

OACD Working Lands Committee

**Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts**

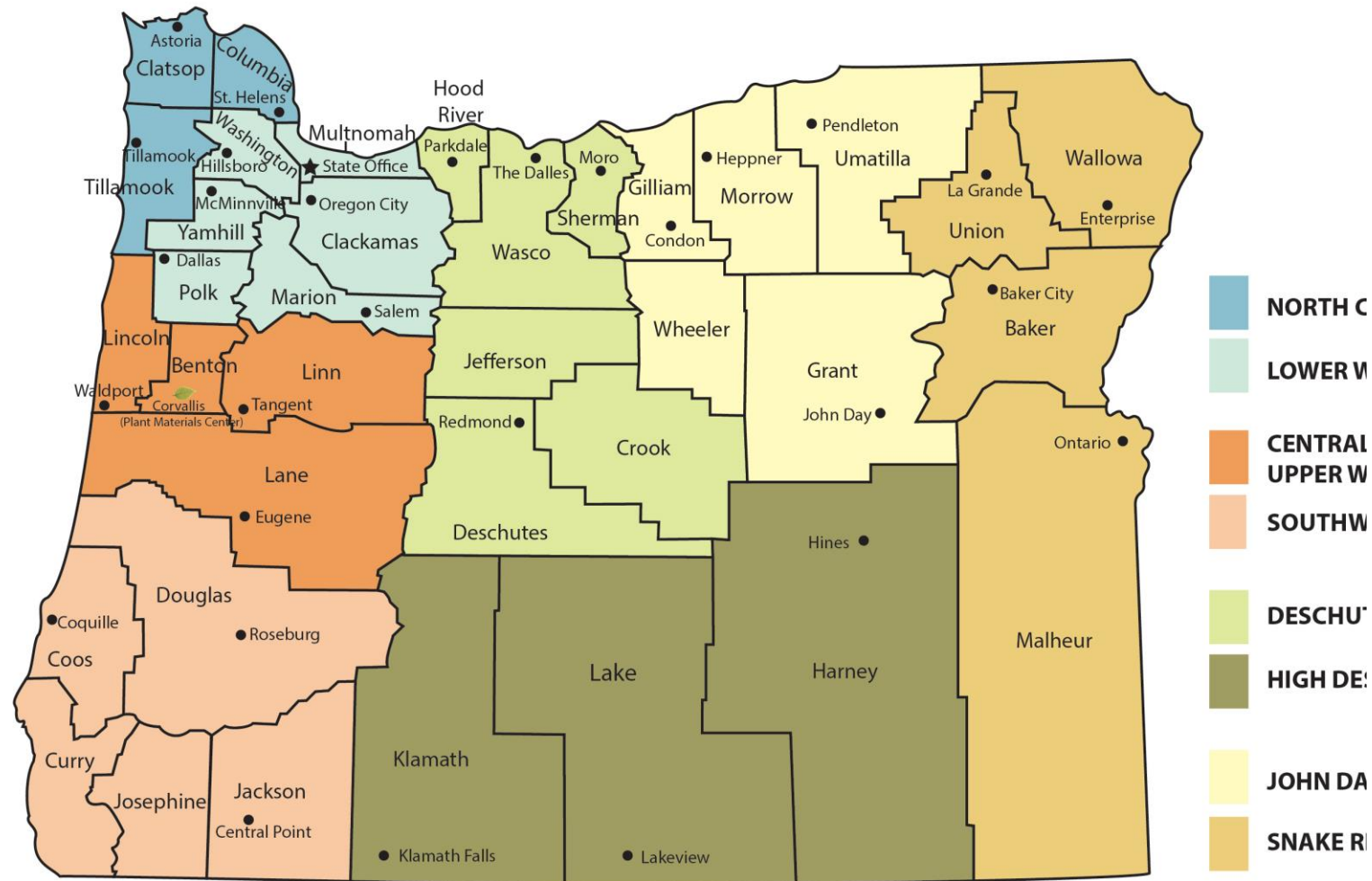


What are “Working Lands”?

