

Federal Grant Application Request
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Wetlands Conservation Grant

Analyst: Paul Siebert, LFO

Request: Permission to apply for a \$161,681 federal grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire 29 acres of estuarine and coastal wetlands adjacent to the City of Cannon Beach's Ecola Creek Forest Reserve.

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, 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 Ecola Creek Wetlands Protection and Restoration Project was chosen for grant submittal on behalf of the City of Cannon Beach. The project would acquire 29 acres of estuarine and coastal wetlands adjacent to the existing Ecola Creek Forest Reserve, which the city owns. The proposed acquisition will allow the City of Cannon Beach to consolidate management of the lands while providing permanent protection to 28 acres of wetlands. The city plans to improve fish passage and hydrologic connection in the lower Ecola and Waterhouse Creeks if the property is acquired.

The grant is for \$161,681 and requires a 25% match. OWEB reports as part of the project the local sponsors will be requesting OWEB funding of the remaining \$94,095 through the agency's grant program. This is a competitive grant and applications are due June 24, 2015. 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 2016.