

## ANALYSIS

### Department of Fish and Wildlife Chronic Wasting Disease Prevention

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**Analyst:** April McDonald

**Request:** Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), Wildlife Services division, in the amount of \$250,000 for the prevention of Chronic Wasting Disease in Oregon's wild cervids.

**Analysis:** Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is an infectious, degenerative disease of animals in the cervidae family (including elk, deer, and moose, etc.) that causes brain cells to die, ultimately leading to the death of the affected animal. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) seeks approval to submit a federal grant application to APHIS Wildlife Services for CWD detection and prevention efforts. The funding would support and increase all facets of agency actions to aid in early detection and help prevent incursion of CWD into Oregon. The proposal includes increasing capacity for CWD detection and response, sample collection training programs, developing an Oregon-based rapid testing and reporting system, and providing educational outreach materials and programs.

This grant would continue a limited duration position to coordinate statewide activities for sample collection. This includes field check stations and sample collection from taxidermy businesses. ODFW's goal is that the additional support will lead to a significant sample size increase (100-200%) needed for effective detection, response, and control. Additionally, improved carcass collection and disposal (as part of sample collection activities) will facilitate disease management, while education and outreach will align public knowledge with agency management actions.

The application deadline is June 12, 2023 and award notification is anticipated by mid-August 2023. Funds must be spent within 12 months from the project start. There is no state match requirement, and if awarded, ODFW anticipates making a subsequent legislative request for federal funds expenditure limitation.

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

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**Request:** Authorization to apply for a grant of \$250,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services for Chronic Wasting Disease control and Prevention.

**Recommendation:** Approve the request.

**Discussion:** The Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) is requesting authorization to apply for a grant of \$250,000 from the U.S. Department of Agriculture under the Animal Plan Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services program. Grant funds will support capacity for Chronic Wasting Disease detection and response. The grant funds are provided under the Animal Plan Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services program, which has the aim to provide federal leadership and expertise to resolve wildlife conflicts to allow people and wildlife to coexist.

There are no state match requirements, and the application is due by June 12, 2023. Grant notifications are expected on September 30, 2023, and funds must be expended within 12 months from the state date of the projected work. If the grant is awarded, ODFW will make a subsequent request for Federal Funds expenditure limitation.



# Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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May 17, 2023

The Honorable Senator Elizabeth Steiner, Co-Chair  
The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair  
Joint Committee on Ways and Means  
900 Court Street NE  
H-178 State Capitol  
Salem, OR 97301



Dear Co-Chairpersons:

## **Nature of the Request**

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) requests approval to submit a federal grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services in the amount of \$250,000.

## **Background**

This federal funding opportunity is made available through the United States Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) Wildlife Services (WS) and is available to states, federally recognized Tribal governments, research institutions and universities to control and prevent Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) in wild cervids (deer, elk, etc.), including the development and/or implementation of CWD surveillance, testing, management, prevention and response activities.

This proposal requests \$250,000 in federal funds to increase all facets of preventative agency actions to provide early detection and help avoid incursion of CWD into Oregon through four key objectives funded under this grant opportunity. If CWD arrives in Oregon, it could have catastrophic impacts on Oregon's populations of wild cervids, which will have cascading effects on the people who care about and rely on these animals for food, recreation, and their livelihoods. The focus of this continued effort involves increasing capacity for CWD detection and response, sample collection training programs, developing an Oregon-based rapid testing and reporting system, and providing educational outreach materials and programs. This request would continue to fund a limited duration staff appointment to coordinate statewide work for sample collection with field staff at check stations and by taxidermy businesses leading to significant (100-200%) sample size increases needed for effective detection, response and control. Improved carcass collection

and disposal as part of sample collection efforts will facilitate disease management actions; education and outreach will align the knowledge of the public and stakeholders with agency management actions.

**Agency Action**

Funding applications are due to USDA by June 12, 2023. If ODFW's grant application is approved, notification of award to the agency is expected mid-August 2023. Project work would begin no later than September 30, 2023; funds must be spent within 12 months from the start date of the project work. No state match is required for this federal funding opportunity. If grant funding is awarded, ODFW anticipates making a future request for federal funds expenditure limitation. ODFW does not anticipate a need for additional position authority with this funding opportunity.

**Action Requested**

ODFW requests approval to submit a federal grant application to the United States Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service Wildlife Services in the amount of \$250,000.

**Legislation Affected**

None

Sincerely,



Curtis Melcher

Director