

ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT SECTION 6 GRANT PROGRAM
FY 2017 Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance
Western Oregon State Forests
Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Grant
Project Narrative

NEED

This proposal requests \$750,000 in federal grant funds from the Fiscal Year 2017 Cooperative Endangered Species Conservation Fund (Section 6 of the Endangered Species Act) Habitat Conservation Planning Assistance Program. This funding will support the initiation phase of the *Western Oregon State Forests HCP*, covering all state forestlands west of the Cascade Mountains.

State forestlands managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry are owned by two different entities within state government: the Oregon Department of State Lands (DSL), and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF). Common School lands were granted to the DSL by the federal government through the 1859 Oregon Admissions Act. These lands are managed by ODF under an agreement with DSL. Forestland in the project area is primarily owned and managed by ODF, and was acquired under ORS chapter 530 through the state's Board of Forestry (BOF). BOF acquisitions consist primarily of tax defaulted lands deeded by the counties to the state, donations by private entities, direct purchases and land exchanges.

State forestlands in western Oregon to be considered in this proposal total 639,269 acres. The majority of these lands (96%, or 613,577 acres) are owned by the BOF, and the remaining 4% (25,692 acres) are DSL lands, otherwise known as Common School Forest Lands (CSFL). The management obligations for the CSFL are set forth in the Oregon Constitution, Oregon statutes and administrative rules, DSL Asset Management Plan, and Board of Forestry policy mandates. Management is "based on current resource descriptions and technical assumptions, including sustained yield calculations for the purpose of maintaining economic stability in each management region" (ORS 526.255). BOF lands managed by ODF's State Forests Division are managed under ORS Chapter 530 to produce the "greatest permanent value" (GPV) to the state, which the BOF had further articulated in administrative rule to provide a balance of economic, environmental and social benefits (OAR 629-035). Please note that this proposal covers only the BOF lands in the Elliott State Forest, and will not include the greater area owned by DSL.

ODF currently manages the majority of both ownership types using policies that comply with Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act (i.e. "take avoidance"). One exception includes approximately 20,000 acres in Lane County that are managed under a Safe Harbor Agreement for the benefit of the northern spotted owl through August 31, 2025. Under take avoidance strategies, ODF has experienced increased encumbrances on the landscape. This has compromised ODF's ability to carry out business processes necessary to achieve greatest permanent value while maintaining financial viability. Survey expenses, unpredictable shifts in species site status and location, and legal risk have reduced the certainty with which ODF can fully implement its Forests Management Plans (FMPs). In addition, take avoidance policies alone do not constitute a meaningful long term conservation benefit for listed species.

For these reasons, ODF is interested in exploring mutual business and conservation benefits through a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP). In conjunction with conservation measures already in place, an HCP could help ODF provide more durable contributions to the maintenance and recovery of listed species. An associated incidental take permit would provide a more stable environment to carry out forest

management operations, reduce survey costs, and reduce legal risks. The goal of this proposal is to initiate an HCP planning effort to evaluate the prospect of developing a multi-species, ecosystem-based plan that will provide for the long term conservation and recovery of listed and unlisted species, while providing operational certainty.

OBJECTIVE

ODF will be taking a phased approach in evaluating the possibility of an HCP in western Oregon.

Phase 1: HCP Initiation/Scoping (*Timeline: Nov.2017-Nov.2018- Current Request*)

- Implement an open and transparent stakeholder engagement process
- Conduct a conservation and economic cost benefit analysis
- Develop an initial baseline data assessment
- Provide policy direction to inform forest management and HCP planning efforts

Phase 2: Strategy Development (*Timeline: 2019*)

- Continue to collect needed data
- Develop and analyze landscape strategies

Phase 3: NEPA analysis and Consultation (*Timeline: 2020*)

- Complete multi-species HCP for western Oregon State Forestlands
- Complete Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act
- Obtain an Incidental Take Permit

The current grant request will implement Phase 1: HCP Initiation and Scoping to evaluate the costs and benefits of an HCP and determine the likelihood of success in achieving the full suite of public benefits, including conservation and management targets.

During the grant period, a Steering Committee with representatives from ODF, ODFW, USFW, NOAA, Oregon State University (OSU), and the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) will be established to guide the overall HCP initiation process (Nov. 2017). An HCP Facilitator will be hired in January, 2018 to lead the Steering Committee and guide an open and transparent stakeholder engagement process. This allows for an unbiased perspective in engaging a diversity of stakeholders, including agency representatives, landowners, and interest groups.

