



OACD NEWS

November 2023



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**Now Available: OACDCarbon.Org
Carbon Sequestration and Soil Health
[Website](#) and [Guidebook](#)**





Hello Conservation Colleagues,

First, I want to say how great it was to meet so many of you at our Annual Conference! Nothing is as good as face-to-face interactions. We had 84 attendees over the 3 days, it was a great turnout, and I was very impressed by the level of engagement during the Q&A periods of each session. I learned a lot and I hope you all did as well. I am already working on next year, reading feedback and planning early so we can make next year even better!

There were a couple of takeaways from the conference that I want to share more broadly:

1 – We have made a change to the OACD Board Meetings. We have added a **“District Comments”** section – a time for any District that wants to give feedback or raise an issue to the Board. I will be putting the monthly meeting and link in the “Coming Events” section of the newsletter (and yes, it will be added to the website when I sit down to do an overhaul of the website – hopefully this winter).

2 – **District Manager Roundtables** – We will be holding topic-centered virtual roundtables quarterly and will set up a google-based resource library. Stay tuned for more information on that.

As you saw on the cover of the newsletter, OACD completed a carbon sequestration and soil health users' website and guidebook to provide information, tools, financial resources and demonstration projects that can be used by Soil and Water Conservation Districts and their landowners, in addition to others who work with natural climate solutions. There are 8 sections that go into detail and provide research materials and articles regarding practices and other material. Section 6 includes the information about the new legislation on natural climate solutions.

Before I turn you over to the rest of the newsletter – here's the reminder to **VOTE!** Ballots for the OACD Board are due to me by **November 30**. Each district can submit one ballot representing the district's choices. Director seats will be determined by the highest number of votes. We request that you send ballots back electronically, then confirmation of receipt of ballots will be provided. Ballots will be tallied and results available by **December 11**.

Andrea Kreiner, OACD Executive Director
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COMING EVENTS

OACD Board Meeting: November 30, 11am-1pm. Join [HERE](#).

Agency Meetings (all events are hybrid; see details at link to websites)

[Water Resources Commission](#) meets November 16-17, location TBD

[Agriculture Board](#) meets November 14-16 in Eugene

[Environmental Quality Commission](#) November 16-17, location TBD

[Fish & Wildlife Commission](#) December 14-15, in McMinnville

[OWEB Grants Committee](#) December 7, TBD

[OWEB Water & Climate Committee](#) December 13, TBD

[OWEB DEI Committee](#) December 5, TBD

NACD's 2024 Annual Meeting, hosted in partnership with the **California Association of Resource Conservation Districts**, will take place in San Diego, California, **February 10-14, 2024**. [Registration](#) is now open, and tour options will be added soon. **Save up to \$130 on registration with early-bird prices, now through December 22.**



After registering, don't forget to make your hotel reservations! The meeting will be held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. Discounted room rates in NACD's reserved block start at **\$259/night** plus tax. [Make a reservation online](#) or call 1-888-236-2427 and identify yourself as a guest with the National Association of Conservation Districts.

The last day to reserve available rooms in the room block is **January 19, 2024**. Find everything you need to know on [NACD's website](#)

Webinar on the **NEW Private Forest Accord Grants**– November 16

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is announcing a new funding opportunity that will benefit aquatic fish and wildlife throughout Oregon: Private Forest Accord Grant Program. This Grant Program results from a historic agreement between the timber and conservation groups, which has increased protections for stream and aquatic species' habitat while allowing forest management practices to continue on private lands. The PFA Grant Program plans to hold its first annual solicitation in November, closing on December 31st, **to award up to \$10 million in funding for projects that benefit the aquatic fish and wildlife species covered by the anticipated Oregon Department of Forestry Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP)**. Info at pfragrants.com.

Join the Oregon Conservation Partnership and ODFW on Thursday, November 16th at 2. We will spend the hour presenting the new Grant Program, discussing how to apply, and allow for plenty of time for questions or answers. Register [HERE](#).

Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice Affinity Group

Here are some holds for your calendars for the next few Oregon Conservation Partnership DEIJ Affinity Group meetings: Wednesdays, 11am-1pm: Nov 1st, Dec 6th, & Jan 10th. We had a great first meeting at the end of September with nearly 20 participants. Below we've included the purpose/description of the group.

