



Aquatic Resource Management

DSL Grant Program

The Department of State Lands established a Mitigation Fund to accept payments from permit applicants who are unable to provide compensatory mitigation for small impacts to wetlands or other aquatic resources. DSL makes these funds available through a grant program for restoring, creating and improving similar aquatic resources.

Project Priorities: Most of the funds represent payments for wetland impacts, so the priority is for projects that will yield additional wetland acreage and function. Projects that consist solely of preservation of existing wetlands, or that focus on other aquatic resources, are a lower priority.

Location Priorities: DSL seeks to replace aquatic resources in the same watersheds where impacts occur. The following basins (map below) have several acres of wetland mitigation obligations and are therefore our top priority for projects. Projects in other basins will be considered as funds allow.

Current Priority Basins	Wetland Gain Needed
Basin 1 North Coast	5 acres
Basin 5 Hood River	3 acres
Basin 15 Rogue	7 acres
Basin 16 Umpqua	7 acres
Basin 17 South Coast	2 acres

Selection Criteria

Required Criteria

- Project has a high likelihood of success and sustainability: reliable water source, proven mitigation concept, and low maintenance after establishment
- Design focuses on restoring natural processes and native plant diversity
- No conflicts with adjacent land uses

- Project team has capacity and expertise
- Landowner supports permanent site protection (deed restriction at a minimum)

Preferred Criteria

- Net gain of wetland acres and functions
- Targets a regional conservation priority or a documented limiting factor in the watershed. Please see the Removal-Fill Guide, Chapter 8, for information on siting wetland restoration, and Technical Resources menu for information about wetlands of conservation concern.
- Site has good habitat connectivity
- 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 a conservation easement with a qualified long-term steward

Evaluation Process

Project applications may be submitted at any time. The three-step process below allows applicants to submit existing information first and more detailed information after DSL has indicated an interest in funding the project.

Step 1: Initial proposal and staff review

Landowner or project proponent submits a grant proposal addressing each item in the Initial Proposal Requirements below. A grant application from another funding source such as OWEB may be submitted if the package includes the required information and a DSL-specific budget.



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DSL staff will review the project proposal and may conduct a site visit to confirm that the project meets the selection criteria. Additional information may be requested. Staff will make an initial determination within 60 days whether the project appears to qualify for funding.

Step 2: (optional) Technical assistance grant to fully develop the project plan

If additional technical information is required before a full funding commitment can be made, DSL may work with the project proponent to develop a preliminary grant agreement to cover these limited “pre-implementation” expenses. Examples may include a wetland delineation, wetland function assessment, archaeological clearance, Level 1 Environmental Site Assessment, and engineering and design.

Step 3: Implementation grant to construct and monitor the project

If staff determines that the project is a strong candidate for funding, the applicant will be invited to develop a Project Plan. DSL staff may consult with other agencies or seek additional information to evaluate the plan. Funding decisions will be based on how well the project addresses the selection criteria. If approved, a grant agreement will specify the roles and responsibilities, the project budget, deliverables to be reimbursed, performance standards, monitoring methods, and reporting requirements.

Initial Proposal Requirements

To apply for funds please submit the following information (1 through 10). The level of detail needed in the proposal will vary with the complexity of the project. There must be sufficient information to allow staff to determine if the project is likely to meet the selection criteria.

1. Contact information for applicant.
2. Project location, including a location map and legal description (T, R, S and tax lot).
3. Landowner contact information and documentation that the owner is willing to provide long-term protection of the project areas.
4. Anticipated arrangements for long-term management and stewardship.
5. A brief description of the proposal including existing site conditions and a conceptual plan for restoration, creation and/or enhancement of aquatic resources. Estimate acreage of existing wetland and post-project wetland areas. Include a labelled figure illustrating treatment areas. If the proposal includes preservation, describe the special qualities of the site and how they are threatened.
6. A brief description of the anticipated net gains in wetland functions and other resource benefits expected as a result of the work.
7. Expected timelines for project planning and implementation. Provide current status of other grant applications, if any.
8. A description of the capacity and expertise of the project team to implement the project and conduct monitoring. Include the qualifications and experience of staff, volunteers, partners and consultants.



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9. A description of how the project complements existing or planned natural areas, conservation projects, or limiting factors in the watershed. Describe adjacent land uses and any compatibility issues.
10. A draft project budget. Include estimates for pre-implementation planning, implementation (construction and vegetation establishment), monitoring and reporting (minimum five years), maintenance, and administration.

Expenses incurred before signing a grant agreement may not be reimbursable. Identify components or amounts pledged by cost-share partners or in-kind contributions. DSL encourages but does not require matching funds. Costs to acquire land or easements may be included as necessary, but acquisition alone does not qualify unless preservation of existing aquatic resources is the sole action being proposed.

More information:

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