

# 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:** Wood Utilization Research

**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.)**

The WUR Program is a multistate research and outreach program that initiates creative and innovative science, technology and advanced business practices that:

- Enhances the domestic and global competitiveness of the US wood products industry,
- Fosters sustainable and environmentally acceptable product manufacturing and forest operations, and
- Leads to greater and more efficient use of renewable wood-based materials.

The OSU portion of the WUR focuses on problems and opportunities in Oregon, one of the world centers of forestry and wood product manufacturing.

This is a continuing program of the Oregon Forest Research Laboratory and supports a series of specific research projects and graduate education. The WUR Grant Program is the only federal program that supports university research in wood utilization to develop knowledge and facilitate innovation to support the competitiveness of the US wood products industry. WUR is specifically focused on research that cannot be supported by a fragmented industry largely made up of small-to-medium sized enterprises that lack research capacity.

The WUR program operates under a 2006-2010 National Strategic Plan that addresses state and regional needs and opportunities for knowledge within a national needs framework. OSU is one of the original and lead institutions in this program, which now involves 13 universities in Oregon, Mississippi, Michigan, Maine, North Carolina, Louisiana, Minnesota, Tennessee, Montana, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, and West Virginia.

Information on specific projects, impact assessments and the 2006-2010 Strategic Plan is at [www.woodutilization.org](http://www.woodutilization.org).

**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.**

FY09 \$7,000,000 multistate request (OSU portion approx \$750,000) Senate marked at \$4.81M, status uncertain; FY08 (\$4.875M), FY07 (0); FY06 (\$6.435M); varied amounts annually since FY85.

**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 Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES); Special Grants Program, PL89-106; Agriculture Appropriations Bill.

**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 WUR program provides support for the U.S. forest sector to maintain global competitiveness and a skilled workforce. WUR Centers address a range of issues from biofuels production and the incorporation on nanomaterials into advanced hybrid biocomposites, to making traditional forest products industries competitive in a global economy. Funding has enabled Oregon's wood products industry to advance and adopt new sustainable and energy-efficient technologies.

Oregon's forest sector remains a vital industry for employment and for economic vitality, especially in rural areas. A looming shortage of skilled workers makes university education programs a building block for future economic leadership.

The USDA's historical support for research on wood-related issues has been significantly reduced over the past decade. As the U.S. faces a deepening recession, it is critical that we invest in science, research and technology to allow the sector to remain competitive and provide family wage jobs.

WUR research has resulted in millions of dollars in savings for Oregonians and Oregon industry, created new business opportunities and helped to ensure rational science-based policy and regulatory decisions to enhance the benefits of Oregon's forests for all.

**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. In addition, all participant universities will be contacting their Congressional Delegations to support this program in FY10.

## **11. Funding Details:**

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

\$7 million

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

\$7M is being requested by the consortium of 13 universities. If funded, approximately \$750K would come to OSU.

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

On average, Wood Utilization research at OSU annually leverages over \$2.50 in other funding for each dollar of the special research grant. The College of Forestry allocates funds from the Oregon University system, the Forest Research Laboratory (FRL), the Extension Service [via the Oregon Wood Innovation Center], and Forest Products Harvest Tax to support educational programs, infrastructure, and faculty associated with the WUR Center mission. These funds provide the faculty capacity and facilities to support successful leveraging through federal competitive grants, state-funded initiatives programs such as through the Oregon Innovation Council, and R&D contracts with individual companies. Overall, this capacity helps attract and support students that will become future employees and scientists.

### **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):**

Budgets of annual grants vary by the specific peer-reviewed research that is proposed. Typically, most funding goes for graduate student assistantships, supplies/services, research personnel costs and travel, in that order.

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

This special grant is shared by Oregon State University, Mississippi State University, Michigan State University, University of Maine, Orono, North Carolina State University, University of Minnesota, Duluth, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, University of Alaska, West Virginia University, Louisiana State University and a Consortium of University of Idaho, Washington State University and University of Montana. All participant universities will be contacting their Congressional Delegations to support this program in FY 2010 and there is much continuing interest and support for the program from industry clientele in each of the 12 states involved. The Oregon delegation is well informed of the accomplishments from this special grant and they have provided strong support for the effort since its inception. WUR projects are also supported by a wide range of local and national companies and industry associations, most of who have directly benefited from WUR projects.

### **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