If you would like to join the group, please [email us](#) to be added to our internal list and Google calendar invites with Zoom links. alexis@tryoncreek.org, jack@oswegowatersheds.org

The purpose of this group is to provide an opportunity for those of us who are working to advance justice & equity issues in the context of our organizations, to be in community with one another. The goal of this group is to work and learn together, and to share ideas, resources, and lessons learned. We welcome people whose organizations are in various stages of practicing equity work to better advance environmental justice with our communities (whether that's early DEIJ planning and learning, transforming organizational culture, or decolonization efforts).

Heat and Drought Resilience Training for Oregon Agriculture Professionals

[Train the Trainer - Workshop Wednesdays: November 1st, 8th, and 15th](#)

Virtual live sessions will be from 9:30-11:30am

- Tailored content for agricultural technical assistance providers in Oregon
- Updates from leading scientists on the impacts of drought & heat on agriculture in Oregon
- Recommended practices for adaptation and resilience
- Tools for communicating about climate resilience with producers
- Facilitated regional break out conversations
- Resources and funding opportunities

Brought to you by Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network and the 2023 Planning Team. [Register here!](#)

NACD Conservation Coffees

Save the date For NACD's conservation coffees:

Dec 14, 2023
Apr 11, 2024
Jun 13, 2024
Aug 8, 2024

For specific details of the sessions (or if you want to present) contact [Ariel Rivers](#), NACD Director of Membership Engagement, 202-547-6406

FUNDING RESOURCES

Weed Grants

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is now accepting applications for 2024 Oregon Noxious Weed Grants. There is \$3.25 million this biennium that will be awarded to noxious weed work, \$500,000 of those funds will be for ODA County Noxious Weed Grants.



Applications are due at 5 pm on Friday, December 15, 2023.

Grant Cycle for Approved Grants will be for work February 2024 thru April 30, 2025.

Applications must be submitted via OWEB's online grant application system. <https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/oa/>

More information on requirements and eligibility: [ODA Noxious Weed - OWEB Online Application Guidance](#)

Watershed Toxics Reduction Program & Action Plan - CTGR

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde is seeking proposals to develop a watershed toxics reduction program and action plan. The focus area is the Willamette River, which is located within the Columbia River Basin. The selected entity is desired to work under a Tribal contract during 2024 – 2028. Please see attached Request for Proposal, Exhibit A showing Tribal lands, and Exhibit B showing an example contract. **Proposals are due November 30, 2023 by 4:00 pm.** Submitted proposals may be invited to participate in a follow-up interview with the selection committee.

If you are an interested entity, please contact [Lindsay McClary](#): (503) 879-2387 or (989) 944-2999 with any questions.

USFWS Fish Passage Funding

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced the availability of up to \$36 million through President Biden's Investing in America agenda for fish passage projects that address outdated, unsafe or obsolete dams, culverts, levees and other barriers fragmenting our nation's rivers and streams. The National Fish Passage Program, will prioritize projects that will:

- Maximize benefits to priority species and habitats.
- Provide sustainable fish passage.
- Leverage regional or watershed priorities for habitat restoration, fish passage or aquatic connectivity.
- Enhance community resilience to climate change, address public safety hazards and provide other benefits such as job creation or recreational fishing opportunities.
- Support or engage with disadvantaged communities.
- Coordinate on species and watershed priorities with Tribes and states.
- Be supported by partners, affected stakeholders, and the local community.

Interested parties should submit a Letter of Interest to the appropriate National Fish Passage Program regional coordinator, via email, no later than **Nov. 17, 2023**. For additional information, here is the link to the funding opportunity <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppId=350554>

NRCS Oregon Announces Sign-Up Period for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oregon is accepting applications from agricultural producers and forest landowners for the [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program](#) (ACEP). The ACEP program helps producers enroll working lands and wetlands into conservation easements.

While NRCS accepts ACEP applications year-round, the deadline to be considered for the fiscal year 2024 funding cycle is **December 15, 2023**.

