



OACD NEWS

May 2023



SPRING AT THE CAPITOL

What's Happening Now in the Legislative Session?

We are now in the last six weeks of the session, which must close no later than June 25, according to the state constitution. All bills that remain must have a posted work session by May 19 unless they are sent to Revenue, Ways & Means or Rules, committees which have no deadlines.

Economic Forecast Drives Funding

The majority of the bills that OACD is following are now sitting in the Ways & Means Committee because they have a cost or fiscal impact. The May 17 economic forecast for the state will determine how budgets are funded and which of those bills in Ways & Means will receive funding.

Senate Dysfunction

As you may have read in the news, the senate has suffered walkouts for over 2 weeks now and again this week. No votes can be taken on the senate floor as there is not a quorum. Republican members state their only power is to walk out rather than go along with the legislative

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SESSION**
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agenda of the majority party. Committees are still meeting but nothing is getting voted on during floor sessions. Three of the senate Republicans have exceeded 10 days of unexcused absences and according to the initiative passed by the voters by 68% in last year's election, that results in the unexcused legislator being unable to run for the seat in the next election. As of the 15th, three senators are now in that situation for exceeding 10 unexcused absences. At this point it is unknown what transpires next. How will state budgets be passed if there remains an impasse?

OACD Advocacy Committee Meetings

The committee meets on the 3rd Friday of each month at 9:30 a.m. If you are interested in attending—the committee is open to all district members—contact the committee chair, Stan Dean at Stan.dean@jswcd.org; or OACD ED Andrea Kreiner at andrea.kreiner@oacd.org for a virtual meeting link.

All of the bills being followed by the committee are located in the member portal at the website: <https://www.oacd.org>. Also in the portal is the training document that will show you how to acquire bill information and participate in the session. All district members are eligible to join the portal. The link to sign up is on front page of the website.

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR OACD

HB 2527 Wildlife Habitat Conservation & Management Program

A consortium of several SWCDs has been working on revitalizing the WHCMP, a program providing tax credits for wildlife benefits on private property. See the flyer about the program in the member portal.



This bill was sponsored at the request of OACD on behalf of a coalition of several districts. It has now passed out of the House Revenue Committee and will go to the House floor for a vote 5/16. (continued on page 21)

MEET OACD'S NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



OACD is pleased to announce the hiring of Andrea Kreiner as our new Executive Director. Andrea can be reached at: andrea.kreiner@oacd.org Phone: 971-988-9929

Andrea has worked in the natural resource and environmental field for 35 years. Having earned a degree in agricultural economics from Cornell University, Andrea served as the Delaware Governor's policy advisor on agriculture, land use, environment, energy, and transportation, and as Delaware's Director of Climate, Coastal, and Energy. In both of these roles, she worked with Soil and Water Conservation Districts.

In her consulting business, her clientele was heavily focused on agricultural and

sustainability issues. She worked directly with farmers in developing and pursuing funding for innovative projects, with the Delaware Department of Agriculture on developing and implementing programs to assist farmers, facilitated tributary action teams to develop best management practices to address water quality issues in two highly agricultural watersheds, and worked with Delaware's two main universities on strategic planning for ways to better serve the agricultural community. She has experience working with and on legislative processes.

She has been an Oregonian for four years and she "is looking forward to serving the Conservation Districts throughout Oregon, getting to know their specific issues and priorities and working together on common challenges and opportunities," as well as becoming acquainted and working with OACD's partners.

She is looking forward to meeting you all at various events virtually and in person over the next several months, as well as at the OACD Annual Conference, October 16-18, at Eagle Crest in Redmond. And she will be meeting regionally with members in the future.



LETTER FROM OUTGOING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Hello Conservation Colleagues--

This is my last newsletter! It has been a good four years, working with all of you in the role of Executive Director of OACD and interfacing with our partners in that role. Having been on the OACD board prior to that for 7 years, serving as OACD's president and in other roles, provided me with an understanding of our needs and issues as districts and I was pleased to help us work toward fulfilling some of our longer term goals.

OACD has a productive and supportive board that has been able to be even more active with the advent of zoom meetings to provide a broader outreach. The Advocacy Committee is active in presenting our positions before the legislature and also in developing responses on your behalf in agency rulemaking processes. And our Working Lands Committee, although only a little over two years old, has led to development of a working lands easement workbook and is currently working on carbon sequestration issues that will provide new tools for our district work. If you have interest in becoming a part of either of these committees, we welcome you. Please contact Andrea for more information.

We continue our work with the Oregon Conservation Partnership (OrCP): OACD, COLT (land

trusts), NOWC (watershed councils) and OCEAN. For 2024 and 2025, OACD will become the OrCP grant administrator and we will continue to work with our partners in providing webinars, the affinity groups, legislative summer tours, public relations support for all of our members, and development of specific projects to meet member needs.

Working with Andrea this month assures me that you will be in good hands with our new staff leadership. Although I will be leaving OACD June 30, I will not be far away. I continue in my role as a board member at Clackamas SWCD, going into my 16th year on the board and currently serving as the Working Lands Chair. I will take part in the OACD Working Lands Committee and in the Advocacy Committee from that role. And I look forward to seeing you all again at the OACD Annual Conference as an attendee. Signing off on my last newsletter,

Jan Lee
jan.lee@oacd.org
janleewater@gmail.com
(503) 545-9420



COMING EVENTS

OACD

Annual Conference: Eagle Crest – 77th Annual Conference

October 16-18: Workshops, exhibits, policy updates, training and networking
Eagle Crest, Redmond, OR. Rooms at the hotel or shared condos will be available.
The Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting will also be held on site.

