



OACD NEWS

September 2024



- LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**
Page 2
- COMING EVENTS**
Page 3
- FUNDING RESOURCES**
Page 4
- NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES**
Page 6
- DISTRICTS in the NEWS**
Page 8
- DISTRICT to DISTRICT**
Page 8
- OACD ELECTIONS**
Page 9
- CONTACT US**
Page 10

DON'T MISS OUT!

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference

October 14-16, 2024, Hood River, Oregon

We are putting the finishing touches on the agenda and it is looking great! We will have a varied and pertinent agenda that includes both learning and interactive sessions – discussions with policy makers and each other!

Don't miss out on the early bird \$50 discount – it is automatically applied to registrations up until September 16, so register soon at [Eventbrite](#)

Register for your rooms at the Hood River Inn in Beautiful Hood River, Oregon. Don't forget to mention you are with the conference for the discounted room rate. [Hood River Inn](#)



Hello Conservation Partners,

I always thought that August was the dog days of summer, slow and boring. Not so in the conservation world! There is so much going on, and that doesn't even count all the work you are doing on the ground!

I have been busy working with our state partners on trying to secure funding for fire recovery work. Thank you to all the districts who have taken the time out from your work on the fires to keep me informed on the recovery needs and the work you are doing.

We have also been working with the media consultant funded through the Oregon Conservation Partnership to get the story out about the work you are all doing. Check out these recent stories on our Districts and partners:

- <https://www.opb.org/article/2024/08/09/eastern-oregon-wildfires-smoke-clears-leaving-ranchers-facing-uncertainty/>
- <https://www.timesjournal1886.com/story/2024/08/01/news/lonerock-fire-mostly-contained-crews-depart-for-other-fires/698.html>
- <https://www.kgw.com/article/tech/science/environment/oregon-wildfire-fire-season-cause-human-climate-change-forest-management/283-ad30ed8f-30c3-43b5-a36b-681f388fe9c2>
- <https://www.btimesherald.com/2024/07/31/resources-for-farmers-and-ranchers-in-harney-county/>
- <https://www.opb.org/article/2024/08/06/think-out-loud-eastern-oregon-wildfires-response/>

We are gearing up for the 2025 legislative session, with 2 legislative tours coming up in September with Monument SWCD and Tualatin SWCD, and our Advocacy Committee will be leading the effort to pass legislation to fund Spanish-language pesticide training.

The OACD Annual Conference coming up October 14-16 in Hood River. We are putting the finishing touches on the agenda, and it is looking great! There will be learning sessions, interactive sessions, a District Manager roundtable and a District Director roundtable and, of course, our annual business meeting. We have the ability to provide some need-based scholarships to help get as many of you to the conference as possible. If you are in need of scholarship support, please let me know.

Lastly, the OACD Board gathered in The Dalles for a 2-day strategic planning session. We are looking forward to sharing the outcome of our work with you at the Annual Meeting on October 14.

A handwritten signature in green ink, appearing to be the name "Andrea Kreiner". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

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



COMING EVENTS

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

[Oregon Climate Action Commission](#) – September 17, Virtual

[Oregon Water Resources Commission](#) - Sept 12-13, TBD

[Oregon Board of Agriculture](#) – Sept 10-12, Pendleton

[Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission](#) – Sept 13, The Dalles

[OWEB DEI/EJ Committee](#) September 3

[OWEB Grants Committee](#) September 5

[OWEB Water & Climate Committee](#) September 11

OACD Board Meeting

District participation and comments are encouraged.

September 24, 9am-11am. Zoom link [HERE](#).

NACD Pacific & Southwest Region Meeting

September 11th-13th, 2024 in Anchorage, AK. Event details and useful links can be found [here](#)

Private Lands Partners Day 2024 October 7-9 Redmond, Oregon

Partnerscapes and Private Lands Partners Day have been planning to get the event to central Oregon since right after the 2019 conference in Utah concluded. The pandemic years and other locations in line caused delays, but we are very excited to finally be convening the meeting in this unique part of the country in 2024! While sponsor registration has been open for a month or two, attendee registration has just opened. The schedule will be an opening reception on Monday October 7, all day in a conference setting with a closing dinner Tuesday October 8, and an all-day field trip on October 9. General information about the meeting including sponsor registration and lodging can be found [here](#). Please note that when reserving lodging at Eagle Crest, you must phone in. Hope you can join us in Redmond!

OACD is a sponsor of Private Lands Partners Day. Register [here](#)

SDAO Webinar - Your employee handbook –its value, purpose and how to get yours up to date! THURSDAY, September 5, 2024 at 12pm

Your employee handbook is an invaluable tool and resource that you need to have. It is also critical that yours is current to your internal practices and compliant with legislation. This document is your go-to resource for all things related to your employees and their tenure with your district. But is yours up to date? Are you aware of the many legislative changes that must be contained in your handbook? Would your handbook help limit your legal liability? When was yours last updated? How is the best way for you to achieve all of this?