CALIFORNIA STATUTES:

“ **Working lands** means lands used for farming, grazing, or the production of forest products. *The protection and management of those lands can result in the removal of carbon from the atmosphere and the sequestration of carbon in, above and below the ground. [CA Division 9 Resource Conservation 9001.5]*”





All working lands lie within the state's 45 SWCDs

How Can We Protect Working Lands?

- **Oregon's Land Use Laws:** EFU and other designations
- **Conservation easements and protections**
- **Succession planning** to keep working lands in working ownerships
- **Promotion of Regenerative Agriculture***
- **Marketing carbon credits** from sequestration or other practices

*Regenerative agriculture is a conservation and rehabilitation approach to food and farming systems. It focuses on topsoil regeneration , increasing biodiversity , [1] improving the water cycle , [2] enhancing ecosystem services, supporting biosequestration, and strengthening the health and vitality of farm soil.



POLICIES THAT MAY AFFECT WORKING LANDS

GOVERNOR'S EXECUTIVE ORDER #20-04

“Whereas, all agencies with jurisdiction over natural and working landscapes in Oregon will need to prepare and plan for the impacts of climate change and take actions to encourage carbon sequestration and storage;”

Of the 16 agencies named in the Governor's order, we will need to work directly with the following regarding Working Lands:

- Oregon Department of Agriculture**
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board**
- Oregon Department of Forestry**

The Governor's EO also directs the Oregon Global Warming Commission to:

“In coordination with ODA, ODF, and OWEB, the OGWC is directed to submit a proposal to the Governor for consideration of adoption of state goals for carbon sequestration and storage by Oregon's natural and working landscapes, including forests, wetlands, and agricultural lands, based on best available science. The proposal shall be submitted by June 30, 2021.”



What is the OGWC'S Role?

- Track and evaluate the carbon sequestration potential of Oregon's forests, alternative methods of forest management that can increase carbon sequestration and reduce the loss of carbon sequestration to wildfire
- Identify existing inventory data relevant to working and natural lands; create a baseline
- Identify priority improvements to the land sector inventory
- Identify potential policies, programs and practices for Natural and Working Lands
- Develop a recommended goal and process for including Natural and Working Lands in Oregon's climate mitigation plan



How will the OGWC Move Forward?

- Provide a webinar to stakeholders – available at website
- Provide survey to stakeholders in November and December 2020
- Report to state boards and commissions in January and February 2021
- Provide a draft of the report in February 2021 for review
- Collect comments in March 2021
- Bring back to the OGWC for a decision in May or June 2021
- Send to the Governor as required in June 2021



Reports for Review

- ❑ Governor's Executive Order 20-04
<https://www.oregon.gov/bcd/Documents/eo-energy-20-04.pdf>
- ❑ Oregon Global Warming Commission Reports
<https://www.keeporegoncool.org/reports>
- ❑ Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Response to EO 20-04
<https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/OWEB-agency-report-final.pdf>
- ❑ Oregon Department of Agriculture Response to EO 20-04
<https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/2020%20DA%20EO%2020-04%20Implementation%20Report.pdf>
- ❑ Oregon Department of Forestry Response to EO 20-04
<https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Documents/2020%20DF%20EO%2020-04%20Implementation%20Report.pdf>
- ❑ Oregon Department of Environmental Quality – Cap and Reduce Report
<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/ghgp/Documents/ghgCapRedf.pdf>



OACD WORKS WITH PARTNERS on Working Lands Issues

- Oregon Agricultural Trust
- Oregon Coalition of Land Trusts
- American Farmland Trust
- Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network
- Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
- Oregon Department of Forestry
- Natural Resources Conservation Services

WHAT'S NEXT????

- Continue to work with agencies to support OACD's positions on working lands
- Continue to coordinate with our partners
- Report back through our Advocacy Committee and the Working Lands Committee
- Prepare any materials required for our advocacy work
- Complete a brief OACD publication focusing on SWCDs and working lands (grant from Oregon Conservation Partnership)



WE NEED YOUR HELP!



- Sign up for the Working Lands Committee
- Join Co-Chair James Webster
Larry Ojua
Jason Faucera
Supported by OACD E.D.
- Seeking Co-Chair
- First meeting next month



Thank you – Questions?



Contact us!

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