

NEAR TERM RESTORATION CALL FOR PROPOSALS

Frequently Asked Questions

Can Family Forest Fish Passage Program (FFFPP) budget sheets be used instead of the RCO provided budget sheets for fish passage projects?

Yes. The FFFPP budgets sheet may be used, but only for fish passage projects.

How much funding is available?

Between \$5 and \$7 million.

How much may be requested per project?

There is no limit to the funding that may be requested.

What scale of projects are allowed?

There is no size limit to the scale of projects allowed. The funding limit for any individual project is the amount of funding available in the biennium for the program (currently about \$5 to \$7 million). Concept, design, construction, scoping acquisition, and actual acquisition are allowable project types.

Does the project need to be completed this biennium?

No, the proposed project does not need to be 100% completed in this biennium, but substantial work needs to be completed in this biennium. If the proposed project is a design-only project, it should be completely finished within this biennium. If it is construction project, it does not need to be completely finished.

Can the funding be spent in phases? For example with a fish passage project, could design and permitting dollars be spent in 2017 and construction occur during the 2018 fish window?

Yes. In fact, we envision that most projects will be completed in phases. In the fish passage example, a request for funds to design and permit a project in the first year could be stated within one proposal (with the suggestion that a future proposal for construction funding will follow in a subsequent year when costs are more known), and a construction funding request could be stated in a second proposal in the future. Alternatively, a single proposal to include design, permitting, and construction could be submitted with a schedule that describes when the phases would be conducted and completed. However, one or more of these elements must be completed by June 30, 2017.

Will large wood projects be allowed?

Yes, as long as they do not contradict the benefits of longer-term strategies.

Are block grants (multi-project) proposals eligible?

Requesting funding for a block of pre-identified projects (e.g., for design or construction) is allowable. Projects that consist of scoping in a pre-identified geographic areas are eligible (e.g., fish passage inventories of the Satsop and Wynoochee basins). Block funding for projects that are not pre-identified is not allowed (e.g., requesting funding for salmon restoration in the Chehalis River).

Can these funds be used as match for a 2015 SRFB grant?

Yes.

Is there a funding match requirement?

No, but providing matching funds is encouraged. Available matching funds will only be used in a prioritized ranking effort in very rare cases, such as a tie between projects of otherwise equal value.

Will there be a “pre-submission” meeting?

Unfortunately, there is not enough time for a pre-submission meeting during the pre-application period.

How will we get feedback on our applications before we submit the final application? Who will provide that feedback?

Unfortunately, there is not enough time for the technical review team to review draft applications and provide feedback before final permit submittal.

Will the technical review team be visiting project sites?

The Chehalis Lead Entity Habitat Work Group and the Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife technical review team members will visit project sites as applications are submitted, as needed. Note that any site visit will be informal and is mostly for the benefit of the reviewers.

How can project sponsors get the review team to look at their project?

If the proposed project is complex or generates a lot of questions from the technical reviewers, the technical review team may meet directly with the sponsor and visit the site. Sponsors should contact Nora Schlenker (nschlenker@anchoragea.com) to request that the team look at your project site. If you plan to request a site visit, be sure to submit it by December 14, 2015.

With this short timeline, will I be able to get an Army Corps of Engineers Permit in time?

Unfortunately, we cannot confirm this. The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) project managers have requested that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers prepare to respond to permit applications for these projects as timely as possible.

With this short timeline, will I be able to get other permits (HPA, from Ecology, etc.) in time?

The aggressive timeline of this new grant program is in place to enable projects to be constructed in summer 2016 where possible, which includes accommodating timelines needed for permitting.

When can I start to bill for project work?

After the project contract is signed.

What date can I retroactively bill project work to once my contract is in place?

For acceptable work identified in the proposal, project teams can include work that occurred as early as July 9, 2015. These activities must be listed in the approved scope of work. Grant writing or proposal development will not be funded.

If my project is approved for funding, when can I start project work?

Sponsors may start project work as soon as they receive notice of funding approval. All project activity started before the contract is in place is at the risk of the sponsor.

When will contracts be distributed?

Contracts will be distributed as soon as possible after notice that the grant has been awarded.

Will we be expected to upload our application materials into PRISM?

Not at this time. Applicants will be advised if they need to upload their applications into PRISM.

Are academic institutions eligible to apply for the grant?

Yes. However, the research must have a habitat restoration focus. For example, research that will inform restoration activities would be eligible for funding.

For projects occurring on County owned land, do you have to complete the landowner acknowledgement form? If so, who can sign (the Chief Executive officer, the County Engineer, the Public Works director or other)?

This form is required for any application whose project will occur on property that is not owned by the sponsor organization. It is the responsibility of the organization that must sign the form to determine the person who is an authorized signatory. Most organizations have some sort of delegation authority on who can sign what type of obligating forms.

With regards to question 4.D. (What is the expected overall effectiveness of this project?) is it expected that the applicant go through and answer the questions in the Overall Effectiveness Criteria from Appendix B or should this be a summary statement such as "Based on review of the Overall Effectiveness Criteria in Appendix B, the expected overall effectiveness of this project is X"? Is the applicant expected to score their project's effectiveness?

A narrative response that addresses the items listed under Overall Effectiveness Criteria is sufficient. Applicants are not expected to score their own projects.

If we have the rest of the grant completed and submitted by the deadline, do you have any flexibility for receipt of the landowner acknowledgement form?

The applicant should do everything within their power to have a landowner acknowledgement form submitted with final application materials. If there are extenuating circumstances that are prohibitive to this deadline, the form must be submitted no later than February 4th, 2015 so the ranking committee can be assured that the landowner is aware a project has been proposed to occur on their property. Note: Projects with a complete landowner application form will receive a higher ranking score than those where landowner agreement is unknown.

Would a landowner acknowledgement form completed and signed for an existing Salmon Recovery Funding Board acquisition grant be a sufficient replacement for the landowner acknowledgement form associated with this grant?

If the scope for the SRFB project is identical, then the applicant may use the acknowledgement for the SRFB project. If the projects are different, then the applicant will need a new form, because the landowner should be aware and acknowledge that there is new, additional work for the project. Note: Projects with a complete landowner application form will receive a higher ranking score than those where landowner agreement is unknown.