

MMT Willamette River Restoration Initiative – Early Project Development/ Expanded Capacity Request

Background

The Meyer Memorial Trust (MMT) and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) have entered into a funding partnership to support restoration of the Willamette River through OWEB's Willamette Special Investment Partnership (SIP). The SIP is focused on projects aimed at increasing channel complexity and restoring floodplain/river connections in the meander corridor of the mainstem Willamette and in the lower reaches of its major tributaries. (In addition to participating in the SIP partnership, MMT is supporting restoration in selected tributary systems in collaboration with the Bonneville Environmental Foundation through the Willamette Model Watershed Program.)

The types of projects MMT and OWEB seek to support under the SIP are typically large and complex. Developing such projects – that is, moving them from the concept stage to the point at which they might be eligible for SIP funding – often requires substantial investments in community and landowner outreach, due diligence and other costs associated with land acquisition, site planning, project design, hydrologic and other background studies, and interagency coordination. It can take several years to move projects along this continuum. Accordingly, MMT has committed to supporting efforts to identify, plan and develop protection and restoration projects, which, if advanced, would have a good likelihood of being eligible for SIP funding within 2-5 years.

Early Project Development Proposal Process

There is a two-stage process for submitting an “early project development” proposal to MMT. Interested groups should contact MMT Willamette River Program Officer Eric Jones (eric@mmt.org or 503.228.5512) to discuss their proposal and ensure that it meets minimum eligibility requirements. If so, the group will be asked to submit a letter responding to the questions listed below. Your answers to these questions will enable us to better understand your organization and your proposal and gauge whether you are a good candidate for this type of grant.

1. General information about your organization (attach additional information for other organizations who would receive funding under this proposal):
 - a. What is your organization's mission statement? Please send us a copy of your most recent strategic plan or annual plan.
 - b. Please describe geographic area(s) served by you and/or your partners in this proposal.
 - c. What is your organization's annual budget? If you have a fiscal sponsor, please provide their annual budget as well as the operating budget for you

program area. Attach copies of your latest financial reports, including the board-approved budget for the current fiscal year and your most recent balance sheet and statement of profit/loss.

2. Summarize the project for which funds are requested:

- a. Describe the origin of the project (e.g. landowner contact, identified in a study or report, your own strategic or work plans, state agency request, etc.).
- b. Describe the relationship of this project to the SIP objectives of a) re-establishing channel complexity and length; and, (b) re-connecting flood plains in the historic meander corridor of the Willamette River main stem and the major tributaries, wherever feasible?
- c. Why is this work, project or project area of interest to your organization?
- d. If this is a request for funds to support the development or implementation of a specific restoration project, what is the current status of the project?
- e. If this request is related to a potential land acquisition or acquisitions, how would you characterize the likelihood that work undertaken with MMT funds will lead to an acquisition (fee or easement) within 2-5 years? What is your assessment based on?
- f. If this request is for funds to support all or a portion of a staff position or positions in your organization, please provide a written description of the position or positions, the activities for which it is or will be responsible, and how the work relates to the MMT Willamette River Initiative and the MMT/OWEB SIP partnership.

Is this a single or multi-year request? Provide a summary overview of the project budget, including other existing and potential funders of the project or work.

- g. What sources of funding are or may be available for project implementation (restoration or acquisition funding)? If the request is in support of a permanent position, how will the position be funded once the MMT grant has expired?

Following review of the letter of interest, proponents will be contacted for additional information.