



OACD NEWS

January 2024



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Get Involved – OACD Committee Opportunities

Advocacy Committee

The committee has a new charter and is gearing up for the 2024 short Legislative Session. Come to the committee meeting on **January 19 at 9:30am** to learn more about the committee, how to get involved, or how to stay informed. Contact [Andrea Kreiner](#) or [Stan Dean](#) for the zoom link.

Natural and Working Lands Committee

As more IRA funds become available to implement projects on working lands, the role of this committee in helping the Districts access money and gear up for the testing and monitoring work these projects will entail will increase. Join us for the committee meeting on **January 29 at 2:00pm** to learn more. Contact [Andrea Kreiner](#) for the zoom link.



Happy Holidays Conservation Colleagues!

I hope that everyone is able to take some time to spend with family and friends and reflect on the good that 2023 brought. Every year sees its challenges, but for OACD, it was a year of successes and growth. We brought new funding to Oregon, and to OACD, and welcomed new Executive Director Andrea Kreiner. I look forward to 2024 with enthusiasm!

Speaking of 2024, we are happy to welcome three new OACD Board members! This year we had an unprecedented number of applicants for the three open At-Large seats; I see this as an excellent indicator of how well OACD is doing! Attracting new leaders is critical to the healthy future of any organization, and we were blessed with many new names, as well as some experienced folks stepping forward. Our new OACD Board members are:

Whitney Collins: so many of you know Whitney already! She was key to helping OACD several years ago in an administrative capacity. She runs no less than *four* SWCDs in Eastern Oregon! As DM for Baker Valley, Burnt River, Keating, and Eagle Valley SWCDs, she will bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to the OACD Board.

Stan Dean: another familiar face at OACD, and a member of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission, Stan has led the OACD Advocacy Committee for the past five years and helped guide our legislative work. Stan is a board member and the current Chair of the Jackson SWCD and brings a 30 year background as a career civil engineer in water resources.

Jan Lee: Jan really needs no introduction, as our former OACD Executive Director and current Clackamas SWCD board member! Jan has returned as a board member to share her experience and skills with OWEB grants, the state legislature, and both the Advocacy and Working Lands Committees, where she will continue to help OACD, and our Districts, succeed across the state.

Thank you to everyone who submitted your name for consideration for the OACD Board, and I hope you will continue to engage in our work. We have openings on both of our active committees and genuinely want new faces and new perspectives to be represented. I urge folks to consider participating in OACD work in 2024!

In service of our Oregon conservation districts,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'TPRiggsby'.

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



COMING EVENTS

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

[OWEB Board Meeting](#) January 23-24, virtual

[Agriculture Board](#) January 16-18, in Wilsonville

[Land Conservation and Development Commission](#), January 26-27, in Salem

OACD Board Meetings

District participation and comments are encouraged.

December 29, & January 25, 10am-Noon. Join [HERE](#)

NACD's 2024 Annual Meeting, hosted in partnership with the **California Association of Resource Conservation Districts**, will take place in San Diego, California, **February 10-14, 2024**. [Registration](#) is now open, and tour options will be added soon.



After registering, don't forget to make your hotel reservations! The meeting will be held at the Sheraton San Diego Hotel & Marina. Discounted room rates in NACD's reserved block start at **\$259/night** plus tax. [Make a reservation online](#) or call 1-888-236-2427 and identify yourself as a guest with the National Association of Conservation Districts. The last day to reserve available rooms in the room block is **January 19, 2024**. Find everything you need to know on [NACD's website](#)

Partner Forums on Oregon's Natural & Working Lands Fund

Learn more about Oregon's NEW Natural & Working Lands Fund. Hear proposed plans from state agencies on how the fund will be created and administered. Your input will help ensure Oregon's NEW \$10 million Natural Working Lands Fund is accessible and provides the most benefit for forest owners, farmers, ranchers, and other land managers. The same information will be shared at each forum; join for whichever date works best for you.

Monday, Jan. 8th 4:00-5:15 pm Register [here!](#)

Tuesday, Jan. 9th 12:00-1:15 pm Register [here!](#)

CONNECT+ Early Bird Registration, **CONNECT+** will be held on **April 16-18, 2024**, at **Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, OR**.

CONNECT+ is a platform for change-makers in conservation. We bring together local, state, and federal decision-makers, professionals from Watershed Councils, Conservation Districts, Land Trusts, and other support organizations dedicated to preserving our state's natural resources. The comprehensive program covers both the technical and administrative aspects of conservation implementation.

[Register here](#). For complete **CONNECT+** details, please visit [ConnectOregon.net](#).

Webinar: Beyond Cover Crops & Tillage: How Can We Really Calculate Farm Carbon Emissions?

Consumer packaged goods companies will soon need quality data on the carbon emissions produced by the commodities they purchase for food processing. What kind of data do they need and how reliable is it? Agri-Pulse will explore this topic during a free webinar at 10am on Jan. 8. [register here.](#)

DISTRICT to DISTRICT

Looking for a Truck

Douglas SWCD is looking for any size 4x4 used pick-up under or around \$10k. They don't need anything huge like a dually V10. It would be used for general travel, towing, hauling, and on off-road muddy/rock terrain as well.

They are based out of Roseburg, OR but willing to drive up to 3 hours out from there for exchange.

If you have a truck or suggestions on where they could get one, contact [Maggie Begoun](#)

Monument SWCD Campbell Scientific Weather Station

Monument SWCD purchased an upgraded weather station from Campbell Scientific a few months ago. We have been working to set-up and integrate the station into the national system. The new weather station is now live and available real-time at a wide range of sources (see below). The new weather station provides several services to the area:

- It can be used by firefighting resources to capture real-time conditions near the town should we have a fire
- Status and trends will be kept as a long-term dataset for temperature and precipitation among other datasets
- Air temperature and precipitation can be linked to stream conditions
- Agricultural producers can use these data to help plan irrigation, and in times of drought, the data can be used to justify insurance and/or government programs that assist landowners during times of drought.

Our Davis Instruments weather station will be moved to Long Creek in the coming months. One of the goals of partner organizations is to increase the resolution of weather and climate related data collected across the John Day Basin. The new weather station in Monument, along with the station that will be moved to Long Creek will start to capture these data.

https://mesowest.utah.edu/cgi-bin/droman/meso_base_dyn.cgi?stn=MSWCD

<https://www.weather.gov/wrh/timeseries?site=MSWCD>

<https://viewer.synopticdata.com/table/MSWCD/basic-weather/now>

<https://app.konectgds.com/kiosk/ce1a4fef-f88b-485b-a283-e48f3b72e5d8>

Please feel free to call (541-934-2141) or email [Erik Rook](#) if you have questions.

FUNDING RESOURCES

Oregon Community Food Systems Network's (OCFSN) Farmer & Rancher Disaster Resilience Grant Program



Accepting applications January 1st, 2024. This \$2.65 million State-funded two year grant program's purpose is to grant funds directly to Oregon's small farmers and ranchers to improve their on-farm climate disaster resilience. This grant program builds on the successful 2022 OCFSN Farmer and Rancher Disaster Relief Program. With guidance from farmers, farmer supporting organizations and OSU extension experts, this program will quickly and fairly distribute these funds to small farmers and ranchers across the state to build more on-farm resilience. [Grant guidelines and request for proposals](#)

OACD is hosting a **webinar** on the grant program: **Jan 8, 2024 03:00 PM** Topic: Farmer & Rancher [Register here.](#)

ODF - Urban & Community Forestry Inflation Reduction Act Funding Opportunities - RFP Coming in March 2024

The ODF Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Program received \$26.6 million in IRA grant funding from the USFS to stand up two grant programs—\$10 million devoted specifically to Federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations, and \$12.5 million that will be available to all eligible entities in the state of Oregon—to promote urban and community forest investment and tree equity for overburdened and underserved communities. These programs will provide funding to eligible entities to advance:

- o UCF planning and monitoring
- o Nature-based education, recreation, and engagement
- o Network development and relationship building
- o Workforce diversification and development
- o Nursery capacity building and tree production
- o Tree planting and maintenance,
- o Adaptive management and lesson sharing throughout the state of Oregon

100% of the funding/program benefits must go to either 1) Federally recognized Tribes, or 2) disadvantaged communities

What types of projects will be funded through this IRA grant opportunity?

1. UCF assessment, planning, and prioritization.
2. Culturally responsive UCF-centered education, engagement, recreation, and community-building initiatives.
3. Capacity building for an interdisciplinary and cross-sector UCF network.
4. Workforce diversification and professional development.
5. Tree production, planting, and maintenance.
6. UCF monitoring, adaptive management, and lesson sharing.

Additional updates and information will be made available on the [ODF UCF webpage](#)

NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES

DLCD IS SEEKING RAC MEMBERS FOR SOLAR SITING IN EASTERN OR

The 2023 Oregon Legislative Assembly passed [House Bill 3409](#), directing the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) to consider and adopt administrative rules for the purpose “Finding Opportunity and Reducing Conflict in Siting Photovoltaic Solar Power Generation Facilities.” The bill focuses attention on Eastern Oregon, requires consideration of a variety of natural resource and community values, promotes consultation with Tribal, State and Local governments, and requires the appointment of a diverse Rules Advisory Committee (RAC). The RAC will assist the department in developing recommendations that will be presented to LCDC in late 2024 and early 2025.

Applications will be accepted through midnight, January 7, 2024.

[Apply to Serve on the RAC or TAC](#)

EPA Released the National Rivers and Streams Assessment (NRSA)

The NRSA presents the results of the 2018-2019 survey of perennial rivers and streams in the 48 contiguous United States. This survey provides information on the extent of stream miles that support healthy biological condition and recreation, and results can help us better understand the condition of rivers and streams, some of the stressors affecting them and how stressors relate to the health of aquatic communities. To review the complete report and additional results, view the [NRSA 2018-2019 web report](#) and [NRSA 2018-2019 data dashboard](#).

POSITION AVAILABLE: LAND CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT COMMISSIONER FOR EASTERN OREGON REPRESENTATION

The [Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission](#) and Oregon Governor’s Office are seeking a dedicated individual to serve as a Commissioner, representing the unique interests and needs of Eastern Oregon. This volunteer position plays a vital role in shaping land-use policies, ensuring local plan compliance, and coordinating state and local planning efforts across the Eastern Oregon region’s 17 counties.

[Apply to Serve](#)

American Farmland Trust released [Smart Solar Policy Recommendations for State and Local Governments](#).

This national effort represents a cross-organization collaboration to define AFT’s policy positions and recommendations to advance our mission to protect farmland, promote sound farming practice, and keep farmers on the land while accelerating solar energy development to mitigate climate change.

These recommendations are organized around 4 smart-solar principles:

- Siting: Prioritizing Solar Siting on the Built Environment, Contaminated Lands, and Land Not Well-Suited for Farming
- Soil and Water: Safeguarding the Ability for Land to be Farmed
- Agrivoltaics: Expanding the Development of Solar Arrays that Integrate Farming
- Shared Benefits: Promoting Equity and Farm Viability



Southern Oregon Climate Action Network – Executive Director. The application deadline for a [First Executive Director for Southern Oregon Climate Action Now](#) has been extended until **Jan 15** at which time all applicants will be reviewed. However, the position will remain open until filled.

FSA – County Program Technician. **Apply by January 2.** [Apply here](#)

North Coast Land Conservancy – Land Steward. To apply, send resume, cover letter & three references, attention Eric Owen, to nclc@nclctrust.org by 5 p.m. **Friday, Jan.15.** No phone calls please.

West Multnomah SWCD – Conservation Interns, part-time. Deadline **January 12.** See their [website](#) for more information.



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