



# OACD NEWS

## April 2025



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### OACD Annual Conference - SAVE THE DATE

**October 21-23**

Pendleton, OR

### Associate Membership/Dues Options

**Emeritus Membership** – for directors and staff who have retired from their positions but want to remain involved with OACD. This would entitle them to apply for scholarships for the OACD Annual Conference.

\$75/year

**Supporter Membership** – for non-SWCD organizations and businesses. This would entitle them to reduced fees for exhibiting at the OACD Annual Conference.

\$500/year

Contact Andrea Kreiner at [andrea.kreiner@oacd.org](mailto:andrea.kreiner@oacd.org) for more information



Hello Conservation  
Friends,

It's April and the busy season for SWCDs is beginning. It's a season filled with new life and new endeavors.

Here are OACD we have been busy with the Legislative Session (more on that in a moment) and I have been trying to attend (in person or virtually) as many District Board meetings as I can. I made it to 6 in March. I hope to get to at least another 4 in April. If your District has a meeting or event that you would like me to attend, let me know, I will try my best.

This has been an historic Legislative Session with over 3,000 bills introduced. There have been an incredible number of bills with potential impacts on SWCDs; we have been tracking 134 bills, needing to actively engage or testify on about ¼ of those. Some are bills that would provide project funding or support state services that support our work, we like those! But many, too many, were land use bills aimed at eroding protections for farm and forest land. In fact, as I type this, OACD President, Jan Lee, is testifying against one such bill. As we hear over and over from legislators, it is a difficult budget year, so we are fighting for each bit of the budget we can, including both statewide and regional issues. We all owe great appreciation to our Advocacy Committee; they are doing yeoman's work keeping on top of the legislative workings, supplying expertise evaluating legislation, and providing testimony on our behalf. Check out [OACD.org](http://OACD.org) to see the testimony OACD has submitted. If you are interested in accessing our legislative tracker, just send me an email.

Lastly, we have been actively engaging with our State NRCS, the National Association of Conservation Districts, ODA, OWEB, and other state associations like OACD, as we all figure our way through the changing federal funding landscape. I have been keeping the District Managers informed as new information arises.

I look forward to spending time with SWCD staff at CONNECT!  
Best,

A handwritten signature in green ink, consisting of a large, stylized capital letter 'A' followed by a long, horizontal, wavy line that tapers off to the right.

Andrea Kreiner, OACD Executive Director  
[Andrea.Kreiner@OACD.org](mailto:Andrea.Kreiner@OACD.org), 971-988-9929



## COMING EVENTS

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

[Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission](#) – April 17-18, Winchester Bay

[OWEB Board](#) – April 22-23, Independence

### OACD Board Meeting

District participation and comments are encouraged.

**April 22, 9am-11am.** Zoom link [HERE.](#)

**NE OR RANGELAND SUMMIT**  
*Managing Working Lands in 2025:  
 Learning from the past, leaning into the future*

**April 3rd, 2025 | 10 am - 5 pm**  
 Eastern Oregon University - Hoke 339

*Featuring keynote speaker Tip Hudson,  
 host of Art of Range podcast*

Mark your calendars for the inaugural Northeast Oregon Rangelands Summit presented by Wallowa Resources, Oregon State University, and Western Landowners Alliance.

This year's summit will feature insightful discussions on critical topics including:

- Invasive Annual Grasses
- Wildfire Response & Impact
- Grazing Flexibility

Don't miss this unique opportunity to connect with fellow producers and practitioners from across the region and beyond.

[Click here to learn more and register](#)

## CONNECT 2025 | April 8-10

**Florence Event Center - Florence, Oregon**

[CONNECT is more than a conference](#); it's a platform for change-makers in conservation. We bring together local, state, and federal decision-makers, professionals from Conservation Districts, and other support organizations dedicated to preserving our state's natural resources.

View the agenda and register at <https://www.connectoregon.net>

# FUNDING RESOURCES

## OCRF Spring 2025 grant cycle is open and accepting project proposals.



Applications will be accepted until **May 9th, 2025**. You have plenty of time, so don't miss out on this incredible opportunity to make a lasting impact on Oregon's environment and communities.