AGENCY EVENTS (all events are also hybrid; see details at agency websites)

AGRICULTURE board meets June 13-15 in Roseburg

OWEB CLIMATE AND WATER COMMITTEE TO MEET June 14

See [Climate and Water Committee](#) for link to streaming

OWEB GRANTS COMMITTEE meets June 15 [Grants Committee](#)

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION meets June 15-16 in Salem

FISH AND WILDLIFE meets June 15-16 in Newport
OWEB next meets July 25-26 in Sisters
SWCC Soil and Water Conservation Commission will meet August 9-10 in Harney County

OTHER EVENTS

NACD – National Association of Conservation Districts



2023 Summer Meeting – July 15-19
Bismarck, North Dakota

Registration for the NACD 2023 Summer Conservation Forum and Tours is **now open!**

Early bird registration for the discounted price of \$375 is open from now until June 23, 2023. There is a room block reserved at the meeting site, the **Bismarck Hotel and Conference Center**. The group hotel room rate is \$119 per night. Reservations can be made by phone at 701-660-8063; identify you are with the National Association of Conservation Districts for group rates.

NACD SOUTHWEST & PACIFIC REGION MEETING



Join NACD and partners for the joint SW and Pacific Regional Meeting in South Lake Tahoe, Nevada, August 23-25.

Hotel reservations can be made **here**. This room block is offered at a substantial discount, so be sure to make your reservation early to take advantage of the savings. The focus of planned tours will be on fire recovery and mitigation projects in this area and will feature partnership projects.

More information forthcoming soon.

CONNECT

There will NOT be a CONNECT conference in 2023. The next event will be scheduled for the spring of 2024.

FUNDING RESOURCES



319 GRANT APPLICATION EXTENSION

DEQ has extended the 2023 deadline for 319 grant proposals to May 29, 2023. As they are trying to encourage and support incorporating EI/DAC priorities into Watershed implementation implementation they have identified the planning Process as needing additional time. More information can be located here:

<https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/pages/nonpoint-319-grants.aspx>

For questions/comments, please contact Ivan Camacho, Watershed Grants Coordinator at DEQ: (503) 229-5088.

OWEB TO INCREASE DISTRICT CAPACITY GRANTS

At OWEB's April 26th meeting, the board discussed the spending plan for the biennium July 1, 2023 through June 30, 2025. The proposal is to increase the district capacity grants from \$175,813 to **\$184,603**. The board will make its final decision at the July 25-26 in Sisters. If you are attending the meeting or can send a letter to OWEB acknowledging the benefits of the capacity grant to your district, that would be appreciated. We will send out a reminder later with details for submittal of comments. Refer to the district capacity report on page 36-38 in this [document](#). For the full PowerPoint on programs in the proposed spending Plan, see this [presentation](#). Funds from OWEB are passed through to the Oregon Department of Agriculture and then disseminated to each of the 45 districts.

AMERCA THE BEAUTIFUL

Agriculture and Interior Departments Invest \$2.8 Billion to Improve Public Lands Access and Support Conservation Efforts Across the United States

The Departments of Agriculture and the Interior today announced a proposed \$2.8 billion in funding for fiscal year 2024 authorized by the Great American Outdoors Act (GAOA) to improve infrastructure, recreation facilities, federal lands access, and land and water conservation.

Enacted in August 2020, GAOA established the National Parks and Public Land Legacy Restoration Fund, authorizing up to \$1.9 billion per year, from fiscal years 2021 through 2025 to reduce the deferred maintenance backlog on federal lands and at Bureau of Indian Education schools. GAOA also provides permanent, full funding of the Land and Water Conservation Fund at \$900 million annually to secure public access and improve recreation opportunities on public lands; protect watersheds and wildlife; and preserve ecosystem benefits for local communities. Funding for the fiscal year 2024 proposed projects is subject to Congressional approval. To learn more, visit [usda.gov](https://www.usda.gov).

NACD TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS

TA Grant Applications will opening very soon for a 60 day period. Priority will be placed on projects that demonstrate DEI principles & reaching underserved communities. Watch for future announcements or check back at <https://www.nacdnet.org/>.

NRCS ORGANIC TRANSITION INITIATIVE

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced details around its \$75 million investment in conservation assistance for producers transitioning to organic production. As part of the multi-agency Organic Transition Initiative (OTI), USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will dedicate financial and technical assistance to a new organic management standard and partner with new organic technical experts to increase staff capacity and expertise: For more information: <https://www.farmers.gov/your-business/organic>

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT: SB 762 LANDSCAPE RESILIENCY PROGRAM GRANTS

Overview

The Oregon Dept. of Forestry (ODF) is implementing an investment program to reduce wildfire risk on public and private forestlands and rangelands, within communities, and near homes and critical infrastructure with a focus on forest and rangeland restoration and landscape resiliency treatments. The State Legislature has allocated funding to work collaboratively across boundaries to continue Oregon's Shared Stewardship approach for implementing land management activities that improve community resilience to wildfire and restore or maintain resilient landscapes **across all land ownerships**.

