



# OACD NEWS

March 2022

Spring Edition



## Legislative Short Session Ends.....

The Oregon Legislature completed its 35 day or less short session and agencies are now preparing their budget requests and programs to meet deadlines for the long session starting in 2023.

### ***Wins:***

The OAHP program has finally been funded. HB 5202 funds the ***Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program*** with \$5 million to match federal funding for conservation easements and other conservation related programs. The program, enacted in 2017, has never been funded even though a coalition has continued to lobby annually. [Learn more about the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.](#) The funding provides one staff position at OWEB for the program as well.

Kudos go to the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) who led the effort and funded lobbying services. A number of associations, including OACD and the Farm Bureau, attended meetings with legislators in support. The funding is from general fund dollars and

### LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS

Page 1, Page 18

### PRESIDENT'S LETTER

PAGE 3

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Page 4

### FUNDING RESOURCES

Page 7

### JOBS & H.R.

Page 12

### AGENCY NEWS

Page 13

### OWEB RULES

### CLIMATE IN GRANTS

Page 14

### ARTICLES/PUBLICATIONS

Page 18

### OREGON CONSERVATION

### PARTNERSHIP

Page 20

must be spent or obligated within this biennium. Projects from a backlog list of over \$50 million pending projects will be considered for funding. Some of the funding will result in a match for the USDA **Conservation Easement Program (ACEP)** program.

The funding bill also provides funding for other ***OWEB programs***:

- Administrative costs for the management of drought programs
- A sum of \$5,203,788 for a program to distribute grants for natural resource recovery actions in areas affected by 2021 fires
- Grants for voluntary water acquisitions up to \$10 million.

***Losses:***

**SB 1534** was intended to develop a voluntary state carbon sequestration program on natural and working lands. Over a period of almost two years a number of associations and over 400 individuals provided information to the Oregon Global Warming Commission that resulted in a **proposal** published in September or 2021. OACD was active in the process and worked during the session to support the bill, taking part in a coalition of sponsors.

Several district members (Thanks for your support!) provided written testimony and OACD's executive director **testified** before the committee with other supporters. The coalition supporting SB 1534 developed a **flyer** outlining the concepts in the bill with signatures from 31 associations and ranchers and forestland owners. In addition there was a **sign on letter from 27 ranchers and farmers in support** and another letter from **forestland interests**. There was also strong verbal testimony before the Senate Natural Resources and Wildfire Recovery Committee, but the Senate President did not bring the bill to the floor.

The bill was opposed by the Oregon Farm Bureau and the Oregon Forest Industries Council. OFB voiced two concerns: they did not take part in developing the bill and having an inventory developed could lead to mandatory versus voluntary participation in the program. There were certainly roles for public participation throughout the process of developing the report from which recommendations to the legislature were derived, and the the language of the bill clearly stated it was voluntary.

While passing a bill in the short legislative session is always a challenge there were larger political issues at play and some interplay between the parties over the farmworkers' overtime bill. At one point there was a potential issue with another walkout over the OT bill. However, in the end the OT bill **HB 4002** did move forward in the process. (See more on the session on page 18). Carbon sequestration and storage on natural and working lands will ensure Oregon's resources remain abundant and resilient while maintaining our important agricultural economy. We are committed to advancing this work and will bring it back in the long session.



## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Conservation Colleagues and Happy March!

Last month the National Association of Conservation Districts (“NACD”) hosted its Annual Meeting, live this year, and I attended as the state of Oregon representative. Oregon is a member of the NACD Pacific Region, which includes Alaska, American Samoa, California, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Hawaii, Idaho, Palau, and Washington. At the meeting, Oregon was elected as the 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-Chair of the Pacific Region committee. It’s exciting to work with our colleagues from such a geographically and culturally diverse area and I invite any of you that are interested in learning more to either email or call me, or attend one of our monthly meetings which are open to folks from any of the states or territories – just let me know and I’ll send the meeting information to call or Zoom in.



During the annual meeting, NACD signed a memorandum of understanding with the [Sand County Foundation](#). This agreement solidifies NACD’s commitment to collaborate on conservation projects and community outreach, including the Sand County Foundation’s [Leopold Conservation Award](#) program and [Land Ethic Mentorship](#) for historically underserved farmers and ranchers. NACD President Michael Crowder said: “Elevating and recognizing exceptional land stewards is a key step in advancing our conservation goals...Through strategic partnerships like these, we can better advance the conservation delivery system and help to inspire new generations to take care of the land.”

The Sand County Foundation’s programs are not currently available in Oregon; however I began a conversation with them to identify a pathway forward to include Oregon in the future. If you are interested in helping to bring the Leopold Conservation Award program or the Land Ethic Mentorship program to Oregon, please let me know and let’s get working!

In service of our Oregon conservation districts,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "TPRiggsby".

