



Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts

OACD NEWS

Winter 2021



THE LEGISLATURE IS BACK!

The OACD Advocacy Committee has been meeting Fridays to review the close to 4,000 bill pending before the legislature. You can see the list of bills of particular interest to districts at our new website member portal.

The member portal can be reached by going to the website at <http://oacd.org> and then selecting “member” at the top of the page. That link will take you to the portal where you can enter your email as your user name name. Using the temporary password we sent you can then tap the “Streamline” logo on the top left of the page and create your own personal password. Invitations to join the member portal were sent out to over 400 members of districts, but if you did not receive an invitation, contact staff@oacd.org or jan.lee@oacd.org and we will assist you in obtaining access.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

Hello Conservation Colleagues,

This past month was very busy on a legislative front, from our very engaged Advocacy Committee (see additional details below) to our participation in the National Association of Conservation District's ("NACD") Annual Meeting.

We seek to represent and promote the important work of our individual districts, as well as our partners. For the first time in many years, Oregon presented resolutions to the NACD board in February 2021; the benefit of working through NACD is that their informed and powerful staff and board can lobby at the federal level for funding and bills that will help us here in Oregon.

This year we asked for support of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program: Agricultural Land Easements Program (ACEP-ALE). ACEP-ALE are voluntary easement programs through Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) which were established in the 2014 Farm Bill. The purpose of ACEP-ALE is to protect agricultural lands by limiting non-agricultural uses. NACD adopted OACD's resolutions (*see resolutions in the advocacy section of the member portal*) to advocate for more dedicated funding for ACEP-ALE through the next Farm Bill, and to safeguard the integrity of ACEP-ALE through prevention of program abuse, including using ACEP-ALE as a tax shelter mechanism. There is currently a federal bill proposed called the Charitable Conservation Easement Program Integrity Act, and as a result of OACD's resolutions, NACD will now work with our federal legislators to pass this Act.

Are there state or federal rules or laws that you think should change in order to benefit our agriculture and conservation community and lands? Please let us know! We have an active committee working on these issues and your input will help us to better serve our districts, for better outcomes today and into the future.

Serving our Conservation Districts,



Terri Preeg Riggsby, OACD President
tpriggsby@yahoo.com 971-404-4909





COMING EVENTS

MARCH 2021

All meetings listed are virtual

- 3/9-3/10 8:00 OWEB Quarterly Meeting
<https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/about-us/Pages/board/2021-Mar.aspx>
- 3/15,17 8:00 Oregon Water Resources Department budget hearings* both days
(public testimony on the budget 3/22, tentatively)
- 3/17 8:45-4:30 DEQ Cap and Reduce Rulemaking Advisory Committee
<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/ghgp/Pages/capandreduce.aspx>
- 3/19 9:00 ODFW Commission Meeting
<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/archives.asp>
- 3/23 3:00-4:30 Soil and Water Conservation Commission Meeting
<https://www.ncagr.gov/SWC/commission/index.html>
- 3/24 8:45-12:45 Soil and Water Conservation Commission Meeting
- 3/24 8:00 a.m. OWEB budget hearing before the Joint Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee*
- 3/25 10:00-12:00 OACD Board Meeting – contact jan.lee@oacd.org for link

Every Friday: Advocacy Committee meets by phone – anyone is welcome
10:30-12:00 Contact us for more information jan.lee@oacd.org

APRIL 2021

- 4/18-19 9:00 ODFW Commission Meeting
<https://www.dfw.state.or.us/agency/commission/minutes/archives.asp>
- 4/21 8:00 a.m. Testimony on ODA Budget Hearing before the Joint Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee*
- 4/22 8:45-4:30 DEQ Cap and Reduce RAC
<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/ghgp/Pages/capandreduce.aspx>
- 4/28 8:00 a.m. ODFW Budget Hearing before the Joint Ways & Means Natural Resources Subcommittee* (Testimony May 3)
- 4/29 10:00-12:00 OACD Board Meeting – contact jan.lee@oacd.org for link

*All Joint Ways and Means Natural Resources Subcommittee Hearings: refer to the committee site for more information

<https://apps.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2021R1/Committees/JWMNR/Overview>



FUNDING RESOURCES

NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION CONSERVATION GRANTS

Browse [NFWF's conservation programs](#) and learn how to [apply for a grant](#). Currently NFWF is funding the Working Lands for Wildlife grants program. There will be 15-25 grants offered nationwide and priority will be based on species. There are grants based on salmon habitat, sage grouse and other ESA priorities.