Funds will be allocated for work performed in the 2023-2025 biennium (running July 1, 2023, through June 30, 2025). At this time (subject to change), **PROJECT WORK MUST BE COMPLETED BY JUNE 15, 2025**, not just obligated in contracts or agreements. Any work completed after June 15, 2025, will NOT be reimbursed even if the initial project budget has not been expended in full. However, invoicing and reimbursements requests may occur up to 15 days after June 15, 2025, for completed work.

Submit Project Proposals via application link (below) by 5 pm PST on Friday, July 21st , 2023. If you have any questions, please contact Jenna.a.trentadue@odf.oregon.gov.

****Due to timing of this grant application and legislative session, some changes may be asked to be made to the application after the close of the biennium June 30th, 2023 before final scoring** To apply go to this link: <https://arcg.is/1jzfWW0>**

****A fillable pdf version of the application can be made available if needed. The application may also be available in other languages upon request.****

Instructions for online Application • **Project Boundary:**

Please input here the boundary of your project that includes all areas that work will be administered. Hover over symbols on map to identify their function. The Base map that is utilized shows the HUC 10 boundaries with the four highest Expected Net Value Change classes identified in the 2018 Pacific Northwest Quantitative Wildfire Risk Assessment being colored in. Projects within these colored areas will have higher priority in scoring than other areas. Projects outside these colored areas will still be eligible.

OWEB GRANTS



Focused Investment Program (FIP)

The Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) solicitation for the 2023-25 biennium is now open. FIP funding supports partnerships to pursue conservation initiatives by providing up to \$12 million over 6 years. OWEB may award up to 2-3 new FIP initiatives from this solicitation.

A [Focused Investment Partnership](#) initiative is an OWEB investment that:

- Addresses a [Board-identified Focused Investment Priority](#) of significance to the state
- Achieves clear and measurable ecological outcomes
- Integrates results-oriented approaches as identified through a strategic action plan
- Is implemented by a high-performing partnership with a formal decision-making process

23-25 FIP Solicitation Timeline

May 15-July 14, 2023	Required pre-application consultations with OWEB staff
October 14, 2023	Applications due to OWEB by 5 p.m.
April 2024	OWEB Board award

Applying to the FIP Program

- **[Consultations](#) will occur May 15 – July 14, 2023**
- Required for the consultation:
 - Map of the partnership's strategic action plan and proposed FIP initiative geographies
 - List of core partners
 - A one-page summary of the FIP's proposed actions and ecological outcomes
- Consultations can be scheduled by contacting Ivy Clark-Henry at OWEB: 971-718-7749; ivy.clark-henry@oweb.oregon.gov.

Questions?

Please contact a FIP Partnerships Coordinator for additional information and assistance.

- Denise Hoffert: denise.hoffert@oweb.oregon.gov; 971-701-3206
- Jillian McCarthy: jillian.mccarthy@oweb.oregon.gov; 971-345-7016
- Eric Hartstein: eric.hartstein@oweb.oregon.gov; 503-910-6201

IRA FUNDING - NRCS

Remarks from Ron Alvarado, Oregon State Conservationist:

The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding provided to NRCS Oregon does not create any new conservation programs. IRA gives NRCS additional funds to expand our existing climate efforts, satisfy unmet demand and reach new traditional and historically underserved customers through our current Farm Bill programs. IRA funds are in addition to our traditional Farm Bill funding.

For FY23, NRCS Oregon received \$11.5 million in IRA funding. Here's the breakdown:

- Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) - \$2,100,000
- Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) - \$4,800,000
- Technical Assistance - \$4,600,000

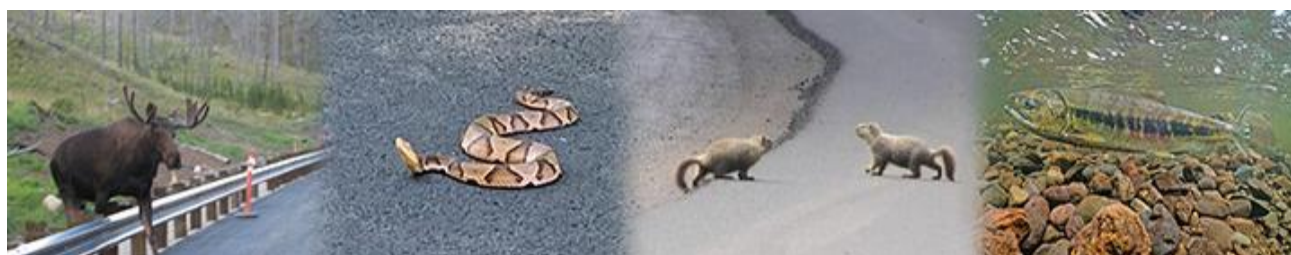
This first fiscal year is a soft year as NRCS ramps up and prepares for more significant funding over the next few years. Funding over the next few years will ramp up rapidly to peak in FY2026. IRA funds must be used to target and address climate change mitigation activities, i.e., activities that reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce nitrogen losses and improve carbon storage.

See: [NRCS Climate Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities practice list](#). Check out the NRCS [website](#) for other upcoming deadlines and related information. If you're not already signed up to receive our email notifications, sign up for Partner notifications [here](#).

