



Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

Department of Forestry
State Forester's Office
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March 29, 2021

The Honorable Senator Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair
The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair
The Honorable Representative Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair
Joint Committee on Ways and Means
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

RE: Request for authorization to apply for a new federal grant

Dear Co-Chairpersons:

Nature of the Request

The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is requesting authorization from the Joint Committee on Ways and Means to apply for a federal grant that would enable the department to collect high resolution topographic data in key operational areas, including those impacted by the 2020 wildfires, using light detection and ranging technology (lidar). Lidar provides fine resolution, three-dimensional geographic information on the forest canopy and the ground surface that ODF and other natural resource agencies use for forest inventory, geologic hazard identification, hydrographic analysis, and many other essential functions.

In 2016, the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) implemented the Three-Dimensional Elevation Program (3DEP) lidar data collection program. USGS collects this data by partnering with state, local, federal, and tribal agencies through an annual cost-sharing grant program. USGS requires partner agencies to provide 50% matching funds or an in-kind contribution of lidar data meeting 3DEP specifications that is equivalent to the monies requested from USGS.

ODF's grant proposal would include collecting lidar data on five core areas (approximately 1,270 square miles) of joint need for ODF and USGS, including areas impacted by the Beachie Creek Fire. The data would be collected under an existing contract with a vendor who is experienced in collecting and preparing data to the standards required by 3DEP. In addition to the data being available to the public through the national 3DEP program for public use, ODF would also provide it to other state agencies directly. By sharing 1,570 square miles of previously collected lidar data with the 3DEP program, ODF would fulfill the grant requirement for an in-kind contribution and eliminate the need for any additional expenditure of state funds.

The grant deadline is June 30, 2021. The application materials are complete and ready for submission pending approval of this request by the Joint Committee on Ways and Means.

Agency Action

ODF has an existing contract with GeoTerra Inc., a geospatial services vendor based in Eugene, OR. That contract has a not-to-exceed limit of \$980,000, against which the agency has expended \$371,995. This existing contract allows ODF to immediately begin data collection if the grant is funded.

Collection of the 1,570 square miles of lidar data that ODF will provide to the 3DEP program cost \$420,680, which is the amount ODF would request in its grant proposal. Of that, \$370,697 would be used for new lidar collection, \$46,175 for post-processing existing lidar to meet 3DEP specifications, and \$3,808 for ODF agency overhead, which includes working with GeoTerra to plan the logistics, define the 3DEP data specifications, and map the areas of interest for data collection. That workload will require less than 0.25 FTE, which can be absorbed by existing staff.

By satisfying the in-kind requirement of the grant program, ODF can collect 1,270 square miles of new lidar data without any additional expenditure of state funds. Additionally, the grant funding for this work would lower future state expenditures for acquisition of lidar data that supports a wide variety of state agency functions, including forest inventory, geologic hazard identification, and hydrographic analysis.

Action Requested

We request that the Joint Committee on Ways and Means authorizes ODF to apply for a \$420,680 grant from USGS to collect 1,270 square miles of new lidar data, using 1,570 square miles of existing lidar data as in-kind contribution to USGS to satisfy the grant's match requirement, thus requiring no additional expenditure of state funds.

Legislation Affected

HB 5019, Chapter 592, section 4(3), Oregon Laws 2019

Sincerely,



Peter Daugherty
Oregon State Forester

cc: Jason Miner, Governor's Office
Oregon Board of Forestry
Matt Stayner, Legislative Fiscal Office
Renee Klein, Chief Financial Office

Analysis
Oregon Department of Forestry
Topographical Data

Analyst: Matt Stayner

Request: The Oregon Department of Forestry requests permission to apply for federal grant funding from the United States Geological Survey (USGS) of \$420,680 for the purpose of collecting high-quality light detection and ranging (lidar) data.

Analysis: The Oregon Department of Forestry is seeking permission to apply for grant funding from the USGS through the 3D Elevation Program in the amount of \$420,680 for the collection of high-quality lidar data. The federal program seeks to obtain nationwide data coverage by 2023 by using a collaborative approach with federal agencies, state, tribal, and local governments. The program has an application window that allows for continuous evaluation of proposals through June 30, 2021. Applicants must provide a one-for-one, non-federal match of requested funding.

The Department of Forestry's proposal would fund the collection of 1,270 square miles of new lidar data and use an additional 1,570 square miles of existing lidar data, that the agency had previously collected and paid for, as in-kind matching funds for the new federal grant funds. The total data provided to the U.S. Geological Survey would cover 2,840 square miles. This data would also be available to other state agencies.

Legislative Fiscal Office Recommendation: The Legislative Fiscal Office recommends approval of the request.

Department of Forestry Klein

Request: The Oregon Department of Forestry is requesting authorization to apply for a grant of \$420,680 for collecting light detection and ranging (lidar) data in several operational areas, including areas impacted by 2020 wildfire events from the United States Geologic Survey (USGS) through the Three-Dimensional Elevation Program (3-DEP).

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is requesting authorization to apply for a grant to collect lidar data for approximately 1,270 square miles across Oregon, including areas impacted by the Beachie Creek Fire of 2020. This work will be performed through an existing contract for geospatial flight services. If awarded, the grant will require a 50 percent in kind match, which will be met by sharing 1,570 square miles of lidar data already collected in the state with USGS 3DEP, eliminating the need for any additional expenditure at this time.

The grant application has a rolling submittal window with final application review occurring after June 30, 2021. If funding is awarded, ODF will begin working with the contractor to schedule flights immediately. The Department will also provide lidar data collected with other state agencies to be used as needed. If the Department is successful, they will return to the Legislature to request the additional Federal Funds expenditure limitation needed for the work to be performed during the 2021-23 biennium.