

Analysis

Parks and Recreation Department

Endangered Species Recovery Lands Grant Request

Analyst: Linda Gilbert

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Recovery Lands program (USFWS) in the amount of \$1.2 million.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The USFWS grant provides funds to purchase land with habitat that can help with endangered species population recovery. This particular grant would be used to purchase 160 acres of forestland adjacent to and north of Brian Booth State Park in Lincoln County, between Waldport and Newport. The listed species thought to be on the property are the marbled murrelet and the tree vole.

The acreage is currently held by a willing seller. The seller and the Department have been discussing this possible purchase for about 6 years. The amount of \$1.2 million is based on a 2-year old appraisal.

If acquired, this acreage would be integrated with Brian Booth State Park and could be accessible to park visitors in two years. Because of keeping the property fairly undisturbed, the Department's work to prepare the acreage is creating and maintaining a trail.

The USFWS required 25% match will be met by prior qualifying land purchases. Applications are due March 14, 2014, with an expected award decision in fall of 2014. No additional positions are needed. If the Department's grant request is successful, it will return to the Legislature for expenditure limitation.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.