



OACD NEWS

February 2025



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Two New Cool Resources for Districts!!

Grant Hub

<https://www.oacd.org/orcp-grant-hub>

The place to go to find grant funding for projects!!!

See Webinar information on p.3

Natural Climate Solutions Project Guide-

<https://www.oacd.org/natural-climate-solutions-guide>

How to connect landowners' projects with carbon opportunities and funding

Both of these resources were developed under the Oregon Conservation Partnership Grant from OWEB



Lots of great news this month as you will see from the following articles!

Each year OACD receives some funds from the Oregon Conservation Partnership as provided by OWEB to capture specific projects that will build district capacity. This year our product was two fold: a [Grant Hub](#) sharing various grants available for District to access; and a [Natural Climate Solutions Project Guide](#). We are so excited about these, we put them on the front page of the newsletter!

We started the year with the election of new officers:

Whitney Rohner of Baker County SWCDs as Vice President;
Jan Lee of Clackamas SWCD continuing as President;
Al Hrynyshyn of Upper Willamette SWCD continuing as OACD's Secretary; and
Cassie Newton of Wheeler SWCD serving as our Treasurer.

The officers form the Executive Committee and work with Andrea toward our goals, implementing the strategic plan, and addressing operational business.

We also welcomed **Ellen Hammond** as a new board member from the Columbia Plateau Region, filling in the position formerly held by Heather Hendrixson.

The Legislature is now in session, starting on January 21 and working through what is expected to be over 3,000 bills by the time they adjourn no later than June 29. As you know from earlier newsletters, OACD has sponsored a bill on pesticide safety training for Spanish-speaking farmworkers. There was a hearing in the House on the bill January 27th and we anticipate the bill moving along well, or at least until it finds its way to Ways and Means where there will be many submitted bills vying for limited funding this session. There were 38 different organizations endorsing the bill, all the way from the Oregon Farm Bureau to Willamette Riverkeeper, and including many districts and other farm-related and environmental organizations.

We continue to meet as the OACD Advocacy Committee. Contact [Andrea](#) or [Stan](#) to receive information about our meetings or information on bills you are interested in.

Wishing you all a happy and successful year!

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

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

Dear District Director,

January 27, 2025

Whether you are newly-elected or appointed or have been a director for a decade or more, I am glad to have you in the SWCD world and as part of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD). **OACD's Mission is to advance the interests of Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Districts for the conservation and wise use of Oregon's natural resources, providing leadership, information, and state representation.**

OACD provides a variety of services for our members (each SWCD is a member of OACD):

- **MEMBER SERVICES**

Focus on increasing districts' effectiveness in serving their communities through training and networking opportunities.

- District Manager Roundtable – A quarterly forum for district managers to discuss issues of common interest and learn from each other.
- Monthly Newsletter – The monthly newsletter is provided to district directors, staff, and our conservation partners. The newsletter includes information on funding opportunities, upcoming meetings, new and opportunities, and district to district information sharing and news.
- Annual Conference - Each year OACD supports members by gathering at an annual meeting to provide workshops , updates from state and federal funders, share innovative district programs, and district director roundtables.
- Webinars - OACD provides webinars on a number of topics throughout the year and also is one of the four partners taking part in developing monthly webinars as part of the Oregon Conservation Partnership (OrCP).
- Natural & Working Lands Committee – Develops tools and provides educational opportunities relating to soil health and carbon sequestration.

- **PUBLIC RELATIONS & COMMUNICATIONS**

Focus on aligning strategic communications to support OACD's advocacy and deepening public understanding of conservation districts and their value

- Earned Media - Through Oregon Conservation Partnership, OACD provides the opportunity to feature district stories in the media.
- Public Relations/Communication Working Group – NEW. This working group will develop messaging that can be used by districts.

- **ADVOCACY**

Proactively push for policy and funding that enables the work of conservation districts in Oregon.

