



OACD NEWS

September 2023



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77th Annual OACD Conference

October 16-18 at Eagle Crest, Redmond, OR

The must-attend event for networking and learning for the Soil and Water Conservation Districts throughout Oregon. Join us for our annual business meeting, insightful presentations, engaging discussions, and networking opportunities.

Sessions will include:

- Funding Opportunities
- What Districts need to know from the 2023 Legislative Session
- District Manager Roundtable
- Carbon Sequestration Workshop
- Exhibitors
- Evening Social Event
- and more...!

Register for the conference at:

<https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oregon-association-of-conservation-districts-annual-conference-tickets-676327442587?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Register for your rooms at Eagle Crest Resort (remember to mention that you are part of the OACD Annual Conference): <https://www.eagle-crest.com>



Hello Conservation Colleagues!

Wow, there is so much to share with you this month! So many funding opportunities, lots of news, and upcoming meetings and trainings!

Over the past few months, I have had the pleasure to chat with most of the District Managers. It has been great getting to know the managers and learning about the work, opportunities and challenges of each of the Districts. I will be using what I learn to help OACD better serve the needs of our members. To that end, I will soon begin contacting the District Board Chairs to have similar discussions from the Board perspective.

I have also begun getting to know our partners and will continue to reach out to learn more about their work and how we can work together to support our members. If you have suggestions of who I should reach out to or are a partner that I have yet to reach out to, please feel free to contact me to set up a time to get to know each other.

One last reminder: **OACD Board nominations** are due **September 22**. 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**. If you are interested in running for the Board or have questions, please feel free to contact me.

Because of all the information to share, I was tempted to break this into three separate newsletters. But, in order not to overwhelm, I will try to present all the items as concisely as possible with links to where you can get more detailed information. I will be migrating the newsletter to a mailchimp or other format, so it will be easier to read as an email, but until I do, please bear with the pdf format. There is so much great information and resources and I urge you to take the time to read it through in its entirety.

A handwritten signature in green ink, consisting of a series of loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

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



COMING EVENTS

77th Annual OACD Conference

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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/tZAsdeCugTwrHdUnX9HqB6aLiPKqSaQBmyOL>

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

Fish & Wildlife Commission meets September 14-15 in Bend

OWEB DEI/EJ Committee will meet September 5

OWEB Grants Committee will meet September 18

OWEB Water & Climate Committee will meet September 13

Agriculture Board meets August 15-17 in Tillamook

Heat and Drought Resilience Training for Oregon Agriculture Professionals

Train the Trainer - Workshop Wednesdays: November 1st, 8th, and 15th

Virtual live sessions will be from 9:30-11:30am

- Tailored content for agricultural technical assistance providers in Oregon
- Updates from leading scientists on the impacts of drought & heat on agriculture in Oregon
- Recommended practices for adaptation and resilience
- Tools for communicating about climate resilience with producers
- Facilitated regional break out conversations
- Resources and funding opportunities

Brought to you by Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network and the 2023 Planning Team. You can stay informed about the training by filling out this quick [form](#). Zoom registration coming soon!

National Watershed Coalition Annual Meeting

Salt Lake City, UT Oct 1-4.

[In-Person Session Registration and Information Link](#), [Register Link for Lodging](#).

FUNDING RESOURCES



Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act and Inflation Reduction Act Resources

For a complete list of federal funding opportunities, including subscription announcements: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/home.html>

Open IIJA funding opportunities: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/resources/nofos-to-know/>

Open IRA funding opportunities: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy/open-funding-opportunities/>

Full list of IIJA programs: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/build/guidebook/>

Full list of IRA programs: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/cleanenergy/inflation-reduction-act-guidebook/>

National Wildlife Federation Nature Based Solutions database: <https://fundingnaturebasedsolutions.nwf.org/>

Water Program Portal: <https://waterprogramportal.org/>

NACD Climate Smart Concept Papers

NACD is seeking projects that foster private-public partnerships, scale implementation of climate-smart practices, advance Measurement, Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MMRV), and support producer participation in resulting markets. Projects will be competitively selected and should:

1. Leverage the locally-led conservation delivery system to provide the education and technical assistance needed to transition to climate-smart production systems.
2. Develop economic opportunities within communities and build local capacity that can sustain projects and partnerships beyond the life of the grant.
3. Seek to mitigate historical and systemic barriers within the broader food system to increase the participation of underserved producers and communities.
4. Provide external match, leverage, or additional financial incentives to producers, more holistically de-risking their transition to climate-smart systems and supporting their long-term economic viability.

