

Successful 2008 WPDG Applicants

Proposal Title: *Developing a Framework for the Oregon Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program*

Project Description:

This project will develop the framework for an Oregon Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Program. Partners will refine and apply such methods as a cost-effective invertebrate-based biological assessment tool, the Oregon Wetland Assessment Protocol (ORWAP), and detailed effectiveness monitoring to assess wetland quality, evaluate restoration success, and detect responses to anthropogenic stressors. Implementation of the framework is initially focused on the development of a wetland monitoring “network service area” within the Willamette Valley. In addition to rapid assessment and effectiveness monitoring, the project will collect invertebrates from wetlands in the Willamette Valley to increase understanding of the taxa present, identify community attributes that vary predictably in response to human stressors, and develop a preliminary invertebrate-based Index of Biological Integrity. While this proposal will focus on the Willamette Valley as a pilot effort, the program is anticipated to be established statewide. Ultimately, information from these assessments will enhance compliance with the State’s compensatory wetland mitigation projects and augment the effectiveness of restoration projects. This effort will contribute to Oregon’s participation in the national assessment effort to evaluate wetland conditions in 2011.

Project Location: Oregon

Grantee: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Grantee Classification: State

Proposal Title: *Protecting Vulnerable Wetlands in Washington State*

Project Description:

In Washington State, cities and counties are the only entities with the regulatory authority to adequately protect vulnerable wetlands from destruction or degradation. Most of the existing local regulations were adopted in the mid-1990s and are seriously lacking in adequate provisions to protect wetland functions and values. Fortunately, the Washington State Growth Management Act requires that local policies and regulations must be updated every seven years. In the next three years, 23 counties and 142 cities will be updating their local wetland regulations, providing a unique opportunity to improve local government wetland protection.

The more rural jurisdictions, which have the highest percentage of isolated wetlands, have their deadlines approaching over the next couple of years. Many of these smaller, more rural local governments lack the planning staff and resources necessary to develop and implement wetland standards that are both locally appropriate and based on best available science. Without additional assistance or encouragement, local jurisdictions tend to re-adopt their existing code language or make minimal improvements.

This project will provide a rare opportunity to influence the degree of wetland protection in Washington State through:

- The development of guidance materials for local jurisdictions
- Training for local planners and elected officials
- Technical assistance to local planners and technical staff
- Previewing and commenting on draft wetland regulations for local jurisdictions
- Written and oral testimony at public hearings on local regulations
- Recommending state appeals of inadequate local wetland regulatory programs.

As a result of these activities, local governments will be able to develop and implement wetland regulations that are based on current science and provide enhanced protection for the state's most vulnerable wetlands.

Project Location: Washington

Grantee: Washington State Department of Ecology

Grantee Classification: State

Proposal Title: *Refining Idaho's Landscape-scale Assessment Tool: Demonstrating Wetland Planning Uses with Partners*

Project Description:

This monitoring and assessment project will test and refine Idaho's prototype Landscape-scale Assessment Tool and demonstrate its applicability in wetland planning through partnerships. The tool will be applied in five case studies working with partners. The project is based on a need identified by the Idaho Wetlands Working Group (IWWG).

This project is part of an overall state strategy and it is consistent with EPA's strategy for wetland monitoring and assessment. This effort will refine the assessment tool by working with partners in applying the tool to a variety of wetland planning and restoration prioritizations. The tool will provide important information to enhance decision processes for protecting wetlands. This project builds on the efforts of the IWWG and is proposed by an applicant with a proven record for meaningful grant products.

Project Location: Idaho

Grantee: Idaho Department of Fish and Game

Grantee Classification: State

Proposal Title: *Assessing Wetland and Meadow Habitat, Condition and Management Needs on the Yakama Reservation*

Project Description:

Encompassing the Columbia Basin, Eastern Cascades Slopes, and Cascades ecoregions, the 1.4-million-acre Yakama Reservation in south-central Washington contains a diversity of landforms and habitats. Over 800 wetlands and meadows occupy more than 8,600 acres within a matrix of 742,000 acres of forested and woodland habitats on the Reservation. These wetlands and meadows within the Yakama Reservation perform critical hydrologic functions, provide numerous traditional food and plants, and support ecologically and culturally valuable species, such as the federally-threatened sandhill crane (*Grus canadensis*) and the middle Columbia steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*),

This project will develop a rapid assessment protocol for middle to upper elevation wetlands and meadows where three hundred wetlands and meadows will be assessed and prioritized for protection and restoration. The information generated from this grant will be stored in Access and GIS dataset for wetland and meadow information on resource values and stressors. The project will integrate well with other Tribal programs such as the ongoing lower and upper wetlands projects, the Wildlife Resource Management Program, Yakima-Klickitat Fisheries Program, Fisheries, Water Resources, as well as programs being implemented through the Environmental Management Program, the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, NRCS Wetland Reserve Program, and NRCS Environmental Quality Incentives Program projects to restore lower elevation floodplain and stream channels. The project will result in improved condition and ecological function of Reservation wetlands and meadows and their associated species.

