

## ANALYSIS

### Consent Agenda – Various Agencies Requests for Approval to Apply for Federal Grants

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The following state agencies seek approval or retroactive approval to submit grant applications to various federal agencies. Retroactive approval is necessary for grant applications with deadlines that fell before the submittal dates for the September 2023 meeting of the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means and for which prior legislative approval had not been obtained. All agencies submitted advance notification to legislative leadership of their intent to apply for these grants as required by the Department of Administrative Services and Legislative Fiscal Office.

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#### Item 21: Department of Agriculture – Invasive Forest Pests

**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Forest Service in the amount of \$350,000 over a period of two years for invasive forest pest response.

**Analysis:** The U.S. Forest Service has allocated funds from the FY23 Omnibus Appropriations Bill to the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) to support response activities for pre-existing and emerging invasive forest pests. This non-competitive grant opportunity will fund projects to survey and implement pest management treatment for two of Oregon’s invasive forest pests. These include Phytophthora ramorum, the causal agent of sudden oak death, which was confirmed in Lincoln City in 2022; and Mediterranean Oak Borer, a newly established woodboring pest that targets oak trees, including the Oregon white oak. This opportunity has a 20% in-kind match requirement, which can be met through the work of ODA and Oregon State University. The application deadline was August 15, 2023, and ODA provided 10-day notification of the Department’s intent to apply on August 2, 2023.

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#### Item 23: Department of State Lands – Wasson Creek Trails and Boardwalk Replacement

**Analyst:** Matt Stayner

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration in the amount of \$400,000 over a period of five years to restore trails and build a boardwalk in the Wasson Creek valley in conjunction with the Wasson Creek Restoration Project.

**Analysis:** The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will provide \$12 million in total federal funds through a non-competitive grant opportunity with funding authorized by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Acts. Funds are to be allocated evenly between the thirty National Estuarine Research Reserves at \$400,000 each. The funding is intended to be used to support each reserve’s capacity to implement projects, initiatives and programs that increase the climate resilience of coastal communities and priority watersheds for each reserve in alignment with the Coastal Zone Management Act.

The Department of State Lands (DSL), through the South Slough Research Reserve, intends to use the funding in conjunction with other federal grant funding supporting the restoration and enhancement of the Wasson Creek Watershed. DSL will replace existing trails and walking bridges crossing the Wasson Valley in order to protect and maintain the newly restored wetlands and provide for appropriate accessibility for education, research, and public recreation. No state matching funds are required. The grant application deadline is November 1, 2023. Project awards are anticipated to be announced by April 1, 2024.

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#### **Item 24: Department of Energy – Energy Efficiency and Conservation**

**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy in the amount of \$1,941,990 over a period of three years to improve energy efficiency.

**Analysis:** The U.S. Department of Energy is offering formula grants to states, local governments, and tribes through the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program (EECBG). The EECBG program is made possible through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and provides funding to assist eligible entities to implement strategies to improve energy efficiency, reduce fossil fuel emissions, and decrease total energy use. The state's allocation is over \$1.9 million with no match requirement, of which at least 60% must be sub-granted to local governments that were not eligible for direct formula grants. The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) anticipates individual subgrants will be between \$50,000 and \$100,000. The application deadline was July 31, 2023, and ODOE provided 10-day notification of the Department's intent to apply on July 20, 2023.

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#### **Item 25: Department of Energy – Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates**

**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy in the amount of \$700,351 for preliminary planning and administration of the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates program.

**Analysis:** The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) is offering the opportunity to apply for early administrative funds related to the Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates (HEAR) program, made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act. HEAR is a federal formula grant program which provides grants to states and tribal governments to provide rebates for the installation of efficient electric technology in low- and medium-income homes.

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) has been allocated a share of the available HEAR funding totaling \$56.7 million, with no state match requirement. ODOE plans to apply for the majority of this funding by January 31, 2025; however, the current request is for \$700,351 from the total HEAR program grant allocation, so that ODOE can begin program development. ODOE provided a 10-day notification of the Department's intent to apply for the early administrative funds on July 31, 2023, and submitted the application to USDOE on August 11, 2023.

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## **Item 26: Department of Energy – Home Efficiency Rebates**

**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy in the amount of \$700,351 for preliminary planning and administration of the Home Efficiency Rebates program.

**Analysis:** The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) is offering the opportunity to apply for early administrative funds related to the Home Efficiency Rebates (HER) program, made possible by the Inflation Reduction Act. HER is federal formula grant program which provides rebates to lower the cost of energy-saving retrofits for low- and medium-income homes.

The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE) has been allocated a share of the available HER funding totaling \$57 million, with no state match requirement. ODOE plans to apply for the majority of this funding by January 31, 2025; however, the current request is for \$700,351 from the total HER program grant allocation, so that ODOE can begin program development. ODOE provided a 10-day notification of the Department’s intent to apply for the early administrative funds on July 31, 2023, and submitted the application to USDOE on August 11, 2023.

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## **Item 28: Department of Energy – Contractor Training**

**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy in the amount of \$2,028,480 to support a statewide workforce development program related to energy technologies.

**Analysis:** The U.S. Department of Energy (USDOE) is offering a formula-based grant to state energy offices to help prepare the workforce for implementation of new energy-efficient technologies related to the USDOE Home Energy Rebates program. The Oregon Department of Energy was allocated over \$2 million to support a statewide workforce development program over a four-year period of performance. The grant application is due on January 31, 2024, and no state match is required.

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## **Item 30: Department of Geology and Mineral Industries – Landslide and Debris Mapping**

**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Geological Survey in the amount of up to \$40,000 per year for a period of five years for landslide and debris mapping.

**Analysis:** The U.S. Geological Survey is offering a non-competitive assistance award to the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries to continue a multi-year landslide and debris mapping project. The

cooperative agreement would offer funding of up to \$40,000 per year, over a five-year period, with no match requirement. The grant application was due on September 15, 2023. The Department sent a 10-day letter of notification on June 23, 2023 and submitted the grant application July 26, 2023.

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### **Item 33: Department of Forestry – Regional Conservation Partnership Program**

**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Natural Resource Conservation Service, in the amount of up to \$5,400,000 over a period of five years, to reduce wildfire fuel loads in underserved communities.

**Analysis:** The Natural Resource Conservation Service, Regional Conservation Partnership Program, is offering a grant opportunity intended for the reduction of wildfire fuel loads in underserved communities. If awarded, the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) would treat 2,300 acres of non-industrial private forestland and build capacity for long-term maintenance through activities including fuels reduction practices, prescribed burns, forest maintenance, burn planning, and workshops. Although ODF's letter of request includes a grant amount of \$5.4 million, this was a best estimate at that time. ODF ultimately applied for \$4,512,825 in project funding with a five-year period of performance. There is no state match requirement; however, the project will utilize partner contributions from the Bureau of Land Management and Illinois Valley Forest Restoration Oversight Group in the form of in-kind match. The application was due no later than August 18, 2023 and ODF provided notification of the Department's intent to submit a grant application on August 11, 2023.

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### **Item 34: Department of Forestry – Urban and Community Forestry**

**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Forest Service in the amount of \$26,550,000 over a period of five years to fund urban forestry projects in disadvantaged communities.

