

ANALYSIS

Parks and Recreation Department Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly

Analyst: April McDonald

Request: Approve the submission of a federal grant application to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Section 6 Conservation Planning Assistance grant program, in the amount of \$241,525 for conservation of the Taylor's checkerspot butterfly.

Analysis: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) offers conservation planning assistance to state agencies with existing cooperative agreements. In Oregon, three agencies have these agreements with USFWS: the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD), the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA), and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW). Each one of these agencies is eligible to receive USFWS grant funding for conservation efforts on behalf of different classifications of endangered species. ODFW is eligible for vertebrate-related grants, ODA is eligible for plant-related grants, and OPRD is eligible for invertebrate-related grants.

USFWS provides these cooperative agencies with access to funding designated to the states for Endangered Species Act conservation activities. OPRD does not generally solicit funds for Conservation Planning Assistance grants but will apply when an external conservation organization proposes an in-scope concept to USFWS and OPRD. In this case, the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE) seeks grant funding for inventory, analysis, and habitat management planning. IAE would work with private landowners interested in hosting conservation introductions of the federally listed Taylor's checkerspot butterfly on their properties. Private landowners would be subject to habitat management plans and enter into Conservation Benefit Agreements with USFWS.

The application deadline is March 14, 2025, and if successful, the award would be sub-granted to IAE. The state is not providing any cash or in-kind match; IAE and its partners will be responsible for any federal match requirements. OPRD's role as a grant administrator can be met with existing staff, and includes implementing the subgrant agreement, processing reimbursements, and meeting federal reporting requirements. Upon award, the Department may return to the legislature to request the necessary Federal Funds expenditure limitation.

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

Parks and Recreation Department Filimoehala

Request: Authorization to apply for a grant of \$241,525 for Taylor's checkerspot butterfly habitat management planning from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 Conservation Planning Assistance grant.

Recommendation: Approve the request.

Discussion: The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is requesting authorization to apply for a grant of \$241,525 from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Section 6 Conservation Planning Assistance grant program. The purpose of the grant is to provide inventory, analysis, and habitat management planning for private lands for landowners interested in hosting conservation introductions of the federally listed Taylor's checkerspot butterfly on their properties. The grant would be sub-granted to the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE), who would administer the grant.

The grant requires a match of 25 percent, which will be provided by IAE. The grant application is due on March 14, 2025.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

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January 22, 2025

Senator Kate Lieber
Representative Tawna Sanchez
900 Court Street NE
H-178 State Capitol
Salem, OR 97301-4048

Dear Senator Lieber and Representative Sanchez:

The Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is requesting approval to submit a grant application to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Section 6 Conservation Planning Assistance grant opportunity in the amount of \$241,525. The application deadline is March 14, 2025. The requested funds would be sub-granted to the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE).

This grant program is only open to state agencies having existing cooperative agreements with USFWS. In Oregon, three agencies have these agreements, and each agency is responsible for different aspects of endangered species conservation. OPRD is responsible for grants related to conservation of invertebrate species; the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is responsible for vertebrate-related grants; and the Oregon Department of Agriculture is responsible for plant-related grants. Each agency's agreement with the USFWS provides access to US Fish and Wildlife Services Funds designated to the states for Endangered Species Act conservation purposes. The arrangement is slightly different from a traditional grant opportunity.

OPRD does not solicit applications for funds for conservation planning assistance grants and only occasionally applies when external conservation organizations scope concepts with their USFWS partners and bring the proposals to OPRD. In the case of this proposal from the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and IAE, we received notification of their interest in applying for funding through OPRD in early December 2024.

The proposed grant would fund inventory, analysis, and habitat management planning for private lands of private landowners interested in hosting conservation introductions of the federally listed Taylor's checkerspot butterfly on their properties. These habitat management plans will allow private landowners to enter into Conservation Benefit Agreements that will give the landowners streamlining, shelter, and protection from regulatory burden associated with the federal Endangered Species Act.

All matching funds for this grant would be supplied by the subgrantee and its partners. The State of Oregon is not providing any cash or in-kind match.

If the grant is awarded, OPRD's role will be to administer the grant and subgrant paperwork, to process requests for reimbursement, and to serve as a conduit for reporting through the federal online grant management platform, "Grant Solutions".

Upon a successful grant award, OPRD will request any needed expenditure limitation from the appropriate Legislative Committee or the Emergency Board.

Sincerely,

Stefanie Coons

Stefanie Coons (Jan 22, 2025 07:51 PST)

Stefanie Coons

Deputy Director

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department