



OACD NEWS

July 2024



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Call for Presentations: Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference

October 14-16, 2024, Hood River, Oregon

This year we are calling for presentations or full session proposals in the following areas:

- Success Stories from Districts
- Collaborating with Tribes – examples, learnings
- Reaching the Community
- Telling your story – making the most of your website, social media
- Planning for a changing climate
- Other

Presentations can be 10 - 20 minutes long,
Sessions are 45 or 90 minutes long.

Dates to remember:

Presentation Proposal Submission deadline: July 15, 2024

Decision date: September 1, 2024

Submission guidelines:

Please submit your presentation or session topic with a description (500 word max)
Include your name, affiliation, and length of time requested for presentation or session.

Submit your proposal to: andrea.kreiner@oacd.org with the subject line **OACD Conference Proposal**.



Hello from Sweden,

As I write this, I am sitting on the edge of a forest in Sweden. The front page photo is the wetlands nearby. Very little, if any, of the nature around here is old growth, but the forest I am by is as old a new growth as there is around. And, although it is protected from logging, it is threatened by segmentation by development and the growing human population.

I will soon be back in Oregon, and we have a lot to do...

We are collecting **story ideas** for earned media over the next 8 months, if your District has a story to tell, please send me, **by July 5:**

1-2 sentence description

Time frame for the story (next 3 months, 6 months, 8 months)

Location

Key Partners

It is election time again for the OACD Board of Directors. The Northwest Oregon Region and the Southern Oregon Region are up for election. See the election notice on p.3 for information on the nomination and election process. If you are in either of those regions, I urge you to consider nominating yourself to run for the Board.

I also put the call for papers for the OACD Annual Conference on the front page again – this time with the conference date of October 14-16 (sorry about that omission last month).

Check out the upcoming events, there are some excellent conferences, webinars, and trainings coming up through the Fall.

Reminder, the Jobs section is now located on the Oregon Conservation Partnership website ConservationPartnership.org and the job listing page there. That listing will be the most up to date we have.

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

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

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.



COMING EVENTS

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

OWEB Board – July 22-24, Springfield

Soil and Water Conservation Commission – July 10-11, Curry SWCD, Gold Beach

OACD Board Meeting

District participation and comments are encouraged.

July 23, 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](#) – stay tuned for more to come!



NACD Summer Meeting - August 9th-13th, 2024 in Boston, MA

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](#)

NACD Webinar - Board Succession Planning for Technical Assistance Grantees

Actionable steps to create a comprehensive plan for board succession planning to enhance the district's current efforts in bringing in new talent and expertise. **08/29/24 2:00-4:00PM ET** Register [HERE](#)

NRCS IS OFFERING CONSERVATION PLANNING PART TWO

Offered in partnership with the National Conservation Planning Partnership this July, August, and September. This course meets the requirement for conservation planning procedures core competency as a conservation planner for all states and U.S. territories. There is no registration fee, but all meal, travel and incidental costs are incumbent of the participant or participant's employer.

This training will be offered in four locations across the U.S. Participants can attend any location. Participants only need to attend one event but must complete all five days of one event to successfully complete the course. The dates and locations offered are:

- July 16-19, 2024, Raleigh, NC - Cropland/Forestland/Pasture
 - 12:30PM on July 16 - 1:00PM on July 19
- August 13-16, 2024, Columbus, OH - Cropland/Pasture
 - 12:30PM on August 13 - 1:00PM on August 16
- September 24-27, 2024, Columbia, MO - Animal Headquarters/Cropland/Wildlife
 - 12:30PM on September 24 - 1:00PM on September 27
- September 23-26, 2024, Ponderay, ID - Forestland/Pasture
 - 12:30PM on September 23 - 1:00PM on September 26

The demand is expected to be high, so please register at your earliest convenience to ensure your spot in the course. Each session is limited to 30 participants. Registration for this event must be completed no less than **35 days prior to each session using the provided link.**

SDAO Board of Directors and Management Staff Training

Join Attorney Eileen Eakins for a full-day training tailored to special district board members and management staff. Eileen will provide a comprehensive overview of laws and regulations governing Oregon's special districts and the public officials that represent them. It is essential training for newly elected board members and newly appointed management staff, but even experienced individuals will benefit from this training.

Dates, Times and Locations

All trainings will be from 9:00am-3:30pm with check in beginning at 8:30am.