ODF and ODFW staff will work with federal counterparts to refine the list of species to be considered in a potential HCP (Nov.-Dec. 2017). This work will help to inform an “Initial Baseline Data Assessment, Gap Analysis and Collection Plan,” which includes a review and evaluation of current and historic data to help inform data collection needs for Phase 1. Baseline data review will occur from Dec.-May 2018, and collection will follow during the 2018 summer field season. It is anticipated that additional data collection will be needed to help inform specific strategies associated with species protection.

ODF will use the initial baseline data assessment, feedback from the Steering Committee, and input from stakeholders to design an economic analysis to evaluate implementation of an HCP on state forestlands in western Oregon. Baseline data will be integrated into the economic analysis as it becomes available. The analysis will identify thresholds for meeting species protection, conservation, and management goals across the landscape. Throughout the grant performance period, the HCP Steering Committee will use the information and data gathered to develop recommendations to guide the BOF in developing Forest Management Planning and HCP policy strategies for state forestland west of the Cascade Mountains.

Table 1. Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan Initiation Timeline

Planning Components	2017		2018											
	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	
Steering Committee & Stakeholder Engagement Process														
Establish Steering Committee														
Hire HCP Facilitator														
Develop vision for HCP														
Engage stakeholders in reviewing and providing feedback on data and information throughout the scoping process.														
Initial Baseline Data Assessment, Gap Analysis, and Collection Plan														
Refine list of species to be considered in an HCP														
Historic Data QA QC and Preparation														
Evaluate and identify data gaps														
Data collection														
Cost Benefit Analysis														
Develop design and parameters														
Conduct Analysis														
Policy strategy for FMP/HCP														
Develop policy options for BOF consideration														
Board of Forestry considers FMP/HCP policy options														

EXPECTED RESULTS OR BENEFITS

Oregon’s State Forests are managed to achieve the greatest permanent value (GPV) for all Oregonians (ORS 530.050). This mandate directs State Forests to manage for social, economic, and environmental benefits to provide both sustainable and predictable revenue from forest products and long-term conservation of fish and wildlife habitats. ODF is committed to avoiding harm, harassing, hunting, or otherwise injuring northern spotted owls, marbled murrelets, or any other ESA-listed species. However, ODF may remove or alter habitat in the course of management activities. The development of this HCP will assure ODF’s forest management does not appreciably reduce the likelihood of survival and recovery of the species. Negotiated strategies will provide for protection from habitat modification and disturbance in a manner that both meets the forest management goals of ODF (i.e. GPV) and USFWS goals to conserve the ecosystems upon which listed species depend ultimately contributing to their recovery.

A broad listing of potential species to be covered under a Western Oregon HCP, and expected benefits is provided below. It is anticipated that this listing will be refined during this scoping phase to include only those species for which specific conservation strategies will be developed.

Table 2. Expected Benefits for Covered Species

(*indicates species that are listed under the Federal ESA or candidate species)

Potentially Covered Species			
Birds	Expected Benefit	Degree of Benefit	Justification
Northern Spotted Owl* <i>Strix occidentalis</i>	Contribute to conservation of existing home ranges and local spotted owl populations by supporting persistence of habitat.	Moderate	ODF-managed lands span key habitat gaps between federal lands (e.g. the Siuslaw NF and BLM lands) and core areas of the species range (the North Coast). Some unoccupied areas on ODF managed lands (e.g. in the Tillamook Burn) could also contribute to long-term recovery goals. ODF currently has 29 sites on Board of Forestry lands and approximately 130 sites overlap with ODF-managed lands. Strategies will be implemented to maintain and enhance habitat capable of supporting breeding spotted owls and owl movement across the landscape. Strategies will include harvest restrictions in active sites and measures during minimize disturbance to nesting pairs during the breeding season.
Marbled Murrelet* <i>Brachyramphus marmoratus</i>	Protection of known occupied habitat, and habitat enhancement where appropriate, to support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Moderate	ODF-managed lands occur throughout the range of the marbled murrelet in Oregon. On the North Coast, the Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests comprise the majority of public lands in many areas and are likely key to persistence of local murrelet populations. To date, approximately 15,800 acres of ODF-managed lands have been designated as occupied under current policies. Strategies will be implemented to maintain and enhance habitat capable of supporting marbled murrelets through time. Known occupied sites will be protected. Measures will be incorporated to minimize disturbance of known occupied habitat during the nesting season.
Northern Goshawk <i>Accipiter gentilis</i>	Maintenance and enhancement of habitat and protection of known nest sites will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Goshawks are known to occur and nest on ODF-managed lands in the Coast Range. Strategies will be implemented in areas with known sites and at nest sites to maintain habitat and minimize disturbance to nesting pairs during the breeding season.
Olive-sided Flycatcher <i>Contopus cooperi</i>	Maintenance and enhancement of habitat will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Landscape-scale and site-specific strategies will be implemented to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Landscape-scale considerations include habitat distribution and land ownership patterns. Site-specific strategies would be focused on appropriate green tree retention in harvest units and young stand management.

