

Endangered Species Listing Prevention & Recovery

Edit Request

Requester Information

Legislator: Winterton, Ronald M.

Creation Date: 2024-01-17

Submission Date: 2024-01-18

Section 1: Request Details

Description:

This is a one-time increase of \$2M to the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund (ESMF) or Species Protection Account. ESMF has been flat-funded since 1997 and this increase would bring its buying power close to 1997 levels. This increase helps Utah in two ways; one is to maintain and increase funding to projects that are meeting Utah's federal obligations under the Endangered Species Act, and second, it is to allow current projects as well as more projects that are being conducted to prevent species from being listed under the Endangered Species Act. The prevention and work towards delisting of currently listed species helps retain stewardship and management authority under the state's jurisdiction as well as significantly reduce the costs/burden placed upon the State when a species is listed.

Legislative designee contact information:

- Name: Russell Franklin
- Organization: Central Utah Water Conservancy District
- Position: June Sucker Recovery Implementation Assistant Program Director

Section 2: Funding Information

How will the appropriation be used?

	One-time	Ongoing
Personnel Services	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$2,000,000.00	\$0.00
In-State Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Out-of-state Travel	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Supplies and Equipment	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Technology Purchases	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Infrastructure/Capital Investments	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Other Charges/Pass Thru	2024: \$0.00 2025: \$0.00	\$0.00
Expenditure Total		
One-time 2024	One-time 2025	Ongoing 2025
\$0.00	\$2,000,000.00	\$0.00

Funding Sources:

General Fund

- Amount Requested 2024 (One-time) \$0.00

- Amount Requested 2025 (One-time) \$2,000,000.00
- Amount Requested 2025 (Ongoing) \$0.00

Revenue Total

One-time 2024
\$0.00

One-time 2025
\$2,000,000.00

Ongoing 2025
\$0.00

Should unused funding be returned to the state at the end of the fiscal year?

No

Is this project scalable if the Legislature does not fund the full requested amount?

Yes

A short explanation describing how the project might be scaled

Since this increase would fund multiple projects proposed to ESMF, if the request isn't funded in full, some of the proposed projects would not be funded. There is a ranking system with an advisory committee made up of members from DNR, Utah Water Districts, Environmental Groups, Oil and Gas Association, Utah Mining Association, and the Farm Bureau. These projects are ranked by importance and once the funding is used up, there will be unfunded projects.

Section 3: Agency Information

Subjects:

Land and Environment

Agency:

560 / Natural Resources

Type of entity to receive pass-through funding

- State Government

Section 4: Performance Outcome Measurement

Who would benefit from this request (who is the target audience)?

The entire state would benefit from this request. Projects that qualify and receive money from ESMF occur statewide and typically focus on species/habitats that are in need to prevent listing on the ESA or are already listed. Improving the habitat and needs of these species has a trickle-down effect that impacts the entire state. Meeting ESA obligations helps to protect State's rights and resources (e.g. water, minerals, land).

What is this project or program intended to accomplish?

This additional funding will help the Endangered Species Mitigation Fund program to shore up funding issues to current and future projects (e.g. June sucker carp removal, Virgin River spinedace habitat restoration). These projects help the State of Utah comply with its ESA requirements/obligations, as well as increase the speed/time to delist/downlist current ESA species. The past ESMF funding has helped to delist/downlist species as well as prevented the Federal listing of at least 28 species

How will the Legislature know whether the project or program achieved its intended purpose?

ESMF has annual reporting that highlights the yearly accomplishments of each project funded by the ESMF program. Over the past 20 years, Utah has been successful in preventing the ESA listing of 28 species. The average annual cost/year to recover ESA-listed species has been estimated at over \$1,000,000/year. The ESA recovery savings through time for these 28 species totals more than \$240,000,000 AND has given the State of Utah the ability to continue growing economically without ESA regulatory burdens for these 28 species. This funding would allow similar projects and similar results to continue. Prevention is much cheaper than working to delist/downlist a species.

Section 5: Other Supporting Documents

Intent Language

Previous State Funding

