R & E Grant Application 25-27 Biennium

Project #: 25-034

St Paul Ponds Improvements

Project Information

Requested Cycle:	25-4
R&E Project Request:	$17,220
Other Funding:	$4,020
Total Project:	$21,240
Spending Start Date:	12/15/2026
Spending End Date:	6/30/2027
Project Start Date:	4/1/2026
Project End Date:	6/30/2027
Organization:	Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife

Applicant Information

Name:	Gary Vonderohe
Address:	7118 NE Vandenberg Ave Corvallis, OR 97330
Telephone:	541-757-5244
Email:	Gary.R.Vonderohe@odfw.oregon.gov

Past Recommended or Completed Projects

Number	Name	Status
17-060	Equipment for the Umpqua Watershed	Approved

Authorized Agent

Name:	Kevin Stertz
Address:	17330 SE Evelyn Street Clackamas, OR 97015
Telephone:	971-673-6044
Email:	kevin.a.stertz@odfw.oregon.gov

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.

St Paul Rearing Ponds, River Road, St Paul, OR 97137

Directions to the site from the nearest highway junction.

From the town of St Paul, go south on River Road Northeast for approximately 3 miles. From Salem, take Interstate 5 north to Exit 263 to Brooks/Gervais. Go 0.25 miles then turn left (west) onto Brooklane Rd NE. Go 0.8 miles then turn right (north) onto River Rd. NE. Travel 4.6 miles then turn left to stay on River Rd NE. Continue on River Rd. NE for approximately 4 miles to the facility. The property is on the east side of the road.

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

No 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.

Dominant Land Use Type:

Wetland

10 one acre rearing ponds that were built on previous cropland

Project Location

General Project Location.

County:	Marion
Town/City:	St Paul
ODFW Dist:	NWWD
Stream/Lake/Estuary Name:	St Paul Ponds

Specific Project Location.

Latitude	Longitude
45.171010	-122.992160

Project Summary

Project Summary

Please provide a couple sentence summary of the proposal.

This proposed project will replace the old above ground leaking waterline with a new efficient PVC waterline that will be trenched and buried. In addition, new aluminum screens will be built for the pond outlet structures which are currently made out of wood and vexar plastic mesh.

Overall Project Goals

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

funding from R&E.

The goal is to make the operation of the ponds at the St Paul property more efficient by replacing old equipment that is failing with new equipment that will take less maintenance.

Primary objectives of R&E funding

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

Replace old waterline with a new PVC waterline that will provide water to three ponds

The new waterline will be designed with the ability to add on in the future if desired.

Replace the old outlet screens made of wood and plastic Vexar with new aluminum screens

Current Situation/Justification

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

The St Paul Ponds property is managed by the ODFW Clackamas Fish District with the assistance from the ODFW Warmwater Fisheries Program. The ponds are filled with groundwater which is pumped through old above ground irrigation lines that leak in several places, which is not the most efficient use of the water. The new proposed waterline will be buried to protect the line from the weather elements and vehicles/equipment accessing the dikes around the ponds. The current pond outlet screens are made from wooden frames and a Vexar plastic screening material, which easily tears especially when outside in the sun for prolonged periods. All the current screens need to be repaired or completely rebuilt.
Funding for the St Paul Ponds property is through the ODFW fish district and warmwater fisheries program budgets. ODFW staff can cover the cost of new screens but can't cover the cost of the new waterline and installation.

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.

St Paul Ponds are currently being used to temporary hold fish like largemouth bass before being stocked into highly used public fishing ponds/lakes. At least once a year ODFW fisheries biologist collect largemouth bass from other waterbodies in the state (public and private) to be transferred to public fishing lakes/ponds to boost fishing opportunity for warmwater anglers. Being able to hold fish in the old rearing ponds at St Paul provides ODFW fisheries biologist the flexibility to spread out fish releases into public fishing ponds. St Paul Ponds were also used to rear fingerling channel catfish to a large size before stocking into Willamette Valley ponds. ODFW staff are evaluating the use of the ponds to re-establish this catfish stocking program.

Percent benefit split between Commercial and Recreational anglers:

0 % Commercial
100 % Recreational

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

Fish held at the facility will be stocked in ponds that are closed systems with no benefit to Commercial anglers.

This project has been identified as an ODFW priority for:

Basin/regional

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

Yes

One of the Fish Division Inland Fisheries priorities is to reinvigorate the Warmwater Fisheries Program and St Paul Ponds is integral part of the warmwater program.

This project directly supports the ODFW Strategic Plan: Goal 2 - Increase and diversify public use and enjoyment of Oregon's fish and wildlife resources.

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

This was identified as a 2025-27 biennial priority for the ODFW Inland Fisheries Recreational Fisheries Program and the ODFW Strategic Plan was finalized in 2018 through an extensive process involving the Directors Office, Executive Leadership Team, and Resource Management Team.