### The OCRF prioritizes projects that:

- **Align with the Oregon Conservation Strategy**, safeguarding our diverse fish and wildlife before threats become critical.
- **Promote outdoor equity**, ensuring everyone has access to the health benefits and joy of nature.
- **Address the impacts of drought**, protecting vital habitats and ensuring resilient wildlife populations.
- **Create new recreational opportunities**, connecting people with the outdoors and fostering appreciation for our natural world.

We offer grants for a range of projects. **Visit our website for application materials and detailed information:** <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/index.html>

## OWEB is now accepting applications for the Summer 2025 Open Solicitation

OWEB is now accepting online applications for the Summer 2025 Open Solicitation Grant Offering for the following grant types:

- [Restoration](#) (25% match is required)
- [Technical Assistance](#) (NEW: 5% match is required)
- [Engagement](#) (NEW: 5% match is required)
- [Monitoring](#) (NEW: 5% match is required)

**Match Requirements** - Recognizing that matching funds are more difficult to obtain for Technical Assistance, Engagement, and Monitoring projects, and that match is sometimes a barrier to participation in OWEB grants, the match requirement for these grant types has been reduced to 5%. The 25% match requirement for Restoration projects remains in place.

**Available Funding** - OWEB anticipates making a combined total of over \$18.6 million for Restoration, Technical Assistance, Engagement, and Monitoring available through this solicitation. In order to pace grant awards within the spending plan across the three grant cycles that will occur in the next biennium, OWEB anticipates having the following statewide approximate spending targets for the Summer 2025 offering: \$13 million for Restoration, \$2.5 million for Technical Assistance, \$0.6 million for Engagement, and \$2.5 million for Monitoring.

**Grant applications are due by 5 pm on August 4, 2025**, and must be submitted via OWEB's online grant application. The OWEB Board plans to make grant awards at the January 2026 meeting.

Please click on the links to the grant type of interest (above) for application requirements and login information. If you already have an Online Application login, you may [access the application directly](#).

These grants support voluntary efforts by Oregonians to protect and restore healthy watersheds—including actions supporting the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and the Oregon Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

Funding is from Oregon Lottery revenue, federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and revenue from the sale of [Salmon License Plates](#).

**Questions** - For questions about applying for a Restoration, Technical Assistance, or Engagement OWEB grant, please [contact the Regional Program Representative](#) for your region. For questions about applying for a Monitoring OWEB grant, please contact [Ken Fetcho](#), OWEB's Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator. If you are new to OWEB and our grant program, please visit [OWEB's website](#).

## DEQ 319 NONPOINT GRANTS CYCLE IS OPEN THROUGH MAY 7, 2025

DEQ is offering its 2025 RFP for 319 nonpoint grants. Please see all documents associated with this offering on [our RFP for 319 nonpoint grants web page](#), including the RFP, application and a sample agreement from 2024.

The agreement for 2025 will include language and provisions related to federal funding. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency funds this grant program. DEQ has not received notice that funding for the 319 program will be significantly reduced or eliminated. However, please be advised that if EPA withdraws or reduces its funding for this program, it may impact DEQ's ability to issue new grant awards or reimburse expenses on executed grant agreements.

To apply for these funds, please submit Exhibit B (application) no later than **May 7, 2025**. All submissions will be reviewed and scored before the selection of projects.

**Contact:** Megan Hendrickson, Community and Program Assistance, Program Analyst at: [wqgrants.info@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:wqgrants.info@deq.oregon.gov)  
phone: 503.539.3295

## Funding Recommendations for OWEB's Fall 2024 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

At its [April 22-23 board meeting](#), OWEB will consider awarding over \$13 million in restoration, technical assistance, and engagement grants in response to the Fall 2024 Open Solicitation Grant Offering. OWEB received a total of 124 grant applications from across the state seeking over \$28 million in funding for restoration, technical assistance, and engagement projects. Regional Review Teams (RRTs) evaluated all submitted applications and provided funding recommendations to OWEB staff, who then provide funding recommendations to the OWEB Board.