Western Bluebird <i>Sialia mexicana</i>	Maintenance and enhancement of habitat will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Landscape-scale and site-specific strategies will be implemented to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Landscape-scale considerations include habitat distribution and land ownership patterns. Site-specific strategies would be focused on appropriate snag retention in harvest units and young stand management.
Purple Martin <i>Progne subis</i>	Maintenance and enhancement of habitat will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Landscape-scale and site-specific strategies will be implemented to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Landscape-scale considerations include habitat distribution and land ownership patterns. Site-specific strategies would be focused on appropriate snag retention in harvest units and young stand management.
Willow Flycatcher <i>Empidonax traillii</i>	Maintenance and enhancement of habitat will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Landscape-scale and site-specific strategies will be implemented to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Landscape-scale considerations include habitat distribution and land ownership patterns. Site-specific strategies would be focused on appropriate early-seral habitat and young stand management.
Amphibians	Expected Benefit	Degree of Benefit	Justification
Cascades Frog <i>Rana cascadae</i>	Protection of habitat will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Range overlap is limited to the Santiam State Forest. Buffer strategies will be implemented to protect aquatic and riparian habitats.
Coastal Tailed Frog <i>Ascaphus truei</i>	Protection of habitat will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Moderate	Buffer strategies will be implemented to protect aquatic and riparian habitats.
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog <i>Rana boylei</i>	Protection of breeding habitat will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Range overlap is limited (southwest Oregon to Coos county). Buffer strategies will be implemented to protect aquatic and riparian habitats.
Cascade Torrent Salamander <i>Rhyacotriton cascadae</i>	Protection of habitat will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Range overlap is limited to the Santiam State Forest. Buffer strategies will be implemented to protect aquatic and riparian habitats and landscape strategies will allow for dispersal between breeding habitats.
Columbia Torrent Salamander <i>Rhyacotriton kezeri</i>	Protection of habitat will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Moderate	The Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests contain core populations in key areas and provide connectivity to and between nearby federal lands. Buffer strategies will be implemented to protect aquatic and riparian habitats and landscape strategies will allow for dispersal between breeding habitats.

Southern Torrent Salamander <i>Rhyacotriton variegatus</i>	Protection of habitat will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Range overlaps with scattered tract districts in the central Coast Range and southwest Oregon. Buffer strategies will be implemented to protect aquatic and riparian habitats and landscape strategies will allow for dispersal between breeding habitats.
Cope's Giant Salamander <i>Dicamptodon copei</i>	Protection of habitat will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Moderate	The Clatsop and Tillamook State Forests contain core populations in key areas. Buffer strategies will be implemented to protect aquatic and riparian habitats and landscape strategies will allow for dispersal between breeding habitats.
Oregon Slender Salamander <i>Batrachoseps wrighti</i>	Protection of key habitat elements will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Moderate	Range overlap is limited to the Santiam State Forest. Site-specific strategies will be implemented in appropriate harvest units in known occupied sites to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Site-specific strategies will include snag and woody debris management and recruitment through time.
Clouded Salamander <i>Aneides ferreus</i>	Protection of key habitat elements will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Site-specific strategies will be implemented in appropriate harvest units to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Site-specific strategies will include snag and woody debris management and recruitment through time.
Del Norte Salamander <i>Plethodon elongatus</i>	Protection of key habitat elements will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Site-specific strategies will be implemented in appropriate harvest units in known occupied sites to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Site-specific strategies will include snag and woody debris management and recruitment through time.
Mammals	Expected Benefit	Degree of Benefit	Justification
Red Tree Vole* <i>Arborimus longicaudus</i>	Candidate Distinct Population Segment (DPS) only. Protection of known occupied habitat, and habitat enhancement where appropriate, to support persistence and productivity of local populations.	High	ODF-managed lands occur throughout the range of the DPS and contain both known occupied and unoccupied suitable habitat in key gaps and other key areas. Scattered tracts in the central Coast Range provide connectivity between nearby federal lands. Adjacency with federal lands improves not just connectivity between but also increases block size and function. The Tillamook and Clatsop State Forests contain the majority of potential habitat on public land on the North Coast and are likely key to long term persistence in that region. Strategies will be implemented to maintain and enhance habitat capable of supporting red tree voles and dispersal across the landscape. Site-specific strategies may include protection of known occupied sites, consideration of landscape context (e.g. habitat on adjacent federal lands), and enhancement of potential habitat.