Join SDAO HR Manager, Monica Schultz, as she provides an overview of an employee handbook and the resources available that would help make yours current and relevant.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

FUNDING RESOURCES



New OISC Education and Outreach Grants

<https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/grants>

The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) is excited to announce that \$150,000 in 2024-2025 biennium funds will be available to the OISC to fund education outreach project grants.

- Project budgets must be at least **\$5,000**. Projects over \$20,000 must show a collaborative, larger-scale watershed, community, or statewide education or outreach impact. Project scalability is desirable. Funding requests must align with the scale and reach of the projects.
- Grants will be awarded based on the availability of funds.

Who is eligible to apply? A grant applicant must be an eligible legal entity—a local or tribal government, non-profit organization, educational institution, or individual (an individual is not eligible for indirect or administrative costs).

Important Dates

Application window: August 1, 2024 - October 15, 2024

Grant Awards announced: January 2025

Grant Cycle Dates: January 2025 - June 30, 2026

NACD's 2024 Outreach & Technical Assistance Grants

Check out the [Request for Proposals](#), [Grant Portal & Application](#), and other Guidance documents on the [2024 Outreach & Technical Assistance Grants webpage](#). Applications are due on September, 30 2024 at 11:59 ET. See timeline below.

Anticipated Dates	Milestones
August 22, 2024 4:00pm – 5:00pm ET	NACD will host a webinar to discuss this RFA and answer any questions. All interested parties, both eligible entities and partners, are welcome to join. The webinar will be recorded and posted to NACD's website.
September 30, 2024 11:59pm ET	Applications due Note: Applications must be submitted via NACD's application portal.
September – October 2024	Application clarifications, evaluations, and selections
December 1, 2024	Applicants notified of selection
December 30, 2024	Final award, Memorandum of Agreements distributed

Culvert AOP Grant Program

The Notice of Funding Opportunity for Years 2-5 of the [Culvert AOP grant program](#) was posted today to [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). The program funds projects to replace and remediate culverts and weirs that are barriers to anadromous fish. Eligible recipients include State agencies, units of local government, and Tribes. Projects must have a transportation nexus. The deadline for Year 2 (FY 2023) applications is September 23rd, 2024.

Growing Equity Subaward Funding Opportunity

Oregon Department of Forestry, in cooperation with the United States Forest Service (USFS), has announced the Urban and Community Forestry (UCF) Subaward Program for All-Entities. This funding opportunity is designed to support programs and projects that promote the protection and enhancement of urban and community forest ecosystems in disadvantaged communities throughout the state of Oregon. Applications are open now through **October 15th**.

These programs will provide funding to eligible entities to advance:

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

Applications are being accepted now through **October 15th**. There will be an additional funding opportunity opening in 2025.

Support Available: To receive support in the subaward proposal process, the applicant can complete a short [questionnaire](#) or email the ODF UCF subaward program.

To learn more and apply: visit the [Growing Equity Subaward Webpage](#).

Eligible Entities:

- Federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations
- Local government entities (e.g., city, county, or regional government; public school districts; **soil and water conservation districts**; etc.)
- Public and state-controlled institutions of higher education (e.g., Oregon University System)
- Non-profit and community-based organizations

If you have any questions about the funding opportunity, please reach out to the ODF UCF program.

Email: UCF.program@odf.oregon.gov **Phone:** (503) 945-7390.

Fall 2024 Open Solicitation Grant Offering - OWEB

OWEB is now accepting online applications for the the following grant types:

- [Restoration](#) (25% match is required)
- [Technical Assistance](#) (NEW: 5% match is required; no cap on requests)
- [Engagement](#) (NEW: 5% match is required)

Applicants are encouraged to consider the impacts of this year's extensive wildfires on native fish and wildlife habitat and watershed processes and to contact their regional program representative to discuss potential restoration projects in burned areas. OWEB anticipates making a combined total of over \$12 million available for Restoration, Technical Assistance, and Engagement grants through this solicitation.

Grant applications are due by 5 pm on Monday, October 28, 2024, and must be submitted via OWEB's online grant application. The OWEB Board plans to make grant awards at their April 2025 meeting.

Please click on the links to the grant type of interest (above) for application requirements and login information. If you already have an Online Application login, you may [access the application directly](#).

Partner Fund and Restore NW Grants

New Seasons Market, in partnership with Zero Foodprint, is kicking off the Restore NW Grant program to support a sustainable food economy. Farmer and ranchers in our supply chain can apply for funds to support projects that enhance water use, reduce carbon emissions, boost biodiversity, and improve soil health.