Terri Preeg Riggsby, OACD President  
[tpriggsby@yahoo.com](mailto:tpriggsby@yahoo.com), 971-404-4909

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## OACD

### **March 29 ODA Application Partnership for Districts - Webinar 10:00-11:30**

District managers and staff are invited to a webinar presented by ODA soil health staff on potential work to be done in the area of soil health and carbon sequestration projects with landowners, incorporating services from SWCDs. The link was sent to staff; if you did not receive it contact me at [jan.lee@oacd.org](mailto:jan.lee@oacd.org). OACD has been asked to partner with ODA on a grant application for developing soil health projects with district landowners using practices that build healthy soils and may provide for carbon sequestration. Small grants would be made available to producers for practices. Districts could be reimbursed for monitoring, for using COMET-planner to assist in testing, and providing other technical services. Mike Badzmierowski, who is the soil scientist at ODA, will describe what is envisioned. There is a pretty fast turn around on this opportunity. If your district has an interest, please attend the webinar and learn more. Jan

### **March 29 Water Rights Workshop Webinar 1:00-2:30**

Dwight French, from the Water Rights Division of the Oregon Water Resources Department, will share information on what we are calling "Water Rights 102". This will not be about the standard permitting process, but about newer water right procedures such as leasing, the conservation statute, certain kinds of transfers, limited licenses and some solutions in working under drought conditions and providing flexibility. Please join for an opportunity to catch up on these procedures to share with landowners in the districts. There will be time for questions and discussion. If you intend to take part in the discussion of the position statements relative to water, this is a must session backgrounder. Other WRD staff will join with Dwight in responding to questions. Non-district members may also participate. The department shares this helpful booklet on water right information <https://www.oregon.gov/owrd/WRDPublications1/aquabook.pdf>. To attend:

**Link:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81689537439> **Phone:** One tap mobile: +12532158782,,81689537439#

### **March 30 OACD Position Statements Review Webinar 1:00-4:00**

The OACD Advocacy Committee is leading an update of the position statements for the organization. These statements serve as a reference for OACD actions in legislative and rulemaking matters. The existing position statement can be found on the members' only portal of the OACD website. If you did not sign into the portal earlier, contact [staff@oacd.org](mailto:staff@oacd.org) for access information. During the webinar, participants will be asked to provide input on selected position statement which are likely in need of updating, including the following:

- Conservation Education

- Funding for Natural Resource Agencies (new)
- Water Rights (attend the forum the previous day)
- Oregon Water Future (new)
- Soil Health & Regenerative Agriculture (new – includes carbon sequestration)
- Fuels Reduction, Wildland Urban Interface and Defensible Space (mostly new)
- Climate Change
- Siting Solar Facilities (new)

The OACD Board is preparing a DEI policy and the current position statement on DEI will be updated when that work is completed. The meeting will be structured with a 1-hour block, short break, and another 1-hour block. Any remaining time can be used “if needed.” All district members are welcome – district board members, managers and other district staff members. A link will be sent to all district personnel March 24.

### October 31 & November 1-2, 2022 Annual Conference at the Beach



Hold the dates for the OACD Annual Conference at the coast—Agate Beach Inn at Newport. The SWCC will be joining us at that the location. We are developing a workshop for October 31<sup>st</sup> on carbon sequestration.

This conference is not just for managers and board members, but has sessions of value to the districts’ employees as well, such as the workshop on sequestration.

## AGENCY EVENTS 2022

**OWEB** Board meets March 26-27 - virtual

**ODFW** Conservation & Recreation Committee – March 30 – virtual  
Commission meets April 22<sup>nd</sup> in Astoria live

**ODA** Board meets May 3-5

**SWCC** Commission meets May 18, likely live in Salem

**Water Resources** Commission next meets June 16-17, perhaps live in Salem

*Check agency pages for updates and agendas.*

## OTHER EVENTS

**CONNECT PLUS** September 6-8, Seaside Convention Center

**What’s Connect Plus?** This means that staff, board, and members of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD), The Network of Watershed Councils (NOWC), and the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) will join OCEAN and share efforts and knowledge to be directly involved in the planning and implementation of this training event. More information:

[ConnectOregon.net](https://connectoregon.net)

Note that there are spots on the **CONNECT** planning committee for interested districts, councils and land trusts: Go to [ConnectOregon.net](https://connectoregon.net) to join.

## 2022 AGRICULTURAL BIODIVERSITY ON WESTERN FARMS

Registration is required for this event on May 24 and 25: <http://beav.es/44x> or call 541-829-3337. The seminar will discuss farmer preferred habitats and practices, best methods & plants for practices, beneficial insects associated with biodiversity and their impacts in Western cropping systems.

The event is sponsored by the Oregon State University Oregon IPM Center and the following SWCDs: Clackamas, Tualatin, East Multnomah, Marian, Benton and West Multnomah; and by NCAT (the National Center for Appropriate Technology). Farms and orchards in the state, as well as the nursery of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, will be featured.

## REMOTE ACCESS TO DISTRICT MEETINGS

Thursday, April 7 11:00-11:30

Passed during the 2021 Legislative Session, HB2560 requires that all Oregon public entities, including special districts, make all meetings accessible remotely and provide opportunity for members of the general public to remotely submit oral and written testimony, to the extent reasonably possible. What does this mean for your district? How can you comply with these new requirements?

Grab your favorite lunch and join Tonya Grass, SDAO's Legal and Technical Support Administrator, and Mac Clemmens and Maria Lara of Streamline as they discuss the details of HB2560. Register at the SDAO website [www.sdao.com](http://www.sdao.com) for this virtual meeting.