Townsend's Big-eared Bat <i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>	Protection of key habitat elements will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Known occupied sites and potential habitat (i.e. caves, rock outcrops with appropriate structure) could be protected from modification and disturbance due to harvest operations. Strategies to protect aquatic and riparian habitats will support foraging habitat.
Fringed Myotis <i>Myotis thysanodes</i>	Protection of key habitat elements will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Site-specific strategies will be implemented in appropriate harvest units to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Site-specific strategies will include snag and woody debris management and recruitment through time. Strategies to protect aquatic and riparian habitats will support foraging habitat.
Long-legged Myotis <i>Myotis volans</i>	Protection of key habitat elements will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Site-specific strategies will be implemented in appropriate harvest units to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Site-specific strategies will include snag and woody debris management and recruitment through time. Strategies to protect aquatic and riparian habitats will support foraging habitat.
Hoary Bat <i>Lasiurus cinereus</i>	Protection of key habitat elements will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Site-specific strategies will be implemented in appropriate harvest units to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Site-specific strategies will include snag and woody debris management and recruitment through time. Strategies to protect aquatic and riparian habitats will support foraging habitat.
Silver-haired Bat <i>Lasionycteris noctivagans</i>	Protection of key habitat elements will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Site-specific strategies will be implemented in appropriate harvest units to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Site-specific strategies will include snag and woody debris management and recruitment through time. Strategies to protect aquatic and riparian habitats will support foraging habitat.
Pallid Bat <i>Antrozous pallidus</i>	Protection of key habitat elements will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Range overlap is limited to southwest Oregon. Site-specific strategies will be implemented in appropriate harvest units to support and enhance productivity of local breeding populations. Site-specific strategies will include snag and woody debris management and recruitment through time. Strategies to protect aquatic and riparian habitats will support foraging habitat.

Coastal Marten <i>Martes caurina caurina</i>	Maintenance and enhancement of habitat and key habitat elements, and protection of known den sites, will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Coastal marten are not known to occur currently on ODF-managed lands, but potential habitat exists and is widely distributed. ODF-managed lands form historic core areas on the North Coast and provide connectivity between key habitat areas on federal lands on the Central Coast. Landscape-scale and site-specific strategies will be implemented to support and enhance productivity and dispersal of local populations. Landscape-scale considerations include habitat distribution and land ownership patterns. Site-specific strategies would be focused on harvest prescriptions and den site protection where appropriate.
Pacific Fisher <i>Pekania pennanti</i>	Maintenance and enhancement of habitat and key habitat elements, and protection of known den sites, will support persistence and productivity of local populations.	Low	Range overlap of known extant populations with ODF-managed lands is limited to southwest Oregon, but potential habitat exists elsewhere and is widely distributed. ODF-managed lands form historic core areas on the North Coast and provide connectivity between key habitat areas on federal lands on the Central Coast. ODF-managed lands could play key roles in any future reintroduction efforts in these areas or the Central Cascades. Landscape-scale and site-specific strategies will be implemented to support and enhance productivity and dispersal of local populations. Landscape-scale considerations include habitat distribution and land ownership patterns. Site-specific strategies would be focused on harvest prescriptions and den site protection where appropriate.
Fish	Expected Benefit	Degree of Benefit	Justification
Oregon Coast Coho* <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	Contribute to conservation of substantial portions of the Nehalem and Tillamook independent populations and significant portions of the Siletz and Siuslaw independent populations.	High	Strategies will be implemented to maintain and enhance habitat complexity by providing long-term supply of wood to streams from both riparian and upland sources. Strategies will also maintain cold water standards and minimize the delivery of fines to streams. Stream enhancement opportunities will be coordinated with ODFW and Watershed Councils.
Lower Columbia River Coho* <i>Oncorhynchus kisutch</i>	Contribution to conservation would be to substantial portions of several streams in Lower Columbia and Lower Columbia-Clatskanie (HUC 8): Mill Creek, John Day River, Gnat Creek, Hunt Creek, Plympton Creek, and Little Clatskanie River	Low	Strategies will be implemented to maintain and enhance habitat complexity by providing long-term supply of wood to streams from both riparian and upland sources. Strategies will also maintain cold water standards and minimize the delivery of fines to streams. Stream enhancement opportunities will be coordinated with ODFW and Watershed Councils.
Lower Columbia Chinook* <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Contribution to conservation would be limited to substantial	Low	Strategies will be implemented to maintain and enhance habitat complexity by providing long-

