

OACD NEWS

July 2023



**LETTER FROM THE
OACD PRESIDENT**
Page 2

UPCOMING EVENTS
Page 3

FUNDING RESOURCES
Page 4

**NEWS and
OPPORTUNITIES**
Page 7

JOBS
Page 10

What's Happened in the Legislative Session?

This unusual session has drawn to a close, with some big wins, some new opportunities, and some legislation that, unfortunately, did not make it to the finish line. Two key pieces of legislation provide \$10 million in funding for natural climate solutions on natural and working lands and the Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Plan bill that OACD was championing. We have a summary of legislation that passed, describing what will happen next, and highlighting information to help you determine how the legislation relates to your District. You can find the legislative summary in the [Advocacy section on the OACD website](#).

We will have a legislative recap, with more information on the legislation relating to SWCDs at our Annual Conference...

77th Annual OACD Conference

October 16-18 at Eagle Crest, Redmond, OR

Annual meeting, workshops, exhibits, policy updates, training, and networking!
Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting will also be held on site.
Registration information will be available soon, watch your inbox.



OACD

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Hello Conservation Colleagues and Happy July!

I hope everyone was able to enjoy the July 4th holiday weekend with family, friends, and good barbeque!

Please join me in wishing Jan Lee congratulations as she has officially retired! Her deep and broad knowledge of Oregon's natural resource issues and legislation was of tremendous benefit to OACD. She navigated challenges with grace and built strong relationships, resulting in greater funding for not only OACD but also for many of our individual Districts. **Thank you Jan!** We will look forward to seeing Jan at the Annual OACD Conference in Redmond, Oregon, October 16 – 18. Please see the information about the conference both above and below – and please register! The more people we have in attendance, the better the conference will be for everyone.

Speaking of more people, the better for everyone – we have *3* open OACD Board positions up for election and I urge folks to please put your name in the hat. All 3 positions are at-large and sitting on the OACD Board is an excellent way to build personal leadership skills and share your District's perspective on what OACD should focus on. Whether you are brand new to your SWCD, or you've been around the block a few years, we welcome your voice and encourage you to engage with us. Details on application due dates and a sample biography for submission are below.

And, it is that time of year again when Districts have the opportunity to apply for National Association of Conservation Districts Technical Assistance ("NACD TA") grants. Unlike some years in the past, this year grants are open to all Districts to apply; you do not need to have received a TA grant in the past to be eligible. There is more information below and OACD's new Executive Director, Andrea Kreiner, is an excellent resource if you have questions or want guidance on completing your application. Deadlines and grant application requirements are in the funding section below and we hope to have many applications from Oregon so we can bring in those federal dollars into the state!

Lastly, I want to thank Andrea Kreiner for stepping in fully with both feet and taking off running! She's been in her position for just 2 months and she has already been able to connect with most of our District Managers, as well as several Board members throughout the state. She is committed to getting to know each of our Districts and offering a helping hand where she can. Andrea is a relationship-builder and I know she will help us all to work together well to bring great conservation work to the ground at the local level.

This month's newsletter is full of great information and resources and I urge you to take the time to read it through in its entirety.

In service of our Oregon conservation districts,

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



OACD

OREGON ASSOCIATION OF CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

NOTICE OF 2023 OACD BOARD ELECTIONS

We are now requesting nominations for OACD board positions. Since we have the unusual situation of all the positions being some type of at-large, there is no need to declare which position you are nominating yourself for. The term is for 3 years, serving until December, 2026.

Candidates may self-nominate by sending a statement of 150 words or less by 5:00 p.m. on **September 22** to OACD (andrea.kreiner@oacd.org) indicating why they want to serve and their qualifications in a brief bio of 150 words or less (see example at the end of this notice). Remember that both district board directors and management staff are both eligible to be elected. The bylaws require that management staff have their board send an email to OACD affirming the candidacy of their staff to assure that the district can support the necessary time commitment.

