

Analysis

Parks and Recreation Department

Siuslaw Collaborative Restoration Watershed Program

Analyst: Matt Stayner

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the United States Forest Service, Siuslaw Collaborative Restoration Watershed Program Wyden Stewardship Fund in the amount of \$51,000 for coastal dune ecosystem restoration at Sitka Sedge State Natural Area.

Analysis: The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) has been working under a cooperative agreement with United States Fish and Wildlife Service to aid the recovery of western snowy plover. A portion of this work includes restoring and enhancing native habitats in State Natural Areas. While relatively unaltered by human development, the Sitka Sedge has been impacted by invasive European beach grass that has altered the previously flat, sparsely vegetated, dry sand areas, and thus reduced potential breeding sites for the endangered snowy plovers.

In conjunction with existing agency resources, the federal grant funding will allow OPRD to remove and eradicate European beach grass on up to 25 acres of coastal dunes within the Sitka Sedge natural area and to regrade the dunes to a mostly flat surface as existed prior to the beach grass introduction.

The agency was notified of the federal grant opportunity on February 4, 2020. The deadline for grant application is March 30, 2020

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

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February 10, 2020

Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
State Emergency Board
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request:

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) requests permission to submit a \$51,100 grant application to the United States Forest Service (USFS) Siuslaw Collaborative Restoration Watershed Program Wyden Stewardship Fund.

The Department was notified of this competitive opportunity on February 4, 2020. The deadline for applications is March 30, 2020.

Agency Action:

The grant fits within OPRD's mission that includes protecting outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic, and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations. It is also fully aligned with the goals and obligations set forth in the Western Snowy Plover Habitat Conservation Plan signed by OPRD in December 2010.

OPRD plans to remove invasive beach grass and restore over 25 acres of coastal dune ecosystem at Sitka Sedge State Natural Area (SSNA). This restoration project was identified in the Sitka Sedge State Natural Area Master Plan approved in August 2016 and will further the stewardship goals of the park and the agency. Western snowy plovers, a state and federally listed species, began successfully nesting at SSNA in 2016 for the first time in 30 years; coastal dune restoration will improve their nesting success, increase their population, and provide viewing opportunities for park visitors. This effort affirms OPRD's diligence and leadership in protecting Oregon's natural resources.

The USFS is offering this special grant program in an effort to assist non-federal lands projects that demonstrate benefits to the Siuslaw National Forest. This is a competitive grant supporting projects that support and promote sustainable use and enhancement of natural resources.

The Wyden Stewardship funds require a 20% match. OPRD will provide in-kind match with staff time working on this project. No additional staff is required.

Action Requested:

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) requests permission to submit a \$51,100 grant application to the Siuslaw Collaborative Restoration Watershed Program Wyden Stewardship Fund. If the grant is awarded, the Department will request expenditure limitation from the appropriate Legislative Committee or the Emergency Board.

Legislation Affected:

None.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lisa Sumption". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "L" and "S".

Lisa Sumption
Director