RRTs spent many hours evaluating the applications, including document review, site visits, and technical review meetings. OWEB staff considered RRT recommendations and funding availability to develop recommendations for the board to fund:

- 36 Restoration applications totaling over \$10 million,
- 18 Technical Assistance applications totaling over \$2.5 million, and
- 5 Engagement applications totaling over \$0.5 million.

Instructions to access application evaluations for projects recommended for funding are included at the end of this message.

### Public Comment

The public is welcome to provide written or verbal comments to OWEB in response to the funding recommendations.

All written comments and requests to make verbal comments at the April 22-23 board meeting should be submitted through the [Public Comment Form](#) on our website. The deadline to submit written comments and requests to make verbal comments is **5 pm, Thursday, April 17, 2025**.

Verbal comments are limited to three (3) minutes and will be heard in the public comment periods for their agenda items. If physical, auditory, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please contact [Nicole Bettinardi](#) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours before the meeting.

### To Access Application Evaluations:

1. Go to OWEB's Online Grant Management System ([OGMS](#)). Use your OGMS login if you have one or use Log-In ID: *grantee* and Password: *oweb*
2. Under the OGMS Menu, choose "Current Application Evaluations and Recommendations."
3. Click to select the region of Oregon where the project is located.
4. Click the "Evaluation" link to the right of the project name to view the evaluation.

### Contact Regarding Review and Recommendations

For questions about accessing evaluations or the RRT review of an application, contact your [Regional Program Representative](#).

Please email questions about staff funding recommendations to [Eric Williams](#), *Restoration Grant Manager*, or phone him at 971-345-7014.

# NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES

## Status of NRCS Programs

A power point of NRCS Program Status is attached to the end of this newsletter.



## Stewardship Week 2025 - "Home is Where the Habitat Is," April 27 – May 4

is fast approaching! This year's theme focuses on protecting and restoring native and managed habitats across the U.S. and its territories. This celebration kicks off our full year of providing natural resource outreach to the youth and adults in our communities.

The NACD Stewardship and Education program offers [free downloadable resources](#) for 2025, including fun placemat activity sheets, student journals, lesson plan guides, and outreach kits to help districts engage schools and communities in conservation. These resources are ink-friendly for easy in-house printing and can also be ordered at low-cost printed options.

NACD provides promotional materials, such as posters, rack cards, bookmarks, and stickers, all available as free downloads or affordable printed options. On the [Stewardship webpage](#), you will find a Media Toolbox, which includes a press release, radio and TV PSA, and a proclamation template.

Make sure your district has everything they need for a successful Stewardship Week [here](#), or reach out to NACD's education team at [stewardship@nacdnet.org](mailto:stewardship@nacdnet.org) with any questions.

## NACD REPORT

From Terri Preeg Riggsby, Oregon delegate:

NACD has been busy lately advocating for Districts in Washington, DC. They have been sending weekly updates on the work they're doing and who they've been able to meet with to discuss the impacts of federal executive orders and employment decisions on our ranchers, farmers, and on all working and natural lands throughout the country. They recently shared some good news: "On March 18, Secretary Rollins announced that USDA will be issuing up to \$10 billion directly to agricultural producers through the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program (ECAP) for the 2024 crop year. Administered by USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), ECAP will help agricultural producers mitigate the impacts of increased input costs and falling commodity prices". We hope that these types of decisions and financial investments will help mitigate some of the challenges that our producers are concerned about.

NACD has also finalized their Committee appointments. Oregon has been assigned to the Legislative Committee, with a strategic charge for influential representation with legislators, agencies, and communities to prioritize responsible conservation & resource management as a result of NACD's efforts. Terri Preeg Riggsby will represent Oregon on this Committee, with Jan Lee as an alternate. Please reach out to both or either of us with any questions about this work and if you would like to be involved.