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:

Largemouth Bass
Other Fish Species
channel catfish

This project will benefit anglers or fishery by providing:

Angling Opportunity

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)

Restore a degraded fishery

Project Description

Schedule

Activity	Date	RE Funding
Purchase aluminum screen materials	09/2026	No
Build new aluminum screens	12/2026	No
Contractor to purchase PVC pipe, valves, etc. and install new waterline	03/207	Yes

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.

For fish screens, ODFW staff have taken measurements for new fish screens. Aluminum tubing

and screen material will be purchase, cut to size, and welded before installation.

For the new waterline, ODFW staff have talked to ODFW Engineering section and it was determined that they do not need to be involved with the project. We have been consulting with the R&E Construction Project Manager on this project. Trenching of the waterline will occur in areas that were created with off-site fill and because of this it was determined from previous consultation with the US Fish & Wildlife Service that no archeological survey is needed for this project.
The new waterline will connect to the existing pump (which was recently replaced in 2025). The new waterline will run to the three closest ponds to the pump and each pond will have a valve to shut the water on/off to that pond. Fish District and Warmwater Fisheries staff have discussed the new waterline going to three of the ponds would be a realistic goal, allowing staff to hold fish in two of the ponds while the third pond could be dried out for any maintenance.
The current design of the new waterline would allow for easy addition to the waterline if/when ODFW staff have the capacity to operate more ponds in the future.

Engineering

Does the project involve capital improvement, engineering, site grading or other construction?

Yes
On ODFW land or managed by ODFW staff

Project Management and Maintenance

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

The life expectancy of the new water line and fish screens will be 20 plus years.

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

The ODFW North Willamette Watershed District and Warmwater Fisheries Program will be responsible for the long term maintenance of St Paul Ponds and the equipment on site. Waterlines and screens will be used/inspected yearly by ODFW staff.

Will the project require ongoing maintenance?

Yes
Inspection of the screens and waterline valves will be needed yearly

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

ODFW	Cash	Secured	2,520	Funding used for screens
ODFW	In-Kind	Secured	1,500	
		Total	4,020	

Budget

Item	Unit Number	Unit Cost	In-kind or non-cash contributions	Funding from other sources	R&E Funds	Total Costs
PROJECT MANAGEMENT						
		SUBTOTAL				
IN-HOUSE PERSONNEL						
Project planning/implementation (NRS-3)	30	50	1,500			1,500
		SUBTOTAL	1,500			1,500
CONTRACTED SERVICES						
PVC piping, valves, PVC pipe connectors	1	8,500			8,500	8,500
Installation of waterline	1	8,720			8,720	8,720
		SUBTOTAL			17,220	17,220
TRAVEL						
		SUBTOTAL				
SUPPLIES/MATERIALS						
materials for outlet screens	6	420		2,520		2,520
		SUBTOTAL		2,520		2,520
EDUCATION/OUTREACH						
		SUBTOTAL				
EQUIPMENT						
		SUBTOTAL				
FISCAL ADMINISTRATION						
		SUBTOTAL				
		BUDGET TOTAL	1,500	2,520	17,220	21,240

Internal Review Results

Review Score: 4.4 out of 5

(1 = Do Not Fund, 2 = Strengthen Proposal, 3 = Recommend with Conditions, 4 = Recommend, 5 = Strongly Recommend)

Summary of Review Team Comments

The IRT team gave this project an overall combined score of 4.4.

Specific Review Team Comments

Good project that will improve the ability to provide fish to local fisheries. And promote more efficient water use.

I have a concern that these non-native, predatory fish could enter waterways that support native fish during floods. I'd be reassured by a discussion in the proposal of measures taken to assure this wouldn't happen.

Specific Review Team Questions

Have other material besides PVC been considered, i.e. HDPE?

I worked with Bryce Hansen (R&E Construction Manager) to come up with a materials list. PVC was chosen because the majority of the waterline will be buried (protecting it from UV which will help it last 50 plus years). Also if there is a need to repair the waterline, PVC is something that staff can easily fix themselves and not need to bring in a contractor.

Where are these ponds located in relation to the flood plain? During a high water event, could fish held at the St. Paul Pond location escape this facility and enter other nearby waterways? How would that affect native fish populations?

The St Paul ponds were built outside the 100 year flood plain. Staff are also rebuilding the outlet screens to keep fish from escaping the ponds when topping off the water in the ponds or draining the ponds.

If by some chance fish did escape from the ponds they would go into the outlet structure which goes underground and eventually into seasonal channels that ultimately make their way to the Willamette River. If an escaped fish did happen to make it to the Willamette River, the fish species that are being held at the St Paul facility are all already found in the Willamette River system. So any escaped fish from St Paul ponds would likely have minimal affects to native fish populations.

Additional Files

Budget Information

- St Paul Ponds waterline quote
- Waterline parts list

Maps

Photos

- Photos of leaking waterline
- St Paul waterline replacement map — *map of project area*

Design Information

Management Plans and Supporting Documents

Permits and Reviews

Partnerships

Public Comment

Administrative Documents

- Signature page

Completion Report

A completion report has not been submitted for this project.