**Analysis:** The U.S. Forest Service (USFS) Urban and Community Forestry Program is a technical, financial, and educational assistance program, delivering nature-based solutions to ensure a resilient and equitable tree canopy in urban settings. The federal program is offering grant opportunities, funded through the Inflation Reduction Act, aimed at increasing greenspace in urban settings through community forestry projects. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) has been allocated \$3.8 million, with no match requirement, and plans to establish an Urban and Community Forestry subaward grant program specifically for disadvantaged communities. Additionally, the USFS issued a notice of funding opportunity for \$1 billion in competitive grants for urban and community forestry projects. In response, ODF submitted a second supplemental proposal for an additional \$22.8 million with no match requirement, augmenting the \$3.8 million for the same purpose. The applications were both due by June 1, 2023 and ODF provided notifications of the Department's intent to submit the grant applications on May 23, 2023.

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### Item 35: Department of Forestry – Revegetation Initiatives

**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Forest Service in the amount of \$160,000 over a period of three years to increase seed supply and varieties available.

**Analysis:** The U.S. Forest Service is offering a non-competitive funding opportunity to states and tribes for the purpose of making investments in nursery and orchard facilities and addressing the growing interest in tree planting initiatives, particularly those resulting from natural disasters and the effects of climate change. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) intends to apply for the maximum grant of \$160,000 with a three-year period of performance. ODF has requested waiver of the state match requirement. The application was due no later than August 31, 2023 and ODF provided a 10-day notification of the Department’s intent to submit a grant application on August 18, 2023.

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### Item 38: Department of Fish and Wildlife – America the Beautiful Challenge

**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve, retroactively, the submission of a federal grant application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, America the Beautiful Challenge grant program, in the amount of \$13,614,879 to deliver four habitat restoration projects.

**Analysis:** The America the Beautiful Challenge grant program (ATBC) is administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) and funded by the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). The ATBC was established to streamline IIJA grant opportunities that invest in natural resource conservation and public access needs, including those which connect landscapes and build climate resiliency to benefit fish and wildlife. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has identified four projects, totaling \$13.6 million, that meet ATBC grant criteria:

1. **Willamette Valley Resilient Landscapes:** Restoring Oak and Prairie on Newly Protected Lands (\$5,441,378) - restore 1,800 acres of oak and prairie ecosystems across 21 permanently protected properties in the Willamette River Basin.
2. **Elk Creek Floodplain to Forest Restoration** (\$4,532,645) - implement in-stream and upland restoration actions in Elk Creek located in the Upper Rogue Watershed.
3. **Stream Complexity and Fish Passage for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon in the South Umpqua River** (\$2,400,000) - implement four high-priority fish passage projects within the South Umpqua River watershed.
4. **Klamath Upper Sprague Riverscapes Restoration** (\$1,240,856) - restoration of self-sustaining hydrogeomorphic and biotic processes along 48 miles and 345 acres of degraded streams and wet meadows in the Upper Sprague Basin of southern Oregon.

The grant opportunity includes a match requirement of 11% of total project cost, from non-federal funding sources, of which 2.5% must be cash. This requirement will be supported through the combination of partner contributions, grants from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and ODFW drought funding provided during the 2023 legislative session. The application deadline was July 20, 2023 and the agency submitted a 10-day notification on June 29, 2023.

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**Recommendation:** The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means approve the requests to apply for federal grants, en bloc, with the understanding that if the funds are awarded the agencies will return to the Legislative Assembly for approval of any necessary Federal Funds or Federal Funds as Other Funds expenditure limitation and position authority.



**OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE**

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August 18, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

**Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) requests retroactive approval to apply for a funding opportunity offered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). These funds are made available through the FY23 Omnibus Appropriations Bill, a \$1.7 trillion bill, which included over \$7 billion allotted to the U.S. Forest Service. The USFS is making these funds available to ODA as an Invasive Forest Pest Response Allocation, to support projects on two immediate invasive forest plant pest issues in Oregon. The ODA does not have current state funds available to conduct this work, but these are issues that are of a concern to ODA and our partners at the USFS, Pacific Northwest Region, Region 6.

This funding opportunity is being offered directly to ODA as a non-competitive grant that has a 20% in-kind match requirement, which is being met through ODA and Oregon State University. The source of match funds provided by ODA are a combination of Other, General, and Lottery funds. The ODA applied for \$350,000 for work that would occur over an estimated timeline of August 2023 to September 2025. The submission deadline for completed applications was August 15, 2023.

**Agency Action/Background**

ODA works collaboratively with regulatory partners, stakeholders, and the public to protect and safeguard Oregon's agricultural industries, forests, and quality of life from damaging plant insects and pathogens. Each year, new plant pests are introduced to Oregon through the movement of commodities, plants, and people. For example, over the last five years, fourteen woodborers exotic to Oregon have been detected. This includes the 2022

discovery of emerald ash borer (EAB), which will have a steady and negative impact to the Oregon landscape as it spreads.

If awarded, these funds would support two projects focused on pre-existing and emerging forest pests. The project aims to mitigate a neighborhood-wide infestation of *Phytophthora ramorum* (*P. ramorum*), the causal agent of sudden oak death, which was confirmed in Lincoln City in 2022. Over the course of 24 months, the ODA proposes to fund and direct plant removal and disposal activities, implement a soil biocontrol test project, provide mitigation and sanitation resources to affected parties, and conduct outreach and education on this pathogen. Work will be completed by existing ODA staff and contracted labor. Dozens of large ornamental plants were confirmed at several residential sites and a botanical garden. *P. ramorum* causes disease in both forests and nursery crops and is cooperatively managed by the ODA and the Oregon Department of Forestry. The ODA receives annual funding from USDA-APHIS-PPQ to survey for *P. ramorum* in Oregon nurseries, residential properties, and neighboring landscapes. However, these funds cannot be used for plant removal or extensive mitigation actions. All of which would be needed to properly address this residential infestation. If left unmanaged, there is risk that *P. ramorum* could spread and establish in the natural landscapes outside Lincoln City creating the first infestation in the northern part of the state leading to additional quarantines and treatment actions. Although the primary forest host, tanoak, is not present in this part of the state, Douglas-fir and rhododendron are ubiquitous species in our western Oregon forests.

The second project focuses on Mediterranean Oak Borer (MOB), a newly established woodboring insect pest in Oregon that targets multiple species of oak trees, including Oregon white oak. MOB is also a vector of a plant pathogen which causes wilt disease. Over a 27-month period ODA proposes to conduct additional surveys around known infested areas, conduct a statewide survey to determine where else MOB may occur in Oregon, and implement pest management treatment when possible. Work will be completed by existing ODA staff as well as four limited duration seasonal laborers which will be hired specifically for this project. Some actions, such as tree felling, pesticide treatments, and canopy inspections will be carried out by contracted arborists. MOB was first detected in 2018 in Multnomah County. Subsequent finds were in Marion, Clackamas and Washington Counties. In May 2023 a single MOB killed white oak was found in the Sandy River Delta area, marking the first detection of a MOB-infested oak tree in Oregon. MOB is a direct threat to Oregon's native oak species which serve as critical habitat trees and food source for wildlife and are often used in urban landscapes. White oak or Oregon white oak (*Quercus garryana*) is a keystone species in our already dwindling oak savannah habitat. Historically white oak was very





widespread in Oregon. However due to fire suppression, development, and conversion to agricultural land – less than 3% of its habitat remains in Oregon’s Willamette Valley. Increased drought frequency and severity are increasingly significant stressors to native oak populations. Further spread and additional establishment of MOB, along with the associated wilt fungus, will put these oaks at even greater risk. MOB is a federally regulated pest and other countries, and US states could restrict imports of oak from Oregon due to concern for spread of this pest.

