



Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts

OACD NEWS

September 2022



LEGISLATIVE SESSION COMING SOON

The Oregon Legislature will meet in its long session (160 days) in 2023. OACD is preparing our policy work to be able to interact with the legislature. There will be many new legislators and a new governor, so change is coming! OACD's Advocacy Committee continues to work to prepare for the new session.

If you have issues that require legislative or regulatory assistance, please advise the committee by sending your proposals to committee chair Stan Dean (stan.dean@jswcd.org) and cc me (jan.lee@oacd.org) and we will work with you to seek assistance to resolve your issue. The request form is located in OACD's member portal. If you have not yet signed up for access, please go to <https://oacd.org/> and do so.

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Issues Coming up in 2023:

Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program (OAHP)

OACD has joined 9 other associations in securing a lobbyist to push for a \$10 million investment in the OAHP program. OAHP funds both conservation easements on working lands as well as agricultural practices, which can include carbon sequestration work.

The Oregon Conservation Partnership (ORCP), of which OACD is a member as well as the watershed councils (NOWC) and the land trusts (COLT) and OCEAN (district employees), provided a webinar in which OWEB's grant manager Eric Williams and OAHP coordinator Taylor Larson shared information on how to apply for grants under the OAHP program for either conservation easements or conservation management planning. The webinar is posted on the ORCP website (www.conservationpartnership.org). Information about applications and the program are available on [OWEB's website](#). Applications are due by October 31, 2022, and can either be for conservation easements or agricultural management plans. You can also contact Taylor Larson with questions: taylor.larson@oweb.oregon.gov 971-701-3248.

Wildlife Habitat Tax Credit Program

A work group of several districts put together a request to the legislature to fund the Wildlife Habitat Tax Credit Program. Presentation materials were provided to the legislature at a hearing before the interim committee this summer, urging funding support for the program that can provide tax credits to landowners for providing wildlife habitat. The flyer and other information is available in our OACD member portal. If you do not already have access, please contact us. Or, for more information on the districts' work on this issue, contact Jason Faucera (jfaucera@conservationdistrict.org).

Carbon Sequestration

We also continue to work with Senator Dembrow and a working group on providing a statewide program for carbon sequestration work to follow up on the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) September 21, 2021 [proposal](#) on natural and working lands.

Budget Review and Support

We are also supporting several budget proposals in the Oregon Department of Agriculture's budget, including making the soil scientist position permanent. You will meet Mike Badzmierowski at our annual meeting October 31 – November 2 in Newport. We review the natural resource agency budgets and work with the agencies on items of mutual need, including Water Resources, OWEB, ODFW, and others with district interest.

In addition, significant federal funds will be received by Oregon from the Congressional infrastructure legislation and the IRA (Inflation Reduction Act). The USDA, for example, will be receiving \$18 billion for programs from the IRA, including investment into its standard conservation programs plus an additional earmark for carbon sequestration work. Ron Alvarado, Oregon's State Conservationist, estimates that \$80-100 million may come to Oregon as its share under the IRA.



As during the pandemic, legislative hearings will continue to be hybrid. You can either attend in Salem as part of the live audience, or you can join virtually on your computer. The ability for people who are many hours from Salem to testify by offering virtual engagement has made the legislature more accessible to all. In the interim, the next legislative interim committee hearings will be held **December 7-9**, virtually. We will keep you informed of the natural

resources issues that may be addressed at these hearings.

WHAT CAN YOU DO TO PREPARE?

You can best support OACD's advocacy and your own needs by getting to know your own legislators and interacting with them.

Find your legislator: <https://www.oregonlegislature.gov/FindYourLegislator/leg-districts.html>

Due to redistricting, these are your legislators through 2022 but you may be in a new district in 2023. You could have the same legislator then, or perhaps a different one, depending on redistricting and also the results of the November 8 election.

What can you do to build a relationship with your legislators? Sign up for townhalls held by your legislators: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORLEG/subscriber/new>. Meet your legislators locally where you will have the best opportunity to get to know them.

Offer tours of your district or for them to attend a board meeting or a workshop. Perhaps one of your legislators may be invited to speak at your annual meeting.

You can attend OACD Advocacy Committee meetings and follow issues outlined in OACD communications. Thanks for your support!

OACD LEGISLATIVE TOUR



On August 22nd OACD led a tour of the Imperial Stock Ranch in Maupin to share with legislators and others a major carbon sequestration project. Jeanne Carver, the ranch owner, provided background on the sequestration project covering 33,000 acres. She is working with others in the Shanko Wool Company to expand the acreage to 2 million acres in Oregon and other states. We will discuss the tour in more detail as part of the Carbon Sequestration Workshop that will occur the morning of November 2 at the OACD Annual Conference.

