

**GRANT REQUEST PONY**

**Department of State Lands**

**South Slough Watershed**

(Reported out of Subcommittee on 6/10/2013)

---

This application request is for \$1 million from US Fish and Wildlife Service, National Coastal Wetlands Conservation. Grant funds would be used by the Department of State Lands South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve to purchase 240 acres of land adjacent to Reserve property. The property has been offered for sale by a willing seller.

The match is 33%, which the Department would meet with a combination of adjacent tidal lands, cash from an existing Reserve trust fund and from project participants such as the South Coast Land Conservancy. No additional positions would be needed.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.

# Federal Grant Application Request

## Department of State Lands

### South Slough Watershed

---

**Analyst:** Linda Gilbert

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program in the amount of \$1,000,000, to acquire 240 acres of land within the South Slough watershed.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Analysis:** The South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve is a federally designated 4,800 acre protected area in the Coos Estuary. The Reserve improves management and public understanding of estuaries and coastal watersheds. The Department of State Lands supports the Reserve as well as 1,105 acres adjacent to the Reserve boundaries. This request seeks funding to purchase 240 additional bordering acres that have been offered by a willing seller.

The US Fish and Wildlife announced this conservation grant opportunity in February, with a June 28 deadline. The match for the \$1,000,000 is 33%. The Department will meet the requirement through a combination of adjacent tidal lands, cash from an existing Reserve trust fund, and from project participants such as the South Coast Land Conservancy.

If the grant is awarded and additional expenditure limitation is necessary, a budget adjustment can be made in the 2014 Legislative Session or during the Interim.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.