The \$350,000 total funding request provides \$150,000 for *P. ramorum* Mitigation Response in Lincoln City and \$200,000 to conduct delimitation surveys on existing MOB infestations and to execute a statewide survey for MOB in Oregon to determine its distribution.

**Action Requested**

The department respectfully requests retroactive approval to apply for this \$350,000 funding opportunity.

**Legislation Affected**

If the grant application is successful, ODA will return to the Legislature for increased federal funds expenditure limitation and position authority for four grant-supported part-time limited duration seasonal laborers.

Sincerely,



Lauren Henderson, Acting Director  
Oregon Department of Agriculture





# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

**Department of State Lands**

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**State Land Board**

Tina Kotek

Governor

**August 21, 2023**

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

LaVonne Griffin-Valade

Secretary of State

Tobias Read

State Treasurer

Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

The Department of State Lands on behalf of South Slough Reserve is requesting approval to apply for \$400,000 in Federal Funds from the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) to support activities connected to climate resilience. These non-competitive funds are being available to National Estuarine Research Reserves (NERRS) through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) and Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The BIL was previously called the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA).

## **Agency Action**

The Department of State Lands oversees the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (Reserve) on the southern Oregon coast. The Reserve manages nearly 7,000 acres of natural habitat which includes open water channels, tidal and freshwater wetlands, riparian areas, and forested lands. This area is managed for long-term research, education, and public recreation with a focus on the stewardship and protection of natural and cultural resources.

Funding guidance and deadlines for this new, non-competitive grant program were released on August 9, 2023, and full applications are due on November 1, 2023. Proposals that meet the funding requirements are expected to have an award date of April 1, 2024, and an end of December 30, 2029. There is no match requirement for this funding.

This request complements the Reserve's Wasson Creek Watershed Restoration Project that began in April 2023. That project is funded through a Federal grant from a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funding program

through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The Reserve received legislative approval at the December 2022 Emergency Board for the Federal grant to support the Wasson watershed project, which aims to improve the forest health of the uplands, reestablish native plant communities and wetlands, and reconnect the channelized creek with the floodplain.

To execute the Wasson Creek Watershed Restoration Project, the existing trails and walking bridges that cross the Wasson valley need to be removed. The trails and boardwalk will be designed and constructed in a way that protects cultural resources, maintains the integrity of the newly restored wetlands. The criteria for the NOAA grant that is supporting the restoration work doesn't allow funds to be used for constructing boardwalks or trails; therefore, the Reserve must apply for separate funding to complete this aspect of the project.

The Agency and Reserve are requesting permission to apply for this capacity grant to reestablish trails and build a boardwalk that spans the restored wetland areas to reconnect public access across the Wasson Creek valley. Restoring the trails and access to the Wasson valley will benefit the public, the Department, and the Reserve by maximizing the accessibility for education, research, public recreation, and wildlife viewing for many years to come.

### **Action Requested**

The Department requests the Joint Committee on Ways and Means provide approval to apply for \$400,000 in Federal Funds through NOAA's IRA Non-competitive funding program. Federal limitation will need to increase \$400,000 to accommodate this grant/project. If the Reserve is awarded this grant, we will return at that time to request an increase in our federal limitation.

### **Legislation Affected**

None

Sincerely,



Vicki L. Walker  
Director

CC: Geoff Huntington, Governor's NR Policy Advisor  
Michelle Lisper, CFO Analyst  
Matt Stayner, LFO Analyst  
Bree Yednock, Reserve Manager  
Jean Straight, Deputy Director, Administration



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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**August 25, 2023**

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Energy requests retroactive approval to apply for the “Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program” (EECBG). EECBG is a federal formula grant offered by the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) Section 40552(b). The EECBG Program provides federal grants to states, units of local government, and Indian tribes to assist eligible entities in implementing strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions, to reduce total energy use, and to improve energy efficiency. \$3,873,120 in EECBG grants have been made directly available to eligible local governments in Oregon, but they are required to apply for the funding. The Oregon Department of Energy’s share of the formula grant is \$1,941,990, of which at least 60 percent must be sub-granted to local governments who were not eligible for direct formula grants. The grant has a three-year performance period. ODOE anticipates individual subgrants will be between \$50K and \$100K. Subgrants will be provided within 180 days of USDOE approval of ODOE’s application.

ODOE provided a 10-day notification of our intent to submit the EECBG grant application on July 20, 2023 and submitted the application to USDOE on July 31, 2023. The grant does not require a state match.

The formula grant is anticipated to be a one-time allocation with a three-year performance period.

The agency anticipates that at least 40% of the benefits of the federal funds will serve qualifying disadvantaged communities as defined in USDOE Justice40 guidance.

## **Agency Action**

ODOE will advance the State’s energy and climate change strategies by passing through no less than 60 percent of the EECBG allocation to the cities and counties not eligible for direct allocation of block grant funds. The outcomes of EECBG funding will ensure long-term sustainable benefits to the recipients by reducing greenhouse gas emissions and total energy usage. This will be accomplished through deployment of energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in the building, institutional, commercial, transportation, and public sectors.

Since the opportunity was announced in January, ODOE has conducted stakeholder outreach to best understand the needs of small governments and how the funding can leverage work already being

done in this space by utilities, consumer-based organizations, and non-profits. This stakeholder engagement has included a public webinar held in April 2023, in-person meetings throughout the state, virtual sessions, and surveys. Stakeholder feedback will be incorporated into ODOE's selection of the allowable project categories, such as building audits/retrofits, building efficiency and electrification campaigns, energy savings performance contracts, solar and storage, electric vehicles for municipal fleets, and EV charging infrastructure for communities.

### **Background on Federal Grant Information**

- The source of the grant is the United States Department of Energy's Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program, operated by USDOE's Office of State and Community Energy Programs under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.
- The amount of the grant being requested from USDOE is \$1,941,990 in formula funds. ODOE will return to a future Emergency Board or Ways and Means committee to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation after the funds are awarded.
- The purpose of the grant is to implement strategies to reduce fossil fuel emissions, to reduce total energy use, and to improve energy efficiency, which will be done primarily through subawards to local governments who were not eligible for direct formula grants from USDOE. The grant application deadline was July 31, 2023.
- There is no match requirement.
- The grant directly supports the mission of ODOE which is, in part, to help Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. The federal funding opportunity will directly support investments to reduce energy use and improve efficiency.

### **Action Requested**

The Oregon Department of Energy is requesting retroactive approval to apply for the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant program. Once the federal award is made, ODOE will return to seek Federal Funds expenditure limitation and may request additional positions to administer the grant, if needed, including a Limited Duration Compliance Specialist 3 position to conduct site visits of subgrantees to ensure compliance with grant requirements to be funded by the grant. ODOE may return as needed for additional requests related to future years of the grant program.

### **Legislation Affected**

None.



