

Coastal Zone Management (CZM) Habitat Protection & Restoration Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Funding Program

Overview

The Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) at Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) is pleased to announce a new NOAA funding opportunity designed to build a Climate Ready Nation under the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The objective of this initiative is to increase resilience through landscape-scale habitat restoration and conservation in coastal ecosystems nationwide and promote coastal resilience in underserved coastal communities as well as those most vulnerable to climate impacts.

Funding for this initiative is expected to be \$207 million over 5 years for Coastal Zone Management Programs (there is an additional funding allocation for National Estuarine Research Reserve Systems).

These funds will be awarded competitively to support coastal habitat restoration and conservation under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). The restoration and conservation of ecologically significant ecosystems such as wetlands, headlands, and natural shoreline will help reduce the impacts of coastal hazards, including flooding and climate change, to property and infrastructure, and at the same time provide economic benefits to coastal communities.

Application Process:

Annually, OCMP/DLCD will solicit Letters of Intent for project proposals with the intent of submitting the top three projects to NOAA (OCMP/DLCD is limited to only submitting up to three LOI's). Only LOI's that strongly align with the program objectives and goals will be invited, by NOAA, to submit a full proposal. OCMP/DLCD is the direct applicant to NOAA and staff work closely with Partners on submitting the application.

A **Pre-Application Consultation Meeting** will be required prior to submitting an LOI to OCMP/DLCD. Contact Claire Fiegenger to schedule.

Project Types Funded

There are three categories of "shovel-ready" projects that are eligible:

- Habitat Restoration
- Habitat Restoration Planning, Engineering, and Design
- Land Conservation/Acquisition (fee or Conservation Easement)

Project Priorities

- Restoration and Conservation goals and outcomes
- Promotes Climate Resilience
- Advances Equity and Inclusion principles

Project Eligibility

All restoration and restoration planning projects must be conducted on land owned/controlled by a non-federal public entity (includes Federally recognized Indian Tribal Governments). All acquisition projects must have final ownership of fee-lands or conservation easements held by a non-Federal public entity (includes Federally recognized Tribal Governments).

Project Location

Projects must be located within the OCMP Coastal Zone (to see a map of the coastal zone visit <https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/OCMP/Pages/Coastal-Zone.aspx>)

Project Funding

Each project can request a maximum of \$6 million for project costs. Match is not required, but cost sharing is an important element considered in the evaluation criteria.

Project Implementation Timeline

Projects of any type must be completed within 3 years of the start date of the award (can include an additional year for restoration monitoring).

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Habitat Restoration Projects

Priority will be given to projects that are:

- reflect coastal habitat restoration priority areas identified in state/territories, tribal or regional plans;
- restore important habitats and connected ecosystem functions/species;
- restore hydrologic connections between habitats that improve ecosystem function;
- enhance or restore important ecosystem services that support coastal communities, vulnerable populations or cultural resources (i.e., coastal flood protection, extreme weather resilience, water quality and quantity, food safety and security, chronic coastal erosion, etc);
- include a long-term plan for monitoring specific criteria relevant to achieve project objectives; and/or
- provide for engineering and design needs, if not already completed.

Habitat Restoration Planning, Engineering & Design Projects

Habitat restoration planning, engineering, and design projects will be evaluated using the same criteria as noted for habitat restoration projects.

Habitat restoration planning activities do not have to support the implementation of a specific infrastructure project, but applicants should demonstrate how these efforts will support or catalyze subsequent on-the-ground restoration.

Land Acquisition Projects

Priority will be given to projects that:

- Have significant ecological value
- Have a demonstrated need for protection
- Can be effectively managed and protected

Of the land conservation projects that meet these standards, priority will also be given to projects that:

- Are designed to protect properties under an imminent

threat of conversion to a use that will degrade or diminish their natural, undeveloped, or recreational state

- Serve to mitigate the adverse impacts caused by coastal population growth in the coastal environment
- Reflect the land conservation priority area(s) that are identified in state or regional conservation plans including but not limited to:
 - The Oregon Conservation Strategy
 - OWEB's Focus Areas
 - CELCP plan (out of date but can still be used)
 - The goals and objectives of OCMP & National Estuarine Research Reserve management plans approved under CZMA
 - Other regional or State watershed protection plans

Next Funding Solicitation - June 2024.
To be added to the funding notification list, contact
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Contact Information:

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DLCD/OCMP Coastal Grants Webpage:
<https://www.oregon.gov/lcd/OCMP/Pages/Grants.aspx>

