

**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:

Water Resources Development: Columbia River Habitat Restoration

2. Organization Name and address:

Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
811 SW Naito Parkway, Suite 410
Portland, Oregon 97204

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

Contact: Debrah Marriott
Executive Director
Phone: 503.226.1565 x227
Cell:
Fax: 503.226.1580
Email: Marriott@lcrep.org

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

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

The Estuary Partnership Goals Are:

Protect the ecosystem and species - restore 16,000 acres of wetlands and habitat by 2010 and promote improvements in stormwater management.

Reduce toxics and conventional pollution - conduct long term monitoring and advocate to eliminate persistent bioaccumulative toxics, improve water quality, reduce hydrocarbon and heavy metal discharges, and reduce bacterial contamination.

Provide information about the river to a range of audiences - compile, evaluate, and publish data, offer natural science education programs for children, and build public and private partnerships.

Since 2000, the Estuary Partnership has:

- Restored 2,600 acres of habitat, opened 41.7 miles of stream habitat at 41 project sites and by leveraging an additional \$10 million NEP dollars worked with 85 partners to provide a total of 13,000 acres of restored habitat.
- Raised more than \$1.5 million through private and public sources for our Education and Stewardship Programs resulting in
- 9,303 citizens planting over 27,000 native plants, and removing 160 truckloads of invasive species at 26 sites.

- 94,777 students receiving applied learning experiences through our education programs.
- Raised \$4 million to complete toxic and conventional pollutant water quality monitoring, and to analyze suspended sediment and juvenile salmonid samples for PAHs, PCBs, pharmaceuticals, flame retardants (PBDEs), current-use pesticides. Results found that banned contaminants, including DDEs and PCBs, and current-use contaminants, such as mercury and flame retardants, are present in sediment and fish. Also found were other in-use and emerging contaminants that are lethal or impact the growth, reproduction and immune systems of aquatic organisms. These include many types of pesticides, petroleum hydrocarbons (PAHs), personal care products and pharmaceuticals.
- Raised \$200,000 to provide stormwater management assistance to help two communities meet federal Phase II stormwater requirements.
- Raised \$173,000 to complete a NOAA Recovery Module for threatened and endangered salmonid species;
- Convened regional expertise and conducted shoreline studies to complete a regional prioritization strategy for habitat restoration so money goes on the ground in the smartest places;
- Developed a 146 mile water trail and its companion website that provides information on launch and landing sites, camp sites, safety, tides, the shipping channel, and leave-no-trace trail use.
- Hosted over a dozen workshops and forums with community leaders and scientists to convey current data and to link science to policy on topics such as toxic reduction actions.
- Developed and maintain a website showcasing local water-quality friendly development and giving technical information and local resources.
- Published several technical guides and community information pieces, including report on water quality status, health report on the lower river and estuary, case studies and lessons learned in habitat restoration, and education materials for children.
- Developed and published a broad selection of scientific reports, public awareness pieces, and student targeted products that convey important lower Columbia River information to a broad range of audiences. Examples include: Habitat Restoration Case Studies, State of the Estuary Report, the Lower Columbia River and Estuary Ecosystem Monitoring: Water Quality and Salmon Sampling Report and The Kid's For the Columbia Activity Book.

The Lower Columbia River Estuary is one of 28 estuaries in the nation designated an "Estuary of National Significance". The National Estuary Program (NEP) was authorized in 1987 amendments to the Clean Water Act and is administered by the US Environmental Protection Agency. The NEP's purpose is to protect nationally significant estuaries that have been degraded by human activity. The Estuary Partnership brings together diverse parties to identify problems, define actions to address the problems, set regional strategies and **implement the actions**. The Estuary Partnership is a 501(c)(3) non profit corporation; its Board of Directors includes representatives from diverse interests and geography in Oregon and Washington. Since completing our Management Plan for the Lower Columbia River in 1999, we have been restoring habitat, monitoring water and sediment and providing education.

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

Section 536 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 authorizes the Corps to conduct ecosystem restoration projects necessary to protect, monitor, and restore fish and wildlife habitat based in part on recommendations made by the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership (LCREP). The Lower Columbia River extends from the mouth of the Columbia River to river mile (RM) 145 at Bonneville Lock and Dam. The river divides the states of Oregon and Washington throughout this area. The study area also includes tributaries that are tidally influenced, including the Willamette River up to Willamette Falls. The Corps will continue to collaborate with the wide variety of stakeholders in the region to achieve the program purpose. This authority allows the Corps to fully fund projects on Federal land and cost share projects on non-federal land with a local sponsor. Project costs are shared between the federal government (65%), and the non-federal sponsor (35%).

