



# FFY 2027 National Coastal Wetland Conservation OWEB GRANT PROGRAM OVERVIEW AND GUIDANCE

*Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board*

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## Introduction

This solicitation and guidance was prepared using the F26AS00005\_FY\_2026 National Coastal Wetlands Conservation Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity at the direction of the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Funding for this grant program is dependent on the availability of federal funds.

## Guidance

### Project Abstract Summary

Must include, in plain language:

- Award purpose,
- Activities to be performed,
- Expected deliverables or outcomes,
- Intended beneficiaries
- Subrecipient activities (if known or specified at time of award)

### Project Narrative

Submit a Project Narrative of **no more than seven pages** addressing the elements listed below (see also [50 CFR 84.22\(c\)](#)). You may combine your responses as necessary; separate headings or sections for responses to each element are not required. Only your responses to the following requirements in this Project Narrative subsection are included within the page limit, unless otherwise indicated. Your Project Narrative must be formatted to fit on an 8.5" x 11" document, with 1" margins at the top, bottom, and sides and page numbers at the bottom of the page (starting with the Project Narrative). Font size should be no less than 12 point.

**Need:** The need for the proposed project within the purpose of the NCWC Grant Program.

**Objectives:** The Service created TRACS Standard Objectives for collecting performance information to report accomplishments. Your Project Narrative must use one or more of the Standard Objectives in the [TRACS Performance Matrix](#). Contact your Regional Office of Conservation Investment if you have questions about the use of Standard Objectives in your Project Narrative. Refer to the Training Portal for [example project statements](#) that utilize Standard Objectives.

**Expected Results:** Expected results or benefits from accomplishing the objectives.

**Approach:** Clearly describe the approach or activities to be used in meeting the objectives, including specific procedures, methods, schedules, key personnel, and cooperators. Please include (if applicable):

1. Any organization that will act as a subrecipient and their role(s) in meeting the project objectives. For any key personnel, briefly describe the education, experience, and skills that qualify them to carry out the proposed project (do not include resumes or curriculum vitae);

2. What organization will hold title to real property being acquired or restored?
3. What type of ownership interest is involved (e.g., fee simple, easement, combination, etc.), and what are the parcel sizes in acres?
4. What organization or individual will manage the real property interest?
5. How will you ensure the long-term conservation (20 years or longer) of acquired or restored areas (e.g., through long-term support provided by an endowment)?
6. What will be involved in the restoration? Why did you choose that approach? How likely is the proposed restoration technique to succeed? How much maintenance is involved, who will conduct it, and who will support it? Provide examples of your success in implementing the proposed restoration approach in similar, nearby areas, if available.
7. Is the project ready to implement? For example, for real property acquisition have the landowners supplied willing seller letters? For restoration projects, are the landowners willing to allow and maintain the proposed restoration, and have required permits been obtained or initiated? Are restoration designs completed or underway? Attach any relevant documents that address these elements. Copies of seller letters, permits, and designs should be referenced but in provided separately from the Project Narrative and are not included in the page limit.
8. If your objectives include management of lands for recreational as well as conservation purposes, you must demonstrate that any anticipated recreational activities will not degrade habitat values of targeted real property.

**Project Location:** Provide GPS coordinates in decimal degrees. Justify the eligibility of your project by demonstrating that targeted real property meets the definition of a coastal wetland ecosystem ([50 CFR 84.11](#)). Reference to a coastal Hydrologic Unit Code (HUC) alone does not establish eligibility. In addition to this justification in the Project Narrative, you should attach separate maps, drawings, diagrams, and/or photos as applicable, which are not included in the page limit. See Other Required Information below.

**Timeline:** Describe significant milestones within the performance period of your project, including dates you expect to begin and complete all compliance-related activities. Describe any accomplishments to date.

**Compliance:** For projects conducted in the United States, describe the anticipated Federal compliance requirements, including those involving the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Endangered Species Act (ESA), Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and all other requirements in applicable Federal laws, regulations, and policies. Describe any compliance activities for your project that have already been completed or are currently underway.

**Trust Fund: To be completed with OWEB.** Include either a description of the trust fund that supports or justifies your request for a 75 percent Federal share in sufficient detail for eligibility determination, or a statement that eligibility has been previously approved, and no change has occurred in the fund. If you do not support or justify eligibility of the fund, you may be deemed ineligible for the 75 percent Federal share.

**Relationship to Other Projects and/or Other Federal Grants:** If applicable, list other current, interrelated coastal conservation efforts, the agencies or other partners involved, the relationship to the proposed project, and how your project fits into comprehensive natural resource plans for the area. Identify any relationship between the proposed project and other work funded by State or Federal grants that is planned, anticipated,

or underway. Please note that you must also provide an Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement regardless of whether you describe other current, interrelated conservation actions in your Project Narrative. The Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement is not included within the seven-page limit for your Project Narrative and should be included in your application separately. For more information, see below in this Section under the heading “Required Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement.”