8/6 – Burns | Harney County Community Center

8/8 – Boardman | Port of Morrow

8/13 – Klamath Falls | Shilo Inn

8/15 – Bandon | The Barn Community Center

8/20 – Astoria | Hampton Inn

8/21 – Salem | Chemeketa Eola

Cost

\$75 - In Person (includes lunch, coffee and course materials)

Each SDAO member district is eligible to receive their first registration at no cost. Please use code **BDMST24** at time of registration for this discount.

Due to limited scholarships, we cannot guarantee this discount and are offering it on a first come, first served basis.

ORCP Webinar - Private Forest Accord Grant Program - 11am on July 16th

The Oregon Conservation Partnership and ODFW invite you to a dynamic webinar to explore the all-new Private Forest Accord Grant Program! Unprecedented Support for Oregon's Sensitive Species: The Private Forest Accord Grant Program, fueled by significant state investment and timber harvest tax revenue, offers a remarkable opportunity: up to \$15 million in annual conservation grants.

Join Andy Spyrka, ODFW's Grant Coordinator, for an in-depth exploration of this incredible funding opportunity. This hour-long session will delve into:

Project Eligibility: Learn what types of projects qualify for grant funding.

Program Priorities: Discover the program's focus areas and how your project aligns.

Live Q&A: Get your questions answered directly by Andy and the ODFW team.

These watershed-scale grants will support crucial projects like:

- Stream Habitat Restoration
- Fish Passage Barrier Removal
- Cold Water and Flow Protection
- Beaver-Modified Habitat Creation

The impact will be far-reaching: by supporting these large-scale projects, we will create lasting benefits for the fish and amphibians covered by the Private Forest Accord Habitat Conservation Plan.

[REGISTER HERE](#)

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Rules Advisory Committee (RAC)

The RAC is comprised of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commissioners (OAHC) who assist OWEB in updating administrative rules that define program administration requirements. The **second RAC meeting** will take place virtually:

Date/Time: July 9, 2024, 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm

YouTube streaming/recording: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA/videos

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85177588823?pwd=0bB1bzpwOXvkWHitmUF16TLVqj4cbC.1>

The OAHC will hold a business meeting to receive an update from Highland Economics on a completed draft of the Economic Valuation Methodology to Support the Implementation of Conservation Management Plans and to review the technical committee structure for the 2024 Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement grant solicitation. The **business meeting** will take place virtually:

Date/Time: July 9, 2024, 4:00 pm - 5:00 pm

YouTube streaming/recording: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWlt4Sp--i1KEa_OA/videos

Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85177588823?pwd=0bB1bzpwOXvkWHitmUF16TLVqj4cbC.1>

Meeting agendas and materials are posted for each meeting on the [Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Webpage](#). OWEB welcomes public comment. Public comments may be made in two ways:

Written Comments Written comments should be submitted through the [Public Comment Form](#). Written comments received by **Friday, July 5 at 4:00 pm** will be provided to the RAC before the meeting.

Verbal Comments Verbal comments are limited to up to three minutes and will be heard during the public comment period at approximately 3:30 pm for comments related to rulemaking and 4:05 for comments related to OAHC business. Anyone interested in providing comments will be asked during that time to alert organizers of their interest by using the raise-hand function on Zoom.

For more information, contact Eric Hartstein at eric.hartstein@oweb.oregon.gov

FUNDING RESOURCES

Grant Opportunity for Urban Forestry



The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) Urban & Community Forestry received \$26.6 million to stand up two subaward programs offering \$10 million explicitly devoted to the nine Federally Recognized Tribes of Oregon, and \$12.5 million available to all eligible entities in the State of Oregon. Both funding opportunities aim to promote community and urban forest investment and tree equity for overburdened and underserved communities. This initiative strives to support Tribal, rural, and urban communities by providing benefits beyond individual project or program investments.

o [Tribal Program](#):

Proposals may be submitted on an ongoing basis through **June 30, 2026**. The funding range is \$10,000 - \$1,000,000 with no match required. The application template can be found here: [PDF](#) | [WORD](#) and the budget template can be found [here](#). ODF has staff capacity and additional funding available to offer support with grant application, award, and administration processes or reporting. To seek support, see their [Subaward Assistance Questionnaire](#).

o [All Entities Program](#):

Proposals may be submitted from **July 1 to September 30, 2024**. The funding range is \$10,000 - \$750,000 with no match required. The application template can be found here: [PDF](#) | [WORD](#) and the budget template can be found [here](#). ODF has staff capacity and additional funding available to offer support with grant application, award, and administration processes or reporting. To seek support, see their [Subaward Assistance Questionnaire](#). Note that applications may be submitted by individual entities or coalitions of multiple entities.

