



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of State Lands

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 100
Salem, OR 97301-1279
(503) 986-5200
FAX (503) 378-4844
www.oregon.gov/dsl

February 6, 2017

State Land Board

The Honorable Richard Devlin, Co-Chair
The Honorable Nancy Nathanson, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

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 retroactive authorization from the Joint Committee on Ways and Means for the Department of State Lands (Department) and the South Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve (SSNERR) to apply to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Federal Grant: National Estuarine Research Reserve System (NERRS) Land Acquisition and Construction Program for Fiscal Year 2017. The amount of the grant request is \$772,700. This amount will include purchase price, appraisal (land and timber), environmental survey, and escrow and title fees.

Agency Action

The call for proposals was issued on November 21, 2016. The Reserve has an acquisition proposal planned and next steps are pending this funding opportunity. The Department submitted a 10-day notice of intent to apply on January 23, 2017. The deadline for the grant application was February 3, 2017 and, if awarded, funds will be available July 1, 2017.

Background

The South Slough NERR (SSNERR) has applied for a \$772,700 grant from NOAA for the permanent acquisition of 80 acres of upland habitat in the South Slough watershed surrounding Winchester Creek, the primary freshwater source into the Reserve. There has been a longstanding effort to conserve the coastal wetlands and watersheds in the South Slough. The Reserve Management Plan identifies this area as a high priority acquisition area. The parcel is currently owned by the Common School Fund and is managed to produce revenue for the fund. By completing this acquisition the land can be managed primarily for conservation and additional protection of the watershed. NOAA funds will be used to acquire fee simple title to these forested lands.

The required match of \$386,350 will be supported by indirect administrative costs and in-kind contributions by SSNERR personnel and by the forgone value of timber on the acquired parcel.

The Department will need to seek federal fund limitation from the 2017 Legislature if the grant is awarded.

Action Requested

The agency requests the Committee retroactively approve the application of a federal grant from NOAA in the amount of \$772,700 for acquisition of lands adjacent to the SSNERR.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim Paul", written in a cursive style.

James T. Paul
Director

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