

## ANALYSIS

### Item 35: Department of State Lands Wetlands Program Development

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**Analyst:** Matt Stayner

**Request:** Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of State Lands by \$146,116 for the expenditure of federal grant funds awarded from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wetland Program Development program, for the development of an electronic geographic information system (GIS) data set for wetlands and waters delineation and determination records.

**Analysis:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) provides annual funding opportunities under the Region 10 Wetland Program Development Grant program. The Wetland Program Development Grants assist state, territorial, tribal, local government agencies and interstate/intertribal entities in developing or refining state/territorial/tribal/local programs which protect, manage, and restore wetlands.

The Department of State Lands (DSL) received retroactive approval to apply for grant funding under the Wetland Development Program of the EPA during the November 2021 meeting of the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

DSL will use the funding to work in conjunction with the Lane Council of Governments (LCOG) to prepare documents and datasets for inclusion a statewide wetlands GIS dataset. LCOG received prior funding under the same grant program for the development of methodologies for the creation and management of the dataset and initial pilot projects. The completed dataset will allow DSL to display wetland information on existing web-based mapping platforms including the Statewide Wetlands Inventory map that is not currently in an accurate GIS format or is currently only available on paper.

The total project costs are estimated to be \$203,379. Non-federal matching funds of \$57,261 (28.16% of total project costs) will be met using in-kind, related existing budgeted expenditures.

**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of State Lands by \$146,116 for the expenditure of federal grant funds awarded from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Wetland Program Development program, for the development of an electronic geographic information system (GIS) data set for wetlands and waters delineation and determination records.

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**Request:** Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$146,116 to complete an Oregon Wetland Geographical Information System Project grant from the Environmental Protection Agency.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Department of State Lands (DSL) applied for an Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) grant in June 2021. A retroactive request to apply for the grant was approved during the November 2021 meeting of the Interim Committee on Ways and Means. EPA awarded DSL the Wetland Program Development grant on September 9, 2021. The Federal Funds expenditure limitation request of \$146,116 allows DSL to fulfill the grant requirements by developing a statewide geographical information system (GIS) database. This database would include all the Agency's wetland and water delineation and determination records.

The original grant application and award was for \$203,279. This included a 25 percent state match, which is being met by DSL in-kind services.

DSL will complete the support tasks for preparing the files into a digital and geo-referenced database. There are approximately 15,000 records in various formats that need to be entered into a document archive system. The document archive system will be used to assist with the migration into a new digital database which the Agency will be developing over the next two years. Ultimately, the digital database system will benefit state, local government, and public entities interested in this data.

**Legal Reference:** Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 607, section 3(2), Oregon Laws 2021, for the Department of State Lands, Common School Fund programs by \$146,116 for the 2021-2023 biennium.



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of State Lands

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100  
Salem, OR 97301-1279  
(503) 986-5200  
FAX (503) 378-4844  
[www.oregon.gov/dsl](http://www.oregon.gov/dsl)

April 7, 2022

Senator Peter Courtney, Co-Chair  
Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
Joint Emergency Board  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

### State Land Board

Kate Brown  
Governor

Shemia Fagan  
Secretary of State

Dear Co-Chairs:

Tobias Read  
State Treasurer

### Nature of the Request

The Department of State Lands (Department) respectfully requests an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation of **\$146,116** for completing a database and document delivery for the Oregon Wetland GIS Project. The Department applied for and received a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for \$146,116 to fund the creation of an ESRI GIS dataset to map the study areas of all the Department's approved wetland delineations and determinations.

### Agency Action

The purpose of this award is to accomplish support tasks for a project to complete an ESRI-based geographic information systems (GIS) dataset of existing wetlands and waters delineation and determination (WD) study area locations. This project supports the Department's strategic plan goals by increasing program efficiency and the accessibility to WD files for staff, local governments, other groups, and the public by continuing to enhance the online Statewide Wetlands Inventory.

There are approximately 15,000 WD files. These are existing studies of wetland presence related to the Removal-Fill regulatory program. WD files are considered an intrinsic portion of the Statewide Wetlands Inventory by law, but the mapping is not available in GIS format and many of the documents are not available in digital formats. Under this grant proposal, DSL will complete all the support tasks for preparing the files into a digital and georeferenced database.

The grant tasks and deliverables include creating digital versions of nearly 9,000 paper records and entering these into a document archive system to allow connecting the digital documents

to attributes in the GIS dataset. DSL will also correct any errors in the database and document archive system, which will increase efficiency and accuracy of database searches and analyses and prepare the database for migration to a new records database system that the Department is developing over the next two years.

Beneficiaries of this grant include all state, local, and public interests in Oregon.

**Action Requested**

Approve an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation of **\$146,116** for the 2021-23 biennium.

**Legislation Affected**

Chapter 607, Section 3 (2), Oregon Laws 2021

Thank you for your interest and assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Jean Straight at (503) 986-5227.

Sincerely,



Vicki L. Walker  
Director

cc: Jason Miner, Office of the Governor  
Molly Woon, Office of the Secretary of State  
Ryan Mann, State Treasury  
Michelle Lisper, DAS Chief Financial Office  
Zane Potter, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Jean Straight, Deputy Director, DSL