

ANALYSIS

Item 47: Department of Forestry Federal Grant Award Limitation

Analyst: Matt Stayner

Request: Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$1,115,923 for the Department of Forestry, for the expenditure of federal grant awards for Topographical Data and Habitat Conservation Plan Development.

Analysis: The requested increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation is sufficient to accommodate two individual grant awards. The first of these is \$365,923 for the collection of high-quality lidar data. The Department of Forestry received permission to apply for this U.S. Geological Survey funding during the 2022 Legislative Session. Non-federal matching funds requirements are satisfied using in-kind costs of existing lidar data collection activities.

The second grant of \$750,000 is resultant from an application for funding by the Department of Fish and Wildlife under the Conservation Planning Assistance Grants program of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. The Department of Forestry was a sub-applicant. Grant funds will be used for the continued development of the Environmental Impact Statement and stakeholder engagement. The 25% non-federal matching funds requirement will be satisfied using existing budgetary resources.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Emergency Board increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of Forestry by \$1,115,923 for the expenditure of federal grant awards for Topographical Data and Habitat Conservation Plan Development.

Request: Increase Federal Funds expenditure limitation by \$1,115,923 for the State Forests program to support USGS-LIDAR and Habitat Conservation Plan federal grants.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is requesting an increase in Federal Funds expenditure limitation for funding to be received from two federal grants. The first of these grants is an award of \$420,680 from the United States Geological Survey to collect LIDAR data from five core areas, including areas impacted by the Beachie Creek Fire. The Department is only requesting an expenditure limitation increase of \$365,923 for this work.

The second grant is an award of \$750,000 from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Program. This funding will help support development of the Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan, including supporting implementation of National Environmental Policy Act analysis and consultation.

Legal Reference: Increase the Federal Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 605, section 4(3), Oregon Laws 2021, for the Oregon Department of Forestry, State Forests, by \$1,115,923 for the 2021-23 biennium.



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry
State Forester's Office
2600 State St.
Salem, OR, 97310
503-945-7200
www.oregon.gov/ODF

May 2, 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

RE: Request for increased federal fund limitation

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Department of Forestry respectfully requests \$1,115,923 of State Forests Federal Funds limitation.

Agency Action

Topographical Data - Lidar

During the 2021 session, the Joint Committee on Ways and Means approved ODF's request to apply for a grant in the amount of \$420,680 from the U.S. Geological Survey to collect new lidar data. Existing lidar data will be used as an in-kind contribution to USGS to satisfy the grant's match requirement, thus requiring no additional expenditure of state funds. ODF officially submitted their grant application on October 7, 2021 requesting the reduced amount of \$365,923.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)

ODF has been awarded a \$750,000 federal grant for fiscal year 2022 from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (CESCF) Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Program. This funding will support the development of the Western Oregon State Forests HCP, which will cover all ODF-managed state forestlands west of the Cascade Mountains. This proposal follows two successful Western Oregon State Forests HCP initiation and development projects funded through the CESCF in Fiscal Years 2017 and 2020.

The objective of this proposal is to support implementation of NEPA analysis and consultation. This includes public scoping, development of the environmental impact statement (EIS), and stakeholder engagement. ODF is working with NOAA Fisheries as the lead NEPA agency, as well as the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as a supporting agency, to initiate and complete the NEPA process. As the applicant, ODF has hired a third-party consultant to lead the technical project work, complete required analyses, and facilitate public engagement.

Action Requested

ODF respectfully an increase of \$1,115,923 in Federal Fund limitation in the State Forests Division to enable use of available federal grant dollars from the USGS and CESCFC federal grants.

Legislation Affected

SB 5518, Chapter 605, Section 4(3), Oregon Laws 2021.

Sincerely,



Cal Mukumoto
Oregon State Forester
(503) 945-7211

c: Jason Miner, Governor's Office
Oregon Board of Forestry
Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office
Renee Klein, Chief Financial Office