R & E Grant Application 25-27 Biennium

Project #: 25-037

Hatchery mini bundle - egg picker and DO meters

Project Information

Requested Cycle:	25-4
R&E Project Request:	$200,000
Other Funding:	$95,000
Total Project:	$295,000
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:	ODFW

Applicant Information

Name:	Chris Kern
Address:	4034 Fairview Industrial Drive Salem, OR 97302
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Email:	chris.j.kern@odfw.oregon.gov

Past Recommended or Completed Projects

This applicant has no previous projects that match criteria.

Authorized Agent

Name:	Ryan Couture
Email:	ryan.b.couture@odfw.oregon.gov

Authorized Agent

Name:	Brent Hinners
Address:	17330 SE Evelyn St Clackamas, OR 97015
Telephone:	971-673-6006
Email:	brent.a.hinners@odfw.oregon.gov

Location Information

Where is it?

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

Site Description

Street Address, nearest intersection, or other descriptive location.
Roaring River Fish Hatchery; statewide ODFW fish liberation programs

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:
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.
na

Dominant Land Use Type:
hatchery; various

Project Location

General Project Location.
County: statewide

Specific Project Location.

Latitude	Longitude

Project Summary

Project Summary

Please provide a couple sentence summary of the proposal.
Two components depending upon funding available. Component one is a new egg sorter and picker for use at Roaring River Hatchery. Component two is a contribution to supplying and upgrading dissolved oxygen monitoring equipment for use in ODFW fish liberation programs.

Overall Project Goals

Describe the primary goals or outcomes of the entire project, including elements not requesting funding from R&E.
Increase efficiency, speed, and accuracy of egg sorting and picking at Roaring River Hatchery. ODFW will pay portion of costs.

Supply/upgrade (depends on location) dissolved oxygen meters for ODFW fish liberation drivers to use in the field to monitor water quality of stocking locations before stocking occurs. ODFW will pay portion of costs.

Primary objectives of R&E funding

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

Secure, install, and train staff on use of new technology fish egg sorter and picker equipment.

Supply DO meters to field staff to support improved monitoring of water quality of stocking locations prior to stocking events.

Current Situation/Justification

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

Component one (egg picker). ODFW has recently obtained new technology egg pickers at some hatcheries. They have been found to be very reliable and highly effective at speeding the processing of eggs during inventory and picking, greatly improving accuracy of egg counts, and increasing the level of quality control (identify and remove bad eggs) available to staff compared to older technology or hand picking. The reduction in staff time alone will likely pay for the unit over just a few seasons.

Component two. ODFW recently updated our fish stocking protocol documents and are requiring more active use of water quality monitoring for stocking events. Many staff either do not have access to reliable DO units or they are outdated. Fish Division will be funding a portion of these purchases.

Recreation and Commercial Benefit

This project will provide benefits to:

Recreational fisheries
Commercial fisheries

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

Egg picker will speed processing of eggs at Roaring River Hatchery which does not produce commercially harvested fish. RR spawns 8.5 million green eggs per year, for rearing at RR and several other Western Oregon hatcheries.

Improved monitoring of release site water quality is expected to help avoid unanticipated losses of released fish where water quality is poorly understood. Providing reliable units to field staff who need them will allow staff to fully implement revised/updated release protocols, with a goal to reduce post-release fish losses.

Percent benefit split between Commercial and Recreational anglers:

15 % Commercial
85 % Recreational

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

Most of the effects of these funds will be focused on recreational fisheries but some effects will accrue in areas where stocks released are encountered in commercial fisheries. The percent splits were purely based on professional judgement.

This project has been identified as an ODFW priority for:

Local/watershed
Statewide

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

Yes

DO meters are a significant component of the Fish Division's revised fish release protocols and

requirements in those protocols for field staff to follow. Egg picker is not specifically identified as a stand alone priority but is consistent with Fish Division and Agency efforts for efficiency, accuracy, and costs savings.

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:
Fall Chinook Salmon
Spring Chinook Salmon
Coho Salmon
Winter Steelhead
Summer Steelhead
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:
Roaring River Hatchery

This is a:
State hatchery

As a result of this request hatchery production will:
Maintain

This project will:
Address a need identified on the ODFW Hatchery Maintenance Priority list
Restore, rehabilitate, modify, or replace existing production/acclimation facilities
Restore, rehabilitate, modify, or replace existing liberation equipment
Add new or upgrade production/acclimation facilities/capacity.
Add new or upgrade liberation equipment
Improve safety of hatchery operations
Improve staff efficiency of hatchery operations
Improve energy efficiency of hatchery operations
Improve effectiveness of hatchery operations (i.e. improve survival or return to angler)

Fish produced at this facility are for:
Sport harvest
Mitigation

Project Description

Schedule

Activity	Date	RE Funding
Purchase new egg picker	Spring 2027	Yes
Purchase DO meters	Spring 2027	Yes

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.

Component one is a new egg sorter to aid efficiency in annual processing of 8.5 million trout eggs. The Pro Sorter by IMV Technologies is an automated image-processing machine used in aquaculture to sort and count salmonid fish eggs. It eliminates manual egg picking by rapidly processing at least 125,000 eggs per hour to remove non-viable, dead, small, or unfertilized eggs without damaging them. They are being used with very high success at other ODFW and PNW hatcheries.

Component two will improve quality of ODFW fish stocking.

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?

na

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

ODFW will be responsible for long term maintenance and/or replacement as needed.

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?

Not necessary

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 Funds	Cash	Pending	95,000	
		Total	95,000	

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						
		SUBTOTAL				
CONTRACTED SERVICES						
		SUBTOTAL				
TRAVEL						
		SUBTOTAL				
SUPPLIES/MATERIALS						
		SUBTOTAL				
EDUCATION/OUTREACH						
		SUBTOTAL				
EQUIPMENT						
New egg sorter, RR Hatchery	1	120,000		20,000	100,000	120,000
Dissolved Oxygen meters - total 40 units at $2500 per	40	2,500			100,000	100,000
Dissolved Oxygen meters - total 30 units at $2500 per	30	2,500		75,000		75,000
		SUBTOTAL		95,000	200,000	295,000
FISCAL ADMINISTRATION						
		SUBTOTAL				
		BUDGET TOTAL	0	95,000	200,000	295,000

Internal Review Results

Review Score: 3.9 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 a combined score of 3.9

Specific Review Team Comments

DO meters are a significant component of the Fish Division's revised fish release protocols and requirements in those protocols for field staff to follow.

Specific Review Team Questions

Will the D.O. meters be standardized and user friendly so that they are easy to operate for the individuals driving the Lib Trucks?

We have inventoried the needs from the field and offered a few versions from different manufacturers, but with basically identical features and capabilities, so that individual bios could select a unit they are familiar with or prefer. However, with about 60% of the inventory questionnaire received to date, everyone seems to be selecting the same vendor/brand/unit. The unit is one that has been used by several bios already and they seem to really like it, and it's user friendly and works well for lib trucks and field bios. So not necessarily by intent, but it is appearing that we will be purchasing mostly the same unit for all the sites/bios that need them.

Additional Files

Budget Information
- Signature Page — *Signature Page*

Maps

Photos

Design Information

Management Plans and Supporting Documents
- egg sorter

Permits and Reviews

Partnerships

Public Comment

Administrative Documents

Completion Report

A completion report has not been submitted for this project.