



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of State Lands

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June 14, 2017

### State Land Board

The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair  
Joint Legislative Committee on Ways and Means  
H-178, State Capitol  
900 Court Street NE  
Salem, OR 97301

Kate Brown  
Governor

Dennis Richardson  
Secretary of State

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Tobias Read

State Treasurer

### Nature of the Request

The purpose of this letter is to seek authorization from the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for the Department of State Lands (Department) to apply to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) for a Wetland Program Development (WPDG) Supplemental grant in an amount not to exceed \$25,000. The Department is also seeking federal funds expenditure limitation for this amount so that the project may commence when the grant funds are available.

The non-federal match requirement of 25% of total project cost will be provided by the in-kind services of existing Department staff.

### Agency Action

The supplemental grant will provide additional monies to complete an important task to the WPDG grant received in 2015 by the Department for the completion of an Aquatic Resources Mitigation Program for Oregon. The application is due June 30, 2017 and, if the grant is awarded, the funds will be available in October 2017.

### Background

Since 1990, EPA has awarded annual grant funds under the Wetlands Program Development Grants (WPDG) on a competitive basis to support the development or refinement of state and tribal aquatic resource programs. The Department has received federal funds under this grant program in the past to develop assessment methods, strategies, and other tools necessary to improve program effectiveness and support program goals.

This proposal will build on substantial work already completed by the Department and its federal and local partners to develop wetland and stream functions-based assessment tools and the necessary program policies and practices to implement the Aquatic Resources Mitigation Program (ARMP). The program is scheduled to launch in late 2018, and will result in an integrated framework for a watershed-scale approach to mitigation for wetlands and streams in Oregon.

## **Project**

### **Conduct the Oregon Rapid Wetland Assessment Protocol (ORWAP) on Existing Mitigation Banks**

The Aquatic Resources Mitigation Program (ARMP) will use information about the ecological and societal benefits that a wetland provides, called functions and values. The ARMP implementation strategy includes encouraging existing mitigation banks to voluntarily enroll in the program. To facilitate this the agencies plan to provide resources to bank sponsors for the completion of wetland functional assessments on their bank sites before the new program goes into effect in 2018. Existing banks will not be required to enroll in the ARMP.

With the grant monies, a neutral third party (contractor) would conduct the assessments. The non-federal match requirement of 25% of total project cost will be provided by the Department's in-kind services while working with the bankers.

## **Action Requested**

The Department of State Lands requests the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to grant approval to the Department to apply for the federal grant and approve federal funds expenditure limitation in the amount of \$25,000.

Thank you for your interest and assistance. If you have any questions, please contact Cyndi Wickham at 503-986-5227.

Sincerely,



James T. Paul  
Director

Cc: Jason Miner, Office of the Governor  
Stephen Elzinga, Office of the Secretary of State  
Chelsea Brossard, State Treasury  
Lisa Pearson, DAS Chief Financial Office  
Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office  
Cynthia Wickham, Deputy Director, DSL