

## 2022 Wetlands and Waterway Project Grants Available from DSL Mitigation Fund

The Oregon Department of State Lands announces a 2022 funding opportunity for projects that restore, create, or improve wetlands and other aquatic resources.

When impacts to wetlands and waterways occur as part of removal-fill activity, compensatory mitigation is required to replace the lost resource. For some projects, purchasing mitigation credits directly from DSL is an option. DSL deposits credit payments to the Mitigation Fund, and then seeks to provide grant funds for mitigation projects that replace the resources lost.

### 2022 FUNDING PRIORITIES

**Location Priorities:** DSL seeks to replace aquatic resources in the same watersheds where impacts occur. The basin below has several acres of wetland mitigation obligations is therefore our top priority for projects. Projects in other basins will be considered as funds allow.

Current Priority Basins	Approximate Wetland Acreage Needed by Basin
Basin 15 Rogue ( <a href="#">basin map</a> )	7 acres

**Project Priorities:** Funds primarily represent payments for wetland impacts, and the priority is for projects that will yield additional wetland acreage and function. Projects that consist solely of improvements or preservation of existing wetlands and other aquatic resources are a lower priority. Acquisition of land or easements may be included as necessary, but acquisition alone does not qualify.

### Basin Priorities:

- Restoration of wetlands that function to improve water quality or address recognized impairments (including water temperature)
- Restoration of wetlands that function to support native fish species

### SELECTION CRITERIA

#### Required Criteria

- Project has a high likelihood of success and sustainability: reliable water source, proven mitigation concept, and low maintenance after establishment
- Project results in a net gain of wetland acres and functions
- Design focuses on restoring natural processes and a native plant community
- No conflicts with adjacent land uses
- Project team has capacity and expertise
- Landowner supports permanent site protection (deed restriction at a minimum)

#### Preferred Criteria

- Targets a regional conservation priority or limiting factor in the watershed as identified in a planning or assessment document
- Site is connected to other protected lands directly or by wildlife habitat corridor

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS

- Project achieves multiple function gains such as improvement of fish and wildlife habitat, support for rare species, flood attenuation, water quality improvement, and recreation or education values
- Low level of threats from vandalism or invasive species
- Provides a good ratio of cost to benefit
- Landowner supports adoption of a long-term management plan, a conservation easement, and partnership with a qualified long-term steward (land trust, local government, special district, tribe, or other qualified party) to ensure the protection of the wetland area and functions in perpetuity

### **APPLICATION PROCESS**

DSL recognizes that many organizations, including our agency, are operating under new realities due to COVID-19 and the economic impacts of the global pandemic. We want to acknowledge capacity issues and be respectful of your time.

DSL has modified our grant process to include an initial proposal via a Letter of Intent (LOI). This will allow applicants to submit specific project information to the Department for evaluation that will help determine if a project is a strong candidate for funding based on our program guidelines for mitigation ([OAR 141-085-0680](#), [OAR 141-085-0694](#) and [OAR 141-085-0695](#)) before requesting additional information in a full project proposal.

#### **Step 1: Initial proposal and staff review**

Letter of Intent (LOI) – DSL is requesting a high-level overview of the project formatted as a letter of intent to apply for the full funding opportunity. Guidelines for the LOI are available on page 4.

DSL staff will review submitted LOIs based on the mitigation project meeting our program guidelines and how well the project demonstrates fulfilling the identified basin priorities. Staff may request a site visit to help determine feasibility. Strong candidates for funding will be invited to submit a full project proposal.

#### **Step 2: Full project proposals to construct and monitor the mitigation site**

Full Proposal – Guidelines for a full project proposal are available on page 5.

DSL staff may consult with other agencies or seek additional information to evaluate the specifics of each project. Funding decisions will be based on how well the project addresses the selection criteria and fulfills the watershed priorities of the identified basins.

#### **Step 3: Funding Award**

DSL anticipates the funding awards to be announced in Summer 2022. If selected, a grant agreement will be developed that specifies the roles and responsibilities of the awardee and provides the project budget, deliverables to be reimbursed, monitoring plan, and reporting requirements.

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS

### **EVALUATION PROCESS**

Project applications are accepted at any time, but preference will be given to applicants that submit projects for the specified basin within the proposed funding window.

### **DSL GRANT CONTACT**

Melody Rudenko  
Mitigation Specialist  
Department of State Lands  
775 Summer St NE, Suite 100  
Salem, OR 97301-1279  
[Melody.Rudenko@dsl.oregon.gov](mailto:Melody.Rudenko@dsl.oregon.gov)  
(503) 508-4035

## GUIDELINES FOR LETTERS OF INTENT

Applicants must submit a Letter of Intent (LOI) and receive an invitation from DSL before submitting a full proposal. LOIs should be submitted as an email attachment to [Melody.Rudenko@dsl.oregon.gov](mailto:Melody.Rudenko@dsl.oregon.gov) by 11:59 pm on February 1, 2022.

Please put “2022 Mitigation Funding Opportunity - LOI” in the email subject heading.

The LOI should be no more than three (3) pages in length. It should be single-spaced, use 11- or 12-point font, with one-inch margins, and should provide a concise description of the proposed work and its relevance to the basin priorities. Additional pages may be submitted showing project site maps, conceptual project drawings, and photographs of the project area.