Columbia River Fund now accepting applications

The [Columbia River Fund](#) is accepting grant applications and the grant deadline is July 16, 2024. This fund supports projects designed to improve, protect, and benefit clean water and aquatic habitat in the Columbia River Basin. Grants will be awarded to community oriented and grassroots groups or organizations with a strong track record of community-based water quality stewardship. This fund especially encourages projects that involve front-line, impacted communities and that are centered around principles of equity and environmental justice.

For a full list of eligibility requirements and to see examples of eligible Columbia River Fund projects, please visit: <https://rosefdn.org/columbia-river-fund/eligibility>

Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership

This year, NRCS will build on its wetland restoration efforts with up to \$50 million in the Wetland Reserve Enhancement Partnership (WREP) in fiscal year 2024, to support conservation partners with local projects that help protect, restore and enhance critical wetlands and mitigate climate change on agricultural lands.

[Learn more about how to apply.](#)

USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is accepting proposals until **August 16, 2024**.

Section 319 Nonpoint Source Implementation Grants Program

DEQ is now accepting project proposals for the 2024 grant cycle. DEQ invites nonpoint source project proposals that implement watershed based plan priorities or emphasize equity and environmental justice. Please refer to the [request for proposals](#) for more information.

Successful projects may commence in spring of 2025 after project agreements are signed.

Contact Sarah Sauter sarah.sauter@deq.oregon.gov or Watershed Manager steve.mrazik@deq.oregon.gov with questions.

Grant applications must be emailed to Sauter at sarah.sauter@deq.oregon.gov by **5 p.m. on July 26, 2024**.

DLCD Coastal Zone Management Habitat Protection & Restoration Grants

Local governments, cities and counties, other non-federal public entities, federally recognized Indian Tribal governments, institutions of higher education, and in some cases, non-profits can apply to fund habitat restoration, restoration planning and land acquisition. Restoration projects must be conducted on lands owned or controlled by a non-federal public entity and land acquisition projects must have final ownership held by a non-federal public entity. Non-federal public entities are eligible to submit grant applications with a budget of up to \$6 million for project costs. While **matching funds are not required**, cost sharing is an important element considered in the evaluation criteria. This funding aims to boost resilience through large-scale habitat restoration and conservation in coastal ecosystems, promoting coastal resilience in underserved and climate-vulnerable communities. Restoring and acquiring ecologically significant areas like wetlands, headlands, and natural shorelines will help reduce the impact of coastal hazards, including flooding and climate change, on property and infrastructure, while also providing economic benefits to coastal communities.

• **Letters of Intent due to DLCD by July 17, 2024.** See DLCD's [Coastal Grants webpage](#) for more information.

• **DLCD requires all to schedule a 'Pre-application' Consultation meeting with our staff.** You can schedule a Pre-Application Meeting any time prior to submitting your Letter of Intent to DLCD, but the meeting will be most useful to you early in the process. We would like to meet with you for an informal conversation to review basic information about your proposed project, and ensure you are proposing an eligible project that will meet NOAA's funding requirements. This is also an opportunity for potential applicants to ask OCMP/DLCD staff questions about the funding program and proposal development. Please contact Claire Fiegenger to schedule a consultation meeting: claire.fiegenger@dlcd.oregon.gov

Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund grants

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) [Well Abandonment, Repair, and Replacement Fund \(WARRF\)](#) provides grants to qualifying homeowners to reimburse them for the cost to repair or replace and abandon a dry or severely declining well or a well that was damaged or destroyed by wildfire that is unable to supply water for household purposes. The well must have provided household water for individual households, or members of a federally recognized tribe in Oregon. Please see the [WARRF Website](#) and [WARRF Guidance for Homeowner's](#) document for additional information and application instructions.

- **Grant Awards:** Funding up to \$40,000 per grant will be awarded to eligible applicants who submit completed applications in the order received until all funds have been awarded.
- **Total Funding Available:** \$1 million

NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is recruiting for a Commission seat to represent natural resource interests

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission is recruiting for a Commission seat to represent natural resource interests. Commissioners serve 4-year terms, are recommended by various boards, and are appointed by the OWEB). The term for the seat is October 2024 through January 2027; commissioners are eligible to serve two consecutive terms.

About the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program:

The State Legislature established the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) in 2017 to provide voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain or enhance both agriculture and natural resources such as fish and wildlife on working lands.