We will send out the list of candidates with their statements by **September 29**. We are asking that each district complete the ballot and return it to OACD by **November 30**, allowing up to two board meetings for districts to discuss and vote. Each district can submit one ballot representing the district's choices. Director seats will be determined by the highest number of votes. We request that you send ballots back electronically, then confirmation of receipt of ballots will be provided. Ballots will be tallied and results available by **December 10**.

Following the election process, the new and existing board members will meet virtually at the OACD board meeting in **December** to elect officers and transact any business.

Positions:

- Two of the Board positions up for election are At-Large, meaning you can be located in any District.
- The third seat is East At-Large. The districts eligible for that position are: Baker Valley, Burnt River, Crook County, Deschutes, Eagle Valley, Ft. Rock – Silver Lake, Gilliam County, Grant, Hood Rivers, Harney, Jefferson County, Keating, Klamath, Lakeview, Malheur, Monument, Morrow, Sherman County, Umatilla County, Union, Wallowa, Wasco County, Wheeler

Don't forget that dues must be paid for a candidate to be nominated from a district and for districts to submit a ballot in the election. If you have a question as to your status or need the dues form, or if you have election questions, please contact andrea.kreiner@oacd.org for assistance.

Example of a bio for ballot:

John Smith:

I have served on the XYZ SWCD board for 10 years. I am a past chair of the board and serve on the working lands committee. We have new issues before us, regenerative agriculture, and carbon sequestration, in addition to the many other projects districts provide their landowners. The challenges of this past year have been great for our landowners, with operations impacted by COVID, climate impacts, and unprecedented wildfires. Yet, this is a time of promise for agriculture with the likely expansion of funding for federal programs. With the implementation of best conservation management and initiatives, I believe Oregon can begin to heal and be a leader moving forward. I see the OACD Board as implementing district needs in the legislature here in Oregon and nationally. I would appreciate your support to continue that effort by your vote for me to serve on the OACD Board.



COMING EVENTS

77th Annual OACD Conference

October 16-18 at Eagle Crest, Redmond, OR

Annual meeting, workshops, exhibits, policy updates, training, and networking! Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting will also be held on site. Registration information will be available soon, watch your inbox.

OrCP Webinar - *Helping Agricultural Landowners Make Decisions about Solar* 9am on September 13

Recent years have seen a rapid expansion of solar energy development, particularly east of the Cascades. American Farmland Trust (AFT) anticipates that by 2050, up to 80% of this solar energy development could occur on farm and rangeland. As a result, solar has become a controversial topic in our rural communities, with many divided on when and where solar should be allowed. Against this backdrop, one thing remains clear: farmers, ranchers, and agricultural landowners are on the front lines when it comes solar energy development in our state. If and when they are approached by solar developers, landowners need access to unbiased resources, information, and support to help them make the best decisions for their families and their land. Conservation professionals are often relied upon to support landowners in evaluating their options and making tough decisions. With these needs in mind, AFT recently released "Solar Leasing: A Guide for Agricultural Landowners in the Pacific Northwest."

Register at: <https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAsdeCuqTwrHdUnX9HqB6aLiPKqSaQBmyOL>

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

[Environmental Quality Commission](#) meets July 20 in Portland

[OWEB Board](#) meets July 24-26 in Sisters

[Fish & Wildlife Commission](#) meets August 4 in Salem

[Soil & Water Conservation Commission](#) will meet August 9-10 in Harney County

[Agriculture Board](#) meets August 15-17 in Tillamook



NACD – National Association of Conservation Districts

Joint SW and Pacific Regional Meeting - August 23-25.
Lake Tahoe Resort Hotel
South Lake Tahoe, Nevada

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. Registration details coming soon.