	portions of Gnat Creek in Lower Columbia (HUC 8).		term supply of wood to streams from both riparian and upland sources. Strategies will also maintain cold water standards and minimize the delivery of fines to streams. Stream enhancement opportunities will be coordinated with ODFW and Watershed Councils.
Upper Willamette Spring Chinook* <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i>	Contribution to conservation would be to key portions of several streams in the following HUC 8: South Santiam (upper portions of Crabtree Creek), North Santiam (North Santiam R. and to a lesser extent, Little North Santiam R.) and a portion of the headwaters in Molalla-Pudding (Abiqua Creek and Molalla River).	Low	Strategies will be implemented to maintain and enhance habitat complexity by providing long-term supply of wood to streams from both riparian and upland sources. Strategies will also maintain cold water standards and minimize the delivery of fines to streams. Stream enhancement opportunities will be coordinated with ODFW and Watershed Councils.
Upper Willamette River Winter Steelhead* <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	Contribution to conservation would be to key portions of several streams in the following HUC 8: South Santiam (upper portions of Crabtree Creek), North Santiam (North Santiam R. and to a lesser extent, Little North Santiam R.), Tualatin (key portions of upper Tualatin and Gales Creek) and a portion of the headwaters in Molalla-Pudding (Abiqua Creek and Molalla River).	Low	Strategies will be implemented to maintain and enhance habitat complexity by providing long-term supply of wood to streams from both riparian and upland sources. Strategies will also maintain cold water standards and minimize the delivery of fines to streams. Stream enhancement opportunities will be coordinated with ODFW and Watershed Councils.
Pacific Lamprey <i>Lampetra tridentate</i>	TBD		

ECOSYSTEM BENEFITS

Strategies for covered species will protect entire home ranges and specific habitat elements used by many species. Large habitat blocks and connectivity across the landscape will support the stability and movement of local populations and minimize fragmentation. Upland and aquatic habitat restoration, such as large tree development, snag and downed wood creation in harvest units, and wood placement in streams will improve local conditions for breeding and dispersal over time. Protection measures for headwaters and fish-bearing streams maintain and enhance the ecological function of aquatic systems. Predator-prey relationships are supported and other processes remain intact such as soil creation and nutrient cycling and resilience to insect damage and other disturbance.

There is broad overlap between State Forests and the Oregon Conservation Strategy's Conservation Opportunity Areas (COAs). COAs are ODFW-prioritized areas where broad fish and wildlife conservation goals would best be met. Focusing investments in these prioritized areas can increase the likelihood of long-term success, maximize effectiveness over larger landscapes, improve funding efficiency, and promote cooperative efforts across ownership boundaries.

State Forests are broadly distributed across the west side of the state and thus harbor diverse forest and wildlife communities that vary along latitudinal, longitudinal and elevational gradients. Many key habitats (e.g. cold water refugia) are contained therein, as well as large blocks of occupied habitat and suitable unoccupied habitat between federal lands. This landscape context may become more important as species adapt to changes in weather patterns and habitat conditions resulting from climate change. Monitoring strategies for species and habitat conditions will provide insight into the performance of the plan and inform adaptive management strategies through time.

Table 3. ODF-managed Acres or Stream Miles* within the Range of the Species (by District)

Potentially Covered Species	Astoria	Tillamook	Forest Grove	North Cascade	West Oregon	Western Lane and Coos	Southwest	Total
Northern Spotted Owl	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Marbled Murrelet	136,501	250,190	115,201	N/A	36,628	34,158	80	572,758
Northern Goshawk	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Olive-sided Flycatcher	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Western Bluebird	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Purple Martin	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Willow Flycatcher	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Cascades Frog*	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD
Coastal Tailed Frog*	378	867	267	188	59	49	53	1,861
Foothill Yellow-legged Frog*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD	TBD	TBD
Cascade Torrent Salamander*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	59	N/A	N/A	59
Columbia Torrent Salamander*	378	867	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	1,245
Southern Torrent Salamander*	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	59	49	53	161
Cope's Giant Salamander*	378	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	378
Oregon Slender Salamander	N/A	N/A	N/A	47,462	N/A	N/A	N/A	47,462

Clouded Salamander	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Del Norte Salamander	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	16,793	16,793
Red Tree Vole (DPS only)	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	20,890	N/A	606,872
Townsend's Big-eared Bat	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Fringed Myotis	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Long-legged Myotis	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Hoary Bat	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Silver-haired Bat	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Pallid Bat	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	34,158	16,793	50,951
Coastal Marten	136,501	250,190	115,201	N/A	36,628	34,158	16,793	589,471
Pacific Fisher	136,501	250,190	115,201	47,462	36,628	34,158	16,793	636,933
Oregon Coast Coho*	127	233	99	N/A	18	16	8	501
Lower Columbia Coho*	TBD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD
Lower Columbia Chinook*	TBD	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD
Upper Willamette Spring Chinook*	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	N/A	N/A	4
Upper Willamette Winter Steelhead*	N/A	N/A	TBD	9	N/A	N/A	N/A	TBD
Pacific Lamprey*	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

APPROACH

Oregon State Forests provide a variety of environmental, economic, and social benefits to Oregonians, and ODF is committed to considering a variety of perspectives in finding the right balance in achieving these objectives. In keeping with this approach, ODF will engage over 40 stakeholders to foster HCP partnerships as we initiate and scope the potential for an HCP to provide an effective solution to current competing demands on the landscape.