WILDLIFE CROSSINGS PILOT PROGRAM

The program, funded by the federal infrastructure act, is intended to reduce wildlife vehicle collisions while improving habitat connectivity.

<https://highways.dot.gov/federal-lands/programs/wildlife-crossings>



Local governments may apply. While ODFW is not an eligible applicant, wildlife connectivity is a priority for the agency and this grant opportunity is an excellent potential source of funding for implementing priorities from our Oregon Connectivity Assessment and Mapping Project ([OCAMP](#)) effort. Please reach out to Rachel Wheat (Rachel.E.WHEAT@odfw.oregon.gov) if you would like to partner with ODFW on a project or request project support.

Applications are due August 1, 2023, with anticipated awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$20 million per project. Eligible projects include research and monitoring, design and feasibility studies, environmental permitting, construction, and more. Additional information on the funding opportunity is available below, in the attachment, or on our ODFW IJA website (<https://dfw.state.or.us/IJA/>).

USDA URBAN AG OPPORTUNITIES IN OREGON

Did you know you can subscribe to receive free email and text message updates from USDA related to urban agriculture and innovative production here in Oregon? Whether you're scrolling through emails on your break or checking a text message between tasks, USDA wants to keep you posted on the latest news in urban agriculture and innovative production.



Subscribe now to receive emails and text messages about important program information, eligibility requirements and deadlines from the Farm Service Agency (FSA), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), and Risk Management Agency (RMA) related to urban agriculture, in Oregon. You can sign up for email alerts by visiting farmers.gov/subscribe (select "ORUrbanAG-Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production") or text alerts by texting USDAFSARMERS_4113.



JOBS, H. R. INFORMATION, TRAINING

GRANT SWCD

Vegetation Specialist, John Day, OR

For additional information contact Kyle Sullivan, District Manager, 541-575-0135 ext. 111, or sullivank@ortelco.net Application Deadline: 3:00 PM, PDT, May 26th, 2023

WHEELER SWCD



Wheeler SWCD in Fossil Oregon is seeking **3 employees**: District Manager, Conservation Manager and Office Assistant. All are open until filled.

[Employment Opportunities - Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District \(wheelerswcd.org\)](http://wheelerswcd.org)

TUALATIN SWCD

Operations Assistant – open until filled. <https://tualatinswcd.org/operations-assistant/>

SIUSLAW WATERSHED COUNCIL COORDINATOR

Monitoring Coordinator, full-time exempt. First review of applicants June 14. Open until filled.

Contact: Rosemary Pazdral, Executive Director 541-268-3044 rosemary@siuslaw.org



LINCOLN SWCD

Noxious Weeds Control Program Specialist, full-time, non-exempt
Open until filled. For more information, contact: Breanna Henderson
Office: 541-265-2631 admin@lincolnswcd.org

OREGON FSA

Program Technician in Heppner, Oregon!



The USDA Oregon Farm Service Agency is hiring a County Program Technician position located in the Morrow County Office, Heppner, Oregon **Open and closing dates: 05/8/2023 – 05/22/2023**. Interested parties must submit a complete application on the USA Jobs website <https://www.usajobs.gov/job/723969500> with all required documents for consideration.

CLARK CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Science Communication Specialist – full-time temporary position for a GIS Specialist to work with technical staff to develop and implement outreach materials. See the full Job description here: www.clarkcd.org/employment
Contact: Ashley Smithers - asmithers@clarkcd.org 360-859-4782

USDA SEEKING SOIL CONSERVATIONISTS

USDA plans to hire new team members over the next few years to help implement \$19.5 billion from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) for conservation programs. This week, NRCS opened job announcements for GS 5/7/9 soil conservationists. These jobs are part of a broader effort by USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) to help producers develop conservation plans and implement conservation practices, including critical climate-smart practices. [Learn More](#).

LAKE COUNTY RESOURCES INITIATIVE (LCRI)

Full-time Executive Director to lead a rural, remote non-profit organization working at the nexus of forestry and clean energy. For more information contact: johnathan.vanroekel@lcri.org.

YAMHILL SWCD

Protected Lands Stewardship Intern, part-time or full-time seasonal position, McMinnville Open until filled. Contact admin@hyamhillswcd.org.

DISTRICTS IN THE NEWS

DESCHUTES SWCD LEVERAGES RESOURCES

The Deschutes SWCD has leveraged resources to deliver on soil health, fire resilience, and irrigation water management (from NACD newsletter). From extreme drought conditions, forest pest population booms, the resultant wildland mega-fires, depleted soil systems and water resources, Deschutes County, OR is no stranger to the complex and challenging resource concerns that impact so many transitional landscapes. Nestled along the eastern edge of the Cascade Mountain Range, the county boundary extends from forested mountain landscapes nearing 8,000' in elevation through upland brush habitats to basin floodplains around 3,800' in elevation. Addressing the diverse resource conservation needs of this service area has been facilitated through strategic capacity building and partnership efforts led and fostered by [Deschutes SWCD](#). While the hard work is far from over, this district continues to strengthen its involvement and long-term resilience as a steadfast local leader in Deschutes County conservation.