Apply to be on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission:

- An [application](#) form is available on the [OAHP website](#).
- The **application deadline is August 30, 2024.**
- Applications may be emailed to nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov, or sent by mail. Mailed applications must be postmarked by August 25, 2024 to be considered for a position.

Attn. Nicole Bettinardi, OWEB
775 Summer Street, NE #360
Salem, OR 97301

Prospective candidates are encouraged to review the [OAHP website](#) and to contact Taylor Larson, taylor.larson@oweb.oregon.gov, 971.701.3248 for further information.

Tide Gate & Tidal Wetland Monitoring: Guidance and Protocols for Estuary Practitioners Handbook

In 2018, a need for standardization of tide gate monitoring parameters and protocols was identified in the publication [Ecological Effects of Tide Gate Upgrade or Removal: A Literature Review and Knowledge Synthesis](#) (Souder *et al.*). In answer to this need, the [Tide Gate & Tidal Wetland Monitoring: Guidance and Protocols for Estuary Practitioners](#) handbook was published in 2024. The handbook comes through funding from OWEB in collaboration with the Coquille Watershed Association, the Nature Conservancy, and the Tillamook Estuaries Partnership and input from the Columbia River Estuary Study Taskforce, the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and Laura Brophy at the Institute for Applied Ecology.

Tide Gate & Tidal Wetland Monitoring Guidance & Protocols for Estuary Practitioners aims to establish a standard for recordkeeping and monitoring that unites the restoration community under a single, well-defined set of reporting standards, protocols, and procedures to monitor tide gate upgrade and replacement projects.

For more information, contact Ken Fetcho, OWEB's Effectiveness Monitoring Coordinator.

ken.fetcho@oweb.oregon.gov

Climate Quick Reference Guides Now on Farmers.gov

Even when data is at your fingertips it can sometimes still be hard to find what you're looking for – especially when it comes to climate information. USDA's Climate Hubs and Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) are helping to meet that need by providing [Climate Quick Reference Guides](#) for agricultural producers and landowners seeking basic and easily usable climate information. You can view guides at the state and county levels.

Oregon Agricultural Trust - Farm & Ranch Business and Succession Advising Program

OAT is offering a suite of agricultural business support services to help strengthen your operation. Their advising and consulting services are tailored to help design, plan, and execute strategies that advance your work and mission. Check out all of their advising options [here](#).

Not sure what level of support you need? Get in touch and we'd be happy to talk through your needs with a free consultation call! Reach out to Tess Baker, our Farm and Ranch Succession Advisor, at tess@oregonagtrust.org or [541-203-0889](tel:541-203-0889).

DEQ Rulemaking - Powder River Basin Bacteria TMDL and WQMP – Rules Adopted

The Environmental Quality Commission adopted rules that establish a Total Maximum Daily Load to address the impairments to water quality standards and beneficial uses in surface waters in the Powder River Basin. These impairments are caused by excess bacteria and will be addressed by identifying and quantifying sources of this pollutant. This rule also establishes a water quality management plan that includes pollutant management strategies, a list of parties responsible for developing management plans and implementing strategies, and a timeline to reduce pollutant loads and attain water quality standards. DEQ submitted the TMDL to EPA on May 30, 2024, for approval.

There is more information about this rule adoption on the [Powder River Basin TMDL Rulemaking Page](#) and on the project page: <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/tmdls/Pages/powderTMDL.aspx>

Updated Oregon Government Employee Handbook Template – Now Available

Freshly updated, this fourth version is now available for your district to utilize to update your own employee handbook.

The HR Answers team has diligently incorporated significant legal changes related to Paid Leave Oregon and the Oregon Family Leave Act (OFLA) in this new template. It's crucial that you familiarize yourself with these updates and ensure your employees are informed.

How to Access

This valuable resource is complimentary to all SDAO members enrolled in the SDIS general liability program.

- Online: Log in to your HR Answers account and download the updated template.
- Email Request: Alternatively, email hr@sdao.com to receive a copy directly.

DISTRICT to DISTRICT

Sadly, we have lost two long-term District Directors recently, Jeff Becker of Clackamas SWCD and Chad Woods of Polk SWCD. The memorial service for Jeff will be private, but for anyone interested in attending the Celebration of Life for Chad; it will take place at Salt Creek Baptist Church Sunday, July 7, 2024. A potluck lunch with main dishes provided will start at 12:30 p.m. in the church park (or inside weather depending). The memorial service will be in the sanctuary at 2 p.m. with desserts, ice cream, lawn games, cards and fellowship to follow.



Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts

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