The HCP initiation phase will be guided and implemented by a Steering Committee and a Scoping Team (Table 4). The Steering Committee, comprised of policy-level agency representatives from the Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Department of Environmental Quality, and Oregon State University will engage the US Fish and Wildlife Service and National Marine Fisheries Service in scoping the potential of an HCP on state forestland west of the Cascades. This committee will meet every other month to provide overall direction to the planning team and comment on key issues during the process. In addition, the steering committee members will keep community leaders and stakeholders informed of planning issues and progress.

A Scoping Team will meet regularly to coordinate technical and policy efforts across agencies and engage stakeholders, including USFWS and NOAA. The Scoping Team will provide the Steering Committee with technical information and policy support needed to make effective policy decisions.

Table 4. HCP Planning Teams

Steering Committee	Scoping Team
Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF State Forests HCP Coordinator
Oregon Dept. of Fish and Wildlife	ODF Aquatic Specialist
Oregon State University	ODF Biological Specialist
Oregon Dept. of Environmental Quality	ODF Public Affairs
Advisors: UFWS & NOAA	NOAA Deputy Branch Chief
	USFWS Fish and Wildlife Biologist
	ODFW Fisheries Biologist

A professional HCP Facilitator will be hired to lead the Steering Committee and the stakeholders through an inclusive process to develop a vision for a Western Oregon State Forests HCP. The HCP Facilitator will directly engage stakeholders, workgroups, and advisory committees in quarterly meetings to provide information and solicit feedback throughout the scoping process. The HCP facilitator will also serve as a liaison between the stakeholders and the Steering Committee to ensure that multiple perspectives are represented.

Establishing a productive atmosphere is critical when embarking on politically and value-based issues such as an HCP. The HCP Facilitator will engage the Steering Committee in a process to establish ground rules and determine the feasibility of moving on to the next phase of an HCP: developing strategies that would provide net conservation benefit to covered species that are implementable and practical. This conversation will result in a statement of agreement, articulating the willingness and commitment of agencies to work together, a framework for negotiating strategies, and a communication plan to effectively engage stakeholders in the development of an HCP.

An economic consulting firm will be hired to conduct a cost benefit analysis to evaluate current landscape conditions with associated statutory and regulatory requirements, and potential changes over time in the absence or presence of an HCP. The consultant will work with the Steering Committee and the Scoping Team to gather the information necessary to evaluate conservation and economic outcomes based on a variety of management scenarios. This analysis will help determine the degree to which conservation and economic goals can be achieved at the landscape level.

The Steering Committee will evaluate the risks and rewards of an HCP based on the cost benefit analysis, the commitment of agencies to work towards landscape-level strategies, and stakeholder feedback. The Steering Committee will use this information to develop FMP and HCP policy recommendations to the Board of Forestry.

The HCP Coordinator will lead the Scoping Team, manage the efforts of technical resource specialists, organize the collection and analysis of pertinent technical information from district and other agency personnel, and participate in discussions and negotiations with other agencies and the federal services. The HCP Coordinator will also work with the HCP Facilitator and ODF Public Affairs staff to develop and implement internal and external communication strategies, and coordinate an inclusive stakeholder engagement process.

As members of the Scoping Team, ODF and ODFW technical staff will support the HCP initiation effort by providing expertise in species protection and forest management planning. They will work with their federal counterparts to refine the list of species to be included in a potential HCP, which will inform the creation of an initial baseline data assessment. The baseline data assessment will be applied to the cost benefit analysis to determine the level to which species protection may impact management scenarios and operational certainty.

Over 40 stakeholders are engaged in a variety of working groups that actively participate with ODF in the development and implementation of forest management strategies (Table 5). These parties advise ODF on operational and policy issues relevant to economic and conservation impacts of state forestland management, and will be actively involved in all phases of a potential HCP in western Oregon.

Stakeholders will have the opportunity to review and provide feedback on the scope of work for the cost benefit analysis, comment on draft reports including the initial baseline data assessment, and provide feedback on potential policy recommendations. The contributions from stakeholders is valued in terms of their commitment to provide feedback, insight, and participation in the process. ODF will not be requesting financial contributions from these stakeholders at this time to avoid any perception of impropriety which could serve to undermine the objectives of this proposal.

