

**GRANT REQUEST PONY**

**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail**

(Reported out of Subcommittee on 5/30/2013)

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This grant request is for a \$5.6 million dollar federal grant application to the United States Department of Transportation. Grant funds will be used in cooperation between the Parks & Recreation Department and the Department of Transportation to refurbish segments of the Historic Columbia River Highway.

Due to the rural location of the highway, the project qualifies for 100% federal funding and requires no matching funds and no in-kind contributions. No additional positions will be created to complete this work.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.

Federal Grant Application Request  
**Oregon Parks and Recreation Department**  
Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail

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**Analyst:** Krista McDowell

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the United States Department of Transportation National Infrastructure Investment Grant Program in the amount of \$5,600,000; to complete a 5.7 mile segment of the Historic Columbia River Highway State Trail.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request

**Analysis:** The Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery, (TIGER) Discretionary Grant program provides an opportunity for the U.S. to invest in road, rail, transit and port projects that promise to achieve critical national objectives. The Oregon Parks & Recreation Department (OPRD) is requesting permission to apply for the grant in the amount of \$5,600,000. The department was notified of this grant in May 2013 and the application is due June 3, 2013.

If this competitive grant is awarded, the project will bring Oregon closer to reconnecting the segments of the Historic Columbia River Highway as a trail envisioned in ORS 366.551; which states *the Legislative Assembly declares that it is the public policy of the State of Oregon to preserve and restore the continuity and historic integrity of the remaining segments of the Historic Columbia River Highway for public use and enjoyment.*

Grant funds will be used in cooperation between OPRD and Oregon Department of Transportation to continue work to restore portions of this scenic highway that was significantly damaged by dam construction in the 1930's and freeway construction in the 1960's and 70's. (See attached map) When the entirety of the restoration is complete the State Trail is expected to be a world class destination for hikers and cyclists.

Grants under the program typically require a match with non-federal dollars; however this project qualifies for 100% federal funding due to the rural location of the proposed trail that will connect Wyeth Trailhead with Viento State Park. Construction of the specified trail section is scheduled to begin in 2015 and be completed in 2016.

The decision for fund award selection will be made in the Fall of 2013 and funds are scheduled to be awarded in September 2014. After this grant funding has been exhausted subsequent work related to the completion of the Historic Columbia River Highway will continue through other grant applications; total costs associated with the entirety of the restoration effort are estimated to be \$19 million. There is no known opposition to the proposed work. No additional positions will be created to complete this work.

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.