The proposal meets the monitoring and assessment portion of the national priorities. The environmental result/outcome would be a wetland protection strategy. The need for this type of work as described in the proposal was highlighted by the wetland proposal review committee. The size of the reservation and the amount of wetland/meadows it contains emphasizes the need for future protection of the resource.

Project Location: Washington

Grantee: Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Grantee Classification: Tribe

Proposal Title: *Oregon Wetlands Conservation Tools*

Project Description:

This project will expand upon the capabilities of the Oregon Wetland Explorer to improve the effectiveness of wetland restoration and increase the number of restored and protected wetlands. It will create a framework to conserve and restore wetlands on the Oregon coast and will utilize a statewide set of wetland reference sites to support restoration and mitigation in the state. This project ranked well because it expands in a logical direction upon an established tool that has been previously funded by EPA and provides a heightened interest in coastal wetlands, riparian zones and climate change.

Project Location: Oregon

Grantee: Oregon State University

Grantee Classification: State

Proposal Title: *Assessing the Condition of Key Wetlands on Nontribal Land on the Nez Perce Reservation*

Project Description:

This project builds on previous work by assessing the condition of wetlands on the reservation that are not in tribal ownership and identifying wetlands areas to consider for acquisition and/or restoration. It will also determine likely locations of original wetlands lost to agricultural conversion and prioritize them for potential restoration.

Project's final products:

- GPS and GIS maps of each assessed wetland with hyperlinks to digital photos
- An updated Access database of the information gathered for each wetland
- A photographic documentation of wetland characteristics and condition
- Reports on the status and condition of each wetland area with management recommendations
- GIS coverage of areas where wetlands are likely to have occurred historically
- Priority ranking for restoration

The project meets the monitoring and assessment portion of the national priorities and provides a clear description of outputs and a linkage to a strategic plan. It includes a clear and sound plan for accomplishing objectives. This project uses assessment techniques developed by the Tribe, including cultural values, to develop information to identify and prioritize lands for protection (through acquisition) and/or restoration. The work builds the Tribe's capacity to report on the quantity and condition of nontribal wetlands within the reservation and develops information for decision making by the Tribe about these resources. This project builds on the past efforts of the Tribe and is proposed by an applicant with a proven record for meaningful grant products.

Project Location: Idaho

Grantee: Nez Perce Tribe

Grantee Classification: Tribe

Proposal Title: *Assessing and attributing mapped wetlands considered important for supporting salmonid habitat*

Project Description:

This project is a partnership between the Kenaitze Tribe, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game and the Kenai Watershed Forum. It is another step in an ongoing effort to assess, map and conserve wetlands on the Kenai Peninsula. It proposes to survey and verify the presence of juvenile salmon in wetlands previously identified, through a mapping exercise, as being likely to support rearing salmon. Where salmon use of wetlands is verified, regulatory protection will be applied by the State of Alaska and local government under existing statutes designed to protect salmonid bearing waters. The information will also be made available to the public through the local government's web based interactive mapping system. All salmon bearing waters are designated on the on-line mapping system. This information will also be used to educate land use recommendations in a current watershed planning effort being conducted on the Kenai Peninsula.

This project was selected for funding because it contributes substantive information on the function of wetlands in the project area and beyond. The project provides an important component of the information needed for assessing wetlands for the purpose of developing a wetland conservation plan for the area.

Project Location: Alaska

Grantee: Kenaitze Indian Tribe

Grantee Classification: Tribe

Proposal Title: *Tulalip Reservation Wetland Program Update and Development*

Project Description:

The Tulalip Tribes are developing a Master Plan and updating the Tulalip Comprehensive Plan and the Tribal Zoning Ordinance. This project proposes to update a wetlands inventory on reservation lands, classify wetlands based on landscape position and function, establish baseline condition, integrate remote sensing in monitoring, develop a geodatabase and revise existing wetland regulations. A partnership with the county is proposed for the purpose of obtaining remote sensing imagery. This proposed project is a refinement of earlier work done by the Tribe.

Project Location: Washington

Grantee: Tulalip Tribes of Washington

Grantee Classification: Tribe