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/plantsanimals/fishwildlife/?cid=stelprd1046975>

OWEB GRANTS

Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering

OWEB is now accepting online applications for the **Spring 2021 Open Solicitation Grant Offering** for the following grant types:

- [Restoration](#)
- [Technical Assistance](#)
- [Stakeholder Engagement](#)
- [Monitoring](#)
- [Land Acquisition](#)

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

Grant applications (except Land Acquisition) are due April 26, 2021 by 5:00pm and must be submitted via OWEB's online grant application. The OWEB board plans to make grant awards at the October 2021 meeting. If you have questions about applying for an OWEB grant, please [contact the Regional Program Representative](#) for your region. If you are new to OWEB and their grant program, please visit [OWEB's website](#).

Land Acquisition grant applications are due April 22, 2021 by 5:00pm and must be submitted via OWEB's online application. **A pre-application consultation is required.** Visit the [Land Acquisition grants webpage](#) for more information. Please contact [Miriam Forney](#) (503-986-0026) to schedule a consultation.

OWEB anticipates making available a combined total of about \$14 million for Restoration, Technical Assistance, Stakeholder Engagement, Monitoring, and Land Acquisition through this solicitation. Funding is from Oregon Lottery revenue and federal Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Funds through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

At OWEB's December meeting it was discussed that weed grants may open in April with awards in July and Focused Investment Partnership (FIPs) grants may have an application process beginning in July 2021, with applications due January 2022, and awarded July 2022.

Check out the OWEB training videos page

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

NRCS/OWEB GRANTS

OWEB has announced the NRCS technical and administrative assistance grant offering to support local delivery of conservation programs as presented in the Farm Bill. Eligible applicants must be based in Oregon and be either a tribe, SWCD, or a watershed council. There is \$500,000 available from this pass through program from NRCS with a maximum request of \$50,000 per grant. Applications are due by April 1, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. and must be submitted through [OWEB's Online Application System](#). For questions, contact Courtney Shaff, 971-345-7012, Courtney.Shaff@oregon.gov

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

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: [Water Projects Grants and Loans](#).

The application deadline for the 2021 funding cycle is April 28, 2021 at 5:00 p.m. Application materials are now available [online](#) for the 2021 funding cycle. As of November 2020, approximately \$3 million is 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@oregon.gov.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION FUND GRANTS

Funds from this grant can be used to implement protection activities for a public water system's surface water or groundwater source area for their drinking water. Grants of up to \$30,000 per water system can be issued with "Letters of Interest" applications accepted through March 24th by the Oregon Health Authority. You can partner with a public water system in your watershed as a partner if you are an SWCD, watershed council or other local government to further projects that are mutually beneficial between the water supplier and the partner entity.

No match is required. Projects are rated on the potential to reduce risk in water source areas or for reduction in contaminant concentrations at the drinking water source. Contact for more information: Tessa.EDELEN@deq.state.or.us. Information on eligible projects and the rating criteria are found in the document titled: [DWSPF - General Information on Funding \(pdf\)](#). Maps of drinking water source areas can be found on DEQ's DWP Interactive Viewer at <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/DWP-Maps.aspx>.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Moving into the Middle of the Legislative Session

The Oregon Legislature will now begin meeting twice a week in capitol floor sessions with the House meeting each Monday and Tuesday and the Senate meeting on Wednesday and Thursday. All sessions to date have been virtual. Committee hearings will continue as virtual events.

After March 19, bills that have not had hearings and are not noticed for a work session following the hearing, will in essence die. In some limited instances, they could be referred to the Rules Committee which remains open until the end of the session. Close to 4,000 bills have been introduced in this session, many more than past years, but many of these are not anticipated to move forward. There are many bills proposing studies instead of funding programs, recognition that fires and COVID have impacted finances.

OACD's Advocacy Committee has been meeting every Friday to review bills. You can see the chart at the website in the member portal under "Advocacy" with links to bills and committees. It is appearing that this session the biggest issues on our plate are those related to agency budgets. We will be following and testifying before the [Joint Ways and Means Committee on Natural Resources](#) on the following budgets: Department of Agriculture, Water Resources Department, OWEB and ODFW. The legislative spreadsheet at our website shows the dates that hearings will occur and when testimony can be taken. If you wish to testify in writing or verbally, you will need to refer to the hearings schedule at the committee's website and follow instructions there to submit testimony.



