

ANALYSIS

Item 29: Parks and Recreation Department Owyhee Fish Cleaning Station

Analyst: Matt Stayner

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation in the amount of \$75,000 for the purchase and replacement of a fish cleaning station at Lake Owyhee State Park.

Analysis: The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) applied for and was awarded funding from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) to support the replacement of a fish cleaning station at Lake Owyhee State Park. The agency did not provide at least 10-day advance notification to the Legislature as directed, prior to applying for the funding.

The existing fish cleaning station is out of compliance with the current Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) permit. The replacement project is estimated to cost a total of \$150,000 with half of the funding coming from the BOR grant and the remaining half from existing OPRD budgetary resources. The new fish cleaning station will include a “Monster Industrial Fish Cleaning Station” with a self-contained fish grinding unit that “turns fish waste into a slurry that is easily flushed away.” The project budget includes funding for architectural, engineering, permitting, and project inspection service to ensure that the project will conform with a required general water pollution control facility permit from the DEQ. OPRD has been working closely with DEQ on the project. Waste from the fish cleaning station is handled by the OPRD operated onsite wastewater system.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the request.

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department
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Request: Retroactive authorization to apply for a grant of up to \$150,000 from the Bureau of Reclamation for facilities management of the Owyhee State Park.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is seeking retroactive authorization to apply for a grant from the Bureau of Reclamation for land and facilities management projects within the Owyhee State Park. The grant will support improvements to the fish grinding station area, as well as support for new permits to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality for work completed under the grant. Specifically, the grant will provide \$5,000 for engineering and architectural fees, \$40,000 for demolition and construction, \$17,000 for miscellaneous costs to support the shipping and supplies to the remote location, and \$10,000 for permit support.

The grant requires a 50 percent match of \$75,000, which the Department will meet by utilizing staff time within the Farewell Bend Management Unit. The construction work will be contracted out with third-party vendors. No additional staff or expenditure limitation is necessary to meet the matching requirements. The Department applied for the grant on June 30, 2023, and the grant was awarded on July 14, 2023, and the Department has five years to complete work supported by the grant. The Department will appear before the committee during the 2024 Legislative Session to request federal funds expenditure limitation associated with the grant.

The Department missed the 10-day notification deadline of intent to apply for a federal grant, however the retroactive approval request included an explanation and apology for missing the usual process with a commitment to provide training to avoid missing the notification process in the future.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Parks and Recreation Department

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August 18, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request:

The grant mentioned in this request was submitted on June 30, 2023 and awarded on July 14, 2023. We apologize for not sending this request earlier in this process as required. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) requests permission to accept this award from the Bureau of Reclamation (BOR) in the amount of \$150,000. The BOR is the land owner of Lake Owyhee State Park, while OPRD is contracted to manage the land and all the facilities within Lake Owyhee State Park. The grant would go towards the purchasing of a new replacement fish grinding table, rehab and improvements of the site where the fish grinder would be installed.

Agency Action:

The proposed project fits within OPRD's mission of "protecting outstanding cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations." The proposed project will undertake work to improve current conditions of the fish grinding station area. 1) purchasing and installation of a new fish grinding table to keep up with the high use and processing of a larger variety of fish species found within the Lake Owyhee Reservoir. 2) removing a section of the concrete pad that the table sits on and installing a floor drain, catch basin and a clean out lid. 3) adding in a safety fence and gate around the fish grinding station. 4) adding additional safety and operational signage to the fish grinding station that will be more inclusive to our diverse park guests and users of the fish grinding station. 5) for OPRD to apply for the permits needed by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) during this project.

Matching funds are required at 50% of project value. OPRD'S portion is \$75,000.

OPRD will provide staff support from existing staff that work within the Farewell Bend Management Unit (FBMU); no additional staff are needed.

Action Requested:

OPRD requests permission to accept a \$150,000 grant award from BOR. OPRD has 1 year with the ability to extend the grant out to 5 years to complete the project. OPRD will be using (FBMU) funds to cover the cost of the matching funds.

Legislation Affected:

None.

Sincerely,

Lisa Sumption
Director