With the support of [NACD's Technical Assistance Grants](#) and the Deschutes River Conservancy these efforts leveraged \$300k of county-level fiscal support for water efficiency incentive projects affecting 15 growers managing 122 acres of irrigated farmland. To enhance local awareness and further extend services, the Deschutes SWCD hosted numerous IWM workshop events reaching 45 landowners in cooperation with multiple partner organizations. Additionally, the capacity increases have enabled the district's persistent contribution to the local [Joint Chief's Landscape Restoration Partnership](#) "Buttes to

Basin” project, resulting in 21 forest landowners receiving financial assistance, forest inventory support, and management planning services across 500 acres. Deschutes SWCD also sought and secured another \$300k from Oregon Department of Forestry’s SB 762 Landscape Resiliency Program, providing expanded project funding for several forest landowners to complete more comprehensive forest health, fuels reduction, and wildlife practices.



Read more about these and other ongoing efforts in the district on [NACD's blog](#).



WEST MULTNOMAH SWCD

Dick Springer, former District Manager at West Multnomah SWCD, Who retired from the district in 2015, passed away in April from a heart attack.

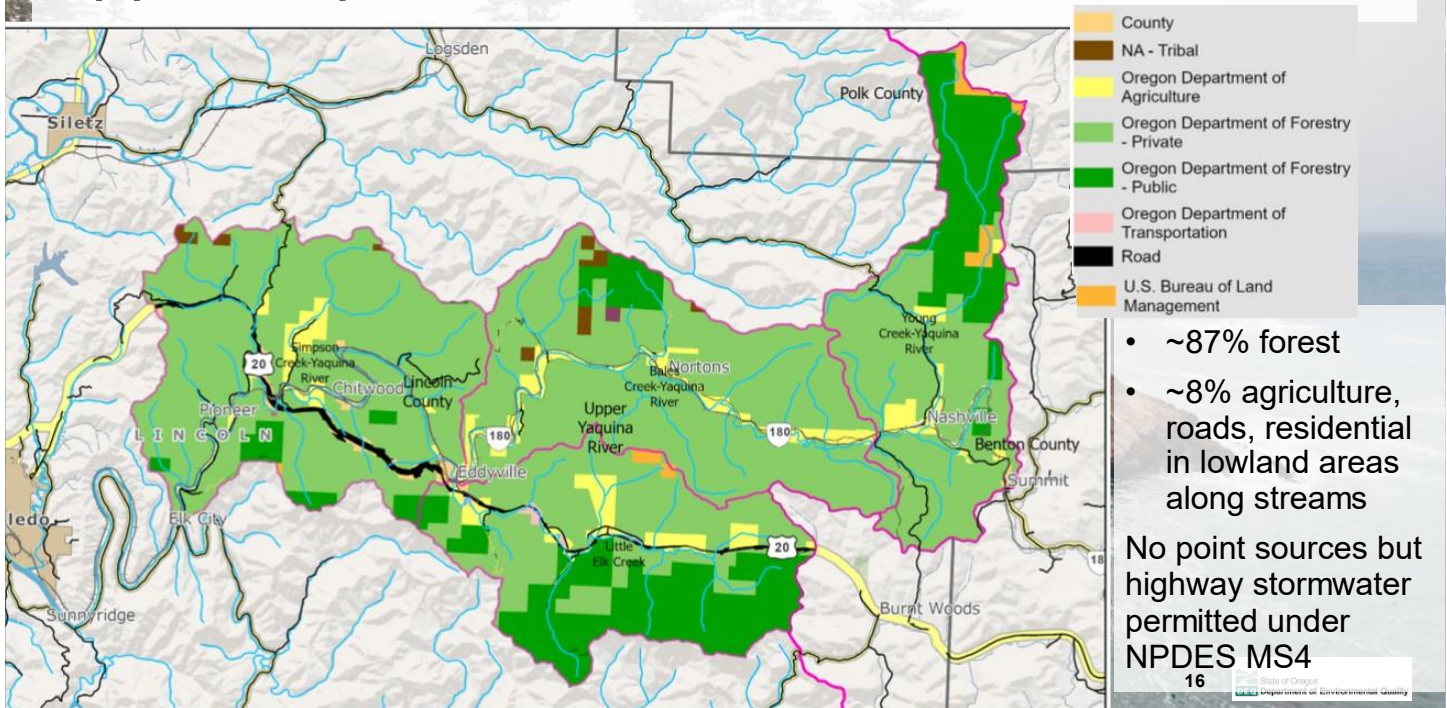
Dick served in the Oregon Legislature for 16 years prior to his role at West Multnomah. He served both in the House and Senate, where he was Majority Leader. Earlier in his career he served as a prosecutor for Multnomah County after his service in the US Navy.



TMDLS REPLACEMENT AND DISTRICT IMPACTS

DEQ is in the process of replacing TMDL standards throughout the state as the result of litigation and EPA requirements. This [presentation](#) will provide you with background information on the work in progress as well as a schedule of when the process will move forward in each basin. Significant work has gone into preparation as you can see from this slide which shows the type of land ownership in one segment under review. For more information go to [DEQ's TMDL website](#).

Upper Yaquina River Watershed Land Use





Oregon's Integrated Water Resources Strategy - In-Person Community Conversations, Virtual Option Added

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and partner agencies are seeking public input on the update to the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRs). The [Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#) provides a framework for better understanding and meeting the state's instream and out-of-stream water needs. The Strategy provides a way for our state to better understand and meet the many needs that plants, animals, people, and the land all have. Now it's time for us to update the strategy. Starting May 11th, you can [share](#) what you think! OWRD is partnering with [Oregon's Kitchen Table](#) to gather feedback from the public for this round of updates through an online survey and during in-person community conversations (May – June 2023). A virtual meeting option has also been added for those that cannot attend in person.



