

January 21-22, 2009 OWEB Board Meeting Executive Director Update #D9: 2008 Coastal Wetlands Grants

Background

This report provides an update on the status of the federal 2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Coastal Wetlands Grant Awards projects and notification of recent receipt of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2009 awards. The Coastal Wetlands Grants offer a significant partnership investment opportunity to restore and protect wetland and estuary ecological values, promote strong partnerships, and provide a two to one match of OWEB funds.

In June of 2007, OWEB submitted four applications on behalf of our coastal partners for project funding under the Coastal Wetlands Grant Program. On January 9, 2008, the Secretary of the Interior announced the awards that included all four applications submitted by OWEB. Combined, the four federal grants total approximately \$2.2 million and require a total state match of just over \$1 million. Attachment A lists each project and details the status of the project.

In March of 2008 and May of 2008, staff reported to the Board on these awards. At the March Board meeting, the Board awarded \$232,614 to grant application #208-1040, Tamara Quays Dike Removal and Fish-Passage Culvert, and authorized OWEB to enter into grant agreements for the \$754,800 of federal funding for restoration activities in the Lower Salmon River. In May, the Board delegated authority to the Director to enter into the appropriate grant agreements for the federal funds and allocated up to \$265,000 of capital funds for the state match for the Lint Slough Restoration application.

OWEB has received three grant agreements from USFWS and is awaiting the fourth for the 2008 awards. Projects in the Salmon River are progressing while the Yaquina and Alsea land acquisitions are held up by due diligence issues, although both acquisitions appear likely to proceed soon. The Lint Slough project is progressing with state match, but awaits federal grant funds due to cultural resources evaluations.

Staff Contact

If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Ken Bierly, at ken.bierly@state.or.us or 503-986-0182.

Status Report 2008 Coastal Wetlands Grant Awards

Project: Lower Salmon River Estuary

USFWS Award: \$754,800

OWEB March: \$232,614

This project involves significant actions in the Salmon River estuary to remove human impacts from residential and recreational development. OWEB granted \$232,614 for the initial stages of the project. The project has been initiated to reconnect Rowdy Creek to the Salmon River estuary.

Project: Lint Slough Restoration Phases II & III

USFWS Award: \$310,000

OWEB March: \$265,000

The Lint Slough project has been awarded the state match funds and is ready to proceed. The federal grant has been delayed but should be awarded by February. The project builds on previous work in recovering estuarine function from legacy alterations.

Project: Alsea Acquisition

USFWS Award: \$997,350

OWEB March: \$301,000

This project was being developed to request Board approval of state match in January; however details of the transaction have not been fully resolved. The project is changing slightly and may include more fee title acquisition and less conservation easement acreage.

Project: Yaquina Acquisition

USFWS Award: \$95,735

OWEB March: \$46,250

OWEB retains approximately \$300,000 of previously awarded federal funds for wetland acquisition in the Yaquina estuary. The Wetlands Conservancy is working to combine the proposed 2008 acquisition, which is relatively small, with the remaining funds to achieve a larger estuarine wetland purchase. The details of this transaction are being worked on and should be resolved in early spring of 2009.