## OACD CARBON SEQUESTRATION HUB

OACD is developing a "hub" which will offer materials related to carbon sequestration and healthy soils work. The hub should be open later this summer and will continue to be built upon over time. It will be a public website available to all, linked from the OACD website.

We envision 10 areas that will be the focus of the work, providing information, research and articles on the topics. We will also be incorporating two demonstration projects and focus on any other projects underway in Oregon.

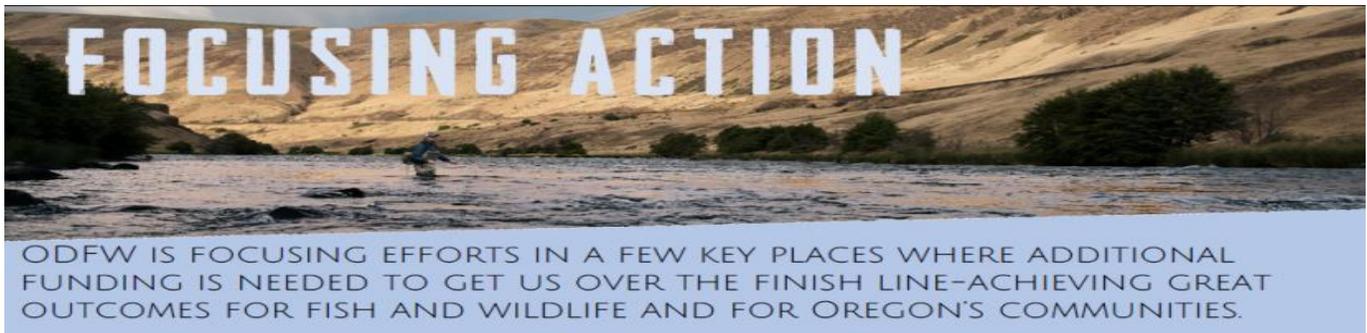
- 1) Defining Healthy Soils
- 2) Practices and Equipment
- 3) Financial Resources
- 4) Carbon Sequestration Ecosystems (agriculture, forestry, blue carbon)
- 5) The U.S. Carbon Marketplace
- 6) Other Carbon Markets and Concepts
- 7) Regional Policies and Programs & Other States' Programs
- 8) Training Resources
- 9) Oregon Projects & Model Demonstrations
  - Existing Oregon projects
  - New demonstration projects

There will be webinars and field workshops added.



## FUNDING RESOURCES

**OREGON NRCS** announces up to \$300,000 of funds available for eligible individuals, local and state government, non-profit organizations and tribes through the CIG program [Conservation Innovation Grants](#). Project proposals are due **May 13, 2022**. NRCS Oregon invites anyone that is interested in funding to attend a CIG **webinar March 29** at 1 p.m. PST. [Read more](#).



The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is monitoring the funding opportunities through the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA), working on: 1) identifying funding opportunities that benefit natural resources, 2) prioritizing our key areas of need for focusing action, and 3) strategizing how to secure IIJA funds for Oregon. We have developed a webpage to provide information on the IIJA, ODFW's focal areas, and updates on available/upcoming grant opportunities (<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/IIJA/>). Please be sure to keep checking into the web page as we expand ODFW's priorities and strategies for implementing IIJA funding for natural resources. [www.OregonConservationStrategy.org](http://www.OregonConservationStrategy.org)

## OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT GRANTS AND LOANS

### Water Projects Grants and Loans – 2022 Deadline

The Oregon Water Resources Department invites applications for instream and out-of-stream water supply projects to the Water Project Grants and Loans funding opportunity. This funding opportunity invests in projects that meet water supply needs and result in public economic, environmental, and social/cultural benefits. Learn more about [Water Projects Grants and Loans](#). The application deadline for the 2022 funding cycle is **April 27, 2022 at 5:00 p.m.** Application materials are now available [online](#) for the 2022 funding cycle. The Department anticipates having \$9.3 million available for grants. To discuss a project with the Department or to schedule pre-application conferences please contact the Grant Program Coordinator at [WRD\\_DL\\_waterprojects@water.oregon.gov](mailto:WRD_DL_waterprojects@water.oregon.gov).

- **Feasibility Study Grants** are also available to reimburse up to 50 percent of the costs of studies to evaluate the feasibility of developing water conservation, reuse, and storage projects. This competitive funding opportunity helps individuals and communities investigate

whether a project is worth pursuing. We anticipate the next cycle of applications will be due in the fall (generally October). Approximately \$1.1 million is currently available, though that will likely be reduced by awards anticipated in the spring 2022. [More information is available online.](#)

## DEPARTMENT OF STATE LANDS WATERWAY GRANTS

The 2021-2023 Submerged Lands Enhancement Fund grant cycle will open on March 14, 2022 and close on May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Awards will be announced June 30. To apply, complete the grant [application](#) and email it to [blke.helm@dsl.oregon.gov](mailto:blke.helm@dsl.oregon.gov).

Projects that enhance, improve or protect the beds and banks of Oregon's state owned waterways are applicable. Grants help pay expenses associated with management and enhancement activities. Activities that may be considered include, but are not limited to,

- Remove, salvage, store and dispose of abandoned or derelict structures
- Remove and dispose of marine debris
- Assist with salvage, towing, storage and disposal of derelict vessels
- Improve water quality, watershed enhancement and fish and wildlife habitat on the beds or banks of state-owned waterways.

