

APPROPRIATIONS REQUEST FORM OREGON HOUSE DELEGATION FISCAL YEAR 2010

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: FEBRUARY 20, 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: Grass Seed Cropping (OR, WA, ID)

2. Organization Name and address:

Oregon State University
Corvallis, Oregon 97331-4501

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

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

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

Public University. Oregon State University is one of only two U.S. universities designated a land grant, sea grant, space grant and sun grant institution. Its more than 20,300 students come from all 50 states and more than 80 countries. OSU programs touch every county within Oregon, and its faculty teach and conduct research on issues of national and global significance.

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

Over 90% of the United States' cool-season forage and turfgrass seed is produced in the Pacific Northwest. Currently, the grass seed industry faces some critical environmental and economic challenges including public pressure to phase out open-field burning; alleviation of smoke, dust, and chemical trespass from crop production areas; lack of integrated cropping systems; protection of genetic diversity and identification of germplasm diversity and identification of germplasm resources for alternate production strategies; and better utilization of post seed harvest residues. Interest is also growing in using grasses in pasture-based livestock feeding systems, in developing additional knowledge about both the beneficial and harmful effects of endophytes in grasses and in exploring additional options for use of grasses in providing ecosystem services. The purpose of competitive program is to maintain a sustainable grass seed cropping industry. Cooperating in the effort are research and extension faculty from Washington, Idaho, and Oregon, and scientists from the USDA-ARS National Forage Seed Production Research Center.

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

Yes

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

Federal funding has been received for this program since FY94. The vision for GSCSSA emerged during an organizational meeting of the Tri-State Grass Seed Working Group in January 1993 at Spokane, WA. FY06 funding was \$450K. No funding was provided through special grants in FY07. FY08 funding is at \$332,655. \$500K has been requested for FY09. \$500K has been requested as special grant funding through CSREES since FY05. A competitive grant process is used to allocate funds and available funding has always been less than the amount needed to fund projects recommended for 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/CSREES**

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 farm gate value of seed crops in Oregon is annually over \$500 million and typically accounts for over 10% of all farm product value in the state. While it is difficult to pinpoint specific new jobs that will be created by this research, the information generated from this project will increase the sustainability of grass seed farms across the state and region. With the down-turn in the economy and decrease in housing, demand and prices for grass seed have declined. Innovations and refinements in management and pest control strategies, the objectives of this research work, have never been more important to maintaining the viability of this important Oregon industry. Several faculty research assistant positions are partially paid for with these funds in Corvallis and the Columbia Basin as well as a number of student jobs.

10. Have you requested funding for this project from other Members of Congress?

If so, who? Support is being sought from the entire Oregon Congressional Delegation

11. Funding Details:

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

\$500K annually

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

\$500K

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

This program constitutes one of the many programs with the OSU College of Agricultural Sciences and the OSU Agricultural Experiment Stations. State funding is provided for faculty salaries and infrastructure support. More than seven scientists work at least part time on grass seed related issues. The Oregon Seed Council typically provides over \$125K for seed crop research annually with matching funds provide by the Oregon Department of Agriculture. The Tall Fescue, Ryegrass and other commissions typically provide additional funding for work specific to their crops.

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

Yes

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

Funds are allocated through a competitive grant process hence budget allocations differ within each funded proposal. In general, two thirds of funding is used to pay for labor (faculty research assistants, graduate students, undergraduate students or temporary workers) with remaining funds used for services, supplies, travel and a limited amount of needed equipment. Oregon-based scientists typically receive more than half of available funds.

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

Oregon Tall Fescue Commission
Oregon Ryegrass Growers Seed Commission
Oregon Orchardgrass Seed Producers Commission
Oregon Seed Council
Oregon Department of Agriculture
USDA-ARS NFSPRC

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, with level of activity directly related to level of funding