Table 5. HCP Stakeholder Engagement & Contributions to Deliverables (Economic Analysis, Baseline Assessment, and Policy Direction)

Working Groups	Role	Contribution
Forest Land Trust Advisory Committee (FTLAC) <i>Tillamook County</i> <i>Lane County</i> <i>Washington County</i> <i>Clatsop County</i> <i>Coos County</i>	Evaluate the anticipated affects an HCP may have on management of State forestlands in their respective counties.	County Commissioners will review the results of the Economic Analysis and provide input on FMP/HCP policy direction.
State Forests Advisory Committee (SFAC) Forestland Trust Advisory Committee OSU Extension Liaison 2 Recreation Community Representatives 3 Non-affiliated Community Members 3 Environmental Community Representatives Timber Industry Forest Operators Confederated tribes of the Grand Ronde	Provide insight on how an HCP may affect operational implementation of the Forest Management Plan in Northwest Oregon.	SFAC members will review the baseline data analysis and assist in designing the economic analysis, with a specific focus on evaluating potential impacts to Northwest Oregon forests.
Northwest Oregon Conservation Coalition <i>Wild Salmon Center</i> <i>Association of Northwest Steelheaders</i> <i>Trout Unlimited</i> <i>Sierra Club</i> <i>Pacific Rivers</i> <i>Native Fish Society</i> <i>Northwest Guides & Anglers Association</i>	Determine potential conservation and recreation benefits from an HCP in Northwest Oregon.	Coalition members will provide insight on species and associated conservation strategies to be considered, review the baseline data assessment & economic analysis, and evaluate potential impacts of management scenarios to conservation and recreation resources.
Industry Ad Hoc <i>Hancock</i> <i>Oregon Forests Industries Council</i> <i>Roseburg Forest Products</i> <i>Starker Forests</i> <i>Lone Rock</i> <i>Oregon Small Woodlands Association</i> <i>The Victory Group</i> <i>Weyerhaeuser</i> <i>Associated Oregon Loggers</i> <i>Boise Cascade</i>	Provide an industrial forest-based perspective on how an HCP my affect the timber industry and local economies as a whole.	Members will review the results of the Economic Analysis and provide insight toward FMP/HCP policy direction to help ensure that it promotes a thriving timber economy, including viable infrastructure.
Conservation Ad hoc <i>Oregon League of Conservation Voters</i> <i>The Nature Conservancy</i> <i>Wild Salmon Center</i> <i>League of Women's Voters</i> <i>Sierra Club</i> <i>Trout Unlimited</i>	Provide a conservation-based perspective on HCP implementation, and assist with evaluating potential conservation outcomes.	Members will provide insight on species and conservation strategies to be considered, review the baseline data assessment & economic analysis and provide insight on FMP/HCP policy direction.

LOCATION

State forestlands managed by the Oregon Department of Forestry in western Oregon total 639,269 acres in both consolidated blocks and scattered parcels (see Attachment 1: Oregon State Forests Application Area). These lands are primarily situated in the northern Coast Ranges, in Clatsop, Tillamook and Washington counties, where they form a mostly contiguous ownership of 502,297 acres. Another 88,818 acres are distributed in medium to small tracts in the central and southern Coast Ranges, and to a lesser extent in the Siskiyou Mountains, in Polk, Lincoln, Benton, Lane, Douglas, Coos, Curry, and Josephine counties. The remaining 48,154 acres lay on the western slope of the Cascades, primarily in Linn and Marion counties, with additional parcels in Clackamas and Lane counties.

In the Coast Ranges, these lands are located in the western hemlock vegetation zone, and are dominated by Douglas fir and western hemlock, as well as Sitka spruce on the extreme coastal fringe. There are significant hardwood species components, primarily red alder and bigleaf maple. At the southern extent, they are forested with Douglas fir, with tanoak and madrone as the dominant hardwood species. In the Cascades, Douglas fir and western hemlock are still the dominant species, transitioning to mountain hemlock and silver fir at higher elevations.

While some districts have fairly gentle relief, most of the lands consist of steep, rugged terrain. Soils are generally well drained and productive. However, much of the land in Tillamook and western Washington counties is very steep, with difficult growing conditions, largely caused by the fire legacy of the Tillamook Burn. The Southwest Oregon District, in southern Douglas and Josephine counties, has areas of less productive serpentine soils. Elevations range from sea level to 3,400 feet in the northern Coast Ranges, from sea level to 2,200 feet in the central Coast Ranges, 2,000 to 4,000 feet in the Siskiyou Mountains, and 1,000 to 5,000 feet in the Cascades.