Legislators Senator Michael Dembrow and Rep. Ken Helm attended the tour, along with Taylor Larson of the OAHF staff at OWEB and OAHF Commissioner Ken Bailey. Others on the tour represented OACD's Working Lands Committee.

COMING EVENTS



OACD EVENTS

October 31 & November 1-2, 2022 Annual Conference at the Beach
76TH Annual Meeting



Hold the dates for the OACD Annual Conference at the Agate Beach Inn in Newport. A special mailing will go out on September 30 with the more detailed agenda to follow up on the email overview and registration information sent last week.

Register at: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/copy-of-oregon-association-of-conservation-districts-annual-conference-tickets-424261606887>.

We had an overwhelming number of members wanting to hold the conference at the beach so we have made the arrangements to do so. Rooms are \$114 (or \$144 for ocean view) and you can obtain a room by calling (541) 265-9411. Make sure to mention you are in the OACD block to get that rate. The hotel is located at 2019 North Coast Highway, Newport, OR 97365. The room block expires 10/14. After that rooms would be available if they are available but the price could change.

AGENCY EVENTS

OWEB Board meets October 25/26 in Tillamook - hybrid

ODFW Commission meets October 13-14 in Coos Bay - hybrid

ODA Board meets November 15-17, Portland area - hybrid

SWCC Commission meets November 2 in conjunction with OACD meeting in Newport

Water Resources Commission next meets November 1 & 2 – hybrid

DLCD November 17-18 in Lincoln City – hybrid
Oregon Global Warming Commission – October 7, 9:00 to 100 Meeting Link:
<https://odoe.webex.com/odoe/j.php?MTID=m85970cbbe3ec0a7ee3d34476effd07f3>

Check agency pages for updates and agendas.

OTHER EVENTS

SDAO Annual Meeting – February 9-12, 2023 Sunriver, OR

NACD Annual Meeting – February 11-15, 2023, New Orleans, LA

CLIMATE RESILIENCE TRAINING FOR OREGON AG PROFESSIONALS

[Register Today!](#) Workshops October 5th, 12th, 19th and 26th from 9:30-11:30 held virtually. This training is relevant for farm advisors and researchers throughout Oregon. Recordings will also be available. Topics include Foundations for Climate Resilience Planning on Farms and Ranches in Oregon. Talking about Climate Change with Producers; Identifying and Implementing Adaptation and Resilience Actions; and Policy and Market Drivers for Climate Resilience.



FUNDING RESOURCES



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

NEW!! Ag Water Quality Support Grants

Oregon is taking a coordinated streamside management approach to address priority water quality concerns and improve streams for fish and wildlife. The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) and other state agencies, local partners, and stakeholders are coordinating expertise, funding, and resources to improve water quality throughout Oregon. ODA's Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) initiative was selected to implement the coordinated approach.

Beginning with the 2021-23 biennium, ODA's Agricultural Water Quality (AgWQ) Program will have an open solicitation for grants of \$20,000 to \$149,000 for Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD) and Watershed Councils (WC). These grants are intended to provide capacity to support voluntary agricultural water quality work in small watersheds and to meet the goals of the Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans (Area Plans) and the SIA initiative. For this biennium only, selected proposals need to be completed by June 30, 2023. Proposals can begin a phase of work in 2021-23 and then continue into future biennia with the next phase (via a future open solicitation). Please visit the [ODA Ag Water Quality Grants webpage](#) for more information.

OREGON NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE

Conservation Innovation Grants

The [CIG Classic program](#) will award up to \$15 million for projects proposing solutions to support producer adaptation to extreme weather events; building resilience through emerging production systems for climate smart agriculture; combating invasive species; and conservation in urban agricultural systems. CIG Classic is accepting applications via [Grants.gov](#) through October 11, 2022. Both programs are setting aside at least 10% of funding to proposals benefiting [Historically Underserved](#) (HU) producers or entities. Qualifying HU applicants may be eligible for a reduced project cost-share. Learn more by visiting the [NRCS CIG Homepage](#) or contacting nrcscig@usda.gov.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD GRANTS



Partnership Technical Assistance Grants [View it as a Web page.](#)

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board is pleased to announce a new **Partnership Technical Assistance application solicitation**.

Partnership technical assistance grants support existing partnerships to:

- generate a new or enhance an existing strategic action plan;
- elevate the partnership's current level of performance;
- support partnership capacity.

