

Federal Grant Application Request
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Wetlands Conservation

Analyst: Paul Siebert

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for \$161,681 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.

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 approved the grant proposal at their last meeting. Awards for this program will be announced by USFWS around January 2016.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.