Finally, NACD has several Subcommittees, and **any District board or staff member from any state or territory is invited to join these Subcommittees:**

- Water and Climate Subcommittee
- Invasive Species Subcommittee
- Invasive Species Subcommittee
- Public Lands Subcommittee
- Leadership Development Subcommittee
- Outreach Subcommittee

We urge staff and board members from our Oregon districts to engage with these subcommittees; it is an excellent way for us to ensure that our needs and concerns are shared and to learn from others about what's working in their corner of the country. Terri Preeg Riggsby serves on the Leadership Development Subcommittee to help NACD, and Oregon, build the bench for future leaders at the local, state, and national level. Jan Lee serves on the Water and Climate Subcommittee, bringing her life-long passion and experience with water issues in the west to the national conversation.

Questions about NACD, Committees, or Subcommittees? Please contact me at [tpriggsby@yahoo.com](mailto:tpriggsby@yahoo.com) or 971-404-4909.



Oregon Association of  
Conservation Districts

**Oregon Association of Conservation Districts**  
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**[www.oacd.org](http://www.oacd.org)**

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Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# Status of NRCS Programs As of 3/21/25



FARM PRODUCTION AND CONSERVATION  
FSA | NRCS | RMA | Business Center



## Status of NRCS Programs:

- USDA has a solemn responsibility to be good stewards of the American people's hard-earned taxpayer dollars and to ensure that every dollar spent goes to serve the people, not the bureaucracy.
- As part of this effort, Secretary Rollins is carefully reviewing funding, including for programs that support urban and rural agriculture, and will provide updates as soon as they are made available.
- Secretary Rollins fully supports the President's directive to improve government, eliminate inefficiencies, and strengthen USDA's many services to the American people. Secretary Rollins is committed to preserving essential safety positions and will ensure that critical services remain uninterrupted.



## Status of NRCS Programs (continued):

|                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|                                                                                                                                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
| Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), and Agricultural Conservation Easement Program ACEP) | <p>Direct payments to farmers are continuing unimpeded at this time. This includes Farm Bill-funded contracts as well as Inflation Reduction Act-funded contracts that were obligated prior to Jan. 20.</p> <p>All other contracting and agreement activities are under review.</p> |
| Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) and Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)                                                     | <p>Payments for work completed prior to Feb. 25, 2025, have been approved for payment. All new obligations, including supplemental agreements (SA), Programmatic Partnership Agreements and (PPA), and future Notice of Funding Opportunities (NFOs), are still under review.</p>   |
| Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities (PCSC)                                                                                             | <p>PCSC activities are under review.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Infrastructure and Investment Jobs Act (IIJA)                                                                                                 | <p>IIJA funds are under review. If asked to enter into any new Emergency Watershed Protection Program (EWP) projects via contract or asked for a modification with non-IIJA funds will require a waiver approved by the OCFO.</p>                                                   |
| Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP)                                                                                 | <p>Activities related to general Farm Bill funding with direct payments to farmers are continuing unimpeded at this time. All other contracting and agreement activities, including future NFOs, are under review.</p>                                                              |

## Status of NRCS Programs: Farm Bill Programs (Part 1)

| Program  | Funding Source | New Obligations                |                       | Payments on Existing Obligations |                    | As of 3/21/2025                                            |
|----------|----------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
|          |                | Partner Contracts & Agreements | Producer FA Contracts | Partner Contracts & Agreements   | Producer (FA)      |                                                            |
| EQIP     | Farm Bill      | Under Review                   | OK                    | OK                               | OK                 | (1) Hold includes Tribal AFAs.                             |
|          | IRA            | Under Review                   | Under Review          | Paused                           | OK                 | * All activities completed prior to 2/25/2025 may be paid. |
| EQIP-CIG | Farm Bill      | Under Review                   | Under Review          | OK                               | OK                 |                                                            |
|          | IRA            | Under Review                   | Under Review          | OK up to 2/25/2025               | OK up to 2/25/2025 |                                                            |
| CSP      | Farm Bill      | Under Review                   | OK                    | OK                               | OK                 |                                                            |
|          | IRA            | Under Review                   | Under Review          | Paused                           | OK                 |                                                            |
| ACEP     | Farm Bill      | See Ancillary table            | OK                    | OK                               | OK                 |                                                            |
|          | IRA            | Under Review                   | Under Review          | Paused                           | OK                 |                                                            |