- Legislative - OACD reviews the thousands of bills each session to determine which are relevant to the needs of our members. The OACD Advocacy Committee reviews those bills and prioritizes them and outlines actions to take. OACD works with our partners (OWEB, ODA and other agencies, the Oregon Conservation Partnership and other associations) in developing strategies to promote legislation. We then testify before the legislative committees and lobby legislators toward our goals. We provide information on our membership portal so that our members can partner in that work. We also work with the National Association of Conservation of Conservation Districts on federal legislation.
- Regulatory - OACD participates in stakeholder and advisory committee meetings to ensure rules support our members' needs. Rulemaking efforts occur at both the state and federal level. The member portal updates the membership on rulemakings in progress.
- Funding – OACD works with our partners to identify and develop access to funding sources for districts. Funding opportunities are included in the newsletter as they arise. OACD is working with the Oregon Conservation Partnership to develop a grant hub to improve access to information on funding opportunities.
- Training – Provide annual training for districts on engaging in advocacy.

Actions associated with OACD's services are detailed in our [Strategic Plan, adopted September 24, 2024.](#)

As OACD's executive director, I would love to set up at time to chat with you and learn how we can best support you in your role as SWCD Director.

Best,



Andrea Kreiner
Executive Director



COMING EVENTS

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

[Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission](#) – February 14, Portland

[Soil & Water Conservation Commission](#) - February 18, Virtual

[Oregon Climate Action Commission](#) – February 14, Virtual

OACD Board Meeting

District participation and comments are encouraged.

February 25, 9am-11am. Zoom link [HERE](#). (note: link has been fixed)

Webinar - Oregon Conservation Grant Hub: What it is & How to use it

Join us for an engaging webinar to explore the newly launched Oregon Conservation Grant Hub, a web-based tool designed to streamline grant identification and foster collaboration for conservation efforts. Whether seeking funding for soil health initiatives, private grants, strategic planning, or partnership building, this hub provides the resources to support your goals. Your participation helps with ongoing maintenance, keeping the hub a valuable resource for all conservation professionals. This webinar is perfect for soil and water conservation district managers, watershed council or land trust representatives, grant writers, and anyone involved in funding strategies for natural climate solutions. **Welcome & Background:** Learn about the Oregon Regional Conservation Partnership's strategy and the vision behind the Grant Hub. **Interactive Demonstration:** Discover key features, tips for effective use, list, gallery, and calendar views, and entry forms. **Live Q&A:** Share your challenges, provide feedback, and help us improve the hub for future users.

Feb 26, 2025 11:00 AM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Register here:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_oR6EN9cIRFiRUMN3LGZoUQ

CONNECT 2025 | April 8-10

Florence Event Center - Florence, Oregon

The Comprehensive program covers both the technical and administrative aspects of conservation implementation. It's designed for:

- Rural and urban conservation implementation
- Managerial and administrative functions
- Policy development and discussion
- Education and outreach activities

At CONNECT, you'll gain access to specific, relevant content about current and potential conservation issues. It's an opportunity to learn from the field's brightest, most innovative conservationists.

By attending CONNECT, you're not just participating in a conference. You're joining a network of passionate individuals committed to advancing Oregon's soil and water conservation efforts.

REGISTER NOW. VISIT [HTTPS://WWW.CONNECTOREGON.NET](https://www.connectoregon.net).

UPCOMING RCPP WEBINAR

Introduction to the RCPP Application Process

February 25, 2025 - 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. PST

This webinar will provide an introduction to the Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) application process for potential partners new to RCPP. It includes an overview of each step of the process and highlights the actions to take now to prepare. The intended audience includes potential partners unfamiliar with RCPP or unsure of RCPP eligibility as well as those interested in or planning to submit an RCPP application for the first time. [Register here.](#)

OFS Host Webinar on New EPA Regulations

February 28th, 2025 9-11am

Join us for an overview of pesticide label changes and regulatory updates related to EPA's ongoing efforts to comply with the Endangered Species Act. Along with an update on current regulations, we'll cover how different pesticide user groups will be impacted and how to navigate EPA's online system "Bulletins Live! Two." ODA and WSDA continuing education credits pending. **This webinar requires registration in advance, [please register here.](#)**



FUNDING RESOURCES

NACD URBAN AND COMMUNITY CONSERVATION GRANTS

National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) announced the open application period for the 2025 Urban and Community Conservation (UAC) grant initiative. The grants are open to any conservation district within the U.S. and the territories NACD serves, state associations, and tribal organizations. **Proposals are due by April 1, 2025.**

Since 2016, NACD has led the efforts of this successful grant program in collaboration with the Natural Resources Conservation Service to help conservation districts build technical capacity within nontraditional agricultural systems.