**The LOI should include each of the components listed below:**

- a) Applicant Organization;
- b) Project Title;
- c) Principal Investigator(s): Name, Address, Telephone Number and Email Address.
  - Briefly describe our organization’s experience or expertise that would lead to a successful mitigation project.
  - A list of primary project partners and their roles, contributions, and experience.
  - Anticipated arrangements for long-term management and stewardship.
- d) Project Location: List the geographic area(s) in which the project will be implemented. Include geographic coordinates or a legal description (T, R, S and tax lot(s)).
  - Landowner contact information: The landowner must be willing to provide long-term protection of the project areas.
- e) Project Description: A brief description of the proposal including existing site conditions and a conceptual plan for restoration, creation and/or enhancement of aquatic resources.
  - Estimated acreage of existing wetland and post-project wetland areas.
  - How the project complements existing or planned natural areas, and other conservation projects.
  - Adjacent land uses, any compatibility issues, and possible limiting factors in the watershed.
- f) Project intended start date.
- g) Funding: Approximate funds requested and any other funds that are available to support the project such as federal funding, other grants, matching funds, or in-kind contributions to the project. DSL encourages, but does not require other funds.
- h) Project Outcomes: Describe anticipated net gains in wetland functions or other resource benefits expected to result from this project.

## GUIDELINES FOR FULL PROPOSALS (ONLY IF INVITED)

If DSL staff determine that a project is a strong candidate for funding the applicant will be invited to submit a full project proposal. Project proposals should be submitted as an email attachment to [Melody.Rudenko@dsl.oregon.gov](mailto:Melody.Rudenko@dsl.oregon.gov)

Please put “2022 Mitigation Funding Opportunity – Project Proposal” in the email subject heading.

The first review deadline will be provided in the invitation to submit a full proposal. Proposals received after the deadline will be assessed based on availability of funding. When funding is awarded, DSL will notify all candidates invited to submit a full proposal and include an update on any remaining funds.

The full project proposal should be concise, no more than 15 pages, excluding figures and photographs. Submissions should be single-spaced, use 11- or 12-point font, with one-inch margins, and should provide a succinct outline of the proposed work that describes the projects relevance to the basin priorities. Do not include figures and photographs that were submitted with the Letter of Intent.

### **The Full Proposal should include each of the components listed below:**

- a) Applicant organization;
- b) Project title;
- c) Project team: Name, Address, Telephone Number and Email Address.
  - Briefly describe the organization’s experience or expertise that would lead to a successful mitigation project.
  - A list of primary project team members and their roles, contributions, and experience.
  - Anticipated arrangements for long-term management and stewardship.
- d) Project location - List the geographic area(s) in which the project will be implemented. Include geographic coordinates or a legal description by Township, Range, Section, quarter section, tax lot, latitude and longitude, address (if applicable) and name of nearby water bodies. Describe size of the site, including buffers, and whether it is all or a portion of the tax lot.
- e) Landowner contact information: Identify the owner of the site, identify the project proponent, and describe what the legal agreement will be between the parties if these are not the same entity.

Provide contact information (including phone, mailing address and email address) for all project contacts, if applicable.

The landowner must be willing to provide long-term protection of the project areas (deed restriction at minimum). Provide a statement signed by the landowner that they are willing to permanently dedicate the site to conservation purposes if the mitigation site is approved.

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS

f) Project team information: Describe the qualifications of the project team to successfully complete the type(s) of project(s) proposed, including information describing any past such activities of the partners and primary consultant, if any.

g) Technical feasibility: Explain the technical feasibility of the plan in terms of soil, hydrology, and vegetation, and establishment methods. Identify elevations of inlets and outlets of surface water affecting the site, and approximate locations and purposes of any earthmoving. Describe what proportion of the site has mapped hydric soils, and provide conceptual grading plans, if any (e.g. removal of fill). Describe the current and proposed water sources that would support the wetland, including any past hydrologic manipulations and how they might be reversed, and whether any water control structures would be needed. Describe the sustainability and reliability of the water sources, and how they might be affected by reasonably foreseeable adjacent land uses. Provide assurance of sufficient water rights to support the long-term sustainability of the project site. (An approved delineation is not required for project proposals, but pre-project hydrology monitoring is recommended to inform the design.)

Identify any known plant and wildlife communities, including invasive species in the vicinity of the site, and how they would be managed.

Explain whether or how buffers would be used to protect the wetland and/or stream from potentially adverse adjacent land uses.

h) Establishment and Operation: Provide a description of the initial grading, soil amendment, alteration of drainage, site preparation, planting, weed management, temporary irrigation, mowing, burning, fencing, or other activities or structures expected to be used to establish the site. Explain how the design allows for the key aquatic functions to be self-sustaining, with low maintenance requirements after establishment.

i) Outcomes: Identify characteristics of the completed project that will result from this work. Describe wetland gains and resources benefits from the project.

j) Monitoring Plan: Describe how the site will be monitored to verify outcomes over a minimum of five years after site construction, including proposed monitoring locations. Monitoring locations can be included in a supplemental map.

k) Long-Term Plan: Describe the proposed arrangements and long-term management strategy for the site. Identify who is anticipated to take the various long-term roles and responsibilities. Describe site protection method(s) planned to protect the site from changing land use.

### **Required Attachments:**

- Landowner permission for permanent protection
- Proposed Project Budget

### **Optional Attachments:**

- Maps and Figures
- Soil data – NRCS soil survey map with legend, including immediate vicinity.
- Air photo – recent color photo (provide photo date) that illustrates the description of site connectivity to other protected habitats.

## OREGON DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS

- Conceptual site plan – identify existing and proposed hydrologic features, location of any proposed grading, approximate locations of creation, restoration, and enhancement areas, extent of proposed wetland types, and location of any streams or other aquatic resources.
- Historic air photo.
- Topographic map with location identified.