



OACD NEWS

May 2025



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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 for more information



Conservation friends,

I wish I had more positive news, but I need to share this to **call you to action**.

Continuing federal firings, retirements, and reorganization diminish the support districts around the country need to provide conservation on the ground. Last week White House documents stated that the proposed federal budget plan will severely scale back or eliminate funding for many programs across USDA.

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) proposes fiscal 2026 funding levels that would gut research and conservation efforts and trim program budgets nearly across the board. OMB directed USDA to develop plans to consolidate its local, county-based offices around the country into state committees that would consolidate the services of the FSA, NRCS and Rural Development. This proposal could lead to office closures at the county level, yet these are the people that are where the farmers are and whose help producers rely on every day. Another provision would eliminate any program providing state, private and tribal landholder funding to help prevent and fight wildfires. NRCS' "Private Lands Conservation Operations" would be slashed by \$773 million.

Oregon's OWEB director announced at their board meeting last week that the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund was slashed in the 2026 federal budget plan.

Also at the OWEB meeting, we heard some OWEB board members from the federal natural resource agencies indicate their retirement. About 16,000 (about 16%) of USDA employees alone are taking the early retirement package. Losing the knowledge and dedication of our federal family throughout USDA will impact all our programs. We know that we are losing most if not all of the NRCS staff members at our co-located Clackamas SWCD district office.

So, what can we do? Congress has not yet voted on the proposed budget and we are hopeful that NACD and grassroots efforts can stop these devastating efforts. Grassroots means us. Our federal representatives need to know the impact of these proposals on our districts and their constituents.

Our districts and those we serve deserve federal support. These are unprecedented times and we value the work all of you are doing regardless of federal decisions. It is then so much more important for the local support that we can all provide to those we serve. Keep up the great work!

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

Jan Lee, OACD President
janleewater@gmail.com 503-545-9420 cell



COMING EVENTS

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

[Oregon Board of Agriculture](#) – June 4-6, La Grande

[Oregon Climate Action Commission](#) – June 13, Virtual

[Environmental Quality Commission](#) – May 8-9, Bend

[Soil and Water Conservation Commission](#) – May 21, Condon

[OWEB Partnership and Capacity Committee](#) – June 3, Virtual

[OWEB Acquisitions and Restoration Committee](#) – June 5, Virtual

[OWEB Tracking and Communication Committee](#) – June 11, Virtual

OACD Board Meeting

District participation and comments are encouraged.

May 20, 9am-11am. Zoom link [HERE](#).

OACD Annual Conference

October 21-23

Pendleton, OR

Registration information coming soon.

Call for Papers

This year we are calling for presentations or full session proposals in the following areas:

- Success Stories from Districts
- Reaching the Community
- Telling your story – making the most of your website, social media
- Emerging Issues
- Other

Presentations can be 10 - 20 minutes long,

Sessions are 45 or 90 minutes long.

Dates to remember:

Presentation Proposal Submission deadline: July 15, 2025

Decision date: September 2, 2025

Submission guidelines:

Please submit your presentation or session topic with a description (500 word max)

Include your name, affiliation, and length of time requested for presentation or session.

Submit your proposal to: andrea.kreiner@oacd.org with the subject line **OACD Conference Proposal**.

Upcoming Webinars

ODA's New Rangeland Health Program - Information and Opportunities

May 1, 1pm-2pm

ODA Noxious Weed Program has a new focus on Rangeland Health. As part of our efforts to support healthy and resilient rangelands in Oregon, the Oregon Department of Agriculture has developed a new facet of our program to focus on rangelands and protecting them from the impacts of invasive annual grasses. We invite you to join us for an interactive webinar on May 1st at 1pm. We'll introduce you to our new Rangeland Health Specialist, Mark Porter, and give an overview of what we are focused on. Following the introduction and overview, we'd like to gather insight from you to help guide our efforts. Your feedback will help us identify common themes, prioritize areas of engagement, and inform our efforts to develop funding opportunities that will help protect and enhance rangelands in Eastern Oregon.

Register [here](#)

"One Spreadsheet to Budget Them All"

April 28, 1pm-3pm

Embark on a budgeting journey with Yamhill SWCD, as we bring peace and prosperity to the realm of budgets. Much like the One Ring, this legendary spreadsheet wields great power—it tracks all staff expenses, calculates and maximizes grant billable rates, projects staff hours, builds a complete fiscal year budget from start to finish, and more. Whether you're a budgeting wizard or lost in the dark, this tool will help you master the realm of financial planning.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86930359039>

Meeting ID: 869 3035 9039

Passcode: 730509

"The Return of the Budget: QuickBooks Reclaimed"

May 5, 1pm-3pm

In this epic webinar, Yamhill SWCD shares how it brings together the One Spreadsheet and QuickBooks Online to create one unified, powerful financial system. Learn how to use QuickBooks Online to manage grants/projects like a seasoned steward, track staff time with the precision of a Dunedain ranger, produce reports cleaner than hobbit feet, and conquer your chart of accounts once and for all. The age of scattered data is over—the age of integrated accounting has begun.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86930359039>

Meeting ID: 869 3035 9039

Passcode: 730509

Coming in June:

Successful Grant Writing, Tentatively June 9, 11am. Details and registration coming soon.