If you wish to join the Friday Advocacy Committee calls, contact Stan or myself and we can add you to our list:

Stan Dean, Advocacy Chair

stan.dean@jswcd.org

Jan Lee, Executive Director

jan.lee@oacd.org

We meet 10:30-12:00 Fridays by phone.

If you want to provide testimony or stream a hearing, go to the PowerPoint on our website for the advocacy training. It has instructions and links to the areas where you will need to go to look up committee agendas, particular bills, who the legislators are for your district and many other items. If you are going to testify, we are happy to assist you and appreciate your sharing your positions so we can fill you in on backgrounds or relationships with particular legislators as you work through the process.

While "cap and trade" legislation that ended up in walkouts in past sessions is off the table this session, climate issues are being pursued directly under agency authorizations as administered by the governor's Executive Order 20-04 on climate change. The Oregon Global Warming Commission is working on a study on how natural and working lands can voluntarily provide reductions in greenhouse gases and DEQ's "cap and reduce" Climate Protection Program is pursuing rulemaking to implement state strategies. Both Stan and I are working within the DEQ process; I am on the 34 member RAC and Stan is my alternate. We are representing the issues on behalf of natural and working lands in that role.



JOBS, H. R. INFORMATION, TRAINING

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE FOR EMPLOYERS

The Oregon Bureau of Labor and Industries offers a free employer hotline to help special districts such as SWCDs to navigate employment laws and stay in compliance. Go to bolita@boli.state.or.us or call 971-673-0824. Responses usually occur within 24 hours. Here are some of our most visited guidance webpages that you may not know you needed related to COVID issue:

- [Sick Time](#)
- [Oregon Family Leave Act](#)
- [Vaccinations](#)
- [COVID-19 Resources](#) COVID workplace rules will become permanent after May 4.
- [Final paychecks](#)

FOLLOW UP SURVEY FOR ODA TRAINING

Eric Nusbaum seeks your survey response regarding participation in the recent training for district directors and staff. If you attended, please take a minute to complete the survey. If you have questions, you can contact Eric at 503.510.8930. Presentations are available at ODA's website. Survey: <https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/6224776/District-Training-Week-2021>

ODFW SEEKS CANDIDATE FOR OREGON FISH PASSAGE TASK FORCE

Applications are due by March 19 to represent the state's Fish Passage Task Force. The nine volunteer members of the task force are appointed by the ODFW Director and are eligible to serve up to two 4-year terms. Task Force members represent water users or owners of artificial obstructions, fisheries and conservation interests, and the general public. For more information contact Greg Apke, ODFW Fish Passage Program Coordinator at (503) 947-6228 or email greg.d.apke@state.or.us.

MARION SWCD POSITIONS

Marion SWCD is now hiring. [Click Here for Employment Information](#) and contact (503) 391-9927 or office@marionswcd.net for more information for the positions of **District Manager** and **Conservation Planner**.

GRANT SWCD OPENING

Grant SWCD is seeking a vegetation specialist. For more information contact Kyle Sullivan, District Manager: (541) 575-0135 x111, (541) 575-0135 ext. 111 sullivan@ortelco.net

WHEELER SWCD SEEKS MANAGER

Wheeler SWCD in Fossil, Oregon, is seeking a District Manager. A full job description is available at <http://www.wheelerswcd.org> (541) 468-2990

COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS (COLT)

The [Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts](#) (COLT) is seeking a communications manager. This role is a core part of their staff team and helps elevate the work of land conservation across Oregon. This position is a great opportunity to connect with a statewide community of passionate conservation professionals and will play a leadership role in building an inclusive statewide land trust movement. More information is available at COLT's website.

NACD UPDATES

NACD held its annual meeting virtually in February. Some of the material shared virtually is available at the NACD Website: www.nacd.org.

Ariel Rivers, the Pacific Representative for NACD, has shared the following links to NACD publications. All of the publications are available at [NACD's publications](#).



