



# OACD NEWS

January 2024



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## Get Involved – Oregon Conservation Partnership DEIJ Affinity Group

Colleagues throughout the Watershed Council, Conservation District, and Land Trust networks, are invited to participate in the [\(OrCP\) Affinity Group](#) on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice - read the [group's purpose here](#).

### **Wednesday 3/27, 11am-1pm:**

On promoting in-house equity (ex., implementing personnel & hiring practices that support retention & work-life balance) - *Heather King, Executive Director at Columbia Slough Watershed Council*

**Date tbd:** On making shifts towards radical recognitions of sovereignty, with Noah Dolinajec, Exec.Dir. Necanicum Watershed Council and possibly his colleague(s) with the Chinook Indian Nation, with whom they just completed a historic MOA.

Email Jack and/or Alexis ([jack@oswegowatershed.org](mailto:jack@oswegowatershed.org); [alexis@tryoncreek.org](mailto:alexis@tryoncreek.org)) to be added to the list for future direct communications for this group.



Conservation Colleagues,

If you are like me, you are awaiting spring. Here in the foothills of Mt. Hood we had snow yesterday and the outlook is for snow this weekend. It's hard to complain about snow as the water it provides us is the life blood for some of our conservation work. Soon our district conservation staffs will be out on the landscape making conservation happen!

Andrea, Terri, and I returned from the National Association of Conservation Districts (NACD) conference two weeks ago and have brought back information to share with you. As Oregon's board member, Terri Preeg Riggsby reports that districts nationwide will soon have a tri-fold brochure about conservation districts that can be printed out for individual district outreach and education.

Andrea and I presented the OACD Carbon website ([www.OACDCarbon.org](http://www.OACDCarbon.org)) and guidebook at the conference as part of the climate track. There were a number of interesting sessions in that track, including one by Tualatin SWCD, and some new technology presented that will provide additional tools for districts. Look for these to be added as updates to our website soon.

OACD has been closely tracking implementation of the Natural and Working Lands Fund. The fund was provided a budget of \$10 million by the legislature in 2023 and will be open soon to supply grants through OWEB, ODF (Forestry), ODFW (Fish and Wildlife) and ODA (Agriculture). For more information about the programs see the PowerPoint [presentation](#) with program details.

More federal funding is also on the horizon. See Andrea's reference to the new OWEB partnership technical assistance grants program later in this newsletter. And SB 1561 before the legislature provides for funding to OWEB and other natural resource agencies from a new *Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund (OERF)*, including establishment of the *Environmental Restoration Council* as a part of OWEB. This funding results from a settlement from Monsanto negotiated by the state to the tune of nearly \$700 million due to PCB contamination. It's the largest environmental-related settlement in the state's history!

So, let's get to work getting this money on the ground!  
Your district colleague,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jan', is positioned above the typed name.

Jan Lee, OACD President

[janleewater@gmail.com](mailto:janleewater@gmail.com) 503-545-9420 cell



## COMING EVENTS

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

- [OWEB DEIEJ Committee](#) – March 5, virtual
- [OWEB Water and Climate Committee](#) – March 6, virtual
- [OWEB Grants Committee](#) – March 12, virtual
- [Environmental Quality Commission](#) – March 21-22, in Eugene
- [Fish & Wildlife Commission](#) - March 15 in Roseburg
- [Water Resources Commission](#) – March 21, virtual

### OACD Board Meeting – new date and time

District participation and comments are encouraged.

**March 26, 9am-11am. Join [HERE](#)**

**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](http://ConnectOregon.net).

### OWEB New Grant Application Trainings.

The Spring 2024 Open Solicitation Grant Applications will be the first grant cycle to use this improved online application, other OWEB grant programs will follow later in 2024. Trainings and office hours will be provided over Zoom for applicants. Links for each event are listed below:

GRANT TYPE	WEBINAR	OFFICE HOURS
Technical Assistance	<a href="#"><u>February 22, 2024 9:30-11 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>February 27, 2024 10-11 am</u></a>
Restoration	<a href="#"><u>February 29, 2024 9:30-11 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>March 5, 2024 1-2 pm</u></a>
Monitoring	<a href="#"><u>March 7, 2024 9:30-11 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>March 13, 2024 1-2 pm</u></a>
Engagement	<a href="#"><u>March 14, 2024 9:30-11 am</u></a>	<a href="#"><u>March 19, 2024 1-2 pm</u></a>

### National Cooperative Soil Survey Partners Meeting - Mar 19, 2024, 09:00AM

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. 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. [Register here](#)

## Virtual Workshop - Defending and Growing the Core by Breaking the Cycle of Annual Grass Invasions - April 3, 2024

Invasive annual grasses—such as cheatgrass, medusa head, and ventenata—are the leading cause of degradation and loss of America’s sagebrush grasslands, reducing forage and habitat, fueling more frequent and larger wildfires, and threatening rural economies. While invasive grasses are widespread, there remains a generational opportunity to proactively address this threat.