Online Survey Please take our survey [here](#).

In-person Community Conversations

Sign up for an in-person community conversation by clicking the link, below.

English - <https://bit.ly/water-conversations>

Spanish - <https://bit.ly/reunión-agua>

Seaside – May 11, 6-8pm

Bob Chisholm Community Center, 1225 Avenue A, Seaside, OR 97138

Hermiston – May 16, 6-8pm

Hermiston Community Center, 415 S Hwy 395, Hermiston, OR 97838

John Day – May 17, 6-8pm

Canyon City Community Hall, 123 Washington St, Canyon City, OR 97820

Roseburg – May 23, 6-8pm

Aviva Health Conference Room, 150 Northeast Kenneth Ford Drive, Roseburg, OR 97470
(Located on second floor, has an elevator)

Corvallis – May 24, 6-8pm

Tunison Community Room, 365 SW Tunison Ave, Corvallis, OR 97333

Madras – June 7, 6-8pm

COCC Community Room, 1170 E Ashwood Road, Madras, OR 97741

Ontario – June 8, 6:30-8:30pm

Ontario Community Library Meeting Room, 388 SW 2nd Ave, Ontario, OR 97914

Virtual Community Conversation

We would love to see you at an in-person event but if you are unable to attend, please join our virtual meeting. Wednesday, May 31 from 12-1:30pm Sign up [here](#).

For more information, please contact:

Crystal Grinnell | 971-375-5330 | Crystal.A.Grinnell@water.oregon.gov



USDA Unveils Efforts to Improve Agricultural Conservation Easement Program

NRCS is streamlining its Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) to help agricultural producers and private landowners conserve wetlands, productive farmlands and at-risk grasslands. NRCS is rolling out several improvements to this program in response to feedback from producers, landowners and conservation partners. NRCS is updating its processes around appraisals, land surveys, as well as certifying eligible entities who help NRCS and producers enroll land into easements.

[Read more](#)



OREGON GLOBAL WARMING COMMISSION PUBLISHES ROADMAP TO 2030 TO GUIDE STATE CLIMATE ACTION

After several years of work, the Oregon Global Warming Commission published a new [Oregon Climate Action Roadmap to 2030](#), which includes extensive recommendations to inform state climate action, including:

1. Support robust and continuous implementation of existing climate programs and regulations.
2. Adopt updated state greenhouse gas goals consistent with the best available science.
3. Advance a set of additional climate actions that can help Oregon meet an accelerated greenhouse gas emission reduction goal of 45 percent below 1990 levels by 2030.
4. Support further study and analysis to continue to guide effective climate action over time.
5. Strengthen governance and accountability for Oregon climate action.
6. Position Oregon to take full advantage of federal investments in climate action.

In addition to implementing existing programs and regulations, the Roadmap identifies 35 additional actions the state can take to achieve the Roadmap-recommended 2030 goal. More than a third of the actions focus on energy efficient buildings, with cleaner transportation options and renewable energy accounting for most of the others. The [technical analysis](#) underpinning the Roadmap found that these actions would create thousands of new jobs and more than \$120 billion in cumulative net economic and health benefits in the state through 2050 and beyond.

Parallel to the new Roadmap, the Oregon Global Warming Commission also delivered its required [biennial report to the Legislature](#), reporting on recent climate impacts and current progress toward the state's greenhouse gas goals. According to preliminary emissions data, despite an overall reduction in emissions in 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic,

Oregon still missed its 2020 greenhouse gas reduction goal by 13 percent. And, with an increase in emissions in 2021 closer to pre-pandemic levels, Oregon is now 19 percent off the 2020 goal.

“While it’s disappointing that Oregon missed its 2020 greenhouse gas reduction goal, the Roadmap to 2030 provides a path forward to ensure we don’t miss our next goal,” said Commission Chair Catherine Macdonald. Learn more on the [Commission's website](#).



Oregon Drought and Water Supply Conditions Report

The Oregon Drought and Water Supply Conditions Report summarizes hydrological and climatological information used to depict current drought and water supply conditions throughout the state.

[2023 05 15 Water Conditions Report.pdf](#)

For more information, please contact:

Ryan Andrews | 971.345.7481 | ryan.m.andrews@water.oregon.gov

CLIMATE-SMART COMMODITIES PILOT PROJECTS

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced the official kick-off of the implementation phase for projects funded through the \$3.1 billion Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities effort. Project partners are beginning work on formal implementation of the climate-smart production practices, marketing, and quantification, monitoring, reporting and verification of greenhouse gas benefits that are funded through the effort as agreements are finalized on a rolling basis. As projects get underway, today USDA is launching the Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities Learning Network (Partnerships Network), a collaboration of all the project partners, which will generate key lessons-learned as projects are implemented. [Learn More](#)



PHOTOS NEEDED FOR THE USDA IN OREGON 2024 CALENDAR

We need your photos for the 2024 USDA in Oregon calendar!
If you would like to submit a photo for possible use in our 2024 USDA in Oregon calendar, please submit it by e-mail to:
EmmaLee.Demianew@usda.gov by September 30.