Drinking Water Provider Partnership Requesting Proposals for Restoration of Water Quality and Fish Habitat

[The Drinking Water Providers Partnership \(DWPP\)](#) is inviting project proposals for 2024 requesting up to \$150,000. The partnership includes USDA Forest Service, Geos Institute, Oregon DEQ, Washington Department of Health, U.S. EPA, U.S. BLM, WildEarth Guardians, and The Freshwater Trust. This watershed restoration funding opportunity is for water providers and watershed restoration practitioners in OR and WA. The goals of the DWPP are to:

- Restore and protect the health of watersheds and water quality which communities depend upon for drinking water
- Improve aquatic and riparian ecosystems, including the native fish that inhabit them
- Support local partnerships of drinking water providers, landowners and restoration experts that successfully implement restoration projects

Proposals are due by 5pm PT January 5, 2024. Download the RFP and application below.

[2024 Request for Proposals](#)

[Application for funding](#)

NRCS Expansion of Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Activities supported by the Inflation Reduction Act

NRCS is increasing [Climate-Smart Agricultural and Forestry Mitigation Activities](#) eligible for Inflation Reduction Act funding for fiscal year 2024 through the [Environmental Quality Incentives Program](#) (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). These in-demand activities are expected to deliver reductions in greenhouse gas emissions or increases in carbon sequestration as well as significant other benefits to natural resources like soil health, water quality, pollinator and wildlife habitat and air quality. In response to feedback received from conservation partners, producers and NRCS staff across the country, NRCS considered and evaluated activities based on scientific literature demonstrating expected climate change mitigation benefits. To learn more, download the [list of practices](#) and a [fact sheet](#).

NACD 2024 Friends of NACD District Grants

The Friends of NACD District Grants Program will award top ranking applicants up to \$2,500 each, to conduct new activities or test novel approaches to their operations. Past grantees have implemented projects that have helped to enhance their visibility within their communities, reach new clients and grow their partnerships. Learn more about Friends of NACD and the District Grants Program and apply on [NACD's website](#).

NOAA Funding Opportunities

There are several federal funding opportunities this fall for fish habitat work through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). While some of these opportunities are referred to as coastal grants, the definition of coastal areas eligible for project funding is quite broad and includes areas located along inland rivers and streams with a significant impact on coastal and ocean resources. Anadromous fish habitat work anywhere in the state may be eligible.

- *Restoring Tribal Priority Fish Passage through Barrier Removal Grants*
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/restoring-tribal-priority-fish-passage-through-barrier-removal-grants> **Application deadline:** November 8, 2023. Project funding range: \$300,000 to \$12 million.
- *Transformational Habitat Restoration and Coastal Resilience Grants | NOAA Fisheries.*
<https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/transformational-habitat-restoration-and-coastal-resilience-grants> **Application deadline:** November 17, 2023. Project funding range: \$1 million to \$25 million
- *Coastal Habitat Restoration and Resilience Grants for Tribes and Underserved Communities* <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/coastal-habitat-restoration-and-resilience-grants-tribes-and-underserved-communities> **Application deadline:** December 19, 2023. Project funding range: \$75,000 to \$3 million.

NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES

Draft IWRS for Public Review in December

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) is leading an effort to update the 2017 Integrated Water Resources Strategy. The first draft was anticipated to be released for public review and comment in October. The timeline has been shifted to allow for more input by the Water Resources Commission at the next commission meeting in November.

OWRD anticipates releasing a draft for public review and comment in December. For more information and updates about this process, please [visit the IWRS page](#) on our website.



Sherman Soil & Water Conservation District – Watershed Technician. Send cover letter, resume and employment application to Sherman County SWCD, PO Box 405, Moro, Oregon 97039, or email amanda.whitman@or.nacdn.net. For more information call (541) 705-5070. Position open until filled. Full job description and application instructions can be found at www.shermancountyswcd.com.

Middle Fork Willamette Watershed Council – Operations Manager. Application Deadline is November 17. Please submit a cover letter and resume in pdf format to Executive Director Dov Weinman at dov@middleforkwillamette.org. All emails and application materials should have “Operations Manager-applicant last name” in the subject line.



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