FUNDING RESOURCES



NACD GRANTS – 2023 Outreach and Technical Assistance Grants

The 2023 Request for Applications (RFA) for the [Outreach and Technical Assistance \(TA\) Grants Program](#) is accepting applications. The full RFA is available on the [2023 Outreach and Technical Assistance webpage](#). Applications must be **submitted to OACD by Friday, July 21** at andrea.kreiner@oacd.org and then [submitted online](#) to NACD by **Sunday, August 6th, 2023 at 8:59pm Pacific**

OWEB GRANTS - Focused Investment Program (FIP)

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**

Please contact Ivy Clark-Henry at OWEB: 971-718-7749; ivy.clark-henry@oweb.oregon.gov to schedule a consultation.

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

OWEB GRANTS – Land Acquisition Grant

Land Acquisition grant applications are due September 1, 2023 by 5:00 pm.

A pre-application consultation is required. Please contact [Miriam Forney](#) at (971-345-7023) to schedule a consultation. Consultations will be held June 2, 2023 – August 1, 2023. Applicants are encouraged to schedule a consultation early.

Applications must be submitted via OWEB's Online Grant Management System (OGMS). The application will be available on [OGMS](#) beginning July 15, 2023. An [application template](#) may be found on OGMS. Application requirements are located on the [Land Acquisition grants webpage](#). The match requirement is 25%.

FORESTRY DEPARTMENT: LANDSCAPE RESILIENCY PROGRAM GRANTS

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 (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 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.****

INCREASES TO THE CWSRF PRINCIPAL FORGIVENESS LIMITS

Now that the proposed CWSRF rules have been adopted, the program is excited to announce there are significant changes to the amount of subsidization offered to borrowers as principal forgiveness. The supplemental funding from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law requires the program to increase the maximum subsidization that an eligible borrower can receive per state fiscal year from the historic cap of \$500,000 to no more than **\$2 million or 50% of the loan amount, whichever is less.**

Loans executed prior to May 14, 2022, which is the date the BIL went into effect, are not eligible to receive increased subsidization. Loans fully executed after April 1, 2023 will be eligible for 100% forgivable planning loan up to \$100,000. All loans – planning, design, and construction – that receive principal forgiveness must meet CWSRF program requirements. Any additional subsidization is subject to the availability of funds and readiness to proceed to loan signing.

HOW TO APPLY FOR A CWSRF LOAN

Project and borrower eligibilities

- To learn if your community and project is eligible for future funding, submit a [Loan Information Request Form](#) anytime.

Applications are accepted year-round, but projects will be reviewed, scored, and ranked after submission deadlines:

- August 8, 2023
- December 11, 2023

For more information, please contact the [project officer](#) for your area.

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 IJJA website (<https://dfw.state.or.us/IJJA/>).

SAVE THE DATE: RCPP EASEMENT INFORMATION SESSION

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) invites potential partners to join an information session to hear about Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) easements. The session will focus on easement-related aspects of RCPP project proposal development, project planning and implementation.

Wednesday, July 12, 2023
2:00 pm ET

[Join Meeting \(Zoom\)](#)

Meeting ID: 160 940 1378
Passcode: 803806

Organizations, institutions, conservation districts, States, Indian Tribes, and other groups are invited to partner with us through RCPP. For more information about RCPP and how to apply, [visit our website](#).

Inflation Reduction Act Funding - NRCS

Remarks from Ron Alvarado, Oregon State Conservationist: The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding 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 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

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 loss, 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](#).

OREGON SWCD HAPPENINGS

Deschutes SWCD: IMPROVING SOIL HEALTH THROUGH EDUCATION, APPLICATION, AND ENGAGEMENT WITH CENTRAL OREGON YOUTH AND SCHOOLS

Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District (DSWCD) received a 2021 NACD Urban Agriculture Conservation to partner with—The Environmental Center, Bend Pollinator Pathways, and Kaci Rae Christopher, the author of ‘The School Garden Curriculum: An Integrated K-8 Guide for Discovering Science, Ecology, and Whole-Systems Thinking’ and collaborated with local schools on several projects:

