



R & E Grant Application 17-19 Biennium

Project #: 17-023

Comparison of trout stocks--Howard Prairie

Project Information

Requested Cycle: 17-2
R&E Project Request: \$9,000
Other Funding: \$3,072
Total Project: \$12,072
Spending Start Date: 8/1/2017
Spending End Date: 6/30/2019
Project Start Date: 8/1/2017
Project End Date: 6/30/2019
Organization: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Applicant Information

Name: Daniel VanDyke
Address: 1495 East Gregory Road
Central Point, OR 97502
Telephone: 541-826-8774 x234
Email: Daniel.J.Vandyke@odfw.oregon.gov

Past Recommended or Completed Projects

This applicant has no previous projects that match criteria.

Location Information

Where is it?

The project will occur on public land owned or managed by another party

Landowner Information

Name: Bureau of Reclamation
Address: 1375 SW Wilson Ave Suite 100
Bend, OR, 97702
Phone: 541-389-6541

Site Description

Street Address, nearest intersection, or other descriptive location.

Junction of Hyatt Prairie Road and Dead Indian Memorial Road

Directions to the site from the nearest highway junction.

Roughly 30 miles east of Highway 66 near Ashland.

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.

Access provided through Jackson County Parks.

Dominant Land Use Type:

Forest

Project Location

General Project Location.

County: Jackson
Town/City: N/A
ODFW Dist: Rogue
Stream/Lake/Estuary Name: Howard Prairie Reservoir
Sub-basin: Jenny Cr
Tributary of: Klamath River

Specific Project Location.

Latitude	Longitude
42°13'38.71"N	122°24'17.67"W

Project Summary

Project Summary

Please provide a couple sentence summary of the proposal.

The Rogue District previously completed a project testing the release of fall fingerling rainbow

trout to support the trout fishery at Howard Prairie in the face of illegal fish introductions. The next step in restoring the fishery is reviewing different stocks to identify the best contribution to the fishery.

Overall Project Goals

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

With funding the Rogue District will differentially mark rainbow trout release groups to be stocked in Howard Prairie Reservoir in fall 2017 and 2018, in order to identify a stock that provides the best contribution to the fishery.

Primary objectives of R&E funding

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

Rainbow trout will be finclipped at Cole Rivers Hatchery (or other ODFW facility) to differentially mark release groups. The primary mark to be utilized is an adipose finclip.

Current Situation/Justification

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

For years a quality trout fishery at Howard Prairie was supported by the release of rainbow trout fingerling released each spring at 2-3 inches in length. The fish grow very well on the natural food in this productive reservoir, and typically reached 10 inches in length by the next trout season. Approximately 350,000 trout were released annually for years. Holdover trout reaching several pounds in size were common.

The trout fishery declined in the early 2000s during a time when smallmouth bass numbers increased dramatically. The spring release fared poorly compared to fall fingerling and legal trout during a subsequent project. Recent releases have focused on the release of 6-7 inch rainbow trout in early October at a time when bass activity is declining with colder water temperatures. Releases have averaged 100-150,000 trout in recent years (larger trout cost more to produce). This project aims to maximize the catch per pound of trout released at Howard Prairie.

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.

Since its development as an irrigation reservoir in the 1960s, Howard Prairie has been renowned for the trout fishery provided for Oregon anglers. A 2009 survey estimated 34,500 angler trips during an April-October fishing season, a level of effort similar to the angling effort at post-treatment Diamond Lake (most anglers in 2009 came from Jackson, Josephine and Klamath counties). This project will continue work aimed at improving the trout fishery.

Percent benefit split between Commercial and Recreational anglers:

0 % Commercial

100 % Recreational

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

This project benefits the trout fishery at Howard Prairie and anglers who fish this reservoir.

Technically the project also benefits the warmwater fishery by working to improve trout numbers with a continuing population of illegally introduced fish.