These lands fall within 100 distinct fifth level (10-digit) watersheds. ODF manages over 50% of the land in 7 north coast watersheds that drain directly to the Pacific Ocean. It manages between 10 and 38% of the land in 12 additional watersheds that drain to the Pacific Ocean and Columbia or Willamette Rivers. ODF manages less than 10% of the land in the remaining watersheds, with less than 1% of the land in 38 watersheds. ESA listed fish species present over the range of these watersheds include: spring and fall chinook salmon, coho salmon, chum salmon, and summer and winter steelhead. The 19 watersheds in which ODF manages greater than 10% of the land base are listed in Table 6.

Table 6. Watersheds in descending order of percent land managed by State Forests Division

Watershed	Acres		%
	BOF	CSL	HUC
Kilchis River	31,241	2,448	81%
Wilson River	96,979	272	79%
Lower Nehalem River	44,856	38	64%
Salmonberry River	27,412	26	60%
Miami River	12,773	1,016	60%
Trask River	64,867	-	58%
Middle Nehalem River	57,207	551	51%
Middle North Santiam River	21,205	431	38%
Plympton Creek-Frontal Columbia River	11,474	-	37%
North Fork of Nehalem River	20,520	1,349	35%
Gales Creek	12,648	79	27%

Big Creek-Frontal Columbia River	18,343	80	25%
Upper Nehalem River	25,854	307	23%
Headwaters Nehalem River	31,225	216	22%
Upper Yaquina River	7,895	1,593	18%
Big Elk Creek	7,022	2,032	16%
Wildcat Creek	4,488	-	13%
Lake Creek	9,295	44	13%
Scoggins Creek-Tualatin River	10,077	-	10%

ESTIMATED COST

The objectives of this grant (Stakeholder Engagement, Economic Analysis, Baseline Assessment, and Policy Direction) will be accomplished using the budget strategy detailed in Table 7.

Table 7. West Oregon HCP Assistance Proposal Budget

Western Oregon State Forests Habitat Conservation Plan Initiation Estimated Cost										
							GRANT REQUEST		MATCH	
Deliverable	Resource	Work Products	Position	FTE	Salary	Salary +OPE	Months	Personnel Cost	Months	Total Match
Stakeholder Engagement Process/ FMP/HCP Policy Development \$280,769	HCP Sponsor	Liaison to Board of Forestry; Steering Committee; Legislative; Governor's Office	Division Chief	0.25	\$10,828	\$ 19,274			12	\$57,822
	HCP Coordinator	Project Manager; Workload coordination	Project Manager	0.8	\$ 6,977	\$ 12,419		\$0	12	\$119,223
	HCP Facilitator & Stakeholder Lead	Stakeholder engagement; lead on Steering Committee, public meetings and presentations	Consultant	-	-	-	-	\$103,725	-	-
Economic Analysis \$153,725	Economic Analyst	Cost / Benefit Analysis	Consultant	-	-	-	-	\$153,725	-	-
Initial Baseline Data Assessment, Gap Analysis, and Data Collection Plan \$565,506	GIS Technician	Summarization and analyses of existing data	Natural Resource Specialist 3	0.75	\$ 6,337	\$ 11,280	12	\$101,519	-	-
	Lead HCP Biologist	T&E Baseline determination; GAP Analysis; determination of data collection priorities	Natural Resource Specialist 4	0.75	\$ 6,977	\$ 12,419	9	\$83,829	-	-
	Area Biologists	Assist in establishing local baseline; local GAP analysis	Natural Resource Specialist 3	0.5	\$ 6,050	\$ 10,769	0	\$0	7	\$32,358
	Aquatic and Riparian Specialist	A&R baseline development and associated GAP analysis; primarily fish	Natural Resource Specialist 4	0.5	\$ 6,977	\$ 12,419	0	\$0	6.5	\$40,598
	T&E Coordinator	Administration of data collection contracts	Natural Resource Specialist 3	0.75	\$ 6,050	\$ 10,769	12	\$97,676	-	-
	Biological Contractors	Data collection - multiple species	Contractors	-	-	-	-	\$153,725	-	-
	ODFW Staff (includes 29% indirect)	Baseline assessment, GAP analysis and prioritization of data collection.	Natural Resource Specialist 4	0.5	\$ 6,977	\$ 10,814	8	\$55,802	-	-
SUBTOTALS							Grant Request:	\$750,000	Match:	\$250,000
TOTAL COST								\$1,000,000		

Attachment 1: Oregon State Forests HCP Assistance Application Area