- Developing and presenting a Soil Health Workshop for local schools with or wanting a school garden. This was an in-person event and had 25 attendees. It included a 2-hour classroom presentation and an hour using the principles learned interactively in a school garden. Each participant received native pollinator plants, cover crop seeds, dinner, a gift card, and funding for the school to purchase soil health amendments. This workshop has also been recorded and available at <https://www.deschuteswcd.org/urban-agriculture-a35f465>;
- Presenting this workshop at a live virtual online seminar for the Oregon Farm to School and Garden Network Annual Conference;
- Helping five schools receive funding to perform school garden projects; and
- Developing a curriculum and lesson plans for an Earth Smart Food Waste series that will be utilized in elementary schools in the coming school year.



Upper Willamette SWCD: Pure Water Partners

The UWSWCD is part of the Pure Water Partners (PWP) program, which encourages stewardship of healthy riparian forest areas and provides incentives to landowners to protect or restore riparian forests as key systems for maintaining clean water, reducing erosion, providing shade along the adjacent waterbody, providing key habitat for fish and wildlife, and maintaining a healthy resilient watershed. PWP also recommends the use of native plants as a way of reducing chemical and water use, as well as maintenance, while protecting water quality and increasing native wildlife habitat. In light of the [Holiday Farm Fire](#), PWP is encouraging landowners to incorporate Firewise practices on their properties, which are aimed at creating defensible space and reducing invasive vegetation and ladder fuels that can threaten homes and structures. Upper Willamette SWCD serves as the lead technical service

provider and project manager. Program partners include the Eugene Water & Electric Board, Cascade Pacific Resource Conservation & Development, McKenzie Watershed Council, McKenzie River Trust, Metropolitan Wastewater Management Commission, University of Oregon, and the US Forest Service. [Click here to learn more about Pure Water Partners.](#) For more information, email info@purewaterpartners.org or call 541-685-7438.

Morrow SWCD: Blue Mountain Wildlife Fence Modification Project

The late 1800's - early 1900's saw a boom in sheep grazing in Morrow County. With the end of open range and the beginning of grazing regulation, fencing was a popular option with ranchers. Woven wire fences reduced the need for herders, cut losses to predators, established boundaries and in the long run improved the economics of the ranch. Today, the large bands of sheep have dwindled as has the need for woven wire fences. Fences still define and divide ranches but don't need to be constructed in such a way that they pose a barrier to big game animals moving across the landscape. And with a change in elk distribution that has seen animals move on to private lands earlier and stay longer with some not leaving at all, there is a need for help facilitating movement. This project aims to increase connectivity in the area for wildlife to find food, water, and shelter, decrease strandings of fawns and calves as well as minimize conflicts on private property and encourage travel back to public lands. The project area is a mix of private lands that are hunted by the landowners, fee hunted, leased by groups, enrolled in state access programs and is adjacent to the Umatilla National Forest.

Fences are needed for numerous purposes, and they aren't going anywhere, but there is no reason they can't be manipulated or retrofitted to accommodate wildlife movement, whether daily or seasonal migrations. This project looks to minimize the impact of fences on wildlife by tailoring wildlife-friendly fencing options in high traffic areas where fencing is necessary. Such modifications should considerably reduce wildlife damage and decrease maintenance costs.

The Morrow SWCD's Blue Mountain Wildlife Fence Modification Project with the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) has replaced over 15,000 ft. of woven wire fence with 3 or 4 strand barbed wire fence (wildlife friendly specs), installed 2 sections of drop-rail wildlife jump fencing and applied 500 vinyl reflective markers to existing fences in high traffic wildlife areas within known elk winter and parturition ranges.

To date, RMEF funds have been used to leverage nearly 2 million dollars from partners on this project. The ODFW, NRCS, Blue Mountain Elk Initiative, and USDA Forest Service have all partnered with the SWCD on this project. To date, over 140 miles of woven wire fencing has been removed from the landscape, with more to come! In addition to Rocky Mountain elk, this project also benefits Mule Deer, White-tailed Deer, Pronghorn, and various upland game birds and small mammals in the area.

