

Analysis
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grants

Analyst: Paul Siebert

Request: Approve the submission of three federal grant applications by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) to the United States Fish and Wildlife Services, for the National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program (NCWCGP) for a total of \$2,467,000 for coastal wetlands conservation and restoration projects.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Analysis: The federal government requires that grants from the NCWCGP be made to a state agency. OWEB worked with local organizations on their coastal wetlands grant proposals. *Tillamook River Wetlands Project*, sponsored by the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership, proposes to acquire approximately 73 acres of historic spruce tidal swamp wetlands (federal grant: \$467,000; total project cost: \$744,618). *Columbia River - South Tongue Point Conservation Project*, sponsored by the Columbia Land Trust, proposes to acquire and conserve approximately 90 acres of coastal wetlands, riparian areas, and conifer forests (federal request: \$1,000,000; Total project cost: \$1,333,334). *Coquille Valley Wetland Conservation and Restoration Project - Phase 2*. This project is located at in the lower Coquille River valley near Bandon. Local partners propose to restore and reconnect approximately 10 miles of remnant channels on the Winter Lake and Beaver Slough project to enhance habitat for migratory birds, anadromous fish, and other native fish and wildlife (federal request: \$1,000,000; Total project cost: \$1,333,334).

To serve as match for the \$2,467,000 in federal grant funds, the local project partners will apply to OWEB for grants totaling \$944,286. Federal grant application reviews are expected to continue through January of 2018. Should the federal grant be awarded, OWEB will work with the Legislative Fiscal Office to determine if additional federal funds expenditure limitation is needed during the 2017-19 biennium.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.