

Department of State Lands Pearson

Request: Authorization to apply for a federal grant of \$122,586 for the wetlands program from the United States Environmental Protection Agency.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Department of State Lands (DSL) is requesting authorization to apply for a federal grant to improve its aquatic resources mitigation program.

DSL is responsible for aggregate removal-fill permitting in Oregon while other state and federal agencies also have responsibilities for aquatic resources. Since 1990, DSL has received grants from the Wetland Program Development Grant program at the EPA to improve coordination among responsible parties and to increase program effectiveness. Previous grant awards have supported efforts to develop wetland assessment tools. This grant would fund updating and implementation activities and builds on prior grant awards.

The project includes the following elements:

- Implementing the Aquatic Resources Mitigation Program training plan.
- Developing an effectiveness monitoring network.
- Improving web-based tools including:
 - upgrading the web-based map viewer for the wetland rapid assessment protocol.
 - updating and modifying the web-based map viewer for both stream functional assessment and mitigation planning.
 - developing a geospatial wetlands inventory database for use in through the Oregon Explorer portal.

The grant requires a 25 percent match, which will be met by existing budgeted state activities. DSL will need one limited duration Natural Resource Specialist 2 (0.85 FTE) to act as a mitigation analyst for implementation monitoring framework development.

The following table summarizes the project budget:

	Grant Request	DSL*	Total
Training Personnel	\$ 61,460	\$ 27,097	\$ 88,557
Travel	-	\$ 852	\$ 852
Monitoring Personnel	\$ 12,121	\$ 5,419	\$ 17,540
Web Tools Personnel		\$ 18,984	-
Oregon State University/Institute for Natural Resources Interagency Agreement	\$ 49,005		\$ 49,005
Total	\$ 122,586	\$ 52,352	\$ 174,938

*In-kind match existing Legislatively approved budgeted activities that the federal government allows to be claimed in grant applications.

Expected outcomes include greater efficiency and effectiveness in implementing existing regulations, more consistent information, and increased certainty regarding cost and timing of regulatory compliance for landowners and for infrastructure development.