Projects do not have to address one of OWEB's Board-identified Focused Investment Priorities. Partnership technical assistance grants are available for either *Partnership Capacity*, for partnerships that are already operating as a collaborative partnership and have a strategic action plan or *Partnership Development*, for partnerships that desire to develop a strategic action plan and a collaborative partnership. **Partnership TA grants are required to lead to implementation of conservation actions.** Applicants can request up to \$150,000 in this offering and projects can last up to 3 years. OWEB expects to distribute up to \$703,000 under this offering. The partnership technical assistance application is available through: [OWEB's Online Grant Application system](#).

The deadline for the Partnership Technical Assistance application is 5 pm, December 9, 2022.

Questions? Staff Contact: [Denise Hoffert](#), 971-701-3206

Post Fire Recovery Grants [View it as a Web page.](#)

OWEB is accepting applications for 2021 [Post-Fire Recovery Grants](#). These grants are available for areas impacted by wildfires in 2021. At its April 2022 meeting, the OWEB Board approved receipt of \$5 million in General Funds for 2021 post-fire recovery grants to be offered during the 2021-2023 biennium.

The deadline for the first grant cycle for the OWEB 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grants is 5 p.m. on October 20, 2022. Due to anticipated demand during the first grant cycle, it is not anticipated that funding for a second grant cycle will be available. However, determination of future grant cycles will

be made following the close of the current offering. Applicants are encouraged to consult OWEB staff prior to submitting applications to ensure adherence to eligibility criteria and discuss budget considerations.

Eligible Fire Affected Areas The following fire areas are eligible for the OWEB 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grants:

- Cougar Peak Fire
- Devils Knob Complex Fire
- Elbow Creek Fire
- Grandview Fire
- Joseph Canyon Fire
- Patton Meadow Fire
- Rattlesnake Fire
- Rough Patch Complex Fire
- S-503 Fire
- Skyline Ridge Fire Complex
- Wrentham Market Fire
- Black Butte Fire
- Big Meadow Fire
- Bootleg Fire
- Cougar Peak Fire

(Note: in areas where multiple eligible fires are adjacent to each other, applicants may apply for work to occur in more than one fire footprint.)

To view a map of the 2021 wildfire areas, view the OSU Extension Service “After the Wildfire” map at <https://extension.oregonstate.edu/fire-program/after-wildfire>. Select the “Wildfire Map” tab and the 2021 Wildfire Perimeters layer.

Actions Eligible for Funding

OWEB’s 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grants prioritize on-the-ground restoration activities to aid post-fire natural resources recovery. Project activities that address **soil stabilization and erosion control, detection and treatment for invasive species, reseeding and replanting, instream habitat restoration, and culvert repair or replacement** are eligible under this grant offering.

Applicants 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 soil burn severity, vegetation mortality, erosion risk, habitat complexity, or fish passage barriers, to name a few. Examples of assessment and analyses with this information include federal, tribal, and local assessments that document the 2021 post-fire impacts.

Eligible Applicants

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.

Important Considerations for OWEB's 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grants

Please review the [OWEB 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program Overview and Guidance document](#). This document outlines important information about grant program structure and provides guidance to potential applicants that will help determine if proposed projects are appropriate for the OWEB 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program. Important considerations include, but are not limited to:

- Legislative funding for these grants was provided with the intent that the majority of the grant funding supports on-the-ground natural resources recovery and restoration actions.
- The 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grants prioritize work on non-federal lands (e.g., private, state, county, and tribal lands). In limited cases, work may occur on small portions of federal lands if part of an all-lands approach. Applicants must contact OWEB to discuss this topic prior to submitting a grant application.
- OWEB strongly encourages local partners to coordinate activities in ways that leverage strengths of the partner organizations (including federally recognized Tribes) and maximizes efficiency and effectiveness of on-the-groundwork.
- Applicants must demonstrate capacity to plan and implement successful restoration actions at scale and over a relatively short timeframe (i.e., potentially as few as 6 months and as long as 2.5 years).

Questions?

If you have questions about applying to [OWEB's 2021 Post-Fire Recovery Grant Program](#), visit the website or contact Rachel Thompson at rachel.thompson@oweb.oregon.gov.

Klamath County Drought Resilience Technical Assistance/Stakeholder Engagement and Restoration Grant Programs

This funding provides competitive grants to support drought resilience and water use reduction projects in Klamath County. These grants are supported by General Funds from the Oregon Legislature. At its January 2022 meeting, the OWEB Board approved receipt of the General Funds for multiple Drought Relief grant programs to be offered during the 2021-2023 biennium.

The grant cycle deadline for the OWEB Klamath County Drought Resilience Technical Assistance/Stakeholder Engagement and Restoration Grant Programs is 5 p.m. on October 17, 2022.