The weekly newsletters include: [eResource](#), [The Resource](#), and [Forestry Notes](#). The [archives of the monthly urban and community webinars](#) are full of example projects from the Pacific Region, as well as other projects that the Pacific may learn from.

The NACD Summer Meeting is scheduled for July 24-27, 2021 in Chicago, if live.

POTPOURRI



CLACKAMAS SWCD'S NEW MANAGER

Chris Lapp has joined the district as its new manager. You can reach him at manager@conservationdistrict.org or (503) 210-6001. Chris brings a solid background in land conservation planning and communications. His previous experience with US Fish and Wildlife Service gave him the opportunity to establish community and agency partnerships and to implement land conservation planning on a national and regional scale. Prior to the position, Chris worked at the Tualatin River National Wildlife Refuge. He holds a bachelor's degree in wildlife management. Please take the opportunity to Greet Chris.

OREGON CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUND AND OTHER ODFW UPDATES

ODFW is beginning a series of virtual "Conservation Open Houses" to discuss the big challenges facing fish, wildlife, and the habitats they depend on in Oregon. One of the tools to improve current circumstances is the OCRF fund. The open houses will share information on issues, with the first Open House scheduled for **Tuesday, March 16, 10:00am-12:00pm**. To get the link to this series, contact Davia at ODFW: Davia.M.Palmeri@state.or.us

Potential Agenda Items:

- ODFW 2021-2023 Governor's Budget Request
- Other legislation this session
- Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund
- ODFW Climate & Ocean Change Policy

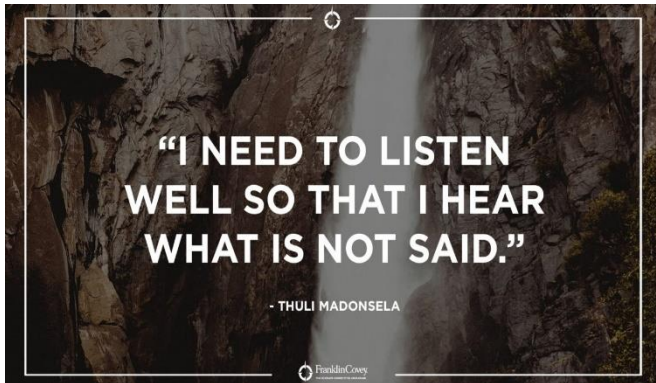
- Recovering America's Wildlife Act
- Priorities under the new federal administration

OREGON'S ROLE IN CONGRESS

A new Congress and a new majority in the Senate has created opportunities for members of the Oregon and Washington Senate delegation.

- Oregon's Senator Ron Wyden assumes the chairmanship of the Senate Finance committee, in charge of tax policy, Social Security, trade agreements, and programs like health care costs.
- Washington Senator Patty Murray is now chair of the Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee. She is also now the third ranking Democrat in the Senate.
- Oregon Senator Jeff Merkley is now chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on the Department of Interior, Environment and Related Agencies.

With infrastructure and other appropriations work prioritized in Congress, the Northwest is in a good position to support the needs of the region.



LEARNING TO LISTEN

I would like to share some information that Tom Salzer, currently the Executive Director of the Washington Association of Conservation Districts, provided recently in his association's newsletter. Listening and taking the time to respond can accentuate your communication skills.

- Validate the person speaking, even when we don't agree with what they are saying.
- Hear the person without judging, listening without labeling.
- Show empathy, being considerate, showing respect.
- Understand our own inherent biases, being in touch with our own feelings and emotional drivers.
- Seeking positive outcomes for all.

These links expand on these thoughts for those who wish to explore reacting vs. responding:

- <https://kgdiversity.com/a-blueprint-for-transforming-reactions-vs-responses/>
- <https://www.nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/December-2018/Please-Don-t-React-Respond>
- <https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/focus-forgiveness/201609/react-vs-respond>
- <https://www.management-issues.com/connected/7257/reacting-vs-responding/>
- <https://zenhabits.net/respond/>

If you read no other link, try this one.

