean up.