Eligible Area: Klamath County

Eligible Applicants: 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.

Eligible activities for Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement grant applications include:

- Technical Design and Engineering
- Assessment and Planning
- Stakeholder Engagement

Eligible activities for Restoration grant applications include:

- Irrigation sprinkler conversion
- Upgrading irrigation infrastructure
- Irrigation tailwater recovery systems
- Irrigation land leveling
- Soil moisture monitoring
- Conversion to drought resistant crop(s)/forage
- Conversion to dryland agriculture
- Other drought resilience activities may be eligible. Before choosing this activity type, contact the OWEB Drought Project Manager to determine if the proposed activity is eligible.

Important Considerations for this Grant Program Please review the OWEB Drought Relief Program – [Klamath County Drought Resilience Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Overview and Guidance document](#) and [Klamath County Drought Resilience Restoration Grant Overview and Guidance document](#). These documents outline important information about these grants and provide guidance to potential applicants that will help determine if proposed projects are appropriate for the OWEB Klamath County Drought Resilience Grant Programs. Important considerations, in addition to the eligibility requirements described above per the legislative intent, include, but are not limited to:

- Coordination of activities among local partners to leverage strengths of the partner organizations and maximize efficiency and effectiveness of on-the-groundwork; and
- Demonstrated capacity of the applicant and project partners to plan and implement successful actions during a short timeframe (i.e., by June 30, 2023).

Questions?

If you have questions about applying to OWEB’s Klamath County Drought Resilience Grant Program, visit the [Drought Relief Grant Program webpage](#). Questions regarding the Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement Grant Program contact [Amy Charette](#), Drought Programs Coordinator, 971-719-3100. Questions regarding the Restoration Grant Program contact [Heidi Hartman](#), Drought Programs Specialist, 971-707-0226.



OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE

Oregon Conservation & Recreation Fund

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Advisory Committee is pleased to announce the opening of a funding for conservation and recreation projects in the 2021-2023 biennium.

The Committee anticipates that the current round of funding will include: **Online grant applications opening August 12th, 2022,** and closing **October 7th, 2022.** .

- The maximum allowable grant request per institution and/or organization will be \$50,000.
- Any public or private non-profit organization may request funds. Private non-profit organizations must have tax-exempt status under the IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).
- A newly required cap on institutional/organizational indirect overhead rates at 20% of the requested project budget.
- Updated project insurance guidelines.

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (Fund) is a new way for Oregonians to support projects that protect and enhance the species and habitats identified in the Oregon Conservation Strategy and create new opportunities for wildlife watching, urban conservation, community science, and other wildlife-associated recreation. The OCRF will prioritize projects that implement the Oregon Conservation Strategy, a blueprint for conserving Oregon's fish and wildlife and their habitats before they become more difficult to protect. The OCRF will also invest in outdoor recreation opportunities that connect Oregonians to the natural world and increase equity for underserved communities.



JOBS, H.R. INFORMATION, TRAINING

BENTON SWC is announcing an open position for an **Operations Coordinator!** This is an exciting opportunity to join the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District Team, a leader in community conservation since 1956. We are seeking a creative professional with a passion for conservation and a commitment to working with diverse partners in Benton County, Oregon. Position open until filled.



Please visit this link to explore the job announcement and position description: <https://bentonswcd.org/about/career-pathways/job-opportunities/operations-coordinator/>

OREGON AGRICULTURAL TRUST

OAT is seeking a **creative and passionate Farmland Protection Program Director who is skilled at project management and partnership building join OAT's Ag Land Program.**

Position duties include: identifying priority farmlands throughout Oregon, with an emphasis on the Mid/South Willamette Valley, North Coast and Mid-Columbia Focus Regions; building relationships with landowners and partner organizations to advance the permanent protection of priority farmlands; managing agricultural conservation easements and other real estate transactions related to farmland; stewarding and monitoring conserved farms; providing technical assistance on working land preservation to other organizations; and co-leading OAT's Land Committee. **View the job description and application instructions here.**

SNOHOMISH CONSERVATION DISTRICT has an opening for a full time **Communications and Marketing Specialist** to oversee the messaging and communication strategies of Snohomish Conservation District. The Communications and Marketing Specialist will engage the community and encourage conservation through written and digital content such as social media, newsletters, and press releases. A successful candidate will have a bachelor's degree in communications, English, journalism, marketing, or a related field, strong writing and editing skills, and at least three years of professional experience in marketing, communications, or a related field. Applications accepted until position is filled. at: <https://snohomishcd.org/employment>

MONUMENT SWCD

Project Manager in Monument, OR. Mail cover letter, resume and references to mawcd@monumentswcd.org. For more information contact Erik Rook, District Manager, at 541-934-2141 or erook@monumentswcd.org.