- <https://www.inc.com/justin-bariso/7-simple-strategies-that-will-help-you-manage-your-emotions.html>



OACD

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS



- House appropriators officially bring back earmarks, ending ban [READ MORE](#) (Capitol Roll Call, a D.C. publication)
- [Freshman Bentz named ranking member on House water subcommittee](#) (Capital Press)
- [Forest carbon offsets expand: good for landowners, bad for mills](#) (Capital Press)

ROOT WADS AVAILABLE FOR FISH HABITAT PROJECTS

The ODOT/FEMA hazard tree removal group is reaching out to ODFW for the disposition of hazard trees with root wads for fish habitat projects on the westside of the state in the area where fires have taken place last year. You can make contact to secure some of the root wads by reaching Erin VanDehey: EVanDehey@masonbruce.com.

WATER INFRASTRUCTURE MORE THAN DAMS AND PIPES

When it comes to critical water infrastructure in the West, U.S. Sen. Michael Bennet says it is about more than dams, pipes, and canals.

Water security begins in the forest, along streams and rivers that flow through farms and communities, Bennet, D-Colo., said during the Family Farm Alliance annual conference.

“As a country, we have to treat America’s landscape as essential infrastructure,” Bennet said. “Our forests are as essential to the western economy as the Lincoln Tunnel or George Washington Bridge is to New York.”

https://www.capitalpress.com/ag_sectors/water/water-infrastructure-more-than-dams-and-pipes-senator-says/article_ebfbe598-721c-11eb-a5db-afc726d40bd8.html

- [Native Species or Invasive? The Distinction Blurs as the World Warms](#) | Yale E360
- [How to be a successful remote employee](#) | Quartz at Work
- [Self-improvement strategies to become a better leader](#) | Fast Company

NRCS SEEKS COMMENTS ON CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARDS

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking public comment on proposed revisions to 23 national conservation practice standards through a posting in the Federal Register. The proposed revisions will publish March 9 with comments due April 8.

[Learn More About Revised Practice Standards](#)

“30 X 30”

President Biden's executive order calls for **conservation of 30% of the U.S. land base by 2030**. This bold "30x30" vision is firmly rooted in science, given that protected land is key to a healthy and secure future for all Americans. It provides pure drinking water, healthy food, clean air, habitat for wildlife, and places for people to reflect, recreate, hunt and fish. Conserved land also provides protection from natural disasters, such as floods and droughts, and absorbs and keeps carbon from the Earth's atmosphere.

Land conservation is not keeping pace with growing threats to our lands, waters, wildlife, and ways of life. Every 30 seconds the U.S. loses a football field of natural lands to development. Since 1970, North America has lost 3 billion birds. Forty acres of farmland in the US are lost to development every hour. The permanent reauthorization and full funding of the [Land and Water Conservation Fund](#).

JUDGE SIDES WITH USDA ON PROTECTING FARMER DATA

A federal judge has ruled that the USDA has correctly refused to turn over farmer information to a company that analyzes and sells data to agribusiness suppliers. U.S. District Judge Timothy Kelly has ruled that USDA's records about farmers and the size and location of their operations are “exempt from disclosure” under the Freedom of Information Act, or FOIA. [More](#) (Capital Press)



Oregon Conservation Partnership

Join us!

Oregon Conservation Partnership launches five affinity groups to support collaborative conservation across the state!

- [Estuaries and Tide Gates](#)
- [Fire and Conservation](#)
- [Journal Club for Aquatic Habitat Restoration](#)
- [Pollinators](#)
- [Protection of working lands and easements](#)

About: Conservation/Restoration Affinity Groups are a new initiative launched by the [Oregon Conservation Partnership](#) (OrCP) in 2021, with the goal to increase connections, collaboration and conservation impact across Watershed Councils, Conservation Districts, and Land Trusts.

Affinity Group Description: OrCP will host five Affinity Groups, each focused on a particular conservation/restoration topic; Watershed Council, Conservation District and Land Trust employees and Board members can “opt in” to groups relevant to their needs and interests. Each group will have approximately 20 participants and be

facilitated by a coordinator who will offer regular meetings over remote meeting platforms, providing an opportunity for:

- Sustained, longer term conversations;
- Information and resource sharing;
- Collaboration incubation;
- Near-peer mentoring;
- Professional development.

Expectations for participation: The success of Affinity groups relies on group cohesion and consistent participation of affinity group members. These groups will meet no less than six times per year and participation includes the following:

- active participation, showing up, and joining conversation
- willingness to contribute your own stories and resources for peer learning

Coordinators: OrCP will appoint a Coordinator for each Affinity Group, likely a current or retired employee or Board Member for a Watershed Council, Conservation District or Land Trust. Each coordinator will receive a \$2,000 stipend, and will be responsible for hosting at least six meetings in 2021, identifying learning objectives and evaluative metrics, coordinating communication and logistics, and tracking follow-through for group action items.