**Public Involvement and Interagency Coordination:** Provide a description of public involvement and any interagency coordination on coastal wetland conservation projects that has occurred or is planned that relates to your project. Specify the organizations or agencies involved and dates of involvement.

## Budget Narrative

Applicants must describe and justify items and costs listed in their budget. The budget narrative must identify the following cost items: total estimated costs, non-Federal cost share, third-party contributions, and any pre-award costs. Total project cost is the sum of all allowable costs, including required and voluntary cost share and third-party contributions. Budget items must be:

- Reasonable, allowable, allocable, and necessary
- Compliant with [2 CFR §200 Subpart E](#) cost principles

**Indirect Costs:** Applicants must indicate in their budget narrative how they will charge indirect costs, including the rate to be applied:

- De Minimis Rate: If eligible, state if your organization is opting to use the de minimis rate of up to 15% of total modified direct costs. Entities that do not have a current Federal negotiated indirect cost rate (including provisional rate) may propose to use the de minimis rate. For more information, refer to [2 CFR 200.414\(f\)](#).
- Negotiated Rate: State if you will negotiate with your cognizant agency. If your organization has previously negotiated a rate, attach a copy of the most recently negotiated rate agreement (active or expired).

**Data and Evaluation Costs:** Applicant budgets may include costs related to data and evaluation as relevant per 2 CFR §200.455.

See Cost Limits and Restrictions below for special requirements and limits applicable to data and evaluation costs.

**If applicable, include information in your Budget Narrative on:**

1. Program Income, if any – Include the source, estimated amount, and the requested method of crediting the program income (e.g. deductive, additive, cost sharing).
2. Equipment, including any tangible personal property (includes information technology systems) having a useful life of more than one year and a per-unit acquisition cost which equals or exceeds the lesser of the capitalization level established by you or your subrecipient(s) for financial statement purposes, or \$5,000. You and your subrecipients must follow the requirements at [2 CFR 200](#) when acquiring equipment under an award, with emphasis on [200.313](#), [200.317](#) through [200.326](#), and [200.439](#).
3. Useful Life – Propose a useful life for each capital improvement that costs at least \$25,000 to build, acquire, or install, and reference the method used to determine the useful life of a capital improvement with a value greater than \$100,000.

4. Contingency Costs – Contingency costs estimated using broadly-accepted cost estimating methodologies are allowable but must be separately identified in your budget; they must comply with the Federal Cost Principles, they must be necessary and reasonable for proper and efficient accomplishment of your project objectives, and they must be verifiable from your financial records ([2 CFR 200.433](#)). Explain how any contingency costs were calculated and why they are necessary to improve the precision of your budget estimates.

**Pre-Award Costs:** Preliminary or “pre-award” costs may be allowable, but only with the approval of your Regional Office of Conservation Investment. Pre-award costs may include costs necessary for preparing the grant proposal, such as feasibility surveys, engineering design, biological reconnaissance, appraisals, or preparation of compliance documents such as environmental assessments ([50 CFR 84.47\(c\)](#)).

**Cost Limits and Restrictions:** The primary purpose of the NCWC Grant Program is to help eligible agencies acquire, restore, enhance, and/or manage coastal wetland ecosystems. A detailed list of eligible and ineligible activities is provided in the program regulations ([50 CFR 84.20](#)).

*Recreational, educational, and public outreach activities necessary for meeting these purposes are eligible but limited to a combined maximum of 10 percent of the total project cost.* Such activities must be site-specific and substantive ([50 CFR 84.32\(a\)\(12\)\(i\)](#)). Any such activities must be described in detail and justified in your application.

Planning and related activities are ineligible as a primary focus but may be allowable as a minor component of a project ([50 CFR 84.20\(b\)\(6\)](#)). Monitoring and related data collection that is necessary for meeting Program purposes are eligible activities, such as evaluating results of project activities and measuring impacts on targeted resources ([50 CFR 84.12\(b\)](#)). The combined costs for planning, engineering, design, permitting, and monitoring may not exceed 30 percent of the total project cost. Any such activities must be described and justified in your application.

Costs for research are not eligible ([50 CFR 84.20\(b\)](#)).

Contact your Regional Office of Conservation Investment for more detailed guidance on these limits and requirements.

### **Conflict of Interest and Unresolved Matters Disclosures:**

If any actual or potential conflict of interest exists related to this project at the time of application, the applicant must provide sufficient information to support a program determination of significance per [2 CFR 1402.112](#). Refer to [2 CFR 200.112](#) Conflict of Interest and [2 CFR 200.113](#).

### **Overlap or Duplication of Effort Statement:**

Applicants must state in their application if the activities, costs, or time commitment of key personnel proposed in this application overlap with those in any other Federal proposal or award or not. If no overlap exists, include a statement to that effect. If any overlap exists, provide:

- Activities: Description any overlapping activities.
- Costs: Description of any overlapping costs.
- Time: Description of any overlapping key personnel time.
- A copy of any overlapping or duplicative proposal submitted to any other potential funding entity.

