

# APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM OREGON HOUSE DELEGATION FISCAL YEAR 2010

**DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 13, 2009**

***PLEASE NOTE: As required by the House Appropriations Committee, all requests will be made public on the requesting Member's website.***

**1. Project Title:** Oregon Wildfire Airtanker Program

**2. Organization Name and address:**

Oregon Department of Forestry  
2600 State Street,  
Salem, OR 97310

**3. Primary Contact name, phone number, mobile phone number, fax number and email:**

Paul Bell  
503-945-7205  
[pbell@odf.state.or.us](mailto:pbell@odf.state.or.us)

**4. Project Location Address (if different from Organization):**

Air Tankers will be repositioned in Medford and Redmond, OR

**5. Please describe the requesting organization's main activities, and whether it is a public, private non-profit, or private for-profit entity:**

Oregon Department of Forestry is a state agency that provides fire prevention and suppression services to about 16 million acres of public and private forest land in the state.

**6. Briefly describe the activity or project for which funding is requested (please keep to 500 words or less.)**

Due to the continuing shortfall of federal aviation resources the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) is looking to other sources for heavy airtanker and lead plane support for fire suppression activities in the years ahead. ODF will offset the shortfall by contracting for two air tankers and a lead plane under ODF control. This will be done by contracting with an aircraft operator directly for service.

The aircraft will provide direct support for ODF's Protection from Fire Program throughout the state of Oregon, and will be made available to cooperating agencies as situations dictate and allow. The aircraft may also be used in surrounding states to help ODF meet established mutual aid agreements.

**7. Has this project received federal appropriations funding in past fiscal years?**

No

**7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.**

**8. Federal agency and account from which funds are requested (Please be specific – e.g. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Economic Development Initiatives account):**

USDA-FS State Fire Assistance – Additional Funds

**9. What is the purpose of the project? Why is it a valuable use of taxpayer funds? How will the project support efforts to improve the economy and create jobs in Oregon?**

Since the national large airtanker program is operating at only 40% of historic levels, Oregon has funded its own program since 2003 to supplement this severe loss of critical firefighting resources. ODF has successfully operated this airtanker program with the cooperation and assistance of the USFS. ODF has acquired airtankers and leadplanes through the Northwest Compact Fire Agreement (State of Alaska), and contracted airtanker services from private vendors. The USFS has cooperatively allowed ODF to operate from USFS airtanker bases through out the state. This all has been accomplished with no dedicated funds for these operations – ODF has depended on special appropriations from the Oregon Legislature to fund this operation. The proposal is to split the cost evenly between a federal appropriation and the state emergency appropriation. Counties such as Jackson Co. have provided about \$200,000 annually in “Secure Rural Schools” funds to avoid closure and continue operation of the program.

This project will support the creation of eight jobs: 3 Airtanker Pilots, 2 Airtanker Managers, 2 Aircraft Mechanics and 1 Aircraft Dispatcher.

Additionally, wildfires in Oregon can harm local economies, by closing major highways, fill the air with smoke, and in some cases require business to close due to evacuations. Airtankers are vital initial attack tool by funding this project it will provide a fire managers the necessary to help limit and future degradation of local economies.

**10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress? If so, who?**

Senators Smith and Wyden.

**11. Funding Details:**

**a. Total project cost (all funding sources and all years):**

\$3,050,713

**b. Amount being requested for this project in Fiscal Year 2010:**

\$1,525,356

**c. What other funding sources (local, regional, state) are contributing to this project or activity? (Please provide specific dollar amount or percentage.)**

Oregon State Legislature – Emergency Board Special Purpose Appropriation of General Fund for Fire: \$1,325,356 and \$200,000 County Secure Rural Schools Funds

**d. Do you expect to request federal funding in future years for this project?**

Similar requests are expected in future years unless USFS substantially increases its fleet of contract airtankers.

**e. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010.  
(e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):**

Airtanker Contract	1,063,125
Lead Plane Contract	212,231
Aircraft Management Salary	50,000
Medford Airtanker Base Operations	200,000
	1,525,356

**f. Please list public or private organizations that have supported/endorsed this project:**

Oregon Forest Industries Council  
Douglas Forest Protective Association  
Coos Forest Protective Association  
Walker Range Forest Protective Association  
Oregon Forest Protective Association  
Keep Oregon Green  
Oregon Legislature

**g. Is this project scalable? (i.e. if partial funding is awarded, will the organization be able to use the funds in FY 2010?):**

Yes