



# Oregon

John A. Kitzhaber, MD, Governor

## Department of Fish and Wildlife

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January 15, 2015

The Honorable Peter Courtney, Senate President  
Oregon State Senate  
900 Court St. NE, S-201  
Salem, OR 97301

The Honorable Tina Kotek, Speaker  
Oregon House of Representatives  
900 Court St. NE, H-269  
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senator Courtney and Speaker Kotek:

### **Nature of the Request**

The purpose of this letter is to provide a notification of intent of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to apply for Federal Funds from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) for a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for the Elliott State Forest in Coos and Douglas counties on behalf of the Oregon Department of Forestry. The Department is proposing to apply for \$750,000 of federal dollars. The total cost of Habitat Conservation Plan is \$2,348,098.

This funding opportunity is provided through the USFWS Endangered Species Act Section 6 - Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund. The grant application deadline is January 23, 2015. No Department positions are requested with these funds; however, Oregon Department of Forestry will be requesting limited duration positions to conduct the tasks needed to complete the Habitat Conservation Plan.

### **Agency Action**

This federal funding opportunity is made available to state agencies that have a current cooperative agreement with the Secretary of the Interior. Currently, Oregon Department of Forestry does not have a cooperative agreement in place; therefore, this funding request will be submitted through the cooperative agreement that Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has in place. Oregon Department of Forestry would become a subgrantee and funds will be transferred through an Interagency agreement. If this request is approved and the grants are awarded, funding will be administered through the Department's existing Conservation Program. State proposals must contribute a minimum non-Federal match of 25 percent of the total program costs. The Oregon Department of State Lands will be providing the required non-federal match.



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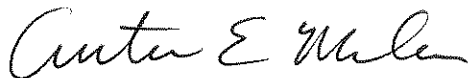
Specifically, this funding request would propose to develop a Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan for the 93,282 acre Elliott State Forest in Coos and Douglas counties. The Plan would present a comprehensive, integrated management approach which addresses the broad range of forest values, balancing the values of timber harvest with those associated with the resources, costs, and issues that focus on forest health, aesthetics, recreation, biodiversity, livability, and other values. It would contribute to the conservation of three federally listed species (two birds and one fish) and 22 federal and/or state sensitive species (nine fish, four mammals, three amphibian or reptiles, and six birds). Listed species include the northern spotted owl, marbled murrelet, and coastal Coho salmon. Sensitive species include peregrine falcon, northern goshawk, bald eagle, pileated woodpecker, olive-sided flycatcher, western bluebird, chinook salmon, steelhead trout, coastal cutthroat trout, Umpqua chub, Pacific lamprey, river lamprey, Millicoma longnose dace, brook lamprey, fisher, red tree vole, fringed myotis bat, red-legged frog, and southern seep salamander tailed frog.

#### **Action Requested**

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife respectfully requests permission to apply for federal funding through the USFWS ESA Section 6 - Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund.

Award notifications are expected by summer 2015. If the award is granted, the Department will seek legislative approval for Federal Fund limitation.

Sincerely,



Curtis E. Melcher  
Interim Director