



R & E Grant Application

Project #:

Trout Drone Stocking _ High Mountain Lakes

Project Information

Requested Cycle: 25-1
R&E Project Request: \$0
Other Funding: \$0
Total Project: \$0
Spending Start Date: 5/1/2025
Spending End Date: 12/1/2025
Project Start Date: 5/1/2025
Project End Date: 12/1/2025
Organization: ODFW - Springfield Field Office

Applicant Information

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Past Recommended or Completed Projects

This applicant has no previous projects that match criteria.

Authorized Agent

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Authorized Agent

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Location Information

Where is it?

The project will occur Statewide

Project Summary

Project Summary

Please provide a couple sentence summary of the proposal.

Drone stocking would be a valuable tool for ODFW as an alternative in situations where helicopter stocking is not an option due to funding, regulatory, or environmental constraints. For some popular high lakes it may be the only option in the future.

Overall Project Goals

Describe the primary goals or outcomes of the entire project, including elements not requesting funding from R&E.

Purchase an American-made drone that has the capability to lift 50 pounds and fly for 50 minutes (the requirements needed for stocking fish).

Improve the design of current proof-of-concept designs to provide custom trout delivery containers using 3-D printers (possible patent)

Obtain Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) permitting to stock fish in high lakes (Lane Aviation Academy already works closely with the FAA on permitting for other projects)

Lane Aviation Academy would provide drone piloting expertise during implementation (match funding)

Work closely with ODFW Springfield District Field Office Fish Biologists to successfully stock fish into several high lakes in their District.

Determine if stocking was successful (ODFW will sample fish the year following the stocking to assess overwinter survival)

Primary objectives of R&E funding

Please describe the measurable objectives for the R&E portion of the funding request.

Purchase Drone

Design custom trout transport and delivery containers

Successfully stock fish in several high mountain lakes with the purchased drone

Current Situation/Justification

Please describe the current situation and explain why this funding is needed.

The final helicopter trout stocking of high lakes on the current ODFW contract will occur in 2025. There are no guarantees that helicopter stocking will be a viable option for future stocking considering recent, large, annual wildfires occurring during the timeframe that stocking usually occurs. Helicopter contractors make more money fighting fire, the liability for ODFW employee safety, the US Forest Service concerns for noise pollution in designated wilderness areas, and

drones provide more flexibility for landing zones and coordination if a proposed stocking or landing area becomes inaccessible due to forest fire should all be considered. The concept is not for drone stocking to replace helicopter stocking at the same scale, but to provide options for stocking the most utilized lakes if helicopter or manual stocking is not an option. Drone stocking could be conducted by any district whenever needed for specific lakes at any time without all of the coordination required for helicopter stocking. It could be a valuable tool for ODFW as an alternative in situations if helicopter stocking is not an option due to funding, regulatory, or environmental constraints. For some popular lakes it may be the only option in the future.

Recreation and Commercial Benefit

This project will provide benefits to:

Recreational fisheries

Explain how this project will contribute to current (and/or potential) fishing opportunities, access, or fisheries management.

This project will provide a novel solution to help complete management objectives (high lake stocking) by providing a safer, more flexible, less labor intensive, cheaper, and less noisy alternative to helicopter stocking for stocking trout into high mountain lakes. Drone stocking also has other applications. Notably, 1) releasing tagged or other experimental groups of fish for research in hard to reach locations and possibly 2) treating invasive aquatic vegetation in inaccessible sloughs and backwaters (ludwigia, elodia, parrot feather - which can eliminate fishing access).

Percent benefit split between Commercial and Recreational anglers:

0 % Commercial

100 % Recreational

Please explain, or justify, how the percentage split was determined:

N/A

This project has been identified as an ODFW priority for:

Statewide

Does this project directly support implementation of the ODFW Strategic Plan and/or current Fish Division priorities?

No

Please briefly explain when this was identified as a priority and what process or workgroup was used to identified this as an ODFW priority.

Identify any plan or other document that identifies this priority.

Is this project part of an approved Salmon-Trout Enhancement Program (STEP) activity?

No

This project is intended to benefit the following species:

Cutthroat Trout

Rainbow Trout

This project will benefit anglers or fishery by providing:

Angling Opportunity

Hatcheries/Propagation/Liberation

Angling Opportunity

This project will:
Improve the opportunity for anglers to catch fish (better stocked fish, trapping)

Hatcheries/Propagation/Liberation

Hatchery Name:
Multiple hatcheries - statewide

This is a:
State hatchery

As a result of this request hatchery production will:
Maintain

This project will:
Restore, rehabilitate, modify, or replace existing liberation equipment
Add new or upgrade liberation equipment
Improve safety of hatchery operations

Fish produced at this facility are for:
Sport harvest

Project Description

Schedule

Activity	Date	RE Funding
		No

Permits

Permit	Secured?	Date Expected
	No	

Project Design and Description

Please describe in detail the methods or approach that will be used to achieve the project objectives.

Engineering

Does the project involve capital improvement, engineering, site grading or other construction?
No

Project Management and Maintenance

What is the life expectancy of R&E funded construction, structures, equipment, supplies, data or fishery?

Who is responsible for long term management, maintenance, and oversight of the project beyond what is funded by R&E.

Will the project require ongoing maintenance?
No

Is there a plan to collect baseline data and to conduct monitoring efforts to measure the effectiveness of the project?
No

Project Funding

Funding

Have you applied for OWEB funding for this project?

Has this proposal, or similar proposal for this project location, previously been denied by OWEB or other funding source?

Other Funding Source	Type	Secured	Dollar Value	Comments
		Total	0	

Budget

Item	Unit Number	Unit Cost	In-kind or non-cash contributions	Funding from other sources	R&E Funds	Total Costs
PROJECT MANAGEMENT						
			0	0	0	0
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0
IN-HOUSE PERSONNEL						
			0	0	0	0
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0
CONTRACTED SERVICES						
			0	0	0	0
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0
TRAVEL						
			0	0	0	0
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0
SUPPLIES/MATERIALS						
			0	0	0	0
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0
EDUCATION/OUTREACH						
			0	0	0	0
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0
EQUIPMENT						
			0	0	0	0
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0
FISCAL ADMINISTRATION						
			0	0	0	0
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	0	0
		BUDGET TOTAL	0	0	0	0

Additional Files

Budget Information

Maps

Photos

Design Information

Management Plans and Supporting Documents

Permits and Reviews

Partnerships

Public Comment

Administrative Documents

Completion Report

A completion report has not been submitted for this project.