Stewardship Week – April 27 - May 4

Home is Where the Habitat Is! [Download materials and resources online.](#)



Reserve Your Spot – Elevate Your District’s Public Presence!

Special districts are the unsung heroes of their communities, providing essential services that often go unnoticed. It’s time to change that.

Join Streamline and SDAO for a free two-part webinar series designed to help districts tell their story effectively and ensure their services are easily found online.

Part 1 | Thursday, May 15 @ 11 AM

Create Your Story – Learn how to craft a compelling narrative that highlights your district’s impact.

Part 2 | Thursday, May 22 @ 11 AM

Promote Your Story – Master the best strategies to ensure your district’s message reaches the right audience.

Spots are filling fast! Secure your OWN greatness and make sure your district’s value is recognized.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

DISTRICTS IN THE NEWS

CHECK OUT THE LATEST NEWS STORIES FEATURING OUR SWCDS---

[*BLM Reopens Priest Hole Recreation Site after Seven-Month Renovation Project – Madras Pioneer*](#)

[*BLM Reopens Priest Hole Recreation Site – Central Oregonian*](#)

[*Invasive garlic mustard gains ground in Portland-area forests - Axios*](#)

Do you have a story to share, please send it to andrea.kreiner@OACD.org!

FUNDING RESOURCES



OWRD Water Project Grants and Loans Summary

The [Water Project Grants and Loans](#) program 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:** We expect to have at least \$600k available. The amount could increase depending upon the outcome of the 2025 Legislative Session where OWRD's budget for the 2025-27 biennium is decided.
- **How to Apply:** Application materials are available [online](#).
- **Application Deadline: 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2025.**

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.** To learn more, see the [pre-application conference form](#).

OWRD Irrigation Modernization Funding Summary

OWRD has funding for [Irrigation Modernization projects](#) that improve water use efficiency of irrigation systems on currently irrigated agricultural lands. To apply for these funds, the project must leverage federal funds associated with Natural Resources Conservation Service's authorized watershed plans, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART grants or U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's grants that are eligible to be on the Department of Environmental Quality'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:** A project that improves water use efficiency of irrigation systems on currently irrigated agricultural lands. 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:** \$4.4 million.
- **How to Apply:** Application materials are available [online](#). See the application materials listed under "Irrigation Modernization Funding" on the WPGL webpage.
- **Application Deadline: 5 p.m. on Wednesday, July 16, 2025.**

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.** To learn more, see the [pre-application conference form](#).

NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES



AN INTERACTIVE TIMELINE: 90 YEARS OF HELPING PEOPLE HELP THE LAND

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) draws on a long history of helping people help the land. For 90 years, NRCS and its predecessor agencies have worked in close partnerships with farmers and ranchers, conservation districts, local and state governments, and other federal agencies to maintain healthy and productive working landscapes. See the history of NRCS through an interactive story and timeline. Check out the timeline [here](#)

NEW TOOL FOR NUTRIENT MANAGEMENT PLANNERS AVAILABLE

Conservation planners use site-specific nitrogen and phosphorus planning thresholds for leaching and runoff within the Conservation Assessment Ranking Tool (CART) to help producers protect water quality. Those same planning thresholds are now publicly available in the new Geographic Information System (GIS) Site Risk for Water Quality (SRWQ) tool available on the Dynamic Soils (DS) Hub.

Access the tool [here](#).

OWEB Investments by County

OWEB has published a history of projects funded by County from 1999 to 2024. Check out your county [here](#).

NACD New Resources on Member's Only Webpage

NACD simplified access to its **Member's Only** webpage, changing the login to a single, universal access code. Conservation district board members and their staff can now more easily find resources to support your district operations using only a password, without needing a specific email address or other login information. The site is available to all dues-paying districts (at any level), and the password is sent on the receipt at the time of your membership payment; please share widely. Access the [members only site here](#).

On the Member's Only webpage, find a new **District Program Evaluation Guide** and an updated **More Dollars for Your District** guide, which includes questions to support fundraising discussions, as well as common examples of income generating projects. The guide provides tips on:

- Organizing a Finance Committee
- Charging for district services and successful examples of income-generating projects, like equipment rentals
- Common conservation items that districts sell, and
- Other tips for fundraising.



Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
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www.oacd.org

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