

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: National Estuary Program, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership

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
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.

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 of 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.

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

The Estuary Partnership respectfully requests continuation of funding for the National Estuary Program, setting \$650,000 minimum for each of the 28 NEPs.

The NEP funds support key programs focused on restoring conditions of the lower river with on-the-ground programs in three areas: habitat restoration, toxics reduction and student outdoor applied learning projects.

In habitat restoration, we have built a regional strategy and developed scientific criteria for habitat restoration. We have brought millions of additional dollars to the lower Columbia River region and restored 13,000 acres of habitat and analyzed toxic contaminants in fish, sediment and water with more efficiency than individual entities could do on their own. Our education and volunteer projects get students and adults out removing invasive species, planting native vegetation and monitoring streams.

In addition, federal NEP funds provide the Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership with the organizational capacity and stability necessary to significantly leverage NEP funds. In FY10, we will leverage an additional \$3.9 million, already secured, with several additional requests pending. Of the \$3.9 million in leveraged funds, 78% will go to partners for on-the-ground habitat restoration and water quality monitoring and 13% to students' environmental education. We expend the remaining 9% for employee compensation, services, and materials to residents and companies in Washington and Oregon.

Without the Estuary Partnership, these funds would not be available or accessible to small local entities. Habitat restoration would continue to have been isolated projects without sound scientific criteria and there would be no monitoring on the mainstem Columbia.

Funds are used in Washington and Oregon along the lower 146 miles of the Columbia River, an area that covers approximately 5,900 square miles from Bonneville Dam to the Pacific Ocean. The Estuary Partnership works in 31 municipalities, 32 school districts and 11 counties.

Washington Counties include: Clark, Skamania, Cowlitz, Wahkiakum, and Pacific

Washington Cities include: Camas, Washougal, Vancouver, Ridgefield, Kalama, Kelso, Longview, Cathlamet, Skamokawa, and Ilwaco

Oregon Counties include: Multnomah; Clackamas, Washington, Yamhill, Columbia and Clatsop.

Oregon Cities include: Portland, Gresham, Troutdale, Beaverton, Corbett, Scappoose, St. Helens, Columbia City, Rainier, Clatskanie, Knappa, Warrenton, and Astoria

The Columbia Basin is the only Great Water Body to receive no appropriations in FY07, FY08 or FY09, yet EPA identifies all Great Water Bodies (now called Large Aquatic Ecosystems by EPA) as national priorities in the 2006-2011 Strategic Plan. Appropriations for other Great Water Bodies range from \$5,000,000 (Long Island Sound) to \$20,000,000 (Puget Sound) to \$31,000,000 (Chesapeake Bay).

This request will achieve EPA's targets for toxics reduction and habitat restoration. It fully supports the West Coast Governors' Oceans Agreement. It implements actions in the 2008 Federal Columbia River Power System Biological Opinion, actions in the draft NOAA Recovery Module and Salmon Recovery plans in both Washington and Oregon. Among other things, these funds are used for specific on-the-ground activities for habitat restoration that will work to achieve recovery of threatened and endangered salmon.

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

Congress has funded the NEP since its inception in 1987. Between FY02 and FY06 Congress appropriated the NEP \$24.5 million, of which just over \$14 million was distributed to the 28 National Estuary Programs (\$500,000 to each program). In FY07, Congress appropriated \$24.5 million but with no directive to the agency on a per program award amount. That year, EPA reduced the per program award to \$418,000. In response, in FY08, Congress appropriated \$27.2 million setting and directed EPA to award each NEP \$600,000 to restore cuts taken in FY07 through the EPA budgeting process and to recognize the increased costs to local NEPs since Congress first appropriated \$24.5 million to the NEP in 2002.

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

Appropriations Bill: The NEP is re-authorized at \$35 million in the Estuaries and Clean Water Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-457, Title III). The NEP is funded under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act through Amendments in 1987.

Account: US Environmental Protection Agency

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):

Appropriations Bill: The NEP is re-authorized at \$35 million in the Estuaries and Clean Water Act of 2000 (P.L. 106-457, Title III). The NEP is funded under Section 320 of the Clean Water Act through Amendments in 1987.

Account: US Environmental Protection Agency

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?

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.

Environmental Results. Combined Estuary Partnership funds support specific environmental projects and FY10 goals include:

- restoring 600 – 1,000 acres of habitat,
- providing 14,000 students with outdoor applied learning experiences,
- working with 2,000 volunteers in restoration and water quality monitoring projects,
- implementing monitoring of salmonid habitat,
- instituting pesticide and pharmaceutical take back projects in lower Columbia River communities, and
- collecting water quality, fish and sediment data. The data we collect helps address reductions in toxics and improvements in human health, especially in those cultures that rely on high rates of fish consumption in their diet, including the Native American and Russian populations.

We track our results with numerous databases to ensure we are meeting our program goals and our environmental goals. We also employ effectiveness monitoring at sample habitat restoration projects to ensure that projects are gaining the desired improvements. We track projects implemented, acres restored and project challenges. We solicit evaluation forms from teachers and students using pre and post project assessments during classroom lessons, field applications and changes in awareness. Teacher evaluations focus on grade level appropriateness, benchmarks achieved and relevancy of materials. For our outdoor service learning projects, we will track number of trees planted and truck loads of invasive plants removed to reflect productivity for these activities and habitat benefits. We track six indicators (habitat restoration/loss, changes in pollutant levels, status of endangered species, land cover, children served and citizens involved), collect the data and report every five years on the health of the lower river.