Janine Benner, Director

cc: Sione Filimoehala, CFO  
April McDonald, LFO  
Doug Wilson, LFO

Link to the solicitation: [Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program | Department of Energy](#)



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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**August 21, 2023**

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Energy requests retroactive approval to apply for early administrative funds related to the “Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates” (HEAR\*) and will seek retroactive approval to apply from the legislature at the next available opportunity. HEAR is federal formula grant program offered by the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Section 50122. The HEAR Program provides federal grants to states and Tribal governments to provide rebates for the installation of efficient electric technology in low- and medium-income homes. The Oregon Department of Energy’s share of the formula grant is \$56,714,440. The Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the full grant for this program was released on July 27<sup>th</sup> and the application is due no later than January 31, 2025. USDOE is making early administrative funds available to states to help them prepare for this program. ODOE intends to request \$700,351 in early administrative funding from our grant allocation for the HEAR program to begin program development.

ODOE provided a 10-day notification of our intent to submit the early administrative funds grant application on July 31, 2023, and submitted the application to USDOE on August 11, 2023. The grant does not require a state match.

The early administrative funds are anticipated to be a partial allocation with an initial two-year performance period, which can be rolled back into the total funds available, if necessary. The period of performance for the remaining funds, as part of this program, will be identified in the subsequent ALRD.

## **Agency Action**

ODOE will use the grant funds to support the State’s energy and climate change strategies by passing through no less than 80 percent of the HEAR allocation in the form of rebates to Oregonians updating their homes with energy-saving appliances. The HEAR funds will ensure long term sustainable benefits to the recipients by reducing fossil fuel emissions and total energy usage. This will be accomplished through deployment of point-of-sale rebates for energy efficient electrification upgrades in the limited-income, residential sector.

Sections 8-9 of HB 3630, passed during the 2023 legislative session, provided ODOE with General Fund to help prepare Oregon to receive funding under this grant, which will involve standing up the HEAR program after consultation with stakeholders. The early administrative funds for program design will leverage state funding made available by the legislature to develop a program that aligns and, where possible, integrates with existing energy efficiency programs in the state. The early administrative funds will help support a Program Analyst 3 (PA3) and a contractor dedicated to outreach and stakeholder engagement, while leveraging state resources made available through HB 3630. In addition to helping Oregonians identify various incentives and rebates available to them, the newly established position will also oversee a contractor dedicated to outreach and stakeholder engagement to inform HEAR program design. Upon recruitment of this position and procurement of a contractor, ODOE will begin conducting stakeholder outreach to best understand the needs of community-based organizations, contractors, and retailers, and how residents can benefit from HEAR funding.

### **Background on Federal Grant Information**

- The source of the grant is the United States Department of Energy’s High Efficiency, Electric Home Rebates program, operated by USDOE’s Office of State and Community Energy Programs under Section 50122 of the Inflation Reduction Act.
- The amount of early administrative funds being requested from USDOE is \$700,351 from the “Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates” (HEAR) federal formula grant. ODOE will return to a future Emergency Board or Ways and Means committee to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation after the funds are awarded.
- The purpose of the HEAR grant is to implement a program that will reduce fossil fuel emissions, lower energy use in homes, and improve energy efficiency to save Oregonians money. This will be done primarily through rebates to individuals in low- and medium-income homes. The early access to the administrative funds is intended to provide states the ability to begin strategic planning, consumer outreach and education, as well as building capacity to implement a successful grant program. ODOE submitted the application on August 11, 2023
- There is no match requirement.
- The grant directly supports the mission of ODOE which is, in part, to help Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. The federal funding opportunity will directly support investments to reduce energy use and improve efficiency.

### **Action Requested**

The Oregon Department of Energy requests retroactive approval to apply for early administrative funds for the “Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates” (HEAR) federal formula grant . Once the federal award is made, ODOE will return to seek Federal Funds expenditure limitation and additional position authority, if needed. ODOE will also return for an additional request related to the remaining allocation of the grant program.

**Legislation Affected**

None.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janine Benner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

Janine Benner, Director

cc: Sione Filimoehala, CFO  
April McDonald, LFO  
Doug Wilson, LFO

Link to the solicitation: [Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates | Department of Energy](#)





# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



550 Capitol St. NE

Salem, OR 97301

Phone: 503-378-4040

Toll Free: 1-800-221-8035

FAX: 503-373-7806

[www.oregon.gov/energy](http://www.oregon.gov/energy)

**August 25, 2023**

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Energy requests retroactive approval to apply for early administrative funds related to the “Home Efficiency Rebates” (HER\*) federal formula grant program offered by the United States Department of Energy (USDOE) under the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Section 50121 and will seek retroactive approval to apply from the legislature at the next available opportunity. The HER program provides rebates that lower the cost of energy-saving retrofits for low- and medium-income homes. The Oregon Department of Energy’s share of the formula grant is \$57,046,250. The Administrative and Legal Requirements Document (ALRD) for the full grant for this program was released on July 27<sup>th</sup> and the application is due no later than January 31, 2025. USDOE is making early administrative funds available to states to help them prepare for this program. ODOE intends to request \$700,351 in early administrative funding our grant allocation for HER program to begin developing this program.

ODOE provided a 10-day notification of our intent to submit the early administrative funds grant application on July 31, 2023, and submitted the application to USDOE on August 11, 2023. The grant does not require a state match.

The early administrative funds are anticipated to be a partial allocation with an initial two-year performance period, which can be rolled back into the total funds available, if necessary. The period of performance for the remaining funds, as part of this program, will be identified in the subsequent ALRD.

## **Agency Action**

ODOE will use Home Efficiency Rebates grant funds to support the State’s energy and climate change strategies by passing through no less than 80 percent of the HER allocation in the form of rebates to Oregonians retrofitting their homes with energy-saving upgrades. The HER funds will ensure long term sustainable benefits to the recipients by reducing fossil fuel emissions and total energy usage. This will be accomplished through deployment of performance-based rebates for residential energy efficiency retrofits that save a minimum of 20 percent of household energy use.

Sections 8-9 of HB 3630, passed during the 2023 legislative session, provided ODOE with General Fund to help prepare Oregon to receive funding under this grant, which will involve standing up the HER program after consultation with stakeholders. The early administrative funds for program design will leverage state funding made available by the legislature to develop a program that aligns and, where possible, integrates with existing energy efficiency programs in the state. The early administrative funds will help support a Program Analyst 3 (PA3) and a contractor dedicated to outreach and stakeholder engagement, while leveraging state resources made available through HB 3630. In addition to helping Oregonians identify various incentives and rebates available to them, this newly established position will also manage a contractor dedicated to outreach and stakeholder engagement to inform HER program design. Upon recruitment of this position and procurement of a contractor, ODOE will begin conducting stakeholder outreach to best understand the needs of community-based organizations, contractors, and retailers, and how residents can benefit from HER funding.