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

Yes The WRDA was authorized in 2000 and has received appropriations since 2003.

7a. If yes, please provide fiscal year, Department, Account, and funding amount of any previous funding.
Water Resources Development Act of 2000, section 536. P.L. 106-541

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):
US Army Corps of Engineers Project Number 75556

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?

Funds for this project implement the National Estuary Program provisions of Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan, specifically habitat restoration for threatened and endangered species. The Columbia River has compelling environmental, cultural and historic significance. Over 2,000,000 people live in the region, and all depend on it to some degree for their livelihood, sustenance, transportation of goods, and overall quality of life. We have lost over 50% of habitat since settlement. The loss of fish has had a decimating effect on our commercial fishing industry. It is home to 12 threatened and endangered salmonid species and hundreds of other wildlife. Toxic contaminants are in the fish, sediment and water. The river continues to be a nationally important shipping and transportation corridor. The river's five deep water ports are the nation's primary terminals for several importers of manufactured vehicles and the major depot for the export of the nation's grain. Several lower river ports (Astoria and Ilwaco) no longer have disposal options for dredge material, threatening their ability to operate and remain the economic drivers of the lower Columbia River region. pursuant to the Partnership Management Plan.

The Section 536 funds will expand the Estuary Partnership habitat restoration projects. The \$2,000,000 to the Army Corps of Engineers will allow completion of restoration at several key restoration sites.

The Estuary Partnership habitat restoration and monitoring programs protect, restore and clean up the environment, build long term economic health and create jobs now. Thirteen species of salmonids are listed as threatened or endangered. Fifty percent of habitat has been lost and toxic contaminants exist in water, fish and sediment. This loss of fish has had a decimating effect on our commercial fishing industry. Oregon State University reports that in 1976-1980 the commercial salmon fishing industry provided \$41 million in personal income dropping to a low of just \$4 million by 1998. Disposal of contaminated sediment is causing problems for lower river ports that need to dredge to maintain their facilities and stay operational. Our habitat restoration and toxics reduction projects are focused on recovery of those salmonid species and the clean up of contaminants in the dredged materials.

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

The Estuary Partnership will make this request to all Members of our Delegation.

11. Funding Details:

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

In 2000, Congress authorized \$30,000,000 for this project.

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

\$2,000,000

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

The Estuary Partnership uses National Estuary funds to leverage significant additional funds. This includes funds from Bonneville Power Administration for habitat restoration and monitoring; from the EPA Watershed Initiative for habitat restoration; and from NOAA Fisheries for multi-species restoration.

For FY10, the Estuary Partnership has already secured cash commitments of \$300,000 from the States of Oregon and Washington; \$200,000 from NOAA for restoration and \$3.475 million from Bonneville Power Administration for habitat restoration and monitoring; and, \$750,000 from recipients of Estuary Partnership restoration funds.

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

Congress has provided \$2,000,000 each year through the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to the Army Corps of Engineers to implement the Lower Columbia River Estuary Program Management Plan since FY03.

e. Breakdown/budget of the amount you are requesting for this project in FY 2010.

(e.g. salary \$40,000; computer \$3,000):

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

Public Entities Partnering with the Estuary Partnership:

- EPA, NOAA, USGS, USFWS, Army Corps of Engineers, State of Oregon, State of Washington, OR and WA Fish and Wildlife Departments, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, OR and WA Parks Department, WA Department of Ecology, OR Department of Environmental Quality, METRO regional government, Bonneville Power Administration, Northwest Power and Conservation Council,
- 31 municipalities in our study area, including Portland, Gresham, Troutdale, Beaverton, Corbett, Scappoose, St. Helens, Columbia City, Rainier, Clatskanie, Knappa, Warrenton, Astoria, Camas, Vancouver, Longview, Illwaco

Other Partners:

- Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, Columbia River Estuary Study Task Force, Natural Resource Conservation Service
- 14 local watershed councils,
- Ports
- Lower Columbia Solutions Group
- Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fisheries Commission
- 55 private corporations and individual citizens, 1,186 teachers
- Sierra Club, Joes Foundation, Hanna Andersson Children's Foundation, REI Foundation, New Belgium Brewing Foundation, Oregon Community Foundation, Miller Foundation, The Nature Conservancy, Columbia Land Trust, Spirit Mountain Community Fund, Georgia Pacific Foundation, Tillamook Estuary Partnership, Ash Creek Forest Management, Ducks Unlimited, Wetlands Reserve Program, The Wetlands Conservancy, Battelle Marine Science Laboratory/Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, Parametrix, Willamette Riverkeepers
- University of Washington, Portland State University

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.

Please return this form no later than February 13, 2009 (via email) to:
appropriations.blumenauer@mail.house.gov