KLAMATH SWCD has an opening for a district manager with starting salary dependent upon qualifications. Contact the district for the full job description: dqcone@hotmail.com. Bachelor's degree required with major course work in natural resources, agricultural sciences, or related discipline. Alternate requirements may be met. A resume and cover letter expressing interest, along with 4 professional references needs to be submitted. For information about the district go to www.klamathswcd.org.

JACKSON SWCD

Jackson SWCD in Central Point will be seeking an Executive Director in the wake of Randy White's retirement. More details will be available soon. In the interim you may Contact board chair, Stan Dean for more information: stan.dean@jswcd.org

CALIFORNIA RC&D EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

See <https://carcd.org/about-us/careers/> for qualifications. Send a cover letter and resume to jobs@carcd.org. Support the RC&D districts in the state. Salary \$110-140k.

OREGON SHORES CONSERVATION COALITION

Executive Director Position \$70-80k. Submit resume and cover letter to OregonShores@Poisner.com by October 7. Attributes: fundraising, board engagement, finances, strategic planning, HR and program oversight and communications. More information at www.oregonshores.org.

TROUT UNLIMITED



Salmon SuperHWY Program Director in Tillamook. Lead an innovative partnership, working with stakeholders, agencies, coordinating outreach and collaborations with landowners. A resume, and cover letter, with three references are required.

<https://recruiting.paylocity.com/Recruiting/Jobs/Details/1287283>



KLAMATH WATERSHED PARTNERSHIP

Executive Director open until filled. Email resume and cover letter to info@klamathwatershed.org. More information at <http://www.klamathpartnership.org/>



BUREAU OF LABOR NEW EMPLOYEE HANDBOOK

2022 [handbook](#) for employers now available with new updates from 2021 legislation. For technical assistance email ta.email@boli.oregon.gov or call 971-361-8400.



AGENCY NEWS

WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Update on water status: So far in 2022 there have been 17 counties receiving drought declarations and 29 counties who have received USDA crop disaster designations. Soil moisture profiles continue to be below to well below average throughout a majority of the state.

Groundwater Hearings: In 2023 the Water Resources Commission will be reviewing rulemaking for groundwater permitting. The [Oregon Water Resources Department](#) (OWRD) will be holding facilitated outreach meetings across the state in late September and early October to share information and ideas about updating the OWRD groundwater allocation policy.

Groundwater Allocation Policy Meetings: The meetings will provide a review of Oregon's framework for groundwater allocation, and initial ideas of revisions to the groundwater allocation process. There will be an opportunity for meeting participants to ask questions and provide public input. Please note that this policy will only affect people who are interested in applying for new groundwater rights in Oregon. It will not impact existing groundwater users. See meeting information at the end of this email. More details about meeting details, agenda topics, and meeting format will be shared in the coming weeks. Agendas, background materials, and meeting summaries will also be posted online at: www.oregon.gov/owrd/programs/GWWL/GW/GWAP.

Why is the Department undertaking this process: Groundwater development results in impacts, either in the short-term or long-term, to groundwater and surface water resources. The current groundwater allocation process is designed to prevent those groundwater uses that would have a relatively immediate impact (a year or less), and yet allow those uses whose impacts build over time (years). Over the long-term, this has resulted in declining groundwater levels and reduced surface water flows. The Water Resources Commission has directed the Department to develop recommendations for a plan of action that will lead to a modernized groundwater allocation policy that is more sustainable and protective of senior water right holders, both surface and groundwater. The Department is seeking input from the public on an approach. Information obtained during these workshops will be utilized to prepare an initial draft of rules, which will then be discussed with a rules advisory committee to further refine the draft rules in preparation for public comment and hearings to develop a final draft of rules for Commission consideration.

Questions? Contact Ivan.K.Gall@water.oregon.gov for any requests or questions.



Meeting Dates and Locations:

Bend – in person and virtual option

Wednesday, 9/28, 5:30-8 pm
OSU-Cascades (room TBA)
1500 SW Chandler Ave., Bend, OR 97702

La Grande – in person and virtual option

Thursday, 9/29, 5:30-8pm
Eastern Oregon University (room TBA)
1 University Blvd., La Grande, OR 97850

Medford area – in person and virtual option

Wednesday, 10/5, in 5:30-8pm

Jackson County Auditorium
7520 Table Rock Rd.
Central Point, OR 97502

Virtual Option

Thurs, 10/6, time to be determined

USDA PARTNERSHIPS FOR CLIMATE SMART COMMODITIES GRANTS

On September 14, Agriculture Secretary Vilsack announced the grantees that will be funded from the \$2.8 billion program for 70 projects nationwide. Later this year some small grants will be announced in addition. Oregon received several grants, although the grant application for ODA to fund a statewide sequestration and soil health program was not one of those awarded.