### **Background on Federal Grant Information**

- The source of the grant is the United States Department of Energy’s Home Energy Performance-Based, Whole House Rebates program, operated by USDOE’s Office of State and Community Energy Programs under Section 50121 of the Inflation Reduction Act.
- The amount of the grant being requested from USDOE is \$700,351 from the “Home Efficiency Rebates” (HER) federal formula grant. ODOE will return to a future Emergency Board or Ways and Means committee to request additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation after the funds are awarded.
- The purpose of the grant is to implement a program that will reduce fossil fuel emissions, lower energy use in homes, and improve energy efficiency to save Oregonians money. This will be done primarily through rebates to individuals in low- and medium-income homes. The early access to the administrative funds is intended to provide states the ability to begin strategic planning, consumer outreach and education, as well as building capacity to implement a successful grant program. ODOE submitted the application on August 11, 2023.
- There is no match requirement.
- The grant directly supports the mission of ODOE which is, in part, to help Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. The federal funding opportunity will directly support investments to reduce energy use and improve efficiency.

### **Action Requested**

The Oregon Department of Energy requests retroactive approval to apply for early administrative funds for the “Home Efficiency Rebates” (HER) federal formula grant . Once the federal award is made, ODOE will return to seek Federal Funds expenditure limitation and additional position authority, if needed. ODOE will also return for an additional request related to the remaining allocation of the grant program.

**Legislation Affected**

None.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janine Be". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Janine Benner, Director

cc: Sione Filimoehala, CFO  
April McDonald, LFO  
Doug Wilson, LFO

Link to the solicitation: [Home Efficiency Rebates | Department of Energy](#)



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



550 Capitol St. NE  
Salem, OR 97301  
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August 25, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Energy seeks permission to apply for the Contractor Training Grant, a formula grant offered by the U.S. Department of Energy authorized through the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (IRA). The grant will help prepare the workforce to implement new energy-efficient technologies for Home Energy Rebates that are incentivized through IRA. The program will also support the state's goal of deploying 500,000 new heat pumps by 2030 by investing in the necessary workforce.

## **Agency Action**

The federal grant opportunity was released on July 17, 2023 as a formula-based award to state energy offices. ODOE has been allocated \$2,028,480 to support a statewide workforce development program. The grant has a four-year period of performance. The grant application is due on January 31, 2024. No state match is required.

Since release of the opportunity announcement, ODOE has engaged with a variety of different stakeholders to help inform the program design. While planning efforts for the program are ongoing, ODOE intends to utilize the federal grant funding to support the state-funded Energy Efficient Technologies Information and Training program authorized in HB 3409 during the 2023 legislative session. Stakeholder feedback indicates that there are existing electrician and construction training programs and educational facilities within Oregon that could benefit from an investment in energy efficiency coursework for Oregonians entering the workforce, as well as ways to support as well as supporting contractors and their employees in enhancing their skills. There is also a need to expand entrepreneurial training programs for existing contractors, to strengthen the network of employers in the electrical and construction fields. ODOE anticipates providing subgrants to existing workforce programs to further develop the clean energy workforce.

Additionally, the grant is aimed at increasing equity by supporting programs and businesses in disadvantaged communities. The grant is covered by Justice40 Initiative, which requires 40% of the benefits to flow to disadvantaged communities as defined by the federal agency. ODOE will ensure subgrants benefit workforce development in these communities.

The Contractor Training Grant will support ODOE's mission to advance solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition by better preparing the workforce to deploy efficient home energy technologies and upgrades. This investment in an energy efficiency workforce will prepare Oregon for a rapid deployment of energy-saving installations in Oregon's homes and businesses.

### **Action Requested**

ODOE requests approval to submit the grant application to the U.S. Department of Energy. If awarded, ODOE intends to return to seek additional limitation as needed to conduct the work as awarded.

### **Legislation Affected**

None.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Janine Benner".

Janine Benner, Director

cc: Sione Filimoehala, CFO  
April McDonald, LFO  
Doug Wilson, LFO

Link to the solicitation: [State-Based Home Energy Efficiency Contractor Training Grants | Department of Energy](#)



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Geology and Mineral Industries

Administrative Offices  
800 NE Oregon St., Suite 965  
Portland, OR 97232-2162  
(971) 673-1555  
Fax: (971) 673-1562  
[www.oregon.gov/dogami](http://www.oregon.gov/dogami)

August 21, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-chairs:

### **Nature of the Request**

The purpose of this letter is to request retroactive legislative approval regarding a federal grant application. The Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI) applied for a federal non-competitive assistance award through the United States Geological Survey (USGS) to enter into a 5-year Cooperative Agreement for funding of up to \$40,000 per year. Funding over the life of the agreement is subject to the continued availability of funds and the needs of the Federal Government. This program is a continuance of a multi-year landslide and debris mapping project DOGAMI started in 2019 and completed in September 2022. Funding has now become available to continue this project, through a new five-year cooperative agreement. The cooperative agreement will fund collaborative research with the USGS in support of research on the processes and conditions leading to landslide and debris-flow occurrence following wildfires.

The USGS notice of intent was posted on-line June 1, 2023 with the grant submission due by September 15, 2023. DOGAMI sent a 10-day letter on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. DOGAMI submitted our application July 26th. The USGS Landslide Hazard Program has informally recommended issuance of a cooperative agreement pending DOGAMI's formal application.

This grant opportunity supports DOGAMI's mission and goals to provide earth science information and regulation to make Oregon safe and prosperous. This grant supports Key Performance Measure #1: Hazard and Risk Assessment Completion.

DOGAMI will charge the full indirect rate. This grant does not have a match requirement and does not require additional staffing. DOGAMI will not require an increase in our federal fund expenditure limitation.

### **Agency Action**

Under DOGAMI's funding model it is essential that the Agency pursue relevant federal grant funding opportunities as they become available to satisfy biennial budget projections.

**Action Requested**

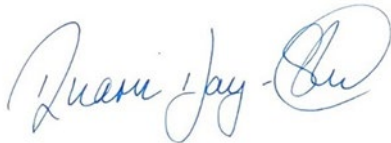
The department is requesting retroactive legislative approval to apply to USGS for the above FY23 non-competitive assistance award.

**Legislation Affected**

None.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please contact me at 971-673-1550.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruari J. Day-Stirrat". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "R".

Ruari J. Day-Stirrat  
Executive Director/State Geologist

cc: Kate Nass, Chief Financial Office  
Sione Filimoehala, Chief Financial Office  
Karin Power, Governor's Office  
April McDonald, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Office



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Forestry  
State Forester's Office  
2600 State St  
Salem, OR 97310-0340  
503-945-7200  
[www.oregon.gov/ODF](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF)

August 25, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and  
Means 900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

We are requesting permission to appear before the Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means to seek support for our implementation strategy addressing the wildfire crisis in Southwest Oregon's Illinois Valley, particularly Josephine County. Our proposal involves applying for a federal grant through the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP). Our plan focuses on reducing fuel loads in underserved communities by utilizing prescribed burns, fuels reduction practices, and forest maintenance. This initiative encompasses treating 2,300 acres of non-industrial private forestland and building capacity for long-term maintenance through prescribed burns, burn plans, community-led burns, and workshops. We request your approval to proceed with the grant application to realize this strategy's goals.

## **Agency Action**

We would like retroactive approval to apply to the Regional Conservation Partnership Project from the Natural Resource Conservation Service, fill the requested FTE positions if this project is successful in being funded and ensure we have the appropriate amount of federal fiscal spending authority prior to award.

### *Summary of Grant Application Information*

The source of the grant opportunity and purpose of the grant: Natural Resource Conservation Service, Regional Conservation Partnership Program Alternate Funding Arrangement (NRCS RCPP, AFA) for fuel reduction activities.