Participants will be introduced to the proactive “defend and grow the core” management philosophy, which emphasizes protecting intact and functioning native plant communities, and expanding them through improved management techniques, rather than initially starting with the most degraded areas. This workshop seeks to inspire participants and start conversations across the sagebrush biome on how to meet the invasive annual grass problem head on in their own watersheds. We hope this information will be especially useful to any land manager, landowner, or conservation practitioner working to conserve and protect the sagebrush biome.

April 3, 2024, 8:00 am to 3:00 pm PT  
Online via Zoom [REGISTER HERE](#)

## DISTRICT to DISTRICT

### Clackamas SWCD received SDAO Award for Outstanding District

The Special District Association of Oregon Awards Program gives recognition to districts, board members, managers, employees, and volunteers to celebrate their ingenuity, creativity, diversity, and commitment to excellence. This year the *Outstanding Special District with 6-25 employees* award was earned by Clackamas SWCD and was presented at the SDAO annual meeting in February.



### Polk SWCD awarded 2024 Friends of NACD Grant.

With local partners, the district will build a community engagement program for their property, Cornerstone, to foster connections to the land through education and activities. Participants will take the knowledge and techniques learned to their own properties and communities.

## FUNDING RESOURCES

### NRCS/OWEB Technical Assistance Grant Offering

The goal of this grant program is to provide funding for Technical Assistance to help implement local Inflation Reduction Act programs. The Inflation Reduction Act has generated more need for technical assistance than the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) can provide to landowners. Funding is provided to partners to assist with local conservation efforts. There is \$743,110 available for this program and individual requests over \$50,000 will be granted as funds allow. Please review the [NRCS/OWEB TA Guidance document](#).



Grant applications must be submitted by **5:00 pm on April 30, 2024**, through [OWEB's Online Application System](#). If you need to set up a login, please email [Leilani.sullivan@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:Leilani.sullivan@oweb.oregon.gov).

OWEB will hold an informational Zoom webinar about the NRCS/OWEB Technical Assistance Grant Offering on **Friday, March 8th from 9:00 - 10:00 am Pacific time** Register [here](#)

**Questions?** Visit the [NRCS/OWEB Technical Assistance Grant Program webpage](#), or contact Heidi Hartman, Federal Programs Specialist at [heidi.hartman@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:heidi.hartman@oweb.oregon.gov) or 971-707-0226.

### **NACD Climate-Smart Commodities Grants**

Climate-Smart Commodities Project Request for Proposals (RFP) due on **March 15, 2024!** NACD has reassessed its match requirements and has [revised the RFP for Project Grants](#).

For those interested in submitting a proposal for a **Planning & Capacity Grant**, register for an [informational webinar](#) on **March 7 at 4:00 p.m. ET**, to learn more about the RFP and answer applicants' questions. The RFP and several key resources are available on our [website](#). Please don't hesitate to reach out to [climate@nacdnet.org](mailto:climate@nacdnet.org) with any questions.

### **OWEB Spring 2024 Open Solicitation Grant Offering.**

These grants support voluntary efforts by Oregonians to protect and restore healthy watersheds—including actions supporting the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and the Oregon Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy. OWEB anticipates making a combined total of over \$12 million available through this solicitation for the following grant types:

- [Restoration](#) \* (25% match is required)
- [Technical Assistance](#) (NEW: \$1 match is required; no cap on requests)
- [Engagement](#) (NEW: \$1 match is required)
- [Monitoring](#) (25% match is required)

**Grant applications are due by 5 pm on April 29, 2024**, and must be submitted via [OWEB's online grant application](#). The OWEB Board plans to make grant awards at the October 2024 meeting.

