



OACD Mini-NEWS

December 2023

Hello Conservation Colleagues,

Since I will be travelling, I am sending this “mini-news” so I can get information out on funding/events/jobs coming up in December. There’s a lot coming up – especially on the funding front, so even this mini-news is 4 pages long!

Our full newsletters will be back to kick off 2024!

However you celebrate the holidays over the next month, I wish you health and happiness.

Andrea Kreiner, OACD Executive Director

COMING EVENTS

OACD Board Meeting: November 30, 11am-1pm. Join [HERE](#).
OACD Board Meeting: December 29, 10am-Noon. Join [HERE](#).

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

[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

[Oregon Global Warming Commission](#), December 11, Virtual

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](#)

FUNDING RESOURCES

Private Forest Accord Grants

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 on how to apply at <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/habitat/PFA/apply.html>.

Farmer & Rancher Resilience Grants

The Oregon Community Food Systems Network's (OCFSN) Farmer & Rancher Disaster Resilience Grant Program is accepting applications January 1st, 2024. This \$2.65 million State funded two year grant program's purpose is to grant funds directly to Oregon's small farmers and ranchers to improve their on-farm climate disaster resilience.

This grant program builds on the successful 2022 OCFSN Farmer and Rancher Disaster Relief Program. With guidance from farmers, farmer supporting organizations and OSU extension experts, this program will quickly and fairly distribute these funds to small farmers and ranchers across the state to build more on-farm resilience.

Grant guidelines and request for proposals will be available starting mid-December at <https://ocfsn.org/disaster-resilience-grant>

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](#)

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**.

Water Project Grants & Loans, Irrigation Modernization Projects – OWRD

Grant Application Deadline – Wednesday, January 17, 2024, by 5:00 p.m.

[Water Project Grants and Loans](#) provides grants for projects to evaluate, plan, and develop instream and out-of-stream water supply projects. This funding opportunity will invest in projects that meet water supply needs and result in public [economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefits](#). Projects require a 25% cost match.

- **Eligible Projects:** Water conservation, reuse, above-ground storage, below-ground storage, streamflow protection or restoration, water distribution, conveyance or delivery systems, and other water resource development projects that result in economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefits.
- **Anticipated Funding Available:** \$5 million

New this year, [Irrigation Modernization projects](#) that improve water use efficiency of irrigation systems on currently irrigated agricultural lands. To apply, the project must leverage federal funds associated with NRCS's authorized watershed plans, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART grants or U.S. EPA's grants that are eligible to be on the DEQ's Intended Use Plan. This funding opportunity will invest in projects that meet water supply needs and result in public [economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefits](#).

- **Eligible Projects:** Eligible activities include, but are not limited to: piping irrigation canals, ditches or laterals; lining irrigation canals, ditches or laterals; installing sprinkler or microirrigation systems; upgrading existing infrastructure, such as flumes or pipes; installing or upgrading pump stations, including variable speed pumps; installing measuring devices or soil moisture monitoring; installing Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) systems; purchasing irrigation scheduling software; and upgrading turnouts.
- **Anticipated Funding Available:** \$25 million

Informational Webinars:

Grant Information Session 1: Monday, December 4, 2023, 2-3:30 p.m.

Registration Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZ0lc-2ppjwrE9CD2nvP6uul14He-A80dhNr>

Grant Information Session 2: Thursday, December 7, 2023, 9-10:30 a.m.

Registration Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZMsdeisrj0jEtLE2KXkiLNIP2PkV14YE25R>

Pre-Application Conference: OWRD encourages all applicants to request a Pre-Application Conference before applying. Staff will review your draft application and provide feedback. You must submit your draft application two weeks before the pre-application conference. Pre-application conferences will not be scheduled the week of the application due date. To learn more, see the [pre-application conference form](#).

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

[The DWPP](#) is inviting project proposals for 2024 requesting up to \$150,000. The partnership includes USDA FS, Geos Institute, 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](#)

JOBS

Curry Soil & Water Conservation District – Monitoring Program Coordinator. Find the job announcement at <https://www.currywatersheds.org/about-us/employment-and-contracting/>

Union Soil & Water Conservation District – District Conservationist. For more information and a copy of the job application, District Manager Jim Webster at jwebster@unionswcd.org.

Council of Oregon Land Trusts – Oregon Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) Program Coordinator. *Portland, OR, with time shared between the NRCS office and the COLT office* Find the job announcement at <https://oregonlandtrusts.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/NRCS-Liaison-Position-COLT-2023.docx.pdf>

McKenzie Watershed Alliance - Pure Water Partners Program Coordinator. The job can be found at: <https://www.mckenziawc.org/jobs/>

Southern Oregon Climate Action Now (SOCAN) – Executive Director. The job description is available at <https://socan.eco/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/First-ED-Job-Description.pdf>.



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