Among the Oregon projects:

- Sustainable Northwest was awarded \$10 million and will be working with partners to implement climate-smart grazing practices in beef production for 120 operations across thirteen states and over 7 million acres of public and private rangelands, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing market returns for participants.
- Sustainable Northwest was also awarded a climate-smart wood economy project to bring together Tribal, small family forest, and nonprofit wood producers with data scientists to manage and restore tens of thousands of acres in Oregon, quantifying the positive impacts of climate-smart management on carbon sequestration and other values.
- OSU and partners submitted for Climate-Smart Potatoes from the Pacific Northwest-- Managing Soil Health for Climate-Smart Outcomes—to build climate-smart markets

and advance adoption of climate-smart management systems in the Pacific Northwest states of Idaho, Washington, and Oregon where more than 62% of U.S. potatoes are grown. The award was for \$50 million.

- **Climate SMART (Scaling Mechanisms for Agriculture’s Regenerative Transformation)** --This project, which will reach across 28 states, aims to catalyze a self-sustaining, market-based network to broaden farmer access, scale adoption of climate-smart practices, and sustainably produce grain and dairy commodities with verified and quantified climate benefits.

See other awards here:

<https://www.usda.gov/climate-solutions/climate-smart-commodities/projects>

Of particular note is an award to the National Association of Conservation Districts that will enhance the work of the 3,000 districts nationwide as well as partners. The award will advance grassroots efforts that ensure producers and local communities are prepared to meet growing demand and have access to climate-smart commodity markets. This grant will provide up to \$90 million over 3 years for technical, financial, and marketing assistance. Key partners include the Indian Nations Conservation Alliance (INCA), Rural Coalition, the Kansas Black Farmers Association, and the Rural Advancement Fund of the National Sharecroppers Fund. Additional partners include the Ecosystem Services Market Consortium (ESMC), Field to Market: The Alliance for Sustainable Agriculture, HabiTerre, and Cornell Atkinson Center for Sustainability.

“We are thrilled about the opportunity to invest in local communities through USDA’s Climate Smart Commodities program,” said **NACD President Michael Crowder**. “Good soil health is climate-smart. We know that producers are more likely to implement climate-smart production systems if transition risks are mitigated and they have ready access to profitable market opportunities.” NACD’s goal of leaving no producer behind – particularly historically underserved communities and producers – will support USDA’s goals of advancing equity and inclusion. To close equity gaps, NACD will work with partners to facilitate producers’ access to markets and to identify opportunities for meaningful participation.

NRCS RCPP PROJECTS were recently funded for two Oregon SWCDs.

- ***Tualatin SWCD***
- ***Harney SWCD***

Tualatin Basin Habitat Conservation Partnership

Lead Partner: Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District

Award: \$1,493,674 **Total Partner Contribution Amount:** \$1,929,339

The Tualatin Basin Habitat Conservation Partnership will remove barriers that obstruct migration access for native migratory fish in the Gales Creek Watershed in northwest Oregon. These barriers, including dams and inadequate culverts, limit migratory passage for threatened and non-threatened species such as salmon, steelhead, and lamprey, and expand spawning and rearing accessibility for anadromous species. In addition to barrier

removal, the project will establish native vegetation on streambanks and riparian areas to provide stream shading to help protect water quality from sediment, nutrient, and pesticide runoff. The presence of highly skilled local entities that can streamline the planning and implementation of project activities with landowners makes this an ideal AFA project.



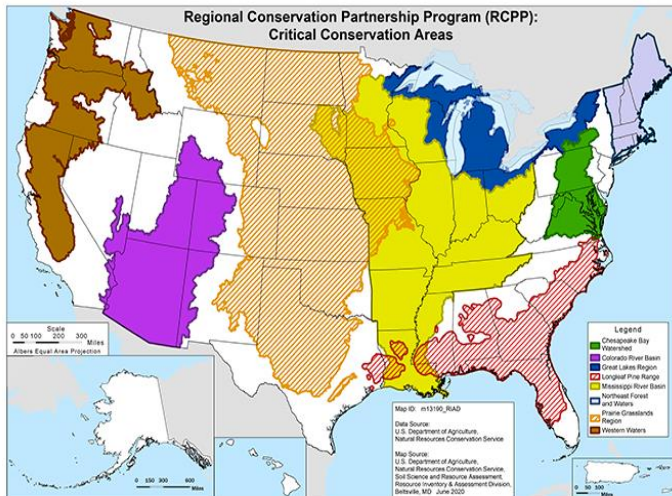
Harney County, Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy

Lead Partner: Harney Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCD)

Award: \$3,292,207 **Total Partner Contribution Amount:** \$9,767,551

The Southeast Harney County, Oregon Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy project goal is to reduce primary threats to Greater sage-grouse and improve habitat quality and quantity by accelerating implementation of conservation actions on private lands. This project will expand participation in the Conservation Agreements and Assurances program with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service which has proven to restore wildlife habitats while creating opportunities for landowners and benefiting rural economies. Ecological objectives include Reduce wildfire risk; treat invasive annual grasses/noxious weeds and augment understory vegetation; minimize juniper/conifer encroachment; improve grazing management strategies; plan and implement actions to connect fragmented habitat and enhance mesic habitat.

Oregon RCPP Projects Since 2015, the USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in Oregon has invested over \$60M in the [Regional Conservation Partnership Program \(RCPP\)](#). In that time, NRCS Oregon has leveraged technical and financial resources with over 200 conservation districts, NGOs, agricultural entities, and federal, state, and local governments. These organizations have contributed over \$100M towards shared projects. These collective conservation investments, totaling over \$160M, took place across 32 projects covering more than 200,000 acres and 600 landowner contracts.



Some highlights from Oregon's RCPP program since 2015 include:

Some highlights from Oregon's RCPP program since 2015 include:

- 23,000 acres enrolled in conservation easements
- 4,000 acres of oak woodland

habitat restored

- 5,000 acres of wetland habitat
- 25 miles of irrigation pipeline
- 300,000 acres of wildfire risk reduction
- 35 stream miles restored
- Thousands of riparian areas restored or protected; and
- Innovations in carbon markets

OWEB

Apply for a seat on the OAHP Commission

OWEB announces recruiting for a seat on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to represent natural resource interests.

What is the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program? Farms and ranches are increasingly challenged by fragmentation of farmland, conversion of farmland to non-farm uses, complex regulations, and planning for generational transfers. The State Legislature established the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) in 2017 to help address these challenges.



The program provides voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain or enhance both agriculture and natural resources such as fish and wildlife on agricultural lands. OAHP was developed by a collaboration of organizations representing natural resource conservation and agriculture, including farmer and rancher representatives and including OACD.

The term for the seat is January 2023 through January 2027; commissioners are eligible to serve two consecutive terms. An [application form](#) is available on the [OAHP webpage](#). The application will be open until October 31st, 2022. Applications may be emailed to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov, or sent by mail. Mailed applications must be postmarked by Oct 26th, 2022, in order to be considered for a position.

Prospective candidates are encouraged to review this webpage and to contact taylor.larson@oweb.oregon.gov, 971.701.3248 for further information.

ODA and ODFW also seek applicants to represent their agency on OAHP. See their websites for announcements.

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ODA Finalizes Agricultural Water Quality Program Rules

After consultation with stakeholders and the public, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) has updated some of its administrative rules for the Agricultural Water Quality Program.

Administrative rules are created by most state agencies and some boards and commissions to implement and interpret their statutory authority. The amended agricultural water quality rules align language with current practices and definitions. ODA amended the following rules: [603-090-0010](#), [603-090-0050](#), [603-090-0060](#), [603-090-0080](#), [603-090-0090](#), and [603-095-0010](#).

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



Klamath dam removal project moves forward

On August 26th the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) released a Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) that [recommends approval to remove four dams on the Klamath River](#). The recommendation by FERC staff is another key milestone in progress toward restoring the Klamath to its former free-flowing condition, work that has been undertaken collectively by PacifiCorp, which owns the dams, Oregon, California, and the Klamath River Renewal Corporation. FERC is likely to make a final decision later this fall.

Richard Whitman, Director of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, stated “This is an encouraging step forward. DEQ appreciates the thorough and comprehensive review by FERC staff. Along with significant federal funding for agricultural infrastructure and habitat improvement provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the recent Inflation Reduction Act, these actions set the

stage for addressing many of the underlying causes of conflict over water, water quality, and fisheries in the Klamath. We look forward to working with all of our partners to help put resource management back on a sustainable footing.”