If you have news to share about your District, send it to Andrea.Kriener@oacd.org
NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES

13 species added to Oregon's T&E plant list

Oregon Department of Agriculture recently updated the State list of threatened and endangered plants by administrative rule:

Endangered

Arabis mcdonaldiana Eastw. – McDonald's rockcress;

Collomia renacta E. Joyal – Barren valley collomia;

Erigeron stanselliae K.L. Chambers – Stansell's daisy;

Gilia millefoliata Fisch. & C.A. Mey. – Seaside gilia;

Lathyrus holochlorus (Piper) C.L. Hitchc. – Thin-leaved pea;

Lomatium ochocense Helliwell & Constance ex Helliwell – Ochoco lomatium;

Navarretia willamettensis S.C. Spencer – Willamette navarretia;

Sisyrinchium hitchcockii D. Henderson – Hitchcock’s blue-eyed grass

Threatened

Astragalus lemmonii A. Gray – Lemmon’s milkvetch;

Howellia aquatilis A. Gray – Water howellia;

Meconella oregana Nutt. – White fairy poppy;

Monardella angustifolia Elvin, Ertter & Mansfield – Leslie Gulch monardella;

Pinus albicaulis Engelm. – Whitebark pine

Effective June 8th, 2023, these newly listed species have state protections on non-federal public lands, including highways or rights-of-way, counties, cities, and other state lands (e.g., state parks, forests, fish and wildlife refuges, airports). ODA is currently working on creating species profiles for each species to be available on the ODA website, but you can also look up information on these species at OregonFlora.org in the interim. If you have questions, please send them to listedplants@oda.oregon.gov.

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!](#)



ODA Water Quality Program is recruiting for a **OP3 (Initiatives Coordinator)**, located at ODA headquarters in Salem, Oregon. This is a hybrid position which allows for flexibility in work schedule. https://oregon.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/SOR_External_Career_Site/job/Salem--ODA--Headquarters-Office/Operations---Policy-Analyst-3--Initiatives-Coordinator- REQ-130613

Applications must be completed by **July 9, 2023, at 11:59 PM**

Union SWCD Is looking to hire a **Watershed Conservationist**. The application and full job announcement are available from jwebster@unionswcd.org. The position closes on **July 21**.

McKenzie River Trust is looking to hire a **Director of Protection**. The job announcement is available at <https://mckenzieriver.org/jobs/>. Applications will start being reviewed **August 7** and will remain open until filled.

Curry SWCD is looking for a 0.7 FTE (~120 hrs/mo) **Youth Education Program Specialist**. The full position announcement and required application documents can be found here: <https://www.currywatersheds.org/about-us/employment-and-contracting/>

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department is recruiting for a **Natural Resource Specialist II** in northeast Oregon. The application closes **July 10**. https://oregon.wd5.myworkdayjobs.com/en-US/SOR_External_Career_Site/job/Natural-Resource-Specialist--Natural-Resource-Specialist-2-REQ-129873

Ducks Unlimited is recruiting for 2 positions: **Biologist**, Southeast Oregon https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/recruitment.html?cid=7deee1c0-b159-4fdc-8bdb-3f1d87c47510&cclid=19000101_000001&lang=en_US&jobId=468438

Manager, Engineering Services

https://workforcenow.adp.com/mascsr/default/mdf/recruitment/recruitment.html?cid=7deee1c0-b159-4fdc-8bdb-3f1d87c47510&cclid=19000101_000001&lang=en_US&jobId=460143

Contact Information



Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
P.O. Box 10527, Portland, Oregon 97296
www.oacd.org

Andrea Kreiner, Executive Director
andrea.kreiner@oacd.org
971.988.9929

Terri Preeg Riggsby, OACD President
NACD Board Member for Oregon/Pacific Region Chair
tpriggsby@yahoo.com
971-404-4909