NACD will select projects via a multi-phase process. This process is intended to provide sufficient time for partnership development, project scoping, and budgeting.

Phase 1: Call for Concept Papers (*Due October 13, 2023*)

Phase 2: Partner Matchmaking (*Est. October – December 2023*)

Phase 3: Final Proposals (*Anticipated Due Date in March 2024*)

The call for concept papers will allow NACD to assess nationwide demand and inform the equitable distribution of funding. After concept papers are submitted, NACD will facilitate a unique matchmaking process. This allows concepts that may not be complete on their own to pair with other organizations to strengthen the potential project and application

At this time, NACD anticipates three funding pools. The size of each pool is subject to change based on overall demand and the impact of the proposed projects.

- Pool A: Up to \$5.75 million per project
- Pool B: Up to \$2.5 million per project
- Pool C: Up to \$750,000 per project for Planning & Capacity grants*

Visit [this webpage](#) for more information.

OWEB GRANTS - 2024 Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) *Technical Assistance Grants*

The purpose of the Oregon CREP is to restore, maintain, and enhance streamside areas along agricultural lands to benefit fish, wildlife, and water quality. [OWEB's CREP Technical Assistance grants](#) support costs associated with local CREP program implementation. Costs include staffing, travel, training, outreach, planning, and contract monitoring over a 2-year project period beginning January 2024.

Applicants, particularly those applying for a CREP Technical Assistance grant for the first time, are strongly encouraged to contact [Jillian McCarthy](#) (971-345-7016) prior to application submittal to discuss their proposals.

Grant applications are **due October 16, 2023, by 5:00 pm**

OWEB GRANTS – Open Solicitation Grant Offering

OWEB is now accepting online applications for the **Fall 2023 Open Solicitation Grant Offering** for the following grant types:

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

OWEB has made two key changes to the technical assistance and stakeholder engagement programs to address barriers to participation.

- Recognizing that matching funds are more difficult to obtain for Technical Assistance and Stakeholder Engagement projects, and that match is sometimes a barrier to participation in OWEB grants, the match requirement for these grant types has been reduced to \$1. The 25% match requirement for restoration remains in place.
- In response to rising costs, increasing project complexity, and more comprehensive permitting requirements, the \$75,000 cap on technical assistance application requests has been removed. Please click on the grant type of interest for application requirements and login information. If you already have an Online Application login, you may [access the application directly](#).

Grant applications are due October 30, 2023, by 5:00 pm and must be submitted via OWEB's online grant application. The OWEB Board plans to make grant awards at the April 2024 meeting.

If you have questions about applying for an OWEB grant, please [contact the Regional Program Representative](#) for your region. If you are new to OWEB and our grant program, please visit [OWEB's website](#).

These grants support voluntary efforts by Oregonians to protect and restore healthy watersheds. This includes actions supporting the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds and the Oregon Comprehensive Wildlife Conservation Strategy.

OWEB anticipates making available a combined total of over \$10 million for Restoration, Technical Assistance, and Stakeholder Engagement through this solicitation.

OWEB & ODF – 2023-2025 Forest Collaborative grant offering.

Purpose

The Forest Collaboratives Grant Program was developed by OWEB and the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) to increase the number, acreage, and complexity of collaboratively planned restoration projects on federal lands in Oregon.

This grant solicitation will focus on strengthening **Collaborative Governance** for forest collaborative organizations and advancing collaborative **Zones of Agreement** for restoration that includes vegetation projects on lands managed by the US Forest Service (USFS) or Bureau of Land Management (BLM). For definitions and eligible project activities, refer to the [guidance document](#).

Available Funding and Funding Priorities

A total of \$500,000 is available for funding in this cycle. This includes:

- \$200,000 for **Collaborative Governance**
- \$300,000 for **Zones of Agreement**

Eligible Applicants

This solicitation is open to established local collaborative groups that are engaged in forest restoration and/or stewardship on lands managed by the USFS or BLM in Oregon. Read the [guidance document for Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative Project Development](#) for full eligibility requirements.

Application Deadline: October 23, 2023 by 5:00 pm

How to Apply

Federal Forest Restoration Collaborative Project Development applications are available via OWEB's online application website: <https://apps.wrd.state.or.us/apps/oweb/oa/>. An OWEB Online Grant Management System (OGMS) login is required to access the online grant application. Only one login per organization is allowed. If no login exists for the applicant's organization, please email Leilani Sullivan at Leilani.sullivan@oweb.oregon.gov to request one. Include the following in your email:

- Organization name and address.
- Grantee contact information: name, title, email address, and phone number for the person who will receive all communication from OWEB and sign any grant agreements.
- Payee contact information: name, email address, and phone number for the person who keeps records and submits payment requests and documentation.
- FEIN (Federal Employer Identification Number). OWEB may enter into agreements only with legally established entities. OWEB will review potential applicants prior to creating an OGMS login.