[APPLY FOR A GRANT](#)

Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance

Up to \$25 million is anticipated to be awarded in 2024 through this opportunity to support projects that remove hazardous fuels from national forests and grasslands to a location where the materials may be used for various wood products and services.

Due: September 5, 2024

Eligible applicants: for-profit entities, non-profit entities, US State governments, US local governments, Tribal entities, and education institutions

This program contributes to the Wildfire Crisis Strategy implementation by removing hazardous fuels from forests and supports local forest product facilities and rural economies. More information can be found on the [Hazardous Fuels Transportation Assistance webpage](#).

USDA ANNOUNCES A FUNDING OPPORTUNITY TO SUPPORT INFLATION REDUCTION ACT GREENHOUSE GAS QUANTIFICATION EFFORTS

This funding opportunity is for a cooperative agreement to support model intercomparison studies.

USDA is announcing this [funding opportunity](#) for a cooperative agreement to support the coordination, implementation, and management of model intercomparison studies in agricultural systems. The model intercomparison study supports the [Inflation Reduction Act greenhouse gas quantification efforts](#).

The purpose of the cooperative model intercomparison study is to assess and advance the state of science for carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emission modeling for agriculture. Soil carbon sequestration and greenhouse gas emissions in cropland and grassland systems and their interactions with different climate-smart mitigation practices will be the focus of the study. The awardee will work with up to 8 independent modeling groups to implement the study.

Proposals from interested parties to lead the study are requested by October 4, 2024, for competitive consideration of the award with \$1.9 million total funding available for a 4-year agreement to support the study lead and up to 8 independent modeling groups. Eligibility is limited to institutions in the [Cooperative Ecosystem Studies Unit \(CESU\) network](#).

For more information and to submit a proposal, see the [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#).

NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES



Wildfire Recovery Resources for Oregon's Farmers and Ranchers

New resource document available from ODA. Download it [HERE](#)

AI Opportunities and Risks for Districts – a Streamline Webinar

Streamline is offering a free webinar from **11-12 on September 4th** about the opportunities and risks of AI for Special Districts. You can register at this link (scroll down towards the end).

<https://www.getstreamline.com/webinars>

Farm and Forest Presentation

The link to the PowerPoint and the recording of the Farm/Forest presentation made to the Board of Ag and the LCDC Commission members on August 20th is located on ODA's website: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/AboutUs/Pages/BoardAgriculture.aspx>

DEQ Rulemaking – Willamette River Mainstem and Major Tributaries Temperature TMDL Replacement – DEQ is asking for Public Comment on the Proposed Rule Amendments

The DEQ is proposing to amend Oregon Administrative Rule 340-042-0090 related to Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs). Consistent with Oregon Revised Statute 468B.110 and OAR chapter 340 division 42, this rulemaking proposes to develop temperature TMDLs for the mainstem Willamette River and all the major tributaries downstream of the dams, except for the McKenzie River which is included in the Subbasins TMDL. The TMDL and Water Quality Management Plan will be proposed for adoption by Oregon's Environmental Quality Commission, by reference, into OAR 340-042-0090. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will review the TMDL after the commission adopts the rule.

Public Comment

Anyone can submit comments and questions about this rulemaking. More information on this rulemaking, can be found on the [Willamette River Mainstem and Major Tributaries Temperature TMDL rulemaking page](#).

How to comment: DEQ will accept comments by email, postal mail or verbally at the public hearing. Anyone can submit comments and questions about this rulemaking.

- **Email:** Send comments by email to: Willamette.MainStem@DEQ.oregon.gov
- **Postal mail:** Oregon DEQ, Attn: Michele Martin, Water Quality, 700 NE Multnomah Street, Suite 600, Portland, Oregon 97232-4100

At public hearing: 1:30 p.m., Tuesday, Sept. 17, 2024 ([Join online via Zoom](#))

DEQ will only consider comments on the proposed rules that DEQ receives by 4 p.m., on Sept. 23, 2024.

Farm Succession Workshops

Oregon Ag Trust is excited to announce a workshop this fall featuring long time Ag consultant Dick Wittman at the Ag Complex at Chemeketa Community College in Salem on **November 19th and 20th**.

1. Day 1 is intended for farmers and ranchers but service providers are certainly encouraged to attend as well. This all day workshop will help farm & ranch business owners work through solutions to common family business management and succession challenges. Workshop participants will gain insight on professionalizing business management or governance practices as well as preventing and reducing conflict in the family business. The cost to attend is \$100 with lunch provided.
2. Day 2 is a full day ag consultant training course for service providers. This workshop will help service providers implement consulting tools to better serve farm and ranch businesses as they work through the estate and succession planning process. It's designed for service providers who are advising farm and ranch business owners on transition planning, assisting clients in their business management practices and looking for strategies to prevent and reduce conflict in the family business. The cost to attend is \$300 with lunch provided. We are in the process of applying for continuing education credits for accounting for this course. We have obtained approval for 6.25 hours of continuing legal education credits.