Districts, councils, non-profits, tribes, and other local governments may apply. A 25% funding match is required.



## USDA PARTNESHIPS FOR CLIMATE SMART COMMODITIES

Last week, USDA Farm Production and Conservation leaders joined the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) on a webinar to discuss their new Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities program and to respond to members' questions about this new funding opportunity. This is a \$1 billion grant program and features two categories of grant applications:

- \$5 - \$100 million; or
- Up to \$4,999,000

The program includes: 1) Implementation of climate-smart production practices, activities, and systems on working lands; 2) Measurement, quantification, monitoring, and verification of

associated GHG benefits; and 3) Market development and promotion of climate-smart commodities. You can visit USDA's [website](#) for additional information and updated [FAQs](#). A recording of the NACD webinar can be found [here](#). Any additional questions can be submitted to [climate-smart-commodities@usda.gov](mailto:climate-smart-commodities@usda.gov).

As cited in the calendar on page 4, OACD is contemplating partnership with the Oregon Department of Agriculture for a grant, with a webinar on the potential partnership to occur March 29<sup>th</sup>. District members have been provided a link to attend by email this week.

### **US BUREAU OF RECLAMATION WaterSMART**

The Bureau of Reclamation's [WaterSMART](#) program is now accepting applications for their FY 22 **Drought Contingency Planning (DCP) Grants**.

#### **The Details**

This funding opportunity supports the development and update of drought contingency plans. Through this funding opportunity, Reclamation provides financial assistance for planning that, when implemented, will increase water supply reliability and improve water management through the use of expanded technologies and improved modeling capabilities.

- Applicants may request up to **\$200,000** for plans to be complete within two years
- Applications are due by **April 14, 2022**
- [Click here to access the funding opportunity on grants.gov](#) and download the complete Notice of Funding Opportunity (also searchable using the opportunity number R22AS00178).

#### **Join USBR's Webinar!**

The Bureau of Reclamation will host a webinar on Thursday, February 24, 2022, at 2 pm MST to discuss eligible applicants, program requirements, and the evaluation criteria for the Drought Contingency Planning Grants funding opportunity. Click [here](#) to join the live event or **use the same link to watch a recording after the completion of the live event**.

#### **Questions About the Grant?**

If you are planning to apply or have questions regarding applicant and project eligibility, program requirements, or the evaluation criteria, you should schedule a time to talk with the USBR program coordinators by clicking [here](#) and selecting Drought Contingency Inquiry/Technical Consultation Inquiry.

### **EPA NATURAL INFRASTRUCTURE TRAINING/FUNDING**

#### *Clean Water State Revolving Fund:*

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is offering a webinar on green infrastructure for water quality. Wednesday, April 27th, 10-11:30am [Click Here to Register](#)

SWCDs can apply for the Clean Water State Revolving Fund through DEQ but the fund is restricted from non-profit applicants at this time.

The webinar will present lessons learned and tips for success, including how to navigate and leverage federal, state and local funds for green infrastructure projects, conduct initial assessments to push a project forward to implementation, rethink project roles to streamline the process, and sustain project support through community engagement.

The Soak up the Rain Webinar Series highlights innovative green infrastructure approaches to managing stormwater. <http://www.epa.gov/soakuptherain>

There are several other programs that would be of interest to districts that may be available through SRF funding. Some district borrow loan funds from SRF to provide repayable grants for conservation projects.

## OWEB GRANTS

### 2020 Post-Fire Recovery Grants

Background: During the 2021 Oregon Legislative Session, OWEB received funding to provide grants to support natural resource recovery in areas impacted during the 2020 fire season. These grants are supported by General Funds and have an explicit Legislative intent, per House Bill 5006 (2021). Funding was provided to support on-the-ground implementation activities focusing on **upland and riparian replanting and floodplain restoration**. The following fire areas are eligible for the OWEB 2020 Post-Fire Recovery Grants:

- 242 Fire
- Almeda Fire
- Archie Creek Fire
- Beachie Creek Fire
- Brattain Fire
- Echo Mountain Complex Fire
- Indian Creek Fire
- Lionshead Fire
- Riverside Fire
- Slater Fire
- South Obenchain Fire
- Thielsen Fire
- White River Fire

OWEB's 2020 Post-Fire Recovery Grants include two eligible categories of natural resources recovery:

1. **2020 Post-fire Upland and Riparian Replanting:** Eligible activities include restoration of riparian and upland areas via replanting. Comprehensive replanting projects—including site preparation, planting, and plant stewardship—are eligible for this grant offering. Applications must demonstrate how proposed areas for natural resources recovery work have been identified and prioritized for restoration actions in assessments and/or analyses to address priority erosion and water quality concerns for drinking water supplies, source water areas, and important aquatic habitat. **See the OWEB 2020 Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program Guidance**

**document below for more specifics about allowable activities.**

2. **2020 Post-fire Floodplain Restoration:** Eligible activities include floodplain restoration and reconnection activities. Projects should be focused on implementation of floodplain restoration

and reconnection projects. Applications must demonstrate how proposed areas for natural resources recovery work have been identified and prioritized for floodplain restoration and reconnection actions in assessments and/or analyses to re-establish hydrologic and ecological functions to address water-quality concerns and reduce post-fire flood risk. **See the OWEB 2020 Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program Guidance document below for more specifics about allowable activities.**

Eligible applicants include tribes, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, not-for-profit organizations, schools, community colleges, state institutions of higher education, independent not-for-profit institutions of higher education, and political subdivisions of the state that are not state agencies. A state agency or federal agency may apply for funding only as a co-applicant with one of the other eligible entities.

