Oregon Water Resources Department
Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program
Evaluation for September 2, 2008 Applications

APPLICANT:	**Calapooia Watershed Council**		
STUDY TYPE:	Water Conservation		
APPLICATION NO.:	GC0029 09		
STUDY NAME:	Calapooia River-Sodom Ditch Water Resource Conservation and Management Project		
BASIN:	Willamette	**WRD DISTRICT:**	2
WRD FUNDS REQUESTED:	$199,100	**TOTAL COST:**	$398,200

APPLICATION DESCRIPTION:

In the 1880s, Sodom Ditch was built in the middle Calapooia Watershed to serve as a high water diversion to minimize flooding and divert water around Thompson's Mill. In 2004, the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) purchased Thompson's Mill and has been working to address complex flow issues. Sodom Dam is the most significant fish passage barrier in the Calapooia Watershed. OPRD has received funding from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to implement dam removal. However, OPRD has now realized that a more sophisticated investigation is needed to ensure that once the Sodom Dam is removed water will continue to flow down the Calapooia River.

The Calapooia Watershed Council has partnered with state and federal agencies and landowners to address fish passage impairment at Sodom Dam through dam removal. This diversion dam has historically ensured that flows continue down through the Calapooia river and Sodom Ditch. Without the dam, the river would go dry during summer months.

The goal of the project associated with this planning study is to develop an alternative means of supplying water in the Calapooia channel other than a diversion dam in order to deliver water to water users, to maintain the best use of valuable instream water rights, and maintain ecological flows in the Calapooia channel considering its high quality fish habitat. This planning study will utilize extensive hydrologic and geomorphic analyses to develop a flow management plan that examines the 10-mile river system below the bifurcation point caused by the Sodom Dam.

APPLICATION REVIEW TEAM EVALUATION:

The Application Review Team found this to be a well written application which described a very complex situation. The team appreciated that there was insufficient information to move forward with dam removal, and recognized the potential fish passage benefits, as well as benefits due to eliminating flooding problems down Sodom Ditch and the protecting of water rights. The team felt that Stakeholder Communication element was not directly tied to a feasibility study, but otherwise believed that the study was generally eligible for funding under the Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program. However, the team believed that the study was more appropriate for funding through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, or possibly through Economic and Community Development as it is more of a fish passage problem and has no direct water conservation element, aside from making sure that the Calapooia River is not dewatered. Additionally, the

team did not believe that the proposed use of the one-dimensional steady state hydraulic model HEC-RAS would yield the necessary information for analyzing a three-dimensional flow problem.

The team felt that given the limited funding associated with the Water Conservation, Reuse and Storage Grant Program, and the severe water quantity problems facing the state, that other applications should be funded prior to this application.

The study is a priority for funding under SB 1069 because it is identified on the Department's statewide water assessment and inventory of potential conservation opportunities. The study could begin Winter 2009 and be completed by Winter 2010.

Application Review Team Funding Recommendation: Do Not Fund.

COMMENTS:
None received.

RECOMMENDATION:
Do Not Fund.