



Klamath Basin Sucker Enhancement Fund: Request for Proposals

Introduction

The Klamath River Basin of northern California and south-central Oregon is home to four species of threatened or endangered fish: Most well-known are coho salmon in the Klamath River. Bull trout are a threatened species located in isolated headwater streams in the Upper Klamath Lake watershed. Finally, the lesser known but of terrific historical and culture significance are two species of sucker fish in Upper Klamath Lake. Suckers in the Klamath have suffered steep declines as a result of habitat loss and poor water quality. The Klamath Basin's Lost River and shortnose suckers were listed as endangered in 1988. Though not as iconic as salmon for the general public, suckers have played a powerful role in the culture and ecology of the upper Klamath Basin, particularly to The Klamath Tribes. Historically, Lost River and shortnose suckers, or "c'waam" and "qapdo" (Klamath), inhabited much of the Lost River Basin and upper Klamath River Basin. Today, their range is much more limited, with reproducing populations confined largely to Upper Klamath Lake and Clear Lake.

In July 2007, Oregon Wild filed a 60-day notice of intent to sue energy company, PacifiCorp under the federal Endangered Species Act over harm caused to endangered suckers by its turbines at Link River Dam on Upper Klamath Lake. This led to settlement negotiations between Oregon Wild and PacifiCorp. In April 2008, PacifiCorp and Oregon Wild reached a settlement that resolved the issue.

Under the settlement agreement, operations at Link River Dam will be altered during periods when suckers migrate to the south end of Upper Klamath Lake, near the dam. Turbines at Eastside and Westside power plants will generally be shut down from July 15 to November 15 (with a small window to shift for adaptive management). In addition, the settlement requires a portion of the annual proceeds generated from operations at Eastside-Westside to be paid into a fund (Sucker Enhancement Fund) for projects that aid in the recovery of listed sucker species, including habitat restoration. This fund and settlement will remain active, benefitting fish and habitat restoration in the upper basin, pending a final FERC relicense of the larger Klamath Hydroelectric Project and PacifiCorp's planned halt to hydroelectric operations at Link River Dam.

Oregon Wild is currently requesting proposals to utilize the Sucker Enhancement Fund in the Upper Klamath Lake basin. Details regarding proposal components can be found below.

Settlement Organizations

Oregon Wild

Founded in 1974, Oregon Wild works to protect and restore Oregon's wildlands, wildlife and waters as an enduring legacy for all Oregonians. Oregon Wild (formerly the Oregon Natural Resources Council or ONRC) with approximately 4,000 members has been instrumental in securing permanent legislative protection for some of Oregon's most precious landscapes, including nearly 1.5 million acres of Wilderness and almost 1,700 miles of Wild and Scenic Rivers. Our wilderness, old-growth forest and clean rivers/watersheds programs protect pristine drinking water, unparalleled recreation opportunities and fish and wildlife habitat across Oregon. Oregon Wild's work in the Klamath Basin extends across two decades, and includes citizen enforcement of federal environmental laws as a means of protecting threatened and endangered species and National Wildlife Refuges. Oregon Wild is headquartered in Portland, OR with field offices in Eugene and Bend.

PacifiCorp

PacifiCorp is one of the West's leading utilities, serving approximately 1.7 million customers in six western states. PacifiCorp was formed in 1984, when its electric utility, natural resource development and telecommunications businesses grew into full-fledged enterprises. In 1989, it merged with Utah Power & Light, and continued doing business as Pacific Power and Utah Power. The company was acquired by MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company in 2006. Today, PacifiCorp consists of three business units, aggregating up to PacifiCorp: PacifiCorp Energy, containing the electric generation, commercial and energy trading functions, and the coal-mining operations of the company, is headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah; Pacific Power, which delivers electricity to customers in Oregon, Washington and California, is headquartered in Portland, OR.; and Rocky Mountain Power, which delivers electricity to customers in Utah, Wyoming and Idaho, is headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. PacifiCorp is headquartered in Portland, OR.

Guidelines for Proposal Preparation (Proposal Components)

Organizations and agencies interested in submitting a proposal to Oregon Wild should include the components listed below:

1. Identify implementing organization or agency (project proposer), with contact information for applicable personnel.
2. Executive Summary (include a *brief* description of the problem, proposed solution, anticipated project benefits, and how the funds will be used).
3. Project description (type of project i.e. wetland restoration, riparian fencing, project objectives, project implementation approach, how the project specifically fulfills below stated criteria)
4. Timeline for proposed project (project duration, schedule)
5. Budget (include categories for personnel, subcontractors, materials and supplies, operating expenses, administrative overhead, and matching funds, if available).