The amount being requested and timeframe of the grant period: \$5.4 million over 5 years of performance.

The grant application deadline: August 18, 2023.

A description of any state match or maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements, or confirmation that no match or MOE is required: No ODF Programmatic match is being supplied to this project. This project has a loose 1:1 partner contribution requirement per NRCS RCPP guidelines.

The source of funding the agency plans to use to satisfy any state match or MOE requirements: This project uses partner contributions from the Bureau of Land Management and Illinois Valley Forest Restoration Oversight Group in the form of In-Kind match. These are representative of costs associated with their projects within our RCPP footprint. BLM and IVFROG members have signed formal documentation approving this.

A description of the impact, if any, the match or MOE will have on budgeted services and performance measures: Project isn't possible without partner contributions, both formally documented and leveraged due to NRCS Partner Contribution Requirements. This project and corresponding in-kind contributions support ODF's core business strategy for fuel reduction.

An estimate of additional positions, FTE, and expenditure limitation needed if the grant application is approved: One Natural Resource Specialist 2 (NRS2) for 60 months (5 years) to administer project. This project will also help fund the existing 20 positions on the two South West Oregon (SWO) fuel crews (2 forest officers, 8 Forest Management technicians, 10 Student Laborers).

Description of how the grant supports the agency's mission and goals: The NRCS RCPP grant aligns seamlessly with the mission and goals of the Oregon Department of Forestry. As the state agency responsible for protecting and managing Oregon's forests, our mission centers on fostering the health, resilience, and productivity of our forests, while ensuring their long-term sustainability and public benefits. The grant's primary objective of addressing wildfire risks and enhancing forest health directly supports ODF's wildfire prevention, suppression, and management work. By implementing fuel reduction activities and strategic prescribed burning, the project aims to mitigate the threat of catastrophic wildfires, safeguarding lives, properties, and vital natural resources.

Does the grant create a new program, or how does the grant impact existing programs: The NRCS RCPP serves as a natural progression and an extension of existing programs, building upon the strong foundation laid by the state-wide agreement between the Oregon Department of Forestry and NRCS. The current agreement funds two NRS2 Forester positions in SWO, enhancing capacity and resources for historically underserved communities.

How does the grant impact equity? The proposed project is committed to promoting diversity, equity, and inclusion by actively encouraging the participation of historically underserved (HU) producers, including socially disadvantaged, beginning, limited resource, and veteran farmers and ranchers. According to the Oregon State University 2022 Social Vulnerability Index (SVI) Data Set, 74,375 acres within the project area are categorized as having the highest vulnerability (75-100 percentile) based on the Overall SVI Tract data.

What happens once grant funding is exhausted? Project work will conclude when grant funding is exhausted. Then we pursue an additional project phase.

### **Action Requested**

We are requesting retroactive approval to apply for a \$5.4 million fuel reduction project grant for work in the South West Oregon District.

### **Legislation Affected**

No legislation affected.

Sincerely,



Cal Mukumoto  
Oregon State Forester

c: Legislative Fiscal Office  
Chief Financial Office  
Board of Forestry  
Governor's Office



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Forestry  
State Forester's Office  
2600 State St  
Salem, OR 97310-0340  
503-945-7200  
[www.oregon.gov/ODF](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF)

August 22, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Forestry respectfully requests retroactive approval to apply for a U.S. Forest Service (USFS) grant package that will be funded through the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to establish an Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) subaward grant program specifically for the benefit of disadvantaged communities in Oregon. This subaward grant program will help address a number of priority issues such as social and environmental justice, disaster resilience, climate change and carbon capture, green workforce development, and water quality/quantity.

## **Agency Action**

On April 12, 2023, the USFS announced initial IRA allocations totaling \$250 million to state UCF programs throughout the nation. These allocations were based primarily on each state's population. Oregon's state program allotment was announced to be \$3.75 million. ODF has applied for this federal funding and has received approval from the USFS for a full match waiver. Additionally, this spring the USFS also issued a notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for \$1 billion in competitive grants for urban & community forestry projects. In response to this NOFO, ODF submitted a second (supplemental) IRA grant proposal totaling \$22.86 million to augment the \$3.75 million IRA state allotment. A full match waiver has also been requested for this supplemental grant.

Significant disparities in urban and community forestry benefits exist in Oregon, with higher-income areas having more canopy and greenspace while underserved communities suffer from air pollution and poor environmental health. These communities face barriers like limited resources, lack of information, language

barriers, and institutional biases that prevent them from accessing federal funding and participating in greening initiatives. Decision-making and implementation of initiatives often exclude the perspectives of disadvantaged communities, leading to procedural injustice. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) aims to address these issues by requesting funding to directly support organizations working with dis-invested communities and promote tree equity. ODF plans to establish subaward programs for Federally Recognized Tribes and all eligible entities, prioritizing overburdened and underserved communities. Additionally, ODF intends to help increase nursery stock capacity and subsidize tree purchasing for organizations and agencies involved in tree planting programs in disadvantaged communities, addressing the challenges posed by climate change, pests, and development pressure on Oregon's forests.

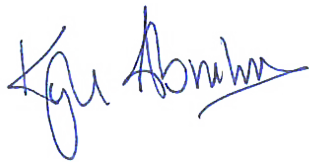
### **Action Requested**

ODF requests retroactive approval to apply for U.S. Forest Service grants totaling \$26.61 million (\$3.75 million + \$22.86 million) that will be funded through the Inflation Reduction Act to establish Urban & Community Forestry subaward grant programs specifically for the benefit of disadvantaged communities in Oregon. Because of full match waivers, no matching funds from the state are being requested. If approved, the department may submit a subsequent request for an increase in Federal Fund limitation.

### **Legislation Affected**

No legislation affected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyle Abraham".

Kyle Abraham  
Deputy State Forester

c: Legislative Fiscal Office  
Chief Financial Office  
Board of Forestry  
Governor's Office



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Forestry  
State Forester's Office  
2600 State St  
Salem, OR 97310-0340  
503-945-7200  
[www.oregon.gov/ODF](http://www.oregon.gov/ODF)

August 16, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) respectfully requests retroactive approval to apply for federal funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law through the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). ODF intends to apply for a federal grant, being offered through the USDA Forest Service, in the amount of \$160,000.

## **Agency Action**

The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes support for ecosystem restoration across multiple provisions. This is a non-competitive funding opportunity made available to states and tribes for the purposes of making investments in nursery and orchard facilities and to address the growing interest in tree planting initiatives, particularly resulting from natural disasters and the effects of climate change. ODF's application is for increasing the seed supply and varieties available at the J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard in St. Paul, Oregon.

ODF developed and submitted a proposal for this funding in March 2023 and only recently received notice from the USFS to formally apply. The planned application submission date is Aug. 13, 2023.

### *Summary of Grant Application Information*

Purpose of grant: The purpose of the grant is to make investments in nursery and orchard facilities and to address the growing interest in tree planting initiatives, particularly resulting from natural disasters and the effects of climate change.

ODF will request the maximum amount of \$160,000 available to states in FY 2023. The USFS has yet to determine if funding will continue to be available for this program in subsequent years. The initial grant period is expected to be three years, with the possibility of requesting an extension to the grant period. Additional funds may become available in FY 2024.