See the flyer on the Oregon FSA webpage also!

The 2023 USDA in OREGON calendars are still available! Stop by your local [USDA Service Center](#) to pick up your copy!



OREGON AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE COMMISSION

<https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/grants/oahp/pages/oahc/2023-mar-oahc.aspx>

At its April meeting, OWEB approved the recommendation from the OAHPC Commission to fund 7 conservation easements: (Details here: [eBook](#))

More detail here:

Item E: Conservation Covenant and Easement Grant Funding Recommendations.

Item F: Conservation Management Plan Grant Funding Recommendations.

Item G: Conservation Management Plan Implementation Methodology Update.

OWEB GRANTS COMMITTEE

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement will hold a virtual meeting on June 15, 2023. Materials will be available later at the OWEB website and the meeting can be streamed on YouTube (link to be provided in June).

IN MEMORIAM

OUR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, MARGANNE ALLEN

If you are not already aware, we have lost a friend and colleague to a tragic bicycle accident in the last month.



Marganne was strong natural resources advocate and most recently, the Water Quality Program Manager at the Oregon Department of Agriculture. Earlier she served at the Oregon Department of Forestry managing forest health.

Marganne was a pleasure to work with and a key component of the water quality program working with SWCDs and we will miss her smile and her knowledge. Isaak Stapleton will provide support for the water Quality program in the interim.

SECRETARY OF STATE AUDIT ON WATER

The Secretary of State Audits Division [released an Advisory Report](#) last month regarding recommendations for water governance in the state. Water equity and security statewide were assessed among multiple agencies related to water resources. The report provides 11 recommendations and legislative actions.

RULEMAKING: CLIMATE EVALUATION CRITERIA

Updates to OWEB's Climate Evaluation Criteria Rulemaking

At the [July 2022 meeting](#), the OWEB Board authorized rulemaking necessary to fully implement the [OWEB Climate Resolution](#). A [Rulemaking Advisory Committee \(RAC\)](#) has been formed to assist OWEB in developing climate-related evaluation criteria across OWEB's grant programs.

- A [Summary Report of the Climate Resolution Public Engagement Process](#) was given at the July board meeting.
- [Guidance to Illustrate How Climate Evaluation Criteria Could be Applied in OWEB Grant Programs Draft February 2, 2023 Recording](#)
- Climate-Related Evaluation Criteria Rulemaking Meeting #4-**April 11** (change from 3/14)
[Agenda](#)
[Climate Evaluation Criteria Fourth Draft March 6, 2023](#)
[Watch Meeting on YouTube](#)

TURNING NATURAL RESOURCE CONCERNS INTO OPPORTUNITIES

Rogue River Watershed Council has developed a video sharing opportunities for your Review: <https://vimeo.com/807999493>



STEWARDSHIP WEEK – NACD

Materials were provided last week for the current NACD stewardship program, this year focusing on water.

You can download classroom and other materials here: <https://www.nacdnet.org/conservation-education-hub/curriculum-3/>

BLM: NEW RULE – CONSERVATION ON PUBLIC LANDS

In April the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) published a proposed rule that would include conservation in the multiple use framework for the management of public lands. The [proposed rule](#) suggests utilizing conservation leases for specific projects on public lands in addition to requesting more public involvement in the process to identify and designate Areas of Critical Environmental Concern. BLM has communicated that this process and the underlying rule will rely heavily on the feedback provided by local communities and current public lands stakeholders. NACD is working with our members and partner organizations to develop comments, and we welcome any feedback you may have.

Please email any suggestions or input to NACD’s Natural Resource Policy Specialist, **Libby Wawro** at libby-wawro@nacdnet.org. BLM intends to hold both in-person and virtual listening sessions to garner feedback on the proposed rule. The dates of these listening sessions have not yet been released, but NACD will share information as it becomes available.

POLLINATOR LICENSE PLATES

Oregon drivers can soon showcase their love for pollinators with a new state license plate featuring a honey bee, a native bumble bee and hives in a field of clover. Oregon State



University’s Horticulture Department has started taking pre-orders on its newly designed “pollinator paradise” license plate, which aims to celebrate the more than 600 bee species in the state.

OSU must sell 3,000 license plate vouchers, then the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles, or DMV, will begin official production of the new plates.

“I think it’s a big deal,” said Sarah Kincaid, faculty research assistant in OSU’s Horticulture Department. “In a state like Oregon where so many people are passionate about bees, we should have a license plate celebrating that. With its abundance of native bees, Oregon should, too.” Ordering a plate voucher will cost drivers \$40, and for each sale, \$35 will go to support bee research conducted by OSU’s Extension Pollinator Health Lab and Honey Bee Lab programs.



OREGON'S TERRI PREEG RIGGSBY NAMED CHAIR

Terri was named Region Chair of the Pacific Region of NACD recently and will lead the Region moving forward. The Pacific Region consists of Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, California, Guam, Hawaii, the Northern Mariana Islands, American Samoa, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau. Minutes and other information for this region are located [here](#).