## 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.**

## FY2025 National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant (NCWCG) Program

NCWCGs are awarded annually with funding from the USFWS to acquire, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands. OWEB serves as the official grantee of the federal award and makes the federal funds available to local partners through sub-grants.

Awards typically range from \$125,000 to a maximum of \$1,000,000 and require a 25% non-federal match contribution. OWEB funding can be used to satisfy the 25% non-federal match requirement. Eligible projects must ensure the long-term conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems.

NCWCG projects proposing **restoration** activities are due **by 5:00 pm on April 29, 2024**, and must be submitted via OWEB's online grant application.

Visit OWEB's [Coastal Wetlands Grant webpage](#) for program and login information. Direct questions to [Jillian McCarthy](#), Coastal Programs Coordinator.

## USDA Urban Agriculture & Innovative Production Competitive Grants Program

These competitive grants initiate or expand efforts of farmers, gardeners, citizens, government officials, schools, and other stakeholders in urban areas and suburbs. Projects may target areas of food access; education; business and start-up costs for new farmers; and development of policies related to zoning and other needs of urban production.

The funding floor is \$75,000, the ceiling is \$350,000. Applications are being accepted via [Grants.gov](#) **until April 9.**

Have question, or looking for more information? Check out the [Frequently Asked Questions](#), [FY24 Training Recording for Applicants](#), and [Program Fact Sheet](#).

## Western SARE Farmer/Rancher Research & Education Grant Program

Advancing on-farm sustainability solutions by funding innovative producer-driven research and outreach. This grant program involves agricultural producers (main applicants) and technical advisor(s) implementing projects to address identified needs in sustainable agriculture. See the call for proposals [here](#).

Proposals are due **October 23, 2024**

## NACD ~ Urban and Community Conservation Grants

More information about the program, including past grantees and the application process for 2024, is available on [NACD's Urban and Community Conservation webpage](#). Applications are due **April 1**.

## BLM Western OR Secure Rural Schools Title II grant

Funding for Special Projects that are located on or will benefit BLM-administered lands in Benton, Clackamas, Columbia, Coos, Curry, Douglas, Jackson, Josephine, Klamath, Lane, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Washington, and Yamhill counties. All SRS Act Title II Special Projects must result in at least one of the below benefits:

- Road, trail, and infrastructure maintenance or obliteration;
- Soil productivity improvement;
- Improvements in forest ecosystem health;
- Watershed restoration and maintenance;
- Restoration, maintenance and improvement of wildlife and fish habitat;
- Control of noxious and exotic weeds; and/or
- Reestablishment of native species.

Up to \$5 million may be available under this announcement, and individual Special Project awards typically range from \$5,000 to \$250,000. The total amount of funding will vary in each of the 18 counties based on the acreages of BLM-administered lands in each county and other direction established in the SRS Act. More information and [Applications can be submitted here through April 2, 2024](#).

## America the Beautiful Challenge 2024 Request for Proposals

In year three of the ATBC, approximately \$119 million will be awarded in nationwide funding to conserve, connect, and restore the lands, waters, and wildlife upon which we all depend. The ATBC seeks to fund projects across the following themes:

1. Conserving and restoring rivers, coasts, wetlands, and watersheds
2. Conserving and restoring forests, grasslands and important ecosystems that serve as carbon sinks
3. Connecting and reconnecting wildlife corridors, large landscapes, watersheds, and seascapes
4. Improving ecosystem and community resilience to flooding, drought, and other climate-related threats
5. Expanding access to the outdoors, particularly in underserved communities

Collectively, these themes invite applicants to develop landscape-level ATBC proposals that address conservation and public access needs with: cumulative benefits to fish and wildlife, enhanced carbon sequestration and storage, benefits to and engagement with underserved communities, and protection of ecosystems through resilience-focused and nature-based solutions. **For more info check [here](#).**

**Applicant Webinar ([Register](#)): Thursday, February 29, 11:30–1:30 PM PT**

**Pre-Proposal Due Date: Thursday, April 4, by 8:59 PM PT**

**Full Proposal Due Date (*by invitation only*): Tuesday, July 16, by 8:59 PM PT**

## NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES



### USDA Announces Establishment of New Working Lands Climate Corps in Partnership with NACD, AmeriCorps, and the Corps Network

The Working Lands Conservation Corps (WLCC) is part of the American Climate Corps (ACC), a government wide workforce training and service initiative. The WLCC aims to provide skills-based training for careers in conservation. Its establishment is reflective of the critical role of voluntary, incentive-based conservation in meeting our climate goals.

