



R & E Grant Application

Project #:

Phillips Reservoir Tiger Muskellunge Frye Nets

Project Information

Requested Cycle: 25-3
R&E Project Request: \$0
Other Funding: \$0
Total Project: \$0
Spending Start Date: 7/1/2025
Spending End Date: 6/30/2027
Project Start Date: 7/1/2025
Project End Date: 6/30/2027
Organization: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

Name: Tyler Hoyt
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Location Information

Where is it?

The project will occur on public land owned or managed by the applicant

Site Description

Street Address, nearest intersection, or other descriptive location.

Phillips Reservoir, Baker County OR

Directions to the site from the nearest highway junction.

Following project completion, public anglers will be allowed the following level of access to the project site:

Full access

Please describe what leases, easements, agreements are in place to ensure angler access to the project site, and what is the length of each agreement.

USFWS owns the land that Phillips Reservoir occupies.

Dominant Land Use Type:

Forest

Reservoir

Project Location

General Project Location.

County: Baker
Town/City: Sumpter
ODFW Dist: La Grande
Stream/Lake/Estuary Name: Phillips Reservoir
Sub-basin: Powder
Tributary of: Powder River

Specific Project Location.

Latitude		Longitude	
	44.67585		-118.01104

Project Summary

Project Summary

Please provide a couple sentence summary of the proposal.

This project will fund the purchase of eight fyke nets to sample tiger muskellunge in Phillips Reservoir. Tiger muskellunge have been stocked to control the perch population and recover the trout fishery. Understanding the abundance, age, diet, and growth of these tiger muskellunge is critical to their management.

Overall Project Goals

Describe the primary goals or outcomes of the entire project, including elements not requesting

funding from R&E.

The goal of this project is to provide the needed sampling equipment to sample the tiger muskellunge population in Phillips Reservoir.

To sample other fish species in Phillips Reservoir including perch, crappie, and trout.

To sample the fish assemblages in other reservoirs in the Grande Ronde Watershed.

Primary objectives of R&E funding

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

The purchase of eight fyke nets large enough to sample tiger muskellunge in Phillips Reservoir.

Current Situation/Justification

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

The most recent stocking of tiger muskellunge in Phillips Reservoir (2024) was highly successful. There have been many reports of people catching them and, in the fall of 2025, we had a report of a 28-inch tiger muskellunge caught. The tiger muskellunge were stocked at $\frac{3}{4}$ -1.5 inches long in April of 2024, which means they grew up to 26 inches in 18 months. The Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR 635-056-0075) state that population monitoring is a requirement for tiger muskellunge in Phillips Reservoir. Scientific literature consistently points to large fyke nets (at least 4'x6' frames) being the best way to sample these fish. Currently, the Grande Ronde Watershed does not have fyke nets big enough to sample this large of fish. Therefore, we are requesting the purchase of fyke nets adequate to sample tiger muskellunge in Phillips Reservoir.

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.

A very productive and popular recreational fishery developed at Phillips Reservoir immediately after construction was completed in 1968. Angler use of this reservoir was high (67,510 angler-days in 1970), considering it is in a relatively sparsely populated region of Oregon. An end came to the productivity of one of the region's most popular trout fisheries as the result of the illegal introduction of yellow perch, first documented in 1991. The perch quickly populated the reservoir and by the mid 1990's they were the dominant species. This expansion led to changes in the reservoir's zooplankton community that impacted the productivity of other gamefish populations in the reservoir, namely rainbow trout, smallmouth bass, and black crappie. The trout fishery severely declined due to this introduction. Angler-days declined from 34,955 in 1981 to 3,103 in 2010. Tiger muskellunge have now been stocked to control yellow perch. The purchase of fyke nets would help to monitor the tiger muskellunge population, which would help inform management actions to return the reservoir into a fishing destination where anglers would be able to fish for quality trout, tiger muskellunge, and perch.

Percent benefit split between Commercial and Recreational anglers:

0 % Commercial

100 % Recreational

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

There is no commercial angling on Phillips Reservoir.

This project has been identified as an ODFW priority for:

Local/watershed

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

Yes

This project helps to meet ODFW Strategic Plan Goal 1: "Demonstrate effective stewardship of Oregon's fish, wildlife and their habitats." Specifically, "Continue effective stewardship of Oregon's fish, wildlife and their habitats through sound science and by addressing our constituents' needs."

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

At the start of every biennium ODFW conducts planning and prioritization exercises. This part of ODFW's Strategic Plan for 2025-2026.

Identify any plan or other document that identifies this priority.

Phillips Reservoir Fishery Management Plan

"Objective 4: Monitor tiger muskellunge diet."

OAR 635-056-0075

(D) Department will establish a monitoring plan and program prior to release which shall include:

(ii) Population monitoring.

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

No

This project is intended to benefit the following species:

Yellow Perch

Crappie

Other Species

Tiger Muskellunge

Rainbow Trout

This project will benefit anglers or fishery by providing:

Angling Opportunity

Monitoring/Research

Angling Opportunity

This project will:

Improve the opportunity for anglers to catch fish (better stocked fish, trapping)

Provide new opportunity for anglers to catch fish (new pond, more fish to stock more areas, new species)

Enhance natural production of fish stocks to levels that allow for recreational fishing opportunities

Restore a degraded fishery

Monitoring/Research

This project will be used to evaluate:

Hatchery releases and/or stray rates

Population composition (i.e age, species, survival, size, or genetics)

Hatchery production methods

Fishery contribution

Distribution (i.e. presence, absence, abundance)

Has this project been reviewed or developed by an individual with appropriate qualifications (i.e ODFW biometrician, research professor)?

Yes

ODFW District Fish Biologist Ethan Brandt

Is this study critical to fishery management decisions?

Yes

How effective is the stocking of tiger muskellunge in Phillips Reservoir?

Yes

The results will be used to determine if more or less tiger muskellunge need to be stocked and if the stocking strategy needs to be changes (e.g. change in size of fish or timing of the stocking).

Is there a plan to repeat this monitoring or research in the future?

Yes

The plan is to monitor the tiger muskellunge population in Phillips Reservoir annually in the spring following ice-out.

Will the data be reported or published?

Yes

Yes, we will continue to report our sampling in the yearly report for the La Grande Fish District.

Project Description

Schedule

Activity	Date	RE Funding
Purchase fyke nets	Early 2026	Yes
Sample tiger muskellunge (yearly activity)	Spring	No
Report results in annual report	Winter	No

Permits

Permit	Secured?	Date Expected
None	No	

Project Design and Description

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

Purchase 8 fyke nets with the following specs:

4'x6' frames

75'x4' leads with 3/4" bar mesh

5 hoops, double throated

3/4" bar mesh throughout the net

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?

With proper maintenance these nets can last up to 1-2 decades.

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

La Grande Fish District Staff

Will the project require ongoing maintenance?

Yes

Normal wear and tear of the nets will be mended by La Grande Fish District staff

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?

No

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

No

Other Funding Source	Type	Secured	Dollar Value	Comments
None		Pending	0	
		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.