[Read news release online here.](#)

OREGON DEPARTMENT OF FORESTRY

If you have been following SB 762, the major wildfire bill passed in the last session, you are aware that a map that was produced by OSU in coordination with ODF identifying properties at risk of wildfire received considerable public blowback. The map identified about 120,000 tax lots at “high” or “extreme” risk which would have required new building codes and obligations to remove flammable material from around homes and structures. After the furor, it was decided to create a new map, a draft of which is due to be presented in March, taking feedback until September, and finalizing the map by December 2023. For more information go to <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/fire/pages/wildfire-risk.aspx>.

OREGON DEPARTMENTS LOSE DIRECTORS

Oregon is losing two long term directors:

- Richard Whitman, DEQ leaving September 30, 2022
Leah Feldon, Deputy Director. will serve as interim.
- Tom Byler, WRD left in September
Doug Woodcock will serve as interim.

The ODA director is also leaving shortly to take a position with USDA. A new DLCD Director, Brenda Bateman, was installed earlier this year.

It is anticipated that final decisions on director replacements will be determined by the new governor.

OTHER NEWS

NACD POLICIES FOR CARBON SEQUESTRATION

Adopted by the NACD Board of Directors

- NACD supports adoption of a performance-based tax credit to promote conservation practice adoption and carbon sequestration.
- NACD supports research and technology development in sustainable carbon sequestration and emission reduction systems as effective ways to reduce the risk of air and water quality impairment, to build soil quality, to reduce production related risks of drought and flooding, improve productivity and to contribute to sustainable agricultural, grassland and forest ecosystems.
- NACD supports agricultural and forestry producers can be recognized and compensated for contributions to the reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration through private and/or federal markets

- NACD supports the concept of stacking conservation credits. This would include, but not limited to soil health, no-till, reduced-till, carbon sequestration, water quality, water quantity, greenhouse gas reduction credits, etc.
- NACD supports the concept of a carbon bank to promote conservation practice adoption and carbon sequestration.
- NACD supports the utilization of conservation districts as a neutral, third-party verifier of conservation practice adoption and carbon sequestration.
- NACD supports USDA to develop practice standards and protocol for agriculture and forestry activities that sequester carbon and mitigate greenhouse gases. The standards and protocols should include:
 - A. provisions should include agriculture and forestry (funding for education on cropping shifts, etc., due to climate changes; outreach; mitigation; plan development).
 - B. Ag and forestry should be exempt from and/or be able to offset greenhouse gas emission reduction requirements and not be designated as a capped sector.
 - C. Credits should be stackable to ensure that landowners can receive payments for a variety of environmental benefits they provide.
 - D. Valid practices should be eligible for payment beginning upon enrollment if that practice is still valid and sequestering carbon.
- NACD supports the inclusion of agro-forestry practices in any soil carbon initiatives.



NACD STEWARDSHIP POSTER

CONTEST The 2022 Poster and Photo Contest theme is "Healthy Soil, Healthy Life."

The 2022 Poster Contest is open for submissions until December 1, 2022. Winners will be announced during NACD's Annual Meeting in February and art will be displayed there. The contest is open for students from kindergarten through 12th grade. The contest starts at the district level; winners advance to the state level, and then to the national level, where they receive recognition at NACD's annual meeting.

The top three posters in each category of the national contest will receive monetary prizes. First-place winners will receive \$200; second place winners will receive \$150 and third place winners will receive \$100. Please

contact stewardship@nacdnet.org or go to:

<https://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/contests/> to see entry instructions.



ARTICLES & PUBLICATIONS

The article on the **Capital Press** can be found by going to their site and using the search function:



Federal Land Managers Face Lawsuit
By MATEUSZ PERKOWSKI Capital Press July 5, 2022

Federal land managers are facing a lawsuit alleging they violated the Freedom of Information Act by failing to timely release documents about the controversial River Democracy Act, which would designate nearly 4,700 miles of rivers and streams in Oregon as “wild and scenic.”

Growing electric: Farmers, researchers and nonprofit groups experiment with e-tractors

By GEORGE PLAVERN Capital Press May 19, 2022



Farmers, researchers and nonprofits are field-testing electric tractors, allowing producers to see firsthand what they can and cannot do on farms and in orchards. One study compares the cost of owning and operating an electric tractor with a similar diesel tractor.



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 3rd 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
- OAHF programs

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>

ORCP Partners in the CONNECT Conference

September 6-8, the four partner in OrCP partnered in the CONNECT conference program. Many of OACD's members participated either in planning or providing part of the program. OACD's executive director provided an update on activities and took part in a panel discussion on "Working with Legislators." With the Network of Watershed Council speaker. Even numbered year programs include the 4 partners (NOWC, COLT, OACD and OCEAN). In odd numbered years, OCEAN facilitates the program on its own and plans on a spring event in 2023.