## Status of NRCS Programs: Farm Bill Programs (Part 2)

| Program | Funding Source       | New Obligations                |                       | Payments on Existing Obligations |                    | As of 3/21/2025                                                                                           |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         |                      | Partner Contracts & Agreements | Producer FA Contracts | Partner Contracts & Agreements   | Producer (FA)      |                                                                                                           |
| RCPP    | Farm Bill Classic    | Under Review                   | OK                    | OK                               | OK                 | (2) The hold includes supplemental agreements.                                                            |
|         | Farm Bill AFA        | Under Review                   | N/A                   | OK                               | OK                 |                                                                                                           |
|         | IRA                  | Under Review                   | Under Review          | OK up to 2/25/2025               | OK up to 2/25/2025 | * All activities completed prior to 2/25/2025 may be paid. (2) The hold includes supplemental agreements. |
|         | IRA AFA              | Under Review                   | N/A                   | OK up to 2/25/2025               | OK up to 2/25/2025 | * All activities completed prior to 2/25/2025 may be paid.                                                |
| CTA     | Annual Appropriation | Under Review                   | N/A                   | OK                               | N/A                |                                                                                                           |
|         | IRA                  | Under Review                   | N/A                   | Paused                           | N/A                |                                                                                                           |
| PCSC    | CCC                  | Under Review                   | N/A                   | Paused                           | Paused             | Awaiting additional guidance. For further questions contact Katina Hanson or her staff.                   |

## Status of NRCS Programs: Watershed Programs

| Program Fund | New Obligations, Amendments | Payments | Non-Cost Extension |
|--------------|-----------------------------|----------|--------------------|
| EWPP – IJAE  | NO                          | NO       | NO                 |
| EWPP – EFCA  | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| EWPP – EG08  | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| EWPP – EK05  | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| EWPP – EKSP  | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| EWPP – ES13  | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| EWPP – EWMP  | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| WFPO – IJAW  | NO                          | NO       | NO                 |
| WFPO – FPOP  | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| WFPO – RWOP  | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| WFPO – WPFP  | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| WFPO – WSOP  | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| REHAB – IJAR | NO                          | NO       | NO                 |
| REHAB – WSRP | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| REHAB – SWRP | YES                         | YES      | YES                |
| REHAB – WPFP | YES                         | YES      | YES                |

As of 3/21/2025. All CDS are cleared to proceed per guidance provided on 2/28/2025.

# Status of NRCS Programs: ACEP Ancillary

|      |                  | Unobligated easement application services for preliminary title, appraisals, appraisal technical review and environmental records searches |                        |                               | Existing ACEP obligations services for boundary surveys, final title opinions and closing services; and restoration services |              |                        |         |                                                                   |              |                                |
|------|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|---------|-------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
|      |                  | Ancillary ACEP FA services needed for due diligence and post closing restoration                                                           | Contracted through IAS | Use of a GPC                  | New contracts through IAS                                                                                                    | Use of a GPC | Payments on IAS or GPC | New G&A | G&A No cost extensions                                            | G&A Payments | Conservation Program Contracts |
| ACEP | IRA Funded       | Under Review                                                                                                                               | Under Review           | Ok (for existing enrollments) | OK                                                                                                                           | OK           | Under Review           | OK      | Paused unless NRCS staff assures that it is in alignment with EOs | OK           |                                |
|      | Farm Bill Funded | OK                                                                                                                                         | OK                     | OK                            | OK                                                                                                                           | OK           | Under Review           | OK      | Paused unless NRCS staff assures that it is in alignment with EOs | OK           |                                |

Status as of 3/21/2025

# Status of NRCS Programs: Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production

## OUAIP Directed Farm Bill Programs

| Program Fund | New Obligations/NOFO | Modifications | Non-Cost Extension | Payment |
|--------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------|---------|
| CFWR         | NO                   | YES           | YES                | YES     |
| UAIP         | NO                   | YES           | YES                | YES     |

Status as of 3/21/2025