Stewardship Results. Each year our combined funds allow us to bring classroom lessons and applied learning programs to 14,000 students, including over 2,500 each year in service learning projects. All our lessons are science based, meet Oregon and Washington grade level benchmarks, and are developed with teachers for their specific classes. We develop the curricula, deliver it in the classroom, and add an outdoor component. Research shows that students retain 80% of what they see, hear and experience and only 20% of what they only see and hear. Teachers are desperate to get students outside to apply

classroom concepts. As schools cut budgets, field programs are the first cut. Students in our programs test water quality, remove invasive species, and plant native vegetation.

In our volunteer programs, we organize citizens to give hands-on community service by cleaning up water trail sites, monitoring water quality, removing invasive species, and planting native vegetation.

Our habitat projects are designed and implemented with local community, conservation organizations and watershed council. These are local residents vested in these projects. The 13,000 acres restored are the acres and projects they want. This helps ensure that projects will be sustained long term.

We believe the millions of dollars we invest in toxic reduction and habitat restoration will be sustained by future generations by investing in students and citizens and giving them opportunity to experience the river.

100% of all the funds received are spent in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington for environmental improvements and investments in infrastructure that benefit our citizens. For example: Construction design contractors, engineers, biologists, hydrologists, builders and support workers restore these acres of habitat, technicians monitor and analyze data, and educators provide these programs to students. Funds also go to local watershed councils and conservation groups for project implementation and to their contractors. These are salaries and jobs to support the people of southwest Washington and northwest Oregon. Beyond today's economic impact, the restored acres will advance recovery of the commercial fishing industry and the upland disposal site will allow lower river ports to continue dredging, stay operational and remain the economic drivers of the lower Columbia River region.

The Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership leverages NEP funds to achieve on-the-ground environmental improvements and deliver applied learning programs to students. Since 2000, we have brought an additional \$21,000,000 to the lower Columbia River region as a result of these NEP funds. The funds come from the public and private sectors, indicating broad community support for what we do. They include funds from Bonneville Power Administration, EPA Watershed Initiative, Army Corps, and NOAA Fisheries for habitat restoration and monitoring. EPA NEP funds are needed to raise these other funds. The NEP funds are critical: they have resulted in on-the-ground environmental improvements and a staff with demonstrated success raising other funds to secure major project specific grants. Without the base funds, we would not have the staff to raise the additional funds nor would we have the financial and organizational capacity required of funders to manage those funds. We could not coordinate regional efforts and build capacity of local watershed councils and conservation groups and we could not invest our leveraged dollars in projects benefiting the people and environment of the lower Columbia River.

Restoration projects we fund also require a minimum of 25% cost share, investing another \$5,300,000 to the region since 2000. For most projects, Estuary Partnership funds are a small percentage – the final leverage needed to complete the project, so the actual dollars invested is significantly more.

The NEP funds are the leverage, the base of the fulcrum --- without them these programs will no longer exist.

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. In addition, the Association of National Estuary Programs will make this request for NEP funds to all members of all delegations that have National Estuary Programs in their districts.

11. Funding Details:

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

The Estuary Partnership projects it will cost \$59 million to implement the Estuary Partnership Management Plan in 2009-2015. NEP funds are critical; they have resulted in on-the-ground

environmental improvements and a stable staff with expertise to raise other funds and secure other project specific grants. Leveraged funds raised are restricted by funders for specific projects and cannot be used for core staff. Without the base funds, we would not have the staff to raise the additional funds nor would we have the financial and organizational capacity required of grantors to manage those funds. Without the NEP funds, the region would not have gained the additional \$21 million we have raised for on-the-ground projects in the lower Columbia River region.

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

\$27.2 million for the National Estuary Program with a minimum of \$650,000 per local NEP.

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; from the USACE for restoration projects; 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; \$1,000,000 USACE for habitat restoration; and, \$750,000 from recipients of Estuary Partnership restoration funds.

We project to receive at least \$150,000 in FY10 from corporate and individual donations and \$100,000 in private foundation support. We will continue to work to secure additional competitive grants from regional, state, federal and private foundations.

In-kind contributions are projected to be valued at approximately \$340,000 for the year. This is consistent with recent years and represents 10,000 hours of citizen hours removing invasive species and planting native vegetation; 2,000 hours of parent volunteer with outdoor applied learning projects for students and professional services donated to our schoolyard stormwater projects.

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

The Estuary Partnership would expend the \$650,000 in FY2010. The amount requested is for one year. We expect to request similar amounts in future years.

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

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

As stipulated in agreements with EPA, the National Estuary Program grant award from EPA supports base operations including portions of nine staff, program office costs and specific projects. These staff deliver on-the-ground programs, including the habitat restoration and monitoring programs, education and volunteer programs, the Water Trail, and municipal stormwater assistance projects. NEP funds help raise other funds through public and private sources.

Of the requested \$650,000 funds, the Estuary Partnership will expend \$398,415 in salaries, benefits and payroll taxes for portions of nine staff; \$106,210 will be spent on direct supplies and services, including rent, telecommunications, printing, computer repairs and maintenance; and \$145,376 will be spent on contracted services, including toxic reduction clean up sites, consumer outreach materials and a required financial audit.

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, Ilwaco

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?):

The \$650,000 provided by Congress is critical to the Estuary Partnership in order to maintain staffing levels not only to continue program delivery, and also to have staff who can leverage the Congressional amount. The \$650,000 is a small percentage of our overall budget, but without it, all habitat restoration, toxics reduction and education programs end. Raising these funds for staff is extremely difficult; raising other funds for technical projects as we have done, is possible with the \$650,000 Congressional base. A reduction in base would reduce the amount of funds we could bring in, thus impacting the environmental results and we could not invest our leveraged dollars in projects benefiting the people and environment of the lower Columbia River.

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