



AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY

BACKGROUND

The Private Forest Accord Grant Program (PFA Grant Program) was established within ODFW in 2022 to fund projects that provide conservation benefits for species covered by the anticipated Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan. Department staff work with the legislatively established Private Forest Accord Mitigation Advisory Committee (Advisory Committee) to solicit project proposals. The Advisory Committee evaluates submissions and recommends projects to the Department and Commission that offer the greatest conservation benefit, as defined by ORS 527.620.

On March 31, 2026, the Advisory Committee convened to review and rank proposals submitted in response to the Fall 2025 solicitations, announcing up to \$10 million in funding for projects that applied to the Fall Solicitation. Working with technical experts from across Oregon, the Committee prioritized proposals that aligned with program goals, demonstrated measurable conservation benefits for covered species, and addressed key fish, wildlife, and habitat needs identified by ODFW.

The Fall 2025 request for proposals generated 80 applications requesting more than \$39 million in funding. Attachment 4 provides a breakdown of submissions by region, project type, and funding request.

ODFW facilitated a two-tier review process in which five Regional Review Teams (RRTs) evaluated eligible applications using the criteria in Attachment 3. RRT evaluations were provided to the Advisory Committee to help inform its scoring on a 45-point scale. After completing these reviews, the Committee ranked projects using the scoring matrix and is recommending that the Commission fund the highest-scoring submissions. Attachment 4 includes a summary of all applications submitted to the program.

The Advisory Committee requests Commission approval to expend \$10,545,992.99 from the PFA Grant Fund to support 25 projects selected through the Fall 2025 solicitation (see Attachment 5 for the Committee's funding recommendations). These projects represent a strategic investment in Oregon's aquatic biodiversity and align with the program's core mandate to deliver the greatest conservation benefit for species covered under the anticipated PFA Habitat Conservation Plan.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

All PFA Grant Program Advisory Committee meetings are open to public participation and have time on the agenda for comments from participating members of the public. The opportunity to apply for funds was well-publicized through a press release, multiple emails, and amplification through our partners' communication networks.

ISSUE 1

Private Forest Accord Grant Program Expenditure Recommendations from currently available funds.

ANALYSIS

A summary of the Advisory Committee's process and the recommendations are provided in Attachments 2 through 5, Fall 2025 Open Solicitation Private Forest Accord Grant Program Commission Award Packet, respectively.

OPTIONS

1. Approve funding for the 25 projects recommended by the PFA Grant Program Advisory Committee
2. Approve funding for some of the 25 projects recommended by the PFA Grant Program Advisory Committee
3. Reject all project proposals.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION:

Option 1. Approve Private Forest Accord Grant Fund recommendations for expenditures.

DRAFT MOTION:

I move to approve the 25 projects recommended for funding by the Private Forest Accord Grant Program Advisory Committee as described in Attachment 5, with the provision that Department Staff may make administrative adjustments to project budgets, not to exceed 10%.

Effective Date: April 24, 2026