

Federal Grant Application Request

Department of Fish & Wildlife

Elliott State Forest Plan

Analyst: Paul Siebert

Request: Approve, retroactively, the submission of a \$750,000 federal grant application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for the Elliott State Forest.

Recommendation: Approve, retroactively, the request to apply.

Analysis: The Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is requesting retroactive authorization to apply for a \$750,000 federal grant from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Endangered Species Act, Section 6, Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund for completion of a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for the 93,282 acre Elliott State Forest in Coos and Douglas counties. ODFW is applying on behalf of the Department of Forestry, which would complete the conservation plan. According to ODFW, the plan would offer a comprehensive integrated management approach to address various uses of the forest. The plan as proposed would contribute to the conservation of three federally listed species and 22 federal and/or state sensitive species. The total cost to complete the plan is estimated to be \$2,350,000.

Grants from this program can be used for projects like assistance to implement conservation projects for candidate, listed, and recently recovered species; habitat conservation planning; and land/conservation easement acquisitions. Only state fish and wildlife agencies are eligible for grants from this program. Grant applications were due January 23, 2015. The Department submitted a 10-day notification letter on January 15, 2015.

Grants from the Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund require a 25% non-federal match. The match requirement for this grant proposal would be met with \$1.6 million from the Department of State Lands. The Department of State Lands reports the source of the \$1.6 million would be the Common School Fund. ODFW reports no additional position authority will be required to complete the grant project and no ODFW funds would be used as match; however ODFW would expend about \$140,000 of the project total to assist the Department of Forestry in completion of the conservation plan. The request letter states that the Department of Forestry may need limited duration position authority if the grant is awarded.

The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval, retroactively, of the request to submit a \$750,000 federal grant application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to complete a Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan for the Elliott State Forest.