

# 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:**

Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge

**2. Organization Name and address:**

The Nature Conservancy in Oregon  
821 SE 14<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Portland, OR 97214-2537

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

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

The project is located on Nestucca Bay in the Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge, in Tillamook County just outside of Pacific City. The project consists of two properties. To honor ongoing confidential negotiations with the landowners, the properties are herein referenced as "Parcel #1" and "Parcel #2".

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

The Nature Conservancy is a private, international, non-profit organization that preserves plants, animals and natural communities that represent the diversity of life on Earth by protecting the lands and waters they need to survive. To date the Conservancy has been responsible for the protection of more than 12 million acres in the United States and has helped preserve more than 80 million acres in Latin America, the Caribbean, Asia and the Pacific.

In Oregon, the Conservancy owns or manages 46 nature preserves and has helped protect over 500,000 acres of important habitats, with support from about 23,000 household members.

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

The project is composed of two important acquisitions within the Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The NWR was established in 1991 for the acquisition of short-grass

pastures to provide wintering habitat for dusky and Aleutian Canada geese, and to provide habitat for a variety of shorebirds, waterfowl, migratory songbirds, and other wildlife.

The Nestucca Bay area supports approximately 10 percent of the world population of dusky Canada geese, and 100 percent of a very unique subpopulation of Aleutian Canada geese, known as the Semidi Island Aleutian Cackling Geese. The Aleutian Cackling Goose Recovery Team — a team of federal and state wildlife agencies — recognizes the importance of preserving these birds as does the USFWS and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The Oregon Conservation Strategy (October 2006) specifically identifies Nestucca Bay as a Conservation Opportunity Area within the Pacific Northwest Coast Ecoregion. It identifies specific conservation strategies such as short-grass pasture management, tide land restoration, and protection of headlands in order to conserve the key habitats and species found at Nestucca Bay.

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

This project has not received federal appropriations funding.

Although federal appropriations have not been spent on this project, federal investments have been spent within the broader National Wildlife Refuge Area in past years, including a Federal Land Transaction Facilitation Act (FLTFA) land acquisition of \$800,000 and \$25,000 in LWCF inholding funds for land acquisition, both in 2008.

**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):**

Department of the Interior  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Land and Water Conservation Fund

**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?**

This project represents an important opportunity to advance habitat protection within the Nestucca Bay National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). The Nestucca Bay NWR was established in 1991 to protect a variety of coastal habitats including salt marsh and brackish marsh; tidal sloughs; and mudflats, as well as coniferous and deciduous forestland.

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a team of federal and state wildlife agencies — recognizes the importance of preserving these birds as does the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

The acquisitions in this project will protect lands important for improving water quality, saving critical natural habitats, restoring tidal and freshwater wetlands, conserving riparian corridors for anadromous fish, and maintaining short-grass pastures to benefit wintering goose populations. Acquisition and restoration of intertidal marshes will provide additional benefits to migratory waterfowl and will help restore natural floodplain features that will alleviate flooding and increase the overall biological productivity of the estuaries and nearshore environments.

The 65-acre "Parcel #2" property will remain in short-grass habitat and continue to contribute to agriculture in the area and the region's important agricultural base. At the same time, the property will help ease pressure of geese on other agricultural lands by addressing depredation of geese on nearby farms.

The 93-acre "Parcel #1" is a large wooded headland peninsula that contains over one mile of shoreline. It is used by black-tailed deer, black bear, and is a stopover and nesting site for several species of neo-tropical migratory birds. Larger trees on the property are used by bald eagles and peregrine falcons.

Both properties face key threats of residential development and "Parcel #1" faces the potential threat of aggressive logging. Located on the edge of the growing city of Pacific City, there has been increasing demand for beach housing in the area.

While the acquisition deal itself will not create many jobs, future restoration will provide jobs. In addition, the recreational attractions of the NWR will draw birders and other visitors, thereby bolstering the local economy and protecting the land for future generations of Oregonians.

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

Senator Jeff Merkley  
Senator Ron Wyden

**11. Funding Details:**

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

Estimated total project costs for both acquisitions equals approximately \$2,050,000. This includes approximately \$2 million in purchase price for both properties and approximately \$50,000 in transaction costs such as appraisals.

**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 Nature Conservancy is contributing staff time and private funds to facilitate these acquisitions,

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

Yes. As new opportunities exist between willing buyers and willing sellers, it is likely that additional funds will be requested to purchase additional lands for the National Wildlife Refuge system on the Oregon Coast in order to protect critical habitats and sensitive species.

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

All funds from this request will be used to purchase property. No funds will be used by The Nature Conservancy or other parties for other costs.

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

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service  
Ducks Unlimited  
Joint Habitat Venture  
The Wetlands Conservancy

**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