For general questions and questions about the Online Application, contact:

Kathy Leopold

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

971-345-7017 or Kathy.Leopold@oweb.oregon.gov

or

Eric Hartstein

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

503-910-6201 or Eric.Hartstein@OWEB.oregon.gov

For questions about Eligible Project Types, contact:

Kyle Sullivan-Astor

Oregon Department of Forestry

541-285-8685 or kyle.m.sullivan-astor@odf.oregon.gov

NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES

News About Municipal Audits in Oregon - Annual Filing Reminders and Updates

DUE DATES

December 31, 2023 - Audit and Review reports are due within 180 days of a local government's fiscal year end. A complete filing includes the following items, which can be submitted online.

- [Audit or Review report](#)
- Summary of Revenues and Expenditures ([SRE](#))
- Filing fee
- If applicable, a copy of audit deficiencies communicated
- If applicable, adopted Plan of Action addressing the audit deficiencies

September 30, 2023 - Reports in Lieu of Audit are due within 90 days of a local government's fiscal year end. Governments that (1) spend less than \$150,000 a year, (2) have adequate fidelity bond coverage, and (3) file on time are eligible to file a Report in Lieu of Audit. A complete filing can be done online and includes the following:

- [Report in Lieu of Audit](#)
- Filing fee

FILE ONLINE

A reminder that you can file online and pay [filing fees](#) with a debit or credit card. For those unable to file online we will still receive filings via email to MunicipalFilings.sos@sos.oregon.gov. Payments by check are still accepted and can be mailed to our office.

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Many of you are aware of changes to Municipal Audit Law, passed during the spring legislative session. The changes, which include increased reporting thresholds and filing fees, do not go into effect until January 2024. **Current thresholds, requirements, and filing fees remain in effect for entities reporting fiscal years ending on or before 12/31/2023.** You may have read about these changes in a [prior news alert](#).

QUESTIONS If you have questions please consult our website and FAQs or contact Amy John, CPA Municipal Audit Manager amy.john@sos.oregon.gov

DLCD INITIATES FARM AND FOREST CONSERVATION PROGRAM IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development is convening a Technical Working Group as part of the development of recommendations to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) for a variety of corrections and improvements to the Farm and Forest Land Conservation Program. The summary report is anticipated to be posted for public comment in December 2023 and presented to LCDC at their first meeting in 2024. Additional information is available on the DLCD [website](#).

OWRD – Summary of Public Input for the next IWRS

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) and Oregon's Kitchen have released a Summary and Full Report containing public input for the next iteration of the state's Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRS). The purpose of collecting this input was to hear from people throughout Oregon about what matters most to them in how state agencies understand and meet Oregon's different water needs, and hear from Oregonians who have not been part of state-level discussions on water in the past.

For more information, and to view the reports, please [visit the Oregon's Kitchen Table website](#).

Council of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) - Annual State of the Lands Report

Check out the digital version of COLT's [State of the Lands report](#) and read more about what Oregon's land trust community accomplished last year.

NATIONWIDE STUDY ON 30 U.S. FARMS SHOWS POSITIVE ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SOIL HEALTH MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

Soil Health Institute and National Association of Conservation Districts announced the results of a nationwide study that demonstrates how improving soil health can help farmers build resilience and improve profitability across a diversity of soil types, geographies, and cropping systems.

For more information about the economic case studies, including videos, producer narratives and fact sheets, please visit: <https://soilhealthinstitute.org/our-work/initiatives/economics-of-soil-health-systems-on-30-u-s-farms/>



Oregon Sea Grant Garden Smart Booklets Available

Oregon Sea Grant has hundreds of copies of the booklet, Garden Smart, sitting in boxes in our office. We would really like to get these out to folks across the state. The booklet is free, and we are offering to send a box of 100-175 to any SWCD who wants them, free of charge (no shipping cost). First come, first served.

For copies, contact Cathy McBride 541-760-7001 (text or messages)

cathy.mcbride@oregonstate.edu

NRCS –

[NEW VIDEO - CONSERVING WATER AND ENERGY IN THE DESCHