



OACD NEWS

February 2024



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Know your new OACD Board of Directors!!

President:	Jan Lee, at-large	jlee@conservationdistrict.org
Vice President:	Terri Preeg Riggsby, west at-large	triggsby@yahoo.com
Treasurer:	Heather Hendrixson, columbia plateau	heather@hooddriverswcd.org
Secretary:	Al Hrynyshyn, northwest	zone1uw@gmail.com
	Stan Dean, at-large	stan.dean@jacksonswcd.org
	Jason Faucera, portland/salem	jfaucera@conservationdistrict.org
	Justin Ferrell, southern	lakecountyswcd@hotmail.com
	Whitney Rohner, east at-large	swcdwhitney@gmail.com
	Tom Straughan, eastern	tomstraughan@gmail.com

Starting in February, **Board meetings** are the **4th Tuesday of the month, 9am-11am**.
Don't be a stranger, we love to hear comments and updates from the Districts.
Join the meeting on zoom [here](#).



Hello Conservation Colleagues!

As I write this, we are re-freezing here in the hills around Portland. We are on day 6 of not being able to leave our house unless we have crampons on our shoes. I am one of the lucky ones with power, so, why not start working on the newsletter a bit early?

The weather has put a bit of a cramp on my getting out to Districts and your annual meetings – hopefully it will be clear for the rescheduled meetings. But I did get to visit Polk SWCD this month and had a great visit at the nursery at the Confederated Tribes of the Grande Ronde as they were preparing native seeds (see photo). I look forward to getting out to visit with all the Districts.



We have lots of information to share this month, starting with your new OACD Board and Executive Committee. Welcome Jan Lee as our new president. I am looking forward to working with Jan to continue making OACD work for you. I have listed all the Directors, the regions they represent, and their emails on the front cover. Know your director and please reach out with ideas and questions.

Check out the information on funding opportunities, upcoming meetings, District projects, as well as a new section “OACD Representing You”. During my conversations with some of the District Chairs, I realized that we haven’t been letting you know who and how often we meet with agencies, commissions, and partner organizations to represent the interests of the Districts. Note: I will take suggestions on a good name for that section.

Lastly, the Legislature comes back on February 5 for its short session. It may be a busy 5 weeks, so keep an eye out for any legislative alerts I may send out.

In service of our Oregon conservation districts,

A handwritten signature in green ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'A' followed by a long, wavy horizontal line.

Andrea Kreiner, OACD Executive Director
Andrea.Kreiner@OACD.org, 971-988-9929



COMING EVENTS

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

[Fish & Wildlife Commission](#), February 16 in Hillsboro

[Soil and Water Conservation Commission](#), February 27, 28, in Tualatin

OACD Board Meetings

District participation and comments are encouraged.

February 27, 9am-11am. Join [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.

Save the Date: National Cooperative Soil Survey Partners Meeting Mar 19, 2024, 09:00 AM

The National Cooperative Soil Survey Partners Meeting is a chance for all agencies and organizations that utilize soils information to come together and have a voice in soil survey. At this meeting NRCS will discuss the progress of soil survey across Oregon and solicit updates and feedback on how soils information is important to our partners. We hope to see you there! This meeting is hybrid. Please register for in-person or virtual attendance. Join us in person at the Salem USDA Service Center: 650 Hawthorne Ave SE #130, Salem, OR 97301. Join us virtually on Zoom. The Salem USDA Service Center room has a maximum capacity so we may need to restrict in-person attendance if we hit that threshold.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

FUNDING RESOURCES

ODFW~ Spring 2024 OCRF Call for Conservation & Recreation Grant Proposals

This application period will open on **January 30th, 2024**. More information on the Spring 2024 Call for Proposals can be found on our [website](#).



National Park Service- 2024 Conservation and Outdoor Recreation Technical Assistance Opportunity

Applications are due on March 1, 2024, by 11:59 p.m. ET

NPS-RTCA assists communities and public land managers in evolving climate resiliency strategies, developing or restoring parks, conservation areas, rivers, and wildlife habitats, as well as creating recreation opportunities and programs that engage future generations in the outdoors.

Eligibility: We welcome applications from community groups, nonprofit organizations, tribal governments, national parks, and local, state, and federal agencies.

How to Apply? Visit [our website](#) to download an application and view our submission process and timeline. We encourage you to [contact a program manager in your state](#) to discuss your project before applying.

OWEB Partnership Technical Assistance Grants

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 \$500,000 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 May 6, 2024, at 5pm.**

NACD ~ Urban and Community Conservation Grants

The grants are open to any conservation district or tribe within the US and the territories NACD serves.

More information about the program, including past grantees and the application process for 2024, is available on [NACD's Urban and Community Conservation webpage](#).

OCFSN Farmer & Rancher Disaster Resilience Grant Program

The Oregon Community Food Systems Network Farmer & Rancher Disaster Resilience Grant Program is **accepting applications through March 1, 2024**. The OCRF prioritizes projects that:

- **Align with the Oregon Conservation Strategy**, safeguarding our diverse fish and wildlife before threats become critical.
- **Promote outdoor equity**, ensuring everyone has access to the health benefits and joy of nature.
- **Address the impacts of drought**, protecting vital habitats and ensuring resilient wildlife populations.
- **Create new recreational opportunities**, connecting people with the outdoors and fostering appreciation for our natural world.

An info session on the grant can be found here - <https://youtu.be/XAKRW6bDXKs?feature=shared>. All application materials and grant program details can be found at <https://ocfsn.org/disaster-resilience-grant>.

NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES

Public Meetings Law Training

On January 1, HB 2805 went into effect adding a new mandatory public meetings training requirement for every member of a governing body of a public body with total expenditures of \$1 million or more per fiscal year. These governing body members must receive Public Meetings Law training at least once during their term of office.

It's important to note that only trainings reviewed and approved by OGEC will fulfill the training requirement. However, the training requirement **does not need to be satisfied immediately**. It only needs to be completed once per term.

If you would like to receive updates on OGEC's Public Meetings Law trainings, you can sign up for OGEC's Public Meetings Law trainings email list on OGEC's website at: <https://www.oregon.gov/ogec/Public-Meetings-Law/Pages/Training-Review.aspx>

USDA Reopens Signup for Continuous Conservation Reserve Program

The USDA is now accepting applications for the Continuous CRP signup. FSA encourages agricultural producers and landowners in Oregon who are interested in conservation opportunities for their land in exchange for yearly rental payments to consider the enrollment options available through Continuous CRP, which also includes the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) offered by FSA partners. Additionally, producers participating in CRP can now apply to re-enroll if their contracts will expire this year.

USDA Encourages Producers Participating in Conservation Reserve Program to Consider Forest Management Incentive

The Forest Management Incentive, available through USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA), can help participants with forest management practices, such as brush management and prescribed burning.

DEQ Rulemakings

Willamette Subbasins Temperature TMDL Replacement – DEQ is asking for Public Comment on the Proposed Rule Amendments

- More information on this rulemaking, including the draft rules, TMDL and WQMP can be found on the [Willamette Subbasins Temperature TMDL rulemaking page](#).
- **How to comment:** DEQ will accept comments by email, postal mail or verbally at the public hearing. Anyone can submit comments and questions about this rulemaking by 4 p.m., on Feb. 23, 2024.
- **Email:** Send comments by email to: Willamette.TemperatureTMDL@DEQ.oregon.gov
- **At public hearing:** 9 a.m., Friday, Feb. 16, 2024

Powder River Basin TMDL – DEQ reopens comment period, hosts community open house

- Community Open House, Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024 // Drop by anytime between 4-7 p.m. Baker County Extension Service, 2600 East St., Baker City
- More information on this rulemaking, including the draft rules, TMDL and Water Quality Maintenance Plan can be found on the [Powder River Basin TMDL Rulemaking Page](#).
- **How to comment:** DEQ will accept comments by email, postal mail or written submitted at the open house. Anyone can submit comments and questions about this rulemaking.
- **Email:** Send comments by email to: powderTMDL@deq.oregon.gov
- **At open house:** 4 to 7 p.m., Thursday, Feb. 1, 2024

Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin Temperature TMDL Replacement – Updated Tables and Figures Posted

- More information on this rulemaking, including the draft rules, TMDL and WQMP can be found on the [Lower Columbia-Sandy Subbasin TMDL rulemaking page](#).
- **How to comment:** DEQ will accept comments by email, postal mail or verbally at the public hearing. Anyone can submit comments and questions about this rulemaking by 4 p.m., on Feb. 26, 2024.
- **Email:** Send comments by email to: Sandy.SubbasinTMDL@DEQ.oregon.gov
- **At public hearing:** 1:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 16, 2024

EASTERN OREGON AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH CENTER ARE HAPPY TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE YOU CAN NOW DOWNLOAD A PDF VERSION OF THE PEER-REVIEWED AND PUBLISHED [THREAT-BASED MANAGEMENT FOR CREEKS, STREAMS AND RIVERS: A MANAGER'S GUIDE FOR UNDERSTANDING AND MANAGING FLOWING WATERS IN SAGEBRUSH ECOSYSTEMS OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST](#). THIS GUIDE REPLACES THE DRAFT GUIDE USED IN THE TRAINING LAST YEAR.

RARE Program

The [Resource Assistance for Rural Environments \(RARE\) AmeriCorps Program](#) just launched recruitment for host organizations for their 2024-25 service year. It would be great to share this out with the SWCDs. <https://mailchi.mp/81cbff83ae6e/host-org-call4apps-5428527>

DISTRICT to DISTRICT

Ambitious brainstorming results in drought action plan

Pat Kruis, Jan 9, 2024

A broad spectrum of Jefferson County landowners and community stakeholders have drafted a long-range plan to thrive despite water scarcity.

Agronomist Gordon Jones, a relative newcomer to Central Oregon, says he's impressed by the spirit of collaboration around drought in the county. "An impressive commitment of time and thought went into this," said Jones, the Central Oregon agronomist for the OSU Extension Service. "It feels really good that we have a framework to work from and have strategies that are the right next steps to explore."

Ellen Hammond, with the Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, shepherded the plan. "I am so proud of what this group accomplished," Hammond said. "Landowners can see it's not just a bureaucratic exercise. It's an action plan that meets a real need for Jefferson County agriculture."

Funded with \$90,000 of drought relief money through the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, the group convened monthly from November of 2022 to June of 2023, then quarterly thereafter. Subgroups met more frequently. Together they brainstormed strategies that would make the county more resilient, then ranked the potential benefits of each effort against the likelihood it could be achieved. The group then broke into workgroups with each setting goals and timelines.

1. The Water availability, access, and distribution group outline four goals:

- Build a pumping station in Lake Billy Chinook to supply irrigation for the North Unit Irrigation District.
- Pipe canal infrastructure in the Upper Deschutes Basin.
- Pipe canal infrastructure in NUID.
- Change the definition of beneficial use to make it easier for water users to share water between districts during drought conditions. The Legislature passed a bill this past session which accomplished this goal.

2. The Croplands group focuses on three goals:

- Diversify cash crops.
- Optimize crop water use efficiency.
- Increase use of cover crops.

3. The Rangelands group has three goals:

- Juniper control followed by reseeding of perennials, control of annual weeds and periodic burning.
- Targeted grazing to increase forage.
- Vegetated stream sides.

4. The Agrivoltaics group would work on both croplands and rangelands installing solar panels in association with agricultural activities.

5. The Public Outreach group is tasked with shaping the message and getting it out to the public with the idea that support from stakeholders in the Deschutes basin is key to the success of the drought resiliency plan. The group has produced a 6-minute video communicating its vision. It's developing a logo, participating in presentations, and drafting a brochure that describes Jefferson County agriculture.

"The landowners are driving this," said Hammond. "They believe there's a benefit to this process because they keep coming to the meetings. We need to provide results and process."

The plan creates a path forward. Now participants need to implement the plan with measurable results. Hammond says the group will keep the plan fluid, updating and changing the plan as results of experiments provide information.

Jones says the spirit of the plan is soberly practical yet optimistic. "There are routes out of this. There is enough water in the basin to support the diverse needs of the environment, the ecosystem, the farmers, and the communities."

Find a link to the full plan at <https://www.je7swcd.org/managing-for-drought>

See the video at <https://vimeo.com/883086161>



OACD Representing You

As mentioned in the ED Letter, we are providing a monthly sampling of some of the meetings OACD attends or holds, representing the Districts.

- Natural Climate Solutions Coalition – as a member of the coalition, we held two listening sessions on the Natural and Working Lands Fund proposal
- Oregon Conservation Partnership monthly planning and coordinating meeting
- OACD, ODA, SWCC meeting
- OAHP Coalition – we meet with this coalition to determine a course of action to obtain legislative funding for the Oregon Ag Heritage Program
- Board of Agriculture – We presented an update on OACD’s legislative priorities and the rulemakings we are following.
- OWEB Board Meeting – We presented an update on OACD and the Conservation Partnership
- Quarterly conservation meetings with the ODA Director
- Oregon Climate Action Commission – we submitted comments on the Natural & Working Lands Fund Proposal



ODA Agricultural Water Quality Program - Natural Resource Specialist 3 (Water Quality Specialist). Apply by February 11. https://oregon.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/SOR_External_Career_Site/job/Salem--ODA--Headquarters-Office/Natural-Resource-Specialist-3--Water-Quality-Specialist-REQ-147456

Clackamas River Basin Council (CRBC) – Executive Director. To apply, send email cover letter and resume to Cheryl@clackamasriver.org; via USPS: Clackamas River Basin Council, PO Box 1869, Clackamas, OR 97015, ATTN: Cheryl McGinnis. **Open until filled, candidate review will begin March 1, 2024**

Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District - Conservation Specialist – Wildlife Habitat. For a full announcement, position description, and application instructions please follow the link below. https://conservationdistrict.org/2024/conservation_specialsit_wildlife_habitat.html All application materials must be submitted to the District no later than **4:30 p.m. February 2, 2024.**

Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) – Field Technician. Apply By February 29. All applicants must submit a CREST Job Application form available on our website, a cover letter detailing why you want the position and how your background and experience meet the skills and qualification requirements and resume to Paula Gerttula at pgerttula@columbiaestuary.org.

Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce (CREST) – Habitat Restoration Project Manager. All applicants must submit a CREST Job Application form available on our website, a cover letter detailing why you want the position and how your background and experience meet the skills and qualification requirements, and resume to Paula Gerttula at pgerttula@columbiaestuary.org. **CREST will begin reviewing applications on February 9, 2024.**



**Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts**

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