Application deadline: The USFS has requested that the applications be received by August 31, 2023, so grant agreements can be executed by federal fiscal year end on Sept. 30, 2023.

Description of match and source of funding to satisfy match: A partial or full waiver of the match requirement was available for this funding opportunity. ODF has requested a full waiver in the proposal. This has yet to be officially approved, but the USFS has indicated that match waivers have been standard practice with other state applications in process. The match waiver will ensure there is no impact on budgeted services.

Does grant create a new program or does grant impact existing programs? A portion of the grant funds will be used to offset some staff costs associated with project oversight, coordination, and labor. As proposed, the project will be completed with existing staff resources at the J.E. Schroeder Seed Orchard. There will not be any new positions added.

Helping Oregon's forestlands continue to be forest, as well as supporting efforts that create healthy, resilient, and productive forest landscapes is core business of ODF and the Forest Resources Division. This funding opportunity will simply build upon existing and ongoing work that tiers to these high-level goals.

How does the grant impact equity and anti-racism efforts? This grant will first identify critical gaps in the state's seed supply. Then, through purchasing and establishing new orchards, increase the ability of the facility to respond and support reforestation needs in deficient geographies.

Perhaps the most notable outcome of the proposed project will be a greater ability to support the reforestation of lands which have been impacted by catastrophic wildfires. Forestlands provide an array of benefits to all Oregonians, and with a more diversified seed supply, the state will be better suited to quickly restore forests in critical locations.

What happens when grant funding is exhausted? This funding opportunity is currently understood to be one-time and short term. When the funding is exhausted, the J.E. Schroder Seed Orchard will have been able to procure specific seed species on

the open market to address needs in the near-term, as well as establish new orchards which will provide a source of seed for these species in future years.

**Action Requested**

The department requests retroactive approval to apply for federal funding in the amount of \$160,000 from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law through the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). If the application is approved, the department will not need an increase in Federal Fund limitation.

**Legislation Affected**

No legislation affected.

Sincerely,



Cal Mukumoto  
Oregon State Forester

c: Legislative Fiscal Office  
Chief Financial Office  
Board of Forestry  
Governor's Office



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife  
Office of the Director  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE  
Salem, OR 97302  
(503) 947-6044  
FAX (503) 947-6042  
[odfw.com](http://odfw.com)

August 21, 2023

Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301



Dear Co-Chairs:

## **Nature of the Request**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) requests retroactive approval to submit four federal grant applications totaling \$13,614,879 to the America the Beautiful Challenge (ATBC) for the purpose of restoring habitats, connecting landscapes, and building climate resiliency to benefit fish and wildlife in Oregon.

## **Background**

The America the Beautiful Challenge Grant Program is being administered by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) through a cooperative agreement with the Department of the Interior (DOI), Department of Defense, U.S. Forest Service (USFS), and Natural Resources Conservation Service. The ATBC was established to streamline Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act grant funding opportunities that invest in natural resource conservation and public access needs, for cumulative benefits to fish and wildlife, enhanced carbon sequestration, engagement with underserved communities, and protection of ecosystems through resilience across the U.S.

ODFW identified four projects for the Implementation Grant Category 1, which uses DOI funds to implement projects that address ATBC program priorities on public, Tribal, and private lands. The Implementation Grants require a non-federal match of 11% of total project costs, of which 2.5% must be cash. ODFW would pass through all the \$13,614,879 federal funds to partners, and partners would provide \$6,616,290 in state/non-federal match. Match exceeds the minimum requirement because of numerous and diverse partners willing to work together to meet common restoration goals on these projects. ODFW does not anticipate a need for additional FTE with this funding opportunity.



*Summary of ODFW Project Proposals*

<b>ODFW Project Proposal Name</b>	<b>Funding Request</b>	<b>Match Required</b>	<b>State Match</b>	<b>Partner Match</b>
Willamette Valley Resilient Landscapes: Restoring Oak and Prairie on Newly Protected Lands	\$5,441,378	\$598,552	\$930,145	\$747,344
Elk Creek Floodplain to Forest Restoration	\$4,532,645	\$498,590	\$2,951,879	\$411,197
Stream Complexity and Fish Passage for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon in the South Umpqua River	\$2,400,000	\$240,000	\$91,250	\$177,000
Klamath Upper Sprague Riverscapes Restoration	\$1,240,856	\$124,856	\$0	\$1,307,475
<b>Totals:</b>	<b>\$13,614,879</b>	<b>\$1,461,998</b>	<b>\$3,973,274</b>	<b>\$2,643,016</b>
			<b>Total Match \$ 6,616,290</b>	

A. Willamette Valley Resilient Landscapes: Restoring Oak and Prairie on Newly Protected Lands

*Project Purpose:*

The project will restore 1,800 acres of oak and prairie ecosystems across 21 permanently protected properties in the Willamette River Basin, to create a network of habitat on Tribal, private, and public lands, develop a stronger local conservation workforce, and a more robust restoration supply chain. Of the 1,800 acres, 800 will be restored by Tribes, on Tribal land. Restoration of oak and prairie habitat supports the recovery of state and federally listed species and directly contributes to bird habitat and population objectives, increased access for Tribal members to priority culturally significant areas, increased restoration of Tribal subsistence resources, and increased opportunity for cultural burning.

This project relies on a strategic approach that leverages resources, focuses on priority habitats and species, and produces substantial ecological returns. By targeting critically needed restoration on protected sites, it leverages investments and is a win-win for private landowners, Tribes, local communities, and species. The Willamette Valley Resilient Landscapes project advances multiple state and federal priorities and species recovery objectives, three Tribal natural resource plans and local priorities. The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs partnered in the development of this project and are key to implementation.

*Relevancy to Agency:*

Today, only 7% of oak and 1% of prairie habitat remains in the Willamette Valley. More species of birds, butterflies, and plants have been listed in the Willamette River Basin as threatened or endangered in the Endangered Species Act than any other watershed in the Pacific Northwest. The Oregon Conservation Strategy, Oregon’s state wildlife action plan, identifies 68 Strategy

Species (i.e., Species of Greatest Conservation Need) in the Willamette Valley Ecoregion, as well as oak woodlands and prairie grassland as Strategy Habitats, or habitats of conservation concern.

This project specifically builds on habitat protection investments made by Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's [Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program](#). This program has invested \$74.8M to permanently protect over 13,000 acres in the Willamette Valley.

**Amount Requested: \$5,441,378**

*Funding Destination and Amounts:*

- Oregon Wildlife Foundation will receive the award via pass through from ODFW. Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture and Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative staff will coordinate the project, and various local project partners will implement the project.

*Match Sources: (minimum required: \$598,552)*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Type</b>
Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Indians	\$20,000	Federal
US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$400,000	Federal
Yamhill Soil and Water Conservation District	\$58,500	State
McKenzie River Trust	\$167,344	Federal
McKenzie River Trust	\$126,344	State
McKenzie River Trust	\$27,364	Private
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	\$50,000	State
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	\$200,000	Federal
Greenbelt Land Trust	\$300,000	State
Institute for Applied Ecology	\$125,937	State
Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture	\$52,000	State
Derrick Saylers, landowner	\$150,000	Private
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$1,677,489</b>	

\* State match exceeds the minimum match required because of previous stewardship funding from the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation program on many of the project sites, and other restoration grants that have been acquired to date.