The Corps Network is soliciting proposals from host sites interested in providing conservation training and mentorship opportunities to WLCC members. The request for proposals is available [here](#). The deadline to apply is **Friday, March 8, 2024, at 2 p.m. PT.**

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### NRCS SEEKS PUBLIC COMMENT ON 8 CONSERVATION PRACTICES

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking [public comment](#) on proposed revisions to eight national conservation practice standards. Comments are due March 4, 2024. Proposed revisions to the national conservation practice standards include:

- Field Border (Code 386);
- Filter Strip (Code 393);
- Grazing Management (Code 528);
- Hedgerow Planting (Code 422);
- Mulching (Code 484);
- Seasonal Water Management for Wildlife (Code 646);
- Structure for Water Control (Code 587); and
- Wetland Restoration (Code 657)

Proposed text can be found on [this NRCS webpage](#). Changes are included in [this notice on the Federal Register](#). **Comments should be submitted via regulations.gov or via mail by March 4, 2024.**

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### NACD's 69th Stewardship Week - April 28 to May 5, 2024.

The theme is "May the Forest Be with You" and materials can be found here: [Stewardship Week - NACD](#)

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### DEQ Rulemakings

#### Willamette Subbasins Temperature TMDL Replacement – DEQ is asking for Public Comment on the Proposed Rule Amendments – *Extended to March 15*

- More information on this rulemaking, including the draft rules, TMDL and WQMP can be found on the [Willamette Subbasins Temperature TMDL rulemaking page](#).
- **Email:** Send comments by email to: [Willamette.TemperatureTMDL@DEQ.oregon.gov](mailto:Willamette.TemperatureTMDL@DEQ.oregon.gov)

#### Powder River Basin TMDL – Comment period – *Extended to March 8*

- 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](#).
- **Email:** Send comments by email to: [powderTMDL@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:powderTMDL@deq.oregon.gov)





**Oregon Conservation Partnership - Grant Hub Manager** (Limited Duration Contractual Position). 12-month contracted position to develop a system for tracking federal grant opportunities for Watershed Councils, Soil and Water Conservation Districts and Land Trusts and to provide training to these organizations on applying for these funds. Contact Andrea Kreiner [andrea.kreiner@oacd.org](mailto:andrea.kreiner@oacd.org) for the complete announcement. Application deadline is **March 15 at 11:59PM Pacific Time**

**Harney SWCD – Conservation Planner.** Deadline **March 7**. See their [website](#) for more information.

**Clackamas SWCD - WeedWise Technicians** (Seasonal). For a full announcement, position description, and application instructions please follow the link below.

<https://conservationdistrict.org/2024/weedwise-technician-2024.html>. All application materials must be submitted to the District no later than **4:30 p.m. March 8**.

**Tri-State Steelheaders – Habitat Restoration Project Manager.** For the full position description, visit [www.tristatesteelheaders.com](http://www.tristatesteelheaders.com). The position is open until filled, with the first review of applicants **March 18**.

**Elderberry Wisdom Farm - Habitat Restoration Internships.** This paid opportunity provides Native Americans and other individuals of color who are pursuing conservation career pathways with an opportunity to receive culturally tailored training, technical assistance, and mentoring. Internships integrate Traditional Ecological Knowledge with local conservation practices with support from mid-Willamette Valley partners. It also includes Organic Farming training which will be provided at Chemeketa Community College. Opportunities include internships in spring 2024 and summer 2024. See the [full details of the announcement](#).

**Johnson Creek WC – Restoration Project Manager.** To apply, send resume, cover letter & three references, attention Alison Perkins, Operations Manager ([alison@jwcw.org](mailto:alison@jwcw.org)) by 9 a.m., **March 12**. No phone calls please.

**Necanicum WC – Restoration Manager.** To apply, send by email a resume (with professional references) and detailed cover letter (no more than 2 pages) that includes both lived and professional experience, qualifications and please include a short JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion) statement regarding your experience with diversity work and how you plan to implement it in this position. All application materials should be submitted as one single PDF document to Noah Dolinajec at [executivedirector@necanicumwatershed.org](mailto:executivedirector@necanicumwatershed.org). Open until filled, applications will be reviewed beginning **March 21**.



**Oregon Association of  
Conservation Districts**

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