OWEB 2020 [Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program Overview and Guidance](#): This document outlines important information about grant program structure, provides guidance to potential applicants that will help determine if proposed projects are appropriate for the OWEB 2020 Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program, and outlines important considerations for this grant program.

OWEB [Guidance on Budgeting in Grants \(GoBig\) document for the 2020 Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program](#): This document supplements OWEB's GoBig document for all grant programs. The items outlined in this supplement are specific to 2020 Post-Fire Recovery grants and different from other grant programs, primarily due to the General Fund source used to fund this program and the Legislative intent for these grants.

[General Online Application Guidance](#) for OWEB grants.  
[OWEB's Guidance on Budgeting in Grants](#) (GoBig) document.

Apply for a Grant: The Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program application cycles will be timed as follows, with award decisions to be made within approximately 6 weeks following the application deadline:

2022. The second grant cycle will open in early April 2022, with a deadline of 5 p.m. on May 31, 2022. (If funding remains available, a third grant cycle will open in early August 2022 and close in late August 2022). Contact: [Renee Davis](#), 971-345-7231

OWEB training videos <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/manage-grant/Pages/videos-training.aspx>

Go to OWEB's website to see other grant opportunities.  
onservation projects to landowners as well as for septic system repairs.



## JOBS, H.R. INFORMATION, TRAINING

**COLT** (Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts) is hiring two positions—open until positions filled. [Conservation Program Manager](#) and [Operations Manager](#)



### **WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP**

We are hiring a new partner who will work with our [InfrastructureNext](#) team across a variety of projects

<https://willamettepartnership.org/water-partner-2022/>

**LEMHI SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT** seeks [District Manager](#)  
Salmon, Idaho

**UPPER WILLAMETTE SWCD** Conservation Forestry Specialist  
open until filled. <https://uwsxcd.org/employment/>

**CITY OF SALEM** [Streamside Program Coordinator](#) in urban setting

**UPPER DESCHUTES WATERSHED COUNCIL**  
[Education and Outreach Coordinator](#)

**ODFW: POSITIONS IN WATER:**  
[Willamette Basin Water Coordinator](#)  
[Willamette Fisheries Hydrologist](#)  
[Instream Flow Study Assistant](#)

**SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL** Watershed Technician  
Contact: [rosemary@siuslaw.org](mailto:rosemary@siuslaw.org)

**ILLINOIS VALLEY SWCD** Conservation Program Manager  
Open until filled. Submit application, resume and cover letter at 331 E. Cottage Park Drive, Suite 1B, Cave Junction or email to [officemanager@ivstreamteam.org](mailto:officemanager@ivstreamteam.org).

**KLAMATH IRRIGATION DISTRICT** Bookkeeper  
<https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/view/2943792397/>

**CORBETT WATER DISTRICT** District Manager  
Apply: [Click here](#) Job Description: [Click Here](#)



## AGENCY NEWS

### OR-OSHA: Heat/Smoke Rules

Oregon OSHA has published proposed permanent heat and smoke rules, following the installation of temporary rules last year. The tentative adoption is in April 2022.

- Proposed permanent heat rules [here](#).
- Proposed permanent smoke rules [here](#).

Oregon OSHA will stop enforcing some COVID workplace requirements and repeal the “permanent rules”. This is the end of masking, similar to statewide rules that repealed most indoor mask requirements earlier this month. These rules still apply:

- Employers must allow workers to voluntarily wear masks and provide them free to workers who want them.
- Employers requiring COVID testing must cover the test costs, including time and travel.
- Employers should “optimize” indoor ventilation to reduce the risk of transmission.
- Employers must notify employees when there is potential exposure to COVID in the workplace.
- Old higher safety standards remain in place for what OSHA calls “exceptional risk workplaces such as health care settings with direct patient care. Those settings require masks.

### NEW ODFW in-water Work Window Guidelines

ODFW has initiated new [in-water work guidelines](#).

### WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION

The Commission met March 16 and 17 on a number of issues. [Staff reports](#) on issues can be reviewed at the agency’s website.

- Update on implementation of projects – a table addresses new staff and new tasks
- Proposed Action Plan on Groundwater Allocation
- Recognition of the Upper Grand Ronde River Watershed Partnership, approval of the first Place-Based integrated Water Resources Plan
- Well abandonment, repair and replacement fund program (HB 2145)
- Rulemaking on hydroelectric project annual fees
- Rulemaking on conversion of hydroelectric water rights to instream rights (held over to the June meeting)
- Evaluation of Place-Based Integrated Water Resource Planning Program

## USDA REPORT SHOWS DECADE OF CONSERVATION TRENDS

The report, [Conservation Practices on Cultivated Cropland: A Comparison of CEAP I and CEAP II Survey Data and Modeling](#), from USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service demonstrates progress made through voluntary conservation over a 10-year period. Findings from the report will inform future conservation strategies, including USDA's efforts to tackle the climate crisis. It found significant gains for soil health and soil carbon storage, while also identifying areas where additional and targeted nutrient management strategies are needed.

## OWEB CLIMATE AND WATER COMMITTEE

The committee met March 17 and discussed the legislative update from the short session and the rollout of drought programs. They heard staff Jessi Kershner, Water and Climate Program Coordinator, review the key findings in a report just released by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, "[Climate Change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)."

A rulemaking for requirements in restoration grants related to climate impacts is planned for later this year. Ultimately the requirements may become part of other grant programs. OWEB plans six listening sessions in April and May to hear from stakeholders, contractors and others regarding related issues. The meetings will be held virtually.

These links will allow registration to a listening session of your choice:

- [Thursday, April 14, 2-4pm](#)
- [Wednesday, April 20 11am-1pm](#)
- [Tuesday, May 3, 6-8pm](#)
- [Wednesday, May 11, 5-7pm](#)
- [Tuesday, May 17, 1-3pm](#)
- [Thursday, May 19, 9-11am](#)

---

## TIMELINE



[Here is the flyer outlining the program process.](#) There is also a [survey](#) available, as well as 1 to 1 conversations with staff and an ability to provide written comments. There will be a RAC

(rulemaking advisory committee) formed. More discussion at the March 26/27 and July and October OWEB meetings. There is a recording of the March 17 meeting at OWEB's website. The next meeting will be held on June 16. Public comment can be taken at the meetings or written comment may be directed to staff later.



The OWEB Board adopted a [climate resolution](#) in January this year .

Staff contacts: Eric Hartstein [eric.williams@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:eric.williams@oweb.oregon.gov)  
Jessi Kershner [jessi.kershner@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:jessi.kershner@oweb.oregon.gov)

## DEQ CLIMATE PROGRAM IN COURT

DEQ's Climate Protection Program (aka Cap and Reduce) passed in December 2021 with a goal of cutting greenhouse gas emissions by 90% by 2050. A coalition of 12 industry trade groups has petitioned for judicial rule stating the rules "hold fuel suppliers directly accountable for the state's greenhouse gas emissions. Groups represent farming, ranching, fossil fuel, logging manufacturing, and retail businesses. Petitioners include the Northwest Pulp and Paper Association, Oregon Association of Nurseries, NW Natural, Avista, Cascade Natural Gas, Space Age Fuel and Oregon Business and Industry. Fuel suppliers will likely face higher costs that are expected to increase consumer costs. DEQ staff have indicated that if prices rise by more than 20% of those in other states, staff will review the program for changes.

## OWEB 2019-2021 OREGON PLAN FOR SALMON AND WATERSHEDS BIENNIAL REPORT

The report was submitted to the legislature in January of 2022. The report consists of two components:

- An executive summary
- And the full report providing an overview of investments for each basin.

The [report](#) includes links to in-depth natural resources datasets and information from 12 other state natural resource agencies implementing the Oregon Plan. OWEB awarded \$96 million in grant funding during the biennium, leveraging an additional \$77 million through partner investments.

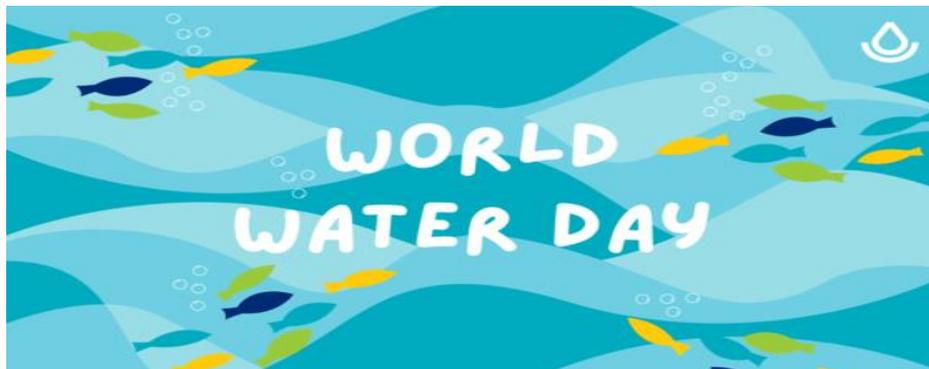
## OWEB: REDESIGNED SALMON LICENSE PLATES NOW FOR SALE



OWEB and DMV worked to redesign the salmon license plate. Since 1998, OWEB has received over \$8 million from salmon plates to fund clean and healthy rivers and protect salmon habitat. Salmon plates in more recent years have provided OWEB about half a million each biennium.

## USGS CHOOSES WILLAMETTE RIVER BASIN FOR STUDY

The Willamette River Basin Study will be the 4<sup>th</sup> in a series of 10 studies to assess the nation's water availability. USGS chose the Willamette because "its hydrologic and environmental setting displays the challenges of conflicting water demands between humans and ecosystems in the Pacific Northwest." Modeling and research in the basin is expected to support innovation around issues that are common to other river systems in the Pacific NW. It will bolster the scientific understanding of seasonal variation in precipitation, groundwater, surface water interactions, snowpack influence on summer low flows, watershed response to severe fire and harmful algal bloom predictions. The study will take years to complete. The Delaware River Basin Study, for example, took 10 years. The study will begin this spring.



## WORLD WATER DAY – MARCH 22ND

World Water Day, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, acknowledged the importance of water to our communities, our work and our future. In 1992, the United Nations General Assembly declared March 22 as the annual World Day for Water, an international observance day to promote public awareness and learning about water-related issues and aim to inspire actions for water security.

This year's theme 'groundwater' draws attention to the hidden water resource that is critically important to many systems, including agriculture. Exploring, protecting, and sustainably using groundwater will be central to adapting to climate change and feeding the world's population.

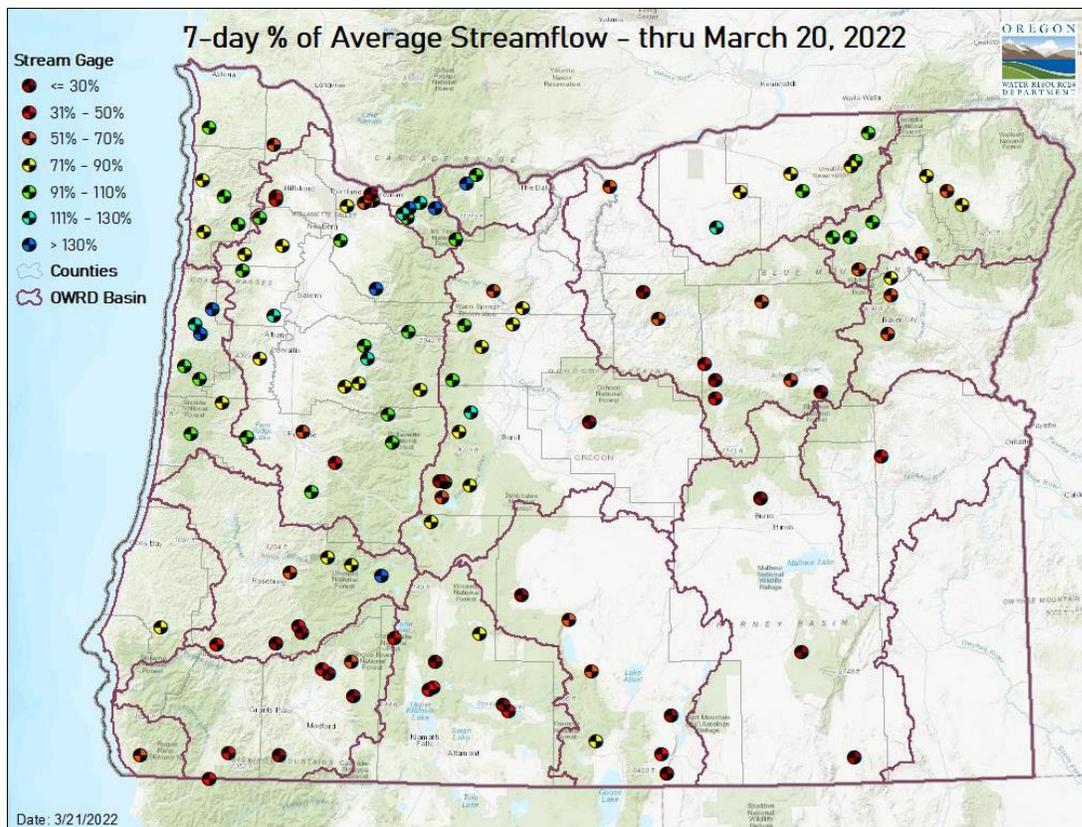
Oregon NRCS reports that This World Water Day, we celebrate successes in water quality and water quantity achieved in Oregon through collaboration with our partners in conservation. Here are some examples of those successes:

- [Oregon farmers help conserve groundwater with efficient irrigation - YouTube](#)  
"Working with NRCS to install efficient irrigation systems has helped us save water and energy, reduce labor, and increase our yield. It has been a win-win."
- [Dam Rehab & Water Conservation in the Middle Fork Irrigation District \(arcgis.com\)](#) Using a Strategic Approach to Conservation, Oregon NRCS and partners address voluntary water conservation through dam rehabilitation and on-farm irrigation upgrades.

- [Restoring Clean Water in the Fletcher Gulch Watershed \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com) A grassroots effort led by farmers modernizes irrigation water delivery, improves water quality.
- [Conserving Water and Power through Irrigation Water Management \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com) Landowners replace an antiquated irrigation delivery system and take advantage of pressurized water made available from a recent canal piping project near their properties.
- [Bradshaw Drop Irrigation Project \(arcgis.com\)](https://arcgis.com) The Bradshaw Drop piping project not only eliminates leakage but puts water back in stream.
- [Oregon's cranberry capitol gets major upgrade | NRCS Oregon \(usda.gov\)](https://usda.gov) A high-tech irrigation solution is saving water, energy and time in Cape Blanco.
- [Grade Stabilization Structure - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) A grade stabilization structure controls the grade in a channel. Vern Kimber in Tillamook, OR, is preventing flooding and allowing salmon to use the stream.
- [Sprinkler Systems - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com) A sprinkler system is an irrigation system to efficiently apply water. Daniel Keudell in Aumsville, OR, is reducing runoff and the amount of water he uses.

## OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT: STREAMFLOW

Current average streamflow statewide as of March 20, 2022



**Visit** [Oregon Water Resources Department's drought information page](#) for current conditions.



## ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

### LA NINA HANGING ON

Capital Press

### THE AMERICAN WEST FACES LONGEST MEGADROUGHT IN 1200 YEARS

CFM Public Affairs Team [CFMPA@cfmpdx.com](mailto:CFMPA@cfmpdx.com)

### MOVEMENT TO FORM THE STATE OF JEFFERSON

Oregon Live (Join N. CA and Southern Oregon into a new state)

### OREGON HAS MOST MILES OF IMPAIRED WATERWAYS NATIONWIDE, REPORT CLAIMS

Oregon Capital Chronicle

## **2022 LEGISLATIVE SESSION (Continued from page 2)**

This 2022 short session was like none other. Federal funds poured in and the state's revenue funds exceeded expectations. While the short session is generally limited to budget changes, this one found a number of policy issues approved as well.

Legislators were confined to the number of bills they could submit per legislator, as were the Governor and the committees. In all there were only 250 bills compared to closer to 3,000 in a regular long session.

Leadership was in flux.

### *Speaker of the House*

Gone: Speaker Rep. Tina Kotek (Portland) – left to run for Governor

New: Rep. Dan Rayfield (D-Corvallis) was chosen as Speaker in 2022

### *House Majority Leader*

Gone: Gone from role but still in the House: Rep. Barbara Smith Warner (D-Portland)

New: Rep. Julie Fahey (D-Junction City/Eugene)

### *House Minority Leader*

Gone: Rep. Christine Drazan (R-Canby) left the House to run for Governor

New: Rep. Vikki Breese Iverson (R-Prineville)

### *Senate President*

Gone: Senator Peter Courtney (D-Salem) – retired after 38 years in the legislature; longest serving ever; 20 years as Senate President

New: President Pro Tem James Manning (D-Eugene)

### *Senate Majority Leader*

Senator Rob Wagner (D-Lake Oswego) remains

### *Senate Minority Leader*

Senator Tim Knopp (R-Bend) remains

Others not in leadership have also left:

- Senator Betsy Johnson (D-Astoria) resigned to run for Governor as an Independent
- 3 women House members with resigned due to low salary (\$33k annual) after refusal of legislature to hear the bill increasing legislator salaries. 6 additional House members are permanently retiring for a range of reasons.
- When the new Oregon House convenes in the 2023 session, at least 1/3 of the 60 members will be new to the process. This precedence is only surpassed by the loss of 25 members in 1998 when term limits kicked in (eventually removed in 2002).
- 3 House members left to run for the new Congressional District (CD 6) and 6 are leaving to run for the state Senate.

There was no walkout this session that stopped action. Senator Knopp (Senator Minority Leader/R-Bend) stated that many of the bills brought in the short session were too complex or controversial for the 35 day session. However, a controversial farmworker overtime bill did pass the session. The Democratic offer of \$100 million to Republicans to spend on 60 or so rural projects helped smooth the session ending.

The sum of \$2.7 billion revenue along with federal revenues coming into the state allowed for large investments in affordable housing, workforce development, homelessness, childcare payments for low-income workers, and further investment in natural resource programs.

### ***Issues and Outcomes***

- Oregon became the 8<sup>th</sup> state to provide farmworker overtime this session over heavy protests from the farm bureau and some other agriculture organizations.
- The bill to allow Oregon residents to pump their own gas died in committee.
- Lawmakers failed to act on campaign finance, but it will be taken up in 2023.
- The Governor's Future Ready Oregon workforce initiative received \$200 million to connect Oregonians with job training in specific industry sectors.
- Illegal water use related to cannabis resulted in adding 14 more assistant Watermasters in SW Oregon, along with 6 enforcement staff and an education program.
- There was broad support for wildlife corridors to limit roadway accidents, and yet the bill did not pass; however \$7 million was budgeted for wildlife crossings.

- The Forest Accord, an agreement between the forestry industry and environmental groups was enacted into law as negotiated between the two groups. A tax credit for small forest landowners was a part of the bargain. Another bill kept the Elliott State Forest in public ownership.
- As indicated on page 2 of this newsletter, \$5 million was awarded to fund the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program.
- Another \$5 million went to the Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund.



## *Oregon Conservation Partnership*

The Oregon Conservation Partnership (OrCP) is made up of the Oregon Association Of Conservation Districts (OACD), the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC) and the Oregon Conservation and Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN). OrCP holds a capacity grant from OWEB to provide deliverables such as the working lands guidebook OACD recently completed, for CONNECT gatherings, for webinars, publications and projects of our members, and for retaining the services of a public relations firm to report on member projects or news. There are 145 member organizations that make up the OrCP's four organizations. We are glad to promote projects that you may have to provide media coverage as possible. Just let OACD know of your needs.

**ORCP webinars** are generally held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month. They are recorded and archived at <https://www.conservationpartnership.org/webinars/> Recent webinars have included:

- Understanding and Dismantling Racism
- The Importance of Meaningful Partnerships with Tribal Nations When Establishing Conservation Programs
- Stitching Together Pollinator Habitat Initiatives Across Oregon
- Changes in OSHA Rules for the Oregon Workplace

To sign up for webinar announcements and access, go to the OrCP website where there Are also job listings and news: <https://www.conservationpartnership.org>