MAJOR LEGISLATIVE ISSUES FOR OACDcontinued from page 2

HB 2998 Soil Health Initiative

The bill creates the Oregon Soil Health Initiative to improve soil health in Oregon by collaborating on and advancing voluntary incentive-based soil health strategies, including financial incentives, technical assistance, outreach and education, research and other resources. Collaborating entities and agencies include ODA, OWEB, OSU Extension, and SWCDs. The flyer in the member portal will share more details on the proposed program which will include development of a statewide Soil Health Roadmap, set up an oversight committee at ODA, and include grants for beneficial practices through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). In addition to \$2 million in grants through the OAHP program housed at OWEB, \$480,000 is called out for grants and equipment through SWCDs from OWEB funding provided by this bill. HB 2998 was requested by the Oregon Climate Agriculture Network (OrCAN). OACD is working with the sponsor and will testify at a mid-February hearing and we will make a call for letters of support from SWCDs.

SB 530 Natural Climate Solutions on Oregon's Natural and Working Lands

We also continue to work with Senator Dembrow and a large working group on providing a state-wide program for carbon sequestration practices on natural and working lands, following up on the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) September 21, 2021 [proposal](#) on natural and working lands. The bill will establish the Natural and Working Lands Fund which can then be disbursed to agencies providing resilience work for project grants to OWEB, ODFW, ODF and ODA for technical support and incentives. The important components of the bill include support for a statewide program, positioning the state to leverage federal funds, creating a source of funds to incentivize voluntary actions, develop a natural and working lands inventory and establish opportunities for workforce

development and training. More information at the member portal. OACD will be asking for your help to support the legislation.

This bill and several others could be the home for **federal dollars** coming down to the states. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is set to deliver approximately \$550 billion in new spending over the coming decade, making it one of the largest public-works investments in history. More than 85% of the total will go to state and local agencies via project grants, creating a large and more complex funding process with detailed eligibility requirements. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will also make significant investments in infrastructure. The objective of this bill is to make sure that applicants can identify and successfully implement investment ready projects. Focus areas include: (a) dedicated capacity within the Governor’s Office to coordinate infrastructure investments; (b) improved interagency coordination around state and federal funding opportunities; (c) increased access to technical assistance to secure funding and flexible funding to match with federal funds; and (d) tracking and accountability.



Funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

OAHP funding is an important component to fund some of the SWCD programs, including conservation easements and conservation management plans that can lead to funding agriculture practices that can additionally include carbon storage. In the 2022 legislative session OAHP was awarded \$5 million to fund the program which had previously received no funding since its inception in 2017. OACD was one of the partners promoting the original

legislation in 2017 as well as joining with a group of partners to promote the 2022 investment. That investment in 2022 leveraged an additional \$6.7 million in federal matching funds. We have joined the partnership again in the request for a \$10 million investment in 2023 and \$800,000 to staff the program and provide grants.

The Governor did not include the funding as proposed in the OWEB agency budget. However, **HB 3366**, supported by the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, OACD and the Oregon Agricultural Trust and others does provide funding for the program if it is enacted by the legislature.

OTHER LEGISLATIVE TOPICS

HB 2110: Change in District Audit Requirements

What the bill does:

- Increases the audit exemption filing thresholds to \$250,000 and \$1 million (from \$150,000 and \$500,000);
- Replaces review reports with an attestation engagement, targeted Agreed Upon Procedures to be maintained in [Oregon Administrative Rule](#);
- Eliminates the withholdings provision for cities and counties that don't file timely;

- Increases filing fees from a range of \$20 to \$400 to a new range of \$40 to \$500;
- General clean up and clarification including removing the redundant references to "calendar year" and creating a consistent definition of "expenditures" in rule.

The changes are effective as of January 1, 2024; and for fiscal years ending on or after that date. Current thresholds, fees, and report types are effective for June 30, 2023 reporting. Find Municipal Reports and Forms: <https://sos.oregon.gov/audits/Pages/muniaudits.aspx>

These bills and others are available in the member portal at our website (www.oacd.org) for your reference. See the entire tracking list of over 60 bills in the member portal.

HB 2999: Funds wildlife underpasses for wildlife crossings

HB 2971: Maintain property tax exemption when leasing water instream

HB 3016: Establishes Community Green Infrastructure Grant Program

HB 3099: Promotes study of Lake Abert in SE Oregon, a shrinking reservoir

HB 3142: Funding for juniper removal in sage grouse habitat counties

HB 3163: Funding for place-based planning integrated water resource plans

HB 3164: Permanent split-season leasing of water rights moving with support

HB 3368: Directs the state to study the water supply and demand in each basin; pauses new water rights until study completed



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.

CURRENT ORCP WEBINAR:

[OrCP Webinar: Potential Funding Pathways to Benefit Oregon's Watersheds](#)

Description: The Department of State Lands and Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board are committed to finding pathways for collaboration that could deliver important stream and wetland habitat enhancement, restoration, and preservation projects where they are desperately needed. In this webinar, presenters will give a summary of their respective programs, how mitigation funds can and cannot be used to leverage OWEB grants, and discuss future partnership opportunities with each other, and with the larger stream and wetland stakeholder community in Oregon.

Speakers:

Eric Hartstein (he/him), Board and Legislative Policy Coordinator, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Grey Wolf (they/them), M. En., Mitigation Specialist, Planning & Policy Unit, Aquatic Resource Management Program, Oregon Department of State Lands

Meeting

The session is available as a recording: www.conservationpartnership.org

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