This project has been identified as an ODFW priority for:

Not identified

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

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:

Rainbow Trout

This project will benefit anglers or fishery by providing:

Monitoring/Research

Monitoring/Research

This project will be used to evaluate:

Hatchery releases and/or stray rates

Hatchery production methods

Fishery contribution

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

Yes

This is third year of trout stock work at Howard Prairie. District coordinated with the biometrician in developing this project. Additional coordination with Division staff and the Reservoir Dogs group will take place.

Is this study critical to fishery management decisions?

No

No

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

No

Will the data be reported or published?

Yes

The results will be summarized and distributed within the Reservoir Dogs group. Results from the 2016 release will be prepared for a talk at the American Fisheries Society meeting in 2018.

Project Description

Schedule

Activity	Date	RE Funding
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Mark trout at Cole Rivers or ODFW facility	August 2017 and 2018	Yes
Stock trout at Howard Prairie	October 2017 and 2018	No
Conduct fall gillnet survey	November 2017 and 2018	No
Conduct spot creel surveys during fishing season	2018 and 2019	No

Permits

Permit	Secured?	Date Expected
None needed	No	

Project Design and Description

Please describe in detail the methods or approach that will be used to achieve the project objectives.
Project funds will be used to hire workers to finclip project trout.

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?

The project is part of a multi-year effort to evaluate trout stocks at Howard Prairie. Identification of a stock that maximizes contribution to the fishery per pound of fish released will have value in hatchery production in SW Oregon and in support of the fishery at Howard Prairie.

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

Rogue District staff

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?

Yes

Periodic creel surveys throughout the year will be conducted. Effort will focus on observing as many trout/finclips as possible.

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?

[{"source":"ODFW inkind","type":"In-Kind","secured":"Secured","dollarValue":3072,"comments":"Gillnet survey and creel"}]

Other Funding Source	Type	Secured	Dollar Value	Comments
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ODFW inkind	In-Kind	Secured	3072	Gillnet survey and creel
		Total	3072	

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						
ODFW inkind	128	24.00	3072	0	0	3072
		SUBTOTAL	3072	0	0	3072
CONTRACTED SERVICES						
Finclipping personnel	750	12.00	0	0	9000	9000
		SUBTOTAL	0	0	9000	9000
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	3072	0	9000	12072

Internal Review Results

Review Score: 1.8 out of 3

(0 = Do Not Fund, 1 = Strengthen Proposal, 2 = Recommend, 3 = Strongly Recommend)

Summary of Review Team Comments

While the review team generally supports this type of data collection and this project, the current proposal is lacking on information and agency coordination. The review team recommends this be improved but could support continuation of this inexpensive project in the short term. Review team scores included two 1s and seven 2s.

Specific Review Team Comments

Is this project a priority for Reservoir Dogs? The teams preference is to have Reservoir Dogs provide a list of approved projects that have been prioritized by the recreation fisheries manager.

This appears to be an inexpensive worthwhile project but the proposal needs more information, better explanation of management implications (local and statewide) and discussion of agency coordination.

Specific Review Team Questions

The application is really lacking detail on the study plan. Cannot tell how you are going to evaluate stocks (multiple stocks, single stock) or when you are only going to use an Ad-clip. You describe "differentially Marking", but only use AD-clip? What are the two stocks of trout? Different species, or different varieties of the same species? What would the differential marks be? Only the adipose clip is mentioned, but presumably would need additional clips also. How many of each stock? Same release sites? Is there a component of this study to tease out natural mortality from fishing mortality?

With Cole River production up in the air because of the Corp's decisions, will the fish stocks be available?

Will water level problems at the reservoir interfere with this study?

It seems like it would be more cost effective to use the tag rewards project for comparison of the two stocks. Can this be done through the statewide tag reward project? If not, why?

Who is paying for the fish? I would think that would be a good in-kind match to add to the request.

Additional Files

Budget Information

[OFRS Report](#)

project final expenses

Maps

Photos

Design Information

Management Plans and Supporting Documents

[Racial and Ethnic Impact Statement](#)

Permits and Reviews

Partnerships

Public Comment

Administrative Documents

[Signature page](#)

Completion Report

A completion report has not been submitted for this project.