

GRANT REQUEST PONY

**Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Waite Ranch Tidal Restoration Project**

(Reported out of Subcommittee on 6/6/2012)

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is requesting permission to apply for a \$599,755 grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. This program is limited to state applicants only and requires a 25% match. The project would restore tidal flows between the Siuslaw River and the interior of the property which is owned by the McKenzie River Trust. The restoration of this wetlands habitat should benefit salmonids, migratory waterfowl and other birds, along with other wildlife.

OWEB reported that as part of the grant proposal the local sponsors will be requesting OWEB funding of \$273,000 through the agency's grant program to meet the matching funds requirement. This is a competitive grant and applications are due June 28, 2013. Awards for this program will be announced by USFWS around January 2014.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends approval of the request.

Federal Grant Application Request
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Waite Ranch Tidal Restoration Project

Analyst: Paul Siebert

Request: Permission to apply for a \$599,755 federal grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to restore tidal wetlands owned by the McKenzie River Trust.

Recommendation: Approve the request to apply

Analysis: The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is requesting permission to apply for a grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program. This program is limited to state applicants only and requires a 25% match. Upon receiving notice of the grant opportunity in February 2013, OWEB worked with local partners to identify projects that might fit the requirements of the national program while at the same time aligning with the Board's funding priorities. The Waite Ranch Tidal Restoration Project was chosen for grant submittal. The project would restore tidal flows between the Siuslaw River and the interior of the property which is owned by the McKenzie River Trust. The restoration of this wetlands habitat should benefit salmonids, migratory waterfowl and other birds, along with other wildlife.

The grant is for \$599,755 and requires a 25% match. OWEB reports as part of the project the local sponsors will be requesting OWEB funding of \$273,000 through the agency's grant program. This is a competitive grant and applications are due June 28, 2013. OWEB will be considering this grant request at their June meeting. In order to meet legislative timelines for grant approval OWEB is bringing forward this request before the Board takes action. If the Board decides not to approve the project the grant application will not be submitted. Awards for this program will be announced by USFWS around January 2014.