6. Three references of entities that can verify applicant's qualifications and competency in completing past projects and the proposed project.

Additional details regarding select proposal components can be found on page 3.

If an interested agency or organization has recently completed (within the last year) a similar sucker restoration project proposal (RFP) for another granting agency, they are encouraged to submit the same proposal to Oregon Wild. The proposal can be submitted using the other agency's format; however, the repeat proposal must be accompanied by a two page description that includes:

- Identity of the implementing organization or agency, with contact information for applicable personnel.
- Executive Summary (include a *brief* description of the problem, proposed solution, anticipated project benefits, and how the funds will be used).
- What components of the existing project or proposal will fulfill Oregon Wild's specific project criteria?
- How the Sucker Enhancement Funds from the Oregon Wild-PacifiCorp settlement will be utilized in the existing project or proposal?
- Three references of entities that can verify applicant's qualifications and competency in completing past projects and the proposed project.

Project Criteria

The proposed project should meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Improved sucker spawning and rearing habitat, with a focus on increasing sucker recruitment and survival of larval and juvenile suckers (i.e. restoration of spawning habitat or emergent wetland habitat).
- Improved water quality in regions that support sucker spawning, rearing, and/or residence. Such projects might include wetland restoration, changes in water diversions, changes in return flows, or other established means of improving water quality.
- Projects focused on rehabilitation of riparian habitat along Upper Klamath Basin tributaries are eligible. Such projects should improve sucker habitat in tributaries, and/or promote reduction of temperature, erosion, sedimentation, and nutrients in sucker inhabited waters.
- Projects that reduce ongoing damage to existing sucker habitat, such as poor forestry practices, poor grazing practices, or agricultural practices that harm suckers and their habitat are also eligible.

Please note:

- The geographic scope of projects should be confined to the Upper Klamath Lake watershed and can occur on public or private lands.
- Project planning, design, and engineering proposals, as well as on-the-ground implementation of projects, are eligible, as long as the long-term goals of the project meet the aforementioned criteria.
- Leveraging of matching funds and/or in-kind gifts is desirable, but not required.

- Projects should be aimed toward long-term (+20 year) solutions that maintain restored habitat and improved water quality conditions for the long-term recovery of endangered suckers.
- Applicant is required to obtain all land use or others permits necessary to implement the project and comply with Endangered Species Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and other applicable regulations.

Proposal Component Details

Timeline

Projects are welcome to include a timeline of their choice. If the project is already underway, please let us know how these funds might fit into your existing timeline and budget. Proposals for projects underway are encouraged, but not necessarily given preference. **Oregon Wild is seeking proposals no later than May 29, 2009**, and aims to begin disbursing funds for worthy restoration activities as early as summer 2009.

Budget

Based on the settlement agreement, the Sucker Enhancement Fund receives funding on an annual basis. At this time, the Fund is able to provide approximately \$65,000 toward one or more suckers restoration projects in 2009. Therefore, proposal budgets should not exceed \$65,000 and can certainly be less than the finances available. Funds for the selected project will be available to the proposing organization or agency in a timely manner. Additional funds may be available in future grant years.

Deliverables

Upon completion of the selected project, the chosen organization or agency will be expected to submit a final report to Oregon Wild. The final report (approximately 5 pages) should include how the project was completed as proposed, a record of activities and their completion dates, how the project was modified and why, and photographs of the project. A field tour for Oregon Wild and PacifiCorp of the completed project area may also be encouraged.

How and What to Submit

Please submit a proposal with the aforementioned components, including an executive summary, project description, budget, timeline, and references. Also, please provide thorough contact information for at least two parties attached to the proposal, including name, agency information, address, phone, and email.

Proposals should be submitted via email or U.S. Mail to:

Ani Kame'enui, Klamath Campaign Coordinator

Oregon Wild

5825 North Greeley Avenue

Portland, Oregon 97217

Email to ak@oregonwild.org

Phone: (503) 283-6343 ext. 205

Deadline

Proposals must arrive at Oregon Wild no later than May 29, 2009.

A diverse panel with expertise in endangered suckers is working with Oregon Wild to review proposals during June. The executive selection committee anticipates project selection by early to mid-summer.

Questions?

Questions regarding the Sucker Enhancement Fund RFP can be directed to Ani Kame'enui at Oregon Wild, contact information as listed above.