



NEWS RELEASE

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Oregon Governor's Fund for the Environment and Columbia River Estuarine Coastal Fund Monies Available for Restoration Projects

Court settlements with polluters will benefit Oregon fish and wildlife

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are announcing the availability of funds through the *Oregon Governor's Fund for the Environment* and the *Columbia River Estuarine Coastal Fund* and requesting proposals for conservation and restoration projects.

Oregon Governor's Fund for the Environment

A \$2 million court settlement with an international shipping company resulted in the creation of the Oregon Governor's Fund for the Environment, which is a sustained granting program to benefit Oregon rivers and streams. The grant program makes up to \$300,000 a year available for projects that will restore the quality of Oregon's rivers and associated fish, wildlife, and plants. The people living in or near such habitats are intended to be the beneficiaries of the fund, on behalf of the habitats and their species. This second year of grant funding now available will help finance projects in the Willamette River basin that support implementation of the Governor's Willamette River Legacy program and meet the following purposes:

- develop and implement strategies to eliminate and/or reduce pollution and otherwise restore the quality of Oregon rivers, streams and coastal areas;
- restore and conserve fish, wildlife, and plant resources critical to Oregon rivers, streams and coastal areas;
- identify continuing sources of pollution of Oregon rivers, streams and coastal areas; and
- improve state and local criminal enforcement of environmental and wildlife protection laws intended to protect Oregon rivers, streams and coastal areas. The people living in or near such habitats are intended to be the beneficiaries of the Fund, on behalf of such species and habitats.

“We are inviting pre-proposals requesting funds from \$5,000 to \$50,000 and priority will be given to projects that improve conservation on private lands through incentive programs for private landowners,” said Krystyna Wolniakowski, Director of the Foundation’s Northwest Region.

During this second round, priority will be given to projects that request funds to:

- provide technical assistance to private landowners to address environmental issues. Technical assistance may include conducting landowner workshops, community meetings, and/or direct meetings with landowners.
- encourage participation and additional enrollment in existing landowner incentive programs available through the Farm Bill (such as CREP, WRP etc) or other similar state and federal programs.
- provide public awareness through outreach and education on the significance of aquatic resources and the importance of environmental laws to protect those resources.
- provide technical assistance to small municipal governments to address non-point source water quality issues (such as the development of TMDL implementation plans).

Pre-proposals should be submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation by October 13, 2006. Pre-proposals will be evaluated and ranked and the strongest ones will be invited to submit a full proposal by December 22, 2006. Full proposal applicants will be notified of grant awards by the end of March 2007, with funds available for projects shortly thereafter. Approved projects should be completed within two years.

Columbia River Estuarine Coastal Fund

The Columbia River Estuarine Coastal Fund was established in 2004 to receive community service payments ordered by court settlements resulting from violations of federal pollution laws. Together with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Foundation used the funds to establish the Columbia River Estuarine Coastal Fund as a grant making program to be used to finance the following types of projects

- on the ground habitat conservation, restoration and management projects in and along the Columbia River below the Bonneville Dam and the adjacent Coasts of Oregon (up to and including Tillamook Bay) and Washington (up to and including Willapa Bay) that may be affected by estuarine flows to benefit the fish and wildlife resources and the habitats upon which they depend
- landowner outreach and incentive programs for restoration and management of natural resources in the same geographic area
- public use and natural/cultural projects that benefit the Service’s National Wildlife Refuge System
- collaborative projects from local communities seeking environmentally and economically

sustainable solutions to natural resource problems

- applied research that is directly related to improvement of natural resources management in the same geographic area.

“We are inviting pre-proposals requesting funds from \$10,000 to \$200,000, as well as small grants of \$10,000 or less for local conservation or education projects. These funds are an opportunity for Lower Columbia River and coastal conservationists to form local and state partnerships to conserve ecosystem functions and make a significant contribution in protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and habitat resources in these areas,” said Krystyna Wolniakowski, Director of the Foundation’s Northwest Region.

During this round, priority will be given to projects that address one or more of these program purposes:

- education to enhance public understanding of ecosystem and environmental conservation
- public outreach activities and information to promote conservation activities and ethics
- on the ground habitat restoration/improvement to enhance fish, wildlife and habitat resources
- fee simple acquisition and/or conservation easements on high conservation value lands
- landowner outreach and incentive programs for management and restoration of natural resources
- public use and natural/cultural projects that benefit the National Wildlife Refuge System
- collaborative projects from local communities seeking environmentally and economically sustainable solutions to natural resource problems
- development of resource information data systems to better evaluate/monitor river and coastal water impacts and past restoration efforts
- applied ecological studies and assessments to advance knowledge and improve management practices for conservation
- address issues related to protection and enhancement of threatened or endangered fish and wildlife species and other species at risk (such as seabirds)
- development of multi-partner local community initiatives for guiding coastal watershed conservation activities
- control and management of invasive species that directly impact the water and riparian areas of the Lower Columbia River and coastal ecosystems

Pre-proposals should be submitted to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation by September 29, 2006. Pre-proposals will be evaluated and ranked and the strongest ones will be invited to submit a full proposal by December 15, 2006. Full proposal applicants will be notified of grant awards by the end of March 2007, with funds available for projects shortly thereafter. Approved projects should be completed within two years.

Additional Information for Both Grant Programs

Those who may apply for grants include non-profit conservation organizations, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tribes, schools, local, state, and federal government agencies, and other special districts.

Grant funds may not be used for political advocacy, litigation expenses, terrorist activities, legally required mitigation, equipment purchases not primarily related to the direct completion of the project, website development, or videos.

While matching funds are not required, applicants are encouraged to include them where possible. These matching funds can come from federal and non-federal sources, cash, or in-kind contributions.

Pre-proposals should be submitted through the Foundation's on-line pre-proposal application form at <https://collective.nfwf.org/pre-proposal/Preproposal.php>. When submitting the application, please select the specific program using the drag-down menu at the bottom of the form and choosing either the Oregon Governor's Fund for the Environment or the Columbia River Estuarine Coastal Fund from the picklist, depending on which grant program the application is being submitted to for consideration. To avoid technical problems, please print out a copy of your pre-proposal for your records before submitting the form.

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation is a private, non-profit, 501(c)(3) tax-exempt organization, established by Congress in 1984 and dedicated to the conservation of fish, wildlife, and plants, and the habitat on which they depend. Our goals are to promote healthy populations of fish, wildlife, and plants by generating new commerce for conservation. The Foundation meets these goals by creating partnerships between the public and private sectors and strategically invests in conservation and sustainable use of natural resources. The Foundation does not support lobbying, political advocacy, or litigation.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is the principal Federal agency responsible for conserving, protecting and enhancing fish, wildlife and plants and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. The Service manages the 95-million-acre National Wildlife Refuge System, which encompasses 544 national wildlife refuges, thousands of small wetlands and other special management areas. It also operates 69 national fish hatcheries, 64 fishery resources offices and 81 ecological services field stations. The Service enforces federal wildlife laws, administers the Endangered Species Act, manages migratory bird populations, restores nationally significant fisheries, conserves and restores wildlife habitat such as wetlands, and helps foreign and Native American tribal governments with their conservation efforts. It also oversees the Federal Assistance program, which distributes hundreds of millions of dollars in excise taxes on fishing and hunting equipment to state fish and wildlife agencies.