Affinity Group Topics:

OrCP identified the following topics based on a needs-analysis survey conducted across our member organizations, November, 2020.

Estuaries and tide gates:

To join, contact coordinator Garshaw Amidi-Abraham at nnwc@nestuccawaters.org
Garshaw serves as the Coordinator for the Nestucca, Neskowin & Sand Lake Watershed Council in Pacific City, Oregon.

From a conservation perspective, existing tide gate infrastructure and upstream drainages pose several limitations on fish passage and access to critical rearing

habitat. Failing tide gates can threaten agricultural and municipal operations and infrastructure. There is growing momentum to address the suite of issues related to tide gates so that infrastructure can be improved to meet both environmental needs and the needs of coastal communities. Many conservation groups have been and intend to continue to play a key role in supporting solutions that include tide gate replacements and working lands restoration actions to improve habitat, fish passage, and water quality. These efforts require significant capacity and expertise to shepherd these complex projects through the development, implementation, adaptive management and monitoring phases of work. This group is intended to support local Watershed Councils, Conservation Districts and Land Trusts in sharing lessons learned, receiving up-to-date information on late breaking updates, and identifying potential areas for collaboration or partnership across the coast.

Fire and conservation

Coordinator TBA *Are you interested in being the coordinator?*

To join, or to express interest in becoming the coordinator, contact Jan Lee at jan.lee@oacd.org

Jan serves as the Executive Director for the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD)

Wildfire threatens all of our partnership entities. This group will focus on sharing ideas and skills in preparing for wildfires by taking proactive prevention steps, addressing actions when wildfires occur, and providing restoration following wildfire. There are a number of local, state and federal agencies involved in wildfire protection and regulation and becoming knowledgeable of those resources will also be supportive of how we do our work to address the wildfire issue. What did we learn about working with FEMA and other agencies? Many of our partnership entities are now working on restoration projects and the lessons learned among our member entities are valuable to share while we learn from each other.

Journal Club for aquatic habitat restoration

To join, contact coordinator Zac Mallon at lnwc@nehalem.tel.net

Zac serves as the Coordinator for the Lower Nehalem Watershed Council in Nehalem, Oregon.

This group will identify a scope of current research, literature, conference proceedings and other publications dedicated to specific conservation and restoration topics. Each meeting, group members will read a particular article broadly and it will be presented by one member who has read it deeply who will lead a discussion. This approach will help Watershed Council, Conservation District and Land Trust members stay current on regional/national/international best practices/lessons learned, and will inform and foster collaborations. Members may also work together to develop conference sessions or articles of their own.

Pollinators

Coordinator TBA *Are you interested in being the coordinator?*

To join, or to express interest in becoming the coordinator, contact Kelley Beamer at kelley@oregonlandtrusts.org

Kelley serves as the Executive Director for the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

The goal of this group is to to work together, learn together and share ideas and resources so that we can collectively support the great diversity and abundance of native pollinators (bees, butterflies, bats and more). Proposed focus areas include:

- Highlight monarchs and the work we've been doing to help conserve this rapidly declining species; (Lead by Amanda Egertson);
- Highlight bees and what land trusts are doing to help restore habitat and survey for native bee populations;
- Create a summit/meeting, likely connected to another conference;
- Strategies for restoration;
- Strategies for community engagement.

Protection/restoration of working lands and easements

To join, contact Coordinator Torey Mill at torey@oregonlandtrusts.org

Torey serves as the Program Manager for the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts in Portland, Oregon

This group is comprised of land trusts, SWCDs, agency partners, and other conservation practitioners working in the realm of agricultural/working lands easements and discusses grant applications, funding opportunities, best practices

around conservation management plans, and generally provides a forum to hear from peers and colleagues about direct experience in the field.

By bringing all of the best minds together, we can creatively brainstorm solutions to some of the barriers that have hindered working lands easements in Oregon, foster and enhance relationships with agencies like NRCS, and generally advance the pace of agricultural conservation in Oregon that also benefits fish and wildlife habitat and considers climate change impacts.