

# USFWS Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund Grant Application: Development of Conservation Benefit Agreements to Support Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery

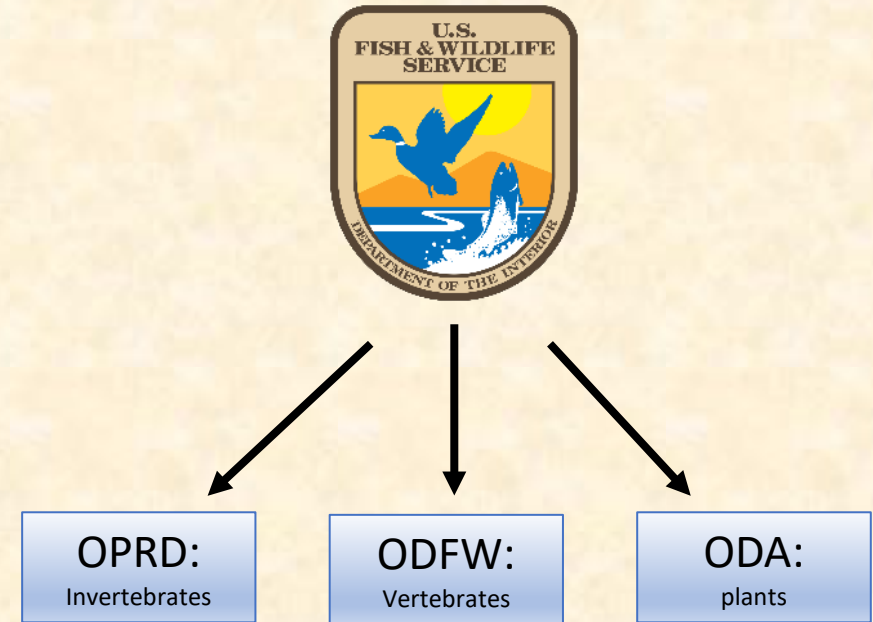


Taylor's Checkerspot  
Butterfly on Balsamroot,  
Close, USFWS/A. Barna,  
Public Domain,  
[https://www.fws.gov/media/  
taylors-checkerspot-  
butterfly-balsamroot-close](https://www.fws.gov/media/taylors-checkerspot-butterfly-balsamroot-close)

Presentation to Legislative Natural Resources Subcommittee  
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department  
and  
US Fish and Wildlife Service  
1/28/2025

# Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund ...AKA “Section 6 Grants”

- ❖ US Fish and Wildlife Service federal grant funds designated for endangered species work and property acquisitions
- ❖ CESCOF funds are reserved for state agencies having formal cooperative agreements with the USFWS for administration of the program. In Oregon:
  - Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has the state agreement for invertebrate species conservation
  - Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has the cooperative agreement for vertebrate wildlife
  - Oregon Department of Agriculture has the cooperative agreement for plants
- ❖ **State agencies can “pass through” grant funds to 3<sup>rd</sup> party partners through subgrants.**



# Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund ...AKA “Section 6 Grants”

4 varieties of CESCOF/Section 6 grants:

- “Traditional”: project-based grants
- “Non-traditional” acquisitions and planning; split into 3 subcategories:
  - Recovery land acquisitions
  - Conservation Planning Assistance
  - Habitat Conservation Plan land acquisitions



# Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund

## ...AKA “Section 6 Grants”

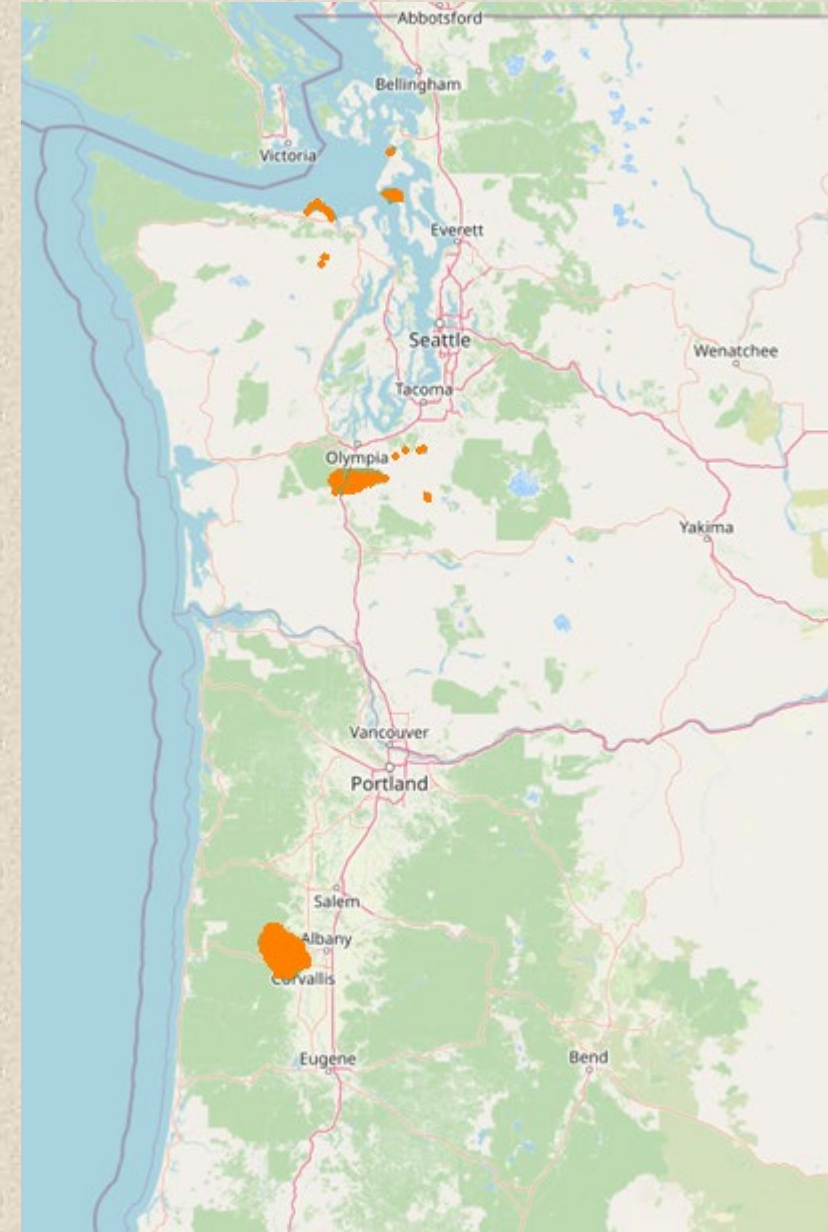
- Every year the three Oregon agencies with cooperative agreements apply for “traditional” project-based funds.
- There are opportunities for “non-traditional” funds every year as well, but most years no applications are submitted, and grant funds are under-allocated nationwide.
- In the 13 years that Oregon Parks and Recreation Department has been under cooperative agreement with the US Fish and Wildlife Service, only 4 other non-traditional applications have been submitted by the agency. All have been pass-throughs.
- USFWS normally advises prospective applicants they are coordinating with to reach out to OPRD to apply for “non-traditional” pass-through funding since USFWS can’t directly award funding to entities other than cooperating state agencies.





# 2025 Grant Application: Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Conservation Planning

- The Corvallis-based nonprofit conservation and science organization known as the Institute for Applied Ecology would perform the biological survey and habitat management planning work
- Work would involve conducting species and habitat surveys on private lands of willing landowners in Oregon and Washington within the range of Taylor's checkerspot butterfly
- Landowners that would otherwise be interested in hosting Taylor's checkerspot butterfly on their property are often wary of the risk of Endangered Species Act requirements, difficulty selling their property, or seeing their property value decrease.
- Survey and planning work would allow for Conservation Benefit Agreements to be prepared between the US Fish and Wildlife Service and willing landowners to provide regulatory shelter to participating landowners in a way similar to the better known "Safe Harbor Agreements" used for the same purpose
- These agreements require management plans that are based on prescriptive knowledge of site and species management requirements that can be called out as terms of the agreements in exchange for regulatory assurances with respect to the Endangered Species Act. The work to be done by the Institute for Applied Ecology would provide this prescriptive knowledge and site-specific management plans for each site.



The known range of Taylor's checkerspot butterfly. Source: <https://www.fws.gov/species/taylors-checkerspot-euphydryas-editha-taylori>



# 2025 Grant Application: Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Conservation Planning

- The grant amount would be \$241,525
- Application deadline is March 14, 2025
- No state agency funding match is required
- Benton County and the Institute for Applied Ecology are providing the 10% required match
- State grant administration staff time requirement is estimated at 40-60 hours over the life of the grant.
- OPRD is requesting legislative permission to apply for these grant funds to subgrant to the Institute for Applied Ecology.



Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly on Balsamroot, USFWS/K. Reagan, Public Domain, <https://www.fws.gov/media/taylors-checkerspot-butterfly-balsamroot>

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**Questions?**

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