Registration can be found at www.oregonagtrust.org/workshop-registration.

OAT has also been working on a guidebook for service providers working with customers on easements. Its all finished and published! The **Plan & Protect Guide for Service Providers**, along with our recently completed Stories from the Field video series about easements and succession planning can be located on our Resource page here: <https://www.oregonagtrust.org/resources>

Applications for Rogue Farm Corps's Farm Launch Program Now Open!

Farm Launch is a business planning program for beginning farmers and ranchers. From October 2024 to March 2025, a cohort of 12-15 beginning farmers and ranchers will take the next steps toward establishing or developing their farm businesses by writing complete, professional business plans. Program participants meet every week for virtual group sessions and work time, and meet 1-on-1 with Future Farms Program Director Geoffrey Van at least two times for individual personalized support. Through these group and individual sessions, we address questions and barriers that arise and take steps to build effective and sustainable business plans, as well as advance participants' farming goals. We'll explore topics including: visioning and goal setting, labor and employees, bookkeeping, land and capital access, products, marketing, sales, and so much more. Participants will walk away with a rocket proof business plan and the tools they need for their farm business to succeed. [Learn More about Farm Launch](#)

DISTRICTS IN THE NEWS

CHECK OUT THE LATEST NEWS STORIES FEATURING OUR SWCDs---

[As the smoke clears, ranchers in Eastern Oregon face uncertainty](#), Oregon Public Broadcasting and Jefferson Public Radio

[Lonerock Fire mostly contained, crews depart for other fires](#), The Times-Journal

[Forest management? Climate change? What's causing Oregon's severe wildfire season](#), KGW-TV

[Resources for farmers and ranchers in Harney County](#), Burns Times Herald

[Eastern Oregon watershed council helps landowners impacted by wildfires](#) (also about Monument SWCD), OPB Think Out Loud

Do you have a story to share, please send it to andrea.kreiner@OACD.org!

DISTRICT to DISTRICT

It is with heavy hearts that we share the passing of two in our SWCD family:

Kim Peterson, long-time director at East Multnomah SWCD, recently passed away peacefully on August 8, at the age of 74. Kim spent her entire life on Sauvie Island, where her family managed a 250-acre dairy farm during her upbringing. Over the years, the farm evolved into a beef operation and now includes grass, food crops, and duck lakes. Kim had a deep connection with the West Multnomah SWCD, following in the footsteps of her father, Elmer Peterson, who served as Treasurer for many years. Kim herself took on the role of Treasurer for a time and was a dedicated board member from November 1999 until her passing in August 2024— an incredible 25 years of service. In recognition of Kim and her family's longstanding dedication to the District, she was honored at the 2016 Annual Meeting with a special award and a [video highlighting the Peterson family's significant contributions](#).

Josh Thompson, was involved in a tragic auto accident on August 21. Josh has worked for Wasco County SWCD for the past 24 years and his loss is deeply felt. This news comes as a shock and is difficult to process. There will be a Celebration of Life for Josh on Thursday, August 29th, at 2:00 pm at the Wasco County Fairgrounds in Tygh Valley, OR. Everyone is welcome to attend. Josh had a tremendous influence in so many ways and he will be greatly missed.

JUST A FEW WEEKS LEFT!

NOTICE OF 2024 OACD BOARD ELECTIONS

District Board Members and Management Staff:

We are now requesting nominations for OACD board positions. Please see the listing of positions below that are up for election. The term is for 3 years, serving until December, 2027.

Candidates may self-nominate by sending a statement of 150 words or less by 5:00 p.m. on **September 20** 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 27** with a ballot. We are asking that each district complete the ballot and return it to OACD by **November 29**, allowing up to two board meetings for districts to vote based on their internal discussion. Each district can submit a ballot by mail or electronically representing the district's choices (one ballot per district). Director seats will be determined by the highest number of votes. We request that you send ballots back electronically and then confirmation of receipt of ballots will be provided. Ballots will be tallied and results available by **December 12**.

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:

- **Northwest Oregon Region**. The list of districts eligible for this position are: Benton, Clatsop, Columbia, Lincoln, Linn, Polk, Siuslaw, Tillamook, Upper Willamette, Yamhill.
- **Southern Oregon Region**. The list of districts eligible for that position are: Coos, Curry, Douglas, Ft. Rock – Silver Lake, Illinois Valley, Jackson, Klamath, Lakeview, Two Rivers, Umpqua.

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.



Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts

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