- Details on when any overlapping proposal was submitted, to whom, and the expected date of the funding decision.

## Other Required Information

**Responses to Ranking Criteria (20-Page Limit):** Provide a description with appropriate documentation that justifies how the proposed project addresses each of the 13 numeric ranking criteria in [50 CFR 84.32](#). Address each criterion individually with a brief statement in table format. If a real property interest is proposed as match, include information on both the parcel(s) proposed for acquisition or restoration with Program funds and the match parcel(s) in adequate detail for each ranking criterion, so reviewers can make informed scoring decisions. Activities provided as cost sharing including real property acquisition are part of the project and must be eligible. **APPLICANTS ARE ENCOURAGED TO REVIEW THE RANKING CRITERIA FOR MORE DETAIL AT 50 CFR 84.32.**

- (1) **Wetlands Conservation.** Will the project reverse coastal wetland loss of habitat degradation in decreasing or stable coastal wetland types? Will it conserve wetlands to prevent losses of decreasing or stable wetland types? (Maximum: 7 points)
- (2) **Maritime forests on coastal barriers.** Will the proposal significantly benefit maritime forests on coastal barriers? The coastal barrier does not need to be a unit of the Coastal Barrier Resources System. (Maximum: 7 points)
- (3) **Long-term conservation.** Does the project ensure long-term conservation of coastal wetland functions? The project must provide at least 20 years of conservation benefits to be eligible. (Maximum: 7 points)
- (4) **Coastal watershed management.** Would the completed project help accomplish the natural resource goals and objectives of one or more formal, ongoing coastal ecosystem or coastal watershed management plan(s) or effort(s)? Describe the management plan or effort(s). (Maximum: 3 points)
- (5) **Conservation of threatened and endangered species.** Will the project benefit any federally listed endangered or threatened species, species proposed for Federal listing, recently delisted species, or designated or proposed critical habitat in coastal wetlands? Will it benefit State-listed threatened and endangered species? (Maximum: 5 points)
- (6) **Benefits to fish.** Will the project provide, restore, or enhance important fisheries habitat? (Maximum: 5 points)
- (7) **Benefits to coastal-dependent or migratory birds.** Will the project provide, restore, or enhance important habitat for coastal-dependent or migratory birds? (Maximum: 5 points)
- (8) **Prevent or reduce contamination.** Will the project prevent or reduce input of contaminants to the coastal wetlands and associated coastal waters, or restore coastal wetlands and other associated coastal waters that are already contaminated? (Maximum: 5 points)
- (9) **Catalyst for future conservation.** Is the project proposal designed to leverage other ongoing coastal wetlands protection projects in the area, such as acquisition of areas to add to already acquired coastal lands, or provide impetus for additional restoration? (Maximum: 4 points)
- (10) **Partners in conservation.** Will the proposal receive financial support, including in-kind match, from private, local, or other Federal interests? (Maximum: 4 points)

- (11) **Federal share reduced.** Does the proposal significantly reduce the Federal share by providing more than the required match amount? In the case of a Territory or Commonwealth that does not require match funds, does the proposal include financial support from sources other than the Territory of Commonwealth? (Maximum: 5 points)
- (12) **Education/outreach program or wildlife-oriented recreation.** Is the project designed to increase environmental awareness and develop support for coastal wetlands conservation? Does it provide recreational opportunities that are consistent with the conservation goals of the site? (Maximum: 3 points)
- (13) **Other factors.** Do any other factors, not covered in the previous criteria, make this project or site particularly unique and valuable? Does the project offer important benefits that are not reflected in the other criteria? [50 CFR 84.32](#) lists examples of projects that provide benefits not reflected in other criteria. (Maximum: 4 points)

**Drawings/Maps/Photographs (No Page Limit):** Please include and identify drawings or photographs of the proposed project that provide the following information. Maps and other diagrams should be provided separately from the Project Narrative and are not included in the page limit.

- a. Existing state or conditions of the project area;
- b. Proposed project area and project site(s) in one or more maps, photographs, or images:
  - i. Detail which areas will be part of the grant funded activities, delineating the project boundaries;
  - ii. Detail which areas are valued and used as cost sharing, if applicable;
  - iii. Detail what restoration activities will take place and where, if applicable;
  - iv. Detail which areas, if any, are part of a larger effort that will be funded outside this project;
  - v. Detail wetland types (include National Wetlands Inventory, State wetlands map, or other wetland delineations, if available); and
  - vi. Provide any other information that will assist reviewers to identify project components or factors used in project scoring and ranking.
- c. Two maps of the project location: a map of the State or Territory showing the general location of the project and a map of the project site(s).

**Letters of Commitment:** You must document cost sharing provided by any third party with a signed letter of financial commitment from an authorized representative. The letter must detail the dollar value of donated cash, real property, equipment, and/or in-kind services.