**B. Elk Creek Floodplain to Forest Restoration**

*Project Purpose:*

The Elk Creek Floodplain to Forest Restoration project will implement in-stream restoration actions to improve water quality, stream processes, and aquatic habitat and upland

restoration actions toward healthy and resilient riparian, oak woodland, and conifer forest. The project will restore >3 miles of stream channel, 40 acres of associated riparian and floodplain forest, and 1,000 acres of upland oak woodland and conifer forest to build an ecosystem resilient to climate and fire and improve habitat for native fish and wildlife populations as part of a comprehensive restoration strategy in Elk Creek located in the Upper Rogue Watershed, Jackson County, Oregon.

*Relevancy to Agency:*

These actions will build resilient habitats to support fish and wildlife populations as part of a comprehensive restoration approach in Elk Creek located in the Upper Rogue Watershed, Jackson County, Oregon.

**Amount Requested: \$4,850,000**

*Funding Destination and Amounts:*

- Oregon Wildlife Foundation will receive the award via pass through from ODFW. Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network, Rogue Forest Partners, and the Intertribal Ecosystem Restoration group will coordinate and implement the project with other local partners. ODFW will provide some technical support for the projects.

*Match Sources: (minimum required: \$498,590)*

Organization	Amount	Type
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	\$2,951,879	State
NOAA Fisheries	\$79,710	Federal
US Army Corps of Engineers	\$285,800	Federal
Bureau of Land Management	32,500	Federal
Klamath Bird Observatory	\$13,187	Private
Total	\$3,363,076	

\* State match exceeds the minimum match required because of a previous OWEB grant award to this project.

**C. Stream Complexity and Fish Passage for Oregon Coast Coho in the South Umpqua River**

*Project Purpose:*

This proposal seeks funding to advance the recovery of Oregon’s coast coho (OC coho) by implementing four high-priority fish passage projects. These projects were selected from Strategic Action Plans (SAPs) developed for independent coho populations and guided by The Final ESA Recovery Plan for Oregon Coast Coho Salmon (NOAA 2016), and the Oregon Coast Coho Conservation Plan (ODFW 2007). Oregon coast coho salmon are currently listed as threatened under the federal Endangered Species Act. The proposal for this funding opportunity is a bundle of projects that implement voluntary, large-scale, on-the-ground conservation activities to advance existing landscape conservation or restoration plans within the South Umpqua River watershed. The projects contained in this proposal will

remove four fish passage barriers (dams and culverts), construct instream beaver habitat and large wood habitat, and replace two fish passage barriers (bridges) that restrict floodplain connectivity and prevent access to further upstream habitat complexity. Collaborative actions also aim to improve instream flow, water temperature, and channel complexity through restoration.

*Relevancy to Agency:*

This proposal seeks funding to advance the recovery of Oregon’s coast coho salmon by implementing habitat restoration and four high-priority fish passage projects in the South Umpqua Watershed. This basin is identified in ODFW conservation plans as a high priority stratum for the delisting of the population from the federal Endangered Species Act.

**Amount Requested: \$2,400,000**

*Funding Destination and Amounts:*

- South Umpqua Rural Community Partnership will receive the award by passthrough from ODFW. Project partners will implement the four high priority projects, and ODFW will provide capacity and technical support for the projects.

*Match Sources: (minimum required: \$240,000)*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Type</b>
South Umpqua Community Partnership	\$ 52,000	Local
Elk Creek Watershed Council	\$48,000	Local
ODFW-State Drought Funds	\$91,250*	State
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	\$65,000*	State
WaterWatch of Oregon	\$12,000	In-kind
Total:	\$268,250	

\*State match is used to match federal grant funding as required because state funds have been used for the design, engineering, and permitting of projects in preparation for construction and implementation of these four high priority projects.

**D. Klamath Upper Sprague Riverscapes Restoration**

*Project Purpose:*

The primary project outcome for this work is the restoration of self-sustaining hydrogeomorphic and biotic processes along 48 miles and 345 acres of degraded streams and wet meadows, respectively, in the Upper Sprague Basin of southern Oregon. The Sprague River is part of the headwaters of the Klamath Basin, which flows through Oregon and Northern California before reaching the Pacific Ocean. Restoration of instream and riparian habitats in this headwater basin will directly benefit numerous native fish and wildlife species including endangered Lost River sucker and shortnose sucker, threatened bull trout, and anadromous fishes post-Klamath Dam removal (slated for 2024). All these species are affected by impaired water quality, which is driven primarily by excessive loading of fine sediment into the river system. Sediment in the Upper Klamath Basin is

naturally high in phosphorus, which contributes to algae blooms, low dissolved oxygen, and high pH throughout the Klamath River system. The proposed work will address water quality issues as well as instream habitat quality and impaired hydrology, which also impact the health and success of native fishes in the Klamath basin.

*Relevancy to Agency:*

This project will support voluntary restoration of degraded riverscapes on private lands (both agricultural lands and private timber lands) and public lands (Fremont-Winema National Forest) using Low-Tech Process-Based Restoration (LTPBR) techniques. LTPBR utilizes hand-built non-permanent structures to increase surface water residence time, sediment capture, groundwater storage, floodplain connectivity, in-channel habitat complexity, and ecosystem resilience. In addition, the unprecedented scale of riverscape restoration proposed by this project in the Klamath Basin (i.e., 48 stream miles and 345 wet meadow acres) provides a unique opportunity to rigorously assess changes in natural processes needed to recover riverscapes. This project supports the efforts of the Oregon Conservation Strategy, and addresses watershed-scale restoration priorities established in collaborative watershed action plans including the Upper Klamath Watershed Action Plan (UKBWAP) and the Klamath Basin Integrated Fisheries Restoration and Monitoring Plan (IFRMP).

**Amount Requested: \$1,240,856**

*Funding Destination and Amounts:*

- ODFW will pass through funds to Trout Unlimited to coordinate the projects with local communities that will be involved in project implementation. These groups include The Klamath Tribes, Upper Klamath Basin Ag. Collaborative, Swift Water Designs, Anabranche Solutions, and Sustainable Northwest. Trout Unlimited and ODFW have worked closely with these partners to develop restoration priorities, implementation approach and communication strategies to accomplish our shared conservation goals.

*Match Sources: (minimum required: \$124,856)*

<b>Organization</b>	<b>Amount</b>	<b>Type</b>
Catena Foundation	\$ 150,000	Local
USFS	\$157,475	Federal
US Fish and Wildlife Service	\$1,000,000	Federal
Total:	\$1,307,475	

**Agency Action**

ODFW submitted its grant applications to NFWF in July 2023 to meet the federal due date; ODFW anticipates notification of funding awards in November 2023. Funds would need to be spent by December 31, 2027. If funding is awarded, ODFW anticipates making a future request of additional federal funds expenditure limitation for its 2023-25 biennium budget.

**Action Requested**

ODFW requests retroactive approval to submit four federal grant applications totaling \$13,614,879 to National Fish and Wildlife Foundation for the America the Beautiful Challenge funding opportunity.

**Legislation Affected**

None

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Curtis E Melcher". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Curtis Melcher  
Director