

ANALYSIS

Item 32: Department of State Lands Oregon Ocean Science Trust

Analyst: Katie Bannikov

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of State Lands by \$300,000 for the Oregon Ocean Science Trust.

Analysis: The Department of State Lands is the administrative agency for the Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST), which is governed by a five-member board appointed by the State Land Board. OOST supports coastal knowledge, research, and monitoring, which is accomplished through supporting peer-reviewed research, innovation, collaboration, capacity, and a grant program.

Over the past several years, OOST has received over \$445,000 in non-federal grants and partnerships. The Board has utilized these funds for contracted professional services and outreach efforts. The primary source of revenue for OOST, outside of prior one-time General Fund appropriations, is non-federal grants and partnerships.

The 2025-27 budget for OOST is \$250,000 to support contracted research and monitoring that is supported by funding authorized in HB 5202 (2022). The requested Other Funds expenditure limitation will support a professional services contract for a Director of Strategic Initiatives and Programs, outreach efforts by the Board and fund science and monitoring projects as they arise. The fund balance is sufficient to support the request.

Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends that the Joint Interim Committee on Ways and Means recommend including an increase of \$300,000 in Other Funds expenditure limitation for the Department of State Lands in a budget reconciliation bill during the 2026 legislative session for the Oregon Ocean Science Trust.

Request: Increase Other Funds expenditure limitation by \$300,000 for costs of operating the Oregon Ocean Science Trust.

Recommendation: Approve the request during the 2026 Legislative Session.

Discussion: The Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST) operates within the Department of State Lands (DSL) with the mission of securing and distributing funding to promote ocean and coastal knowledge, research, and monitoring to ensure the sustainable use of Oregon's resources, enhance coastal resilience, and support long-term ocean health for all Oregonians. OOST has been awarded a series of non-federal grants in recent years, including one from the Builders Initiative Foundation for \$300,000. This funding is planned to be utilized for both contracting out the work of a Director of Strategic Initiatives and Programs, as well as meeting obligations based on the core work of OOST.

Legal Reference: Increase the Other Funds expenditure limitation established by chapter 338, section 5, Oregon Laws 2025, for the Department of State Lands from the Oregon Ocean Science Fund established by ORS 196.567, by \$300,000 for the 2025-27 biennium.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of State Lands

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State Land Board

December 5, 2025

Tina Kotek

Governor

The Honorable Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair
Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE, H-178
Salem, OR 97301

Tobias Read
Secretary of State

Elizabeth Steiner
State Treasurer

Dear Co-Chairs:

Nature of the Request

The Department of State Lands, on behalf of Oregon Ocean Science Trust (OOST) respectfully requests an expenditure limitation increase of \$300,000 Other Funds for costs of operating the OOST.

Agency Action

In recent years, the OOST has received over \$445,000 in funding through non-federal grants and partnerships to support its mission to secure and distribute funding to promote ocean and coastal knowledge, research, and monitoring to ensure the sustainable use of Oregon's resources, enhance coastal resilience, and support long-term ocean health for all Oregonians. One grant was for \$300,000 from the Builders Initiative Foundation that was awarded on June 14, 2023.

During the current biennium, the OOST has contracted out administration support to continue their work and is in the process of contracting out the work for a Director of Strategic Initiatives and Programs to assist the board in achieving their mission. These costs are being covered by the grant funding. The additional appropriation will allow the

OOST to use the funds they receive from the grants to pay for the contracts and hold board meetings.

Action Requested

The Department requests approval to increase limitation by \$300,000 in Other Funds.

Legislation Affected

Chapter 338, Section 5, Oregon Laws 2025

Thank you for your interest and assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Joseph Flager at 971-707-2553.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kaitlin Lovell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kaitlin Lovell

Cc: Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Kate Nass, Chief Financial Officer
Katie Bannikov, Legislative Fiscal Office
Sione Filimoehala, DAS Chief Financial Office
Jean Straight, Deputy Director – Administration