New this year, state associations are now eligible to apply. Additionally, the maximum budget for implementation grants has been raised from \$60,000 to \$75,000.

There are two types of grants: planning and implementation. The planning grants—up to \$10,000— will allow organizations new to urban or community agriculture to begin early-stage program development to provide conservation technical assistance. For example, funds may be used for workshops to conduct needs assessments with local urban farmers or to develop partnerships for their planned program. The implementation grants focus on providing technical assistance and fulfilling projects.

Both the UAC planning and implementation grants will enable organizations and their partners to address multiple resource concerns while supporting underrepresented clients and addressing important themes like local food security.

More information about the program, including past grantees and the application process for 2025, is available on [NACD's Urban and Community Conservation webpage.](#)

Federal Funding Opportunities Mailing List

Sign up to be on the federal funding opportunities mailing list

https://omls.oregon.gov/mailman/listinfo/fed_funding_opps

OWEB now accepting online applications for the 2024 Immediate Wildfire Response Grant Offering

Eligible applicants include watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tribes, and other eligible non-profit organizations operating in eligible impacted 2024 wildfire areas that are directly engaging in post-fire natural resources recovery.

- Program funding prioritizes work on non-federal lands (i.e., private, state, and tribal lands). While some small portions of federal land may be included if part of an all-lands approach, applicants should reach out to OWEB prior to submitting an application that includes work on federal land.
- The table on page 1 of the [program guidance](#) has information on eligible fire areas and funding maximums.

Eligible technical assistance activities include:

- Resource assessment and planning to convene local teams to complete post-fire impact assessments and identify and/or plan prioritized restoration actions to address post-fire impacts
- Engagement to secure landowner commitment and coordinate planning for future post-fire restoration actions
- Restoration implementation activities are not eligible for funding under this offering.

Applications are due by 5:00 pm on May 29, 2025

Applications must be submitted using OWEB's [online grant application](#).

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and applicants are encouraged to submit an application as early as possible. Applications will be reviewed upon submission and award decisions are to be made within approximately two weeks following application submission.

Application Guidance - Please see [program guidance](#) for additional information on the [program website](#).

ODFW solicits grant applications for high priority fish passage and screening projects

ODFW has approximately \$11 million in grant funding to address high priority fish passage and fish screening projects across Oregon. Completed projects will contribute towards the conservation and recovery of Oregon's native migratory fish. Water users, municipalities, watershed councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts, tribes, and individual owners and operators of fish passage barriers and water diversions are encouraged to apply. Those awarded with grants have up to three years to spend the funds.

ODFW expects the grant application process will begin in early February. Information on funding and eligibility requirements, application procedures, and how and when to apply for these grant funds will soon be available [on the ODFW Fish Passage Program website](#).

You may contact ODFW's Fish Passage Program with preliminary questions by emailing <mailto:fish.passage@odfw.oregon.gov>



NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES

Applications OPEN for the 2025-26 RARE AmeriCorps Service Year!

What is RARE? Serving rural Oregon for over 30 years, the University of Oregon's Resource Assistance for Rural Environments (RARE) AmeriCorps Program helps build the capacity of rural communities to improve their economic, social, and environmental conditions, (including helping to rebuild wildfire-affected communities) through the assistance of trained graduate-level members who live and work in communities for 11 months (September through July).

Applications are due April 1, 2025 by 5pm. [CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE & APPLY!](#)

Get the inside scoop at an upcoming information session on Zoom: [February 4 at 11am](#) and [March 6 at 12pm](#)

OACD Advocacy Training Powerpoints Available!

If you missed the OACD Advocacy Trainings, the powerpoints, complete with all links, are available on the [OACD Website](#)

WORKING LANDS CONSERVATION CORPS PARTNERS ANNOUNCE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR HOST ORGANIZATIONS

NRCS, the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD), The Corps Network, and AmeriCorps announced the request for proposals for host organizations for the second cohort of the Working Lands Conservation Corps (WLCC). This past year, WLCC engaged over 100 corps members, serving 28 organizations in 25 states. In the second year of this program, WLCC will welcome a new cohort of beginning conservationists and seeks organizations to host them. The deadline for organizations to apply to be a WLCC host organization is **March 31, 2025**.

NACD encourages conservation districts and partners to apply to host WLCC corps members in the coming year. All interested applicants are invited to visit The Corps Network website to learn more about the program and this past year's WLCC cohort. During their time with WLCC, corps members will work directly with landowners, producers, and communities to learn about and implement conservation and outreach practices.

To learn more about the Working Lands Conservation Corps and apply to be a host organization, visit <https://corpsnetwork.org/programs-initiatives/working-lands-conservation-corps/>.

Late/Missing/Incorrectly Filed Audits – Secretary of State Delinquent Filers Report

The OWEB Grant Program is periodically subject to a Risk Audit to alert them to grantees that are at low, medium, and high risk of paying back grant funds awarded to them. Part of this risk assessment for districts is whether or not they have completed their yearly financial reporting to the Secretary of State.

If a district shows up on this report, it counts toward the increased risk, and less of an opportunity for a district to be awarded **ANY** OWEB grant. It can also back up the grant reporting process and the district may need to ask for an extension until the report is properly filed.

The Delinquent Filers Report is located on the righthand side of this Secretary of State [webpage](#), and displays districts who have missing and incorrectly filed reports over the most recent three years. An incorrectly filed report is considered missing and delinquent and needs to be corrected **Urgently**. If a district shows three years of missing filings, the Secretary of State can shut the district down.

For good measure, because staff and board members change periodically, or maybe out on extended leave, it's important for more than one person in the district to be aware of this report. It could be assigned to the finance committee or treasurer for periodic review, and to make a calendar note to review it in January and July of each year.

If the report is filed incorrectly or missed, the manager and board will need to consider how to remedy things sooner than later. This might mean adding more money to the budget to have it corrected, talking to the auditor or staff member about fixing it, and time for planning its completion so that it doesn't compound the problem.

The SWCD Program wants to help districts be aware of tools you have at your disposal to meet your yearly legal requirements, and we hope you find this information useful.

Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network (FRSAN) project

Oregon State University Extension, as part of the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network project, is offering QPR training sessions across the state in collaboration with NRCS, FSA, and SWCD offices. QPR stands for "Question. Persuade. Refer." – three essential steps anyone can learn to help prevent suicide. Just like CPR prepares individuals to respond to a cardiac emergency, QPR equips us to assist those facing a mental health crisis.

District come into close contact with many individuals in the agricultural community, some of whom may be dealing with significant stress. We believe these training sessions could be immensely beneficial.

FRSAN can conduct these training sessions virtually, allowing numerous offices from your region to participate from their own locations, or arrange for in-person sessions at your office. The training lasts between 60 to 90 minutes, depending on how much engagement and discussion there is from participants. These sessions can be a valuable addition to staff meetings.

For more information, contact **Julie Leep**, OSU Extension Service - Coos County julie.leep@oregonstate.edu
Tel.: 541-572-5263 | Cell: 541-297-6155

National Biochar Survey

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BiocharNation>.

Open: January 8 - March 8, 2025

American Farmland Trust is requesting participation in their National Biochar Survey. This research is part of Breaking Down Barriers to Biochar Adoption on Farms Coast-to-Coast, funded by the NRCS On-Farm Trials Conservation Innovation Grants national program. Participation in this anonymous national survey is critical in evaluating the soil, economic and social impacts of biochar application on cropland. Responses to this survey will help us provide guidance on how best to incentivize and support biochar application on farmland in the U.S by understanding motivations, successes, challenges and persistence.

The survey takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. Answers will only be shared with the Evaluation Team at American Farmland Trust, Dr. Gabrielle Roesch-McNally and Ellen Yeatman. **If you have questions or concerns, please reach out to Ellen at eyeatman@farmland.org.** We thank you in advance for taking the time to respond to this survey.

Succession Planning Information

Interesting information on Succession Planning from SDAO. See the article [HERE](#)

DISTRICTS IN THE NEWS

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

[Test the river, teach the children: Students and salmon pay a fall visit to the Alsea River](#), OPB

[Protecting Local Ecosystems: The West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District's Invasive Species Program](#), NACDNET

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

DISTRICT TO DISTRICT

OACD wishes a Happy Retirement to Holly Crossen, District Manager at Benton SWCD – we will miss her and wish her the best!



Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts

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