OFM

490 - Department of Natural Resources
Capital Project Request
2009-11 Biennium

Version: 01 Agency Requested
Report Number: CBS002
Date Run: 9/5/2008 11:15AM

Project Number: 20082016
Project Title: Minor Works - Programmatic

Description

Starting Fiscal Year: 2010
Project Class: Program
Agency Priority: 14

Project Summary
The only project scheduled for the 09-11 biennium is to upgrade the seed plant freezer and add a backup generator system to the entire 18,960 sq. ft. cooler and freezer space at the Webster Forest Nursery. The nursery has been without power for up to seven days in the past. This is due to major storm outages in the winter months. The risk of the plants heating up in storage is not acceptable. The current freezer is over 30 years old and fails often. Parts are no longer available. The stored seed is valued at over $2 million, and some seeds could not be replaced if lost. Installing new evaporator and expansion valves will bring the freezer up to date and eliminate repeated service calls and lessen the possibility of the stored product rising in temperature. This project is to also add an alarm system to the cooler/freezers alerting us to the temperature rising above or falling below a set point.

Project Description
Webster Forest Nursery stores millions of seedlings for several months during the planting season. This is a living, perishable crop that has to be kept in cold or freezer storage without large temperature fluctuations. These coolers/freezers are 27+ years old and in the last few months, 9 service calls have been made. Current and future seedling crops are at risk if the system is not upgraded.

Also, there is no emergency backup power to run the coolers and freezers during a power outage. The consequences could be complete loss of the crop, resulting in 1-2 years of no reforestation on DNR managed lands. A complete loss of the crop would also require a refund to all the private landowners that had already purchased 2 million seedlings. Not having seedlings make it impossible for DNR and private landowners to comply with state reforestation laws.

In addition to the backup power, the system will have an alarm sensor to alert staff when the temperature is close to going above or below critical limits.

Location
City: Tumwater
County: Thurston
Legislative District: 022

Project Type
Program (Minor Works)

Growth Management impacts
None

New Facility: No

Funding

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<th>2009-11 Fiscal Period</th>
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Future Fiscal Periods
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Operating Impacts
No Operating Impact

Narrative
The only project scheduled for the 09-11 biennium is the backup generator and cooler upgrades at an existing facility.