

SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

Item 15: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board National Coastal Wetlands Conservation

To: Ways and Means Full Committee
From: Natural Resources Subcommittee
Carrier: Representative Levy

The Natural Resources Subcommittee heard a request from the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board for retroactive approval to submit a federal grant application for the restoration of degraded tidal wetlands.

The National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program was established to acquire, restore, and enhance wetlands through competitive matching grants. The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board has applied for \$1 million in grant funding to restore and enhance approximately 50 acres of degraded tidal wetlands at the Beaver Hill Wetland Reserve along the lower Coquille River in Coos County. If successful, grant funding will pass through the agency to the Coquille Watershed Association, who will provide the required 33% grant match.

The Natural Resources Subcommittee recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means retroactively approve the submission of a federal grant application by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, in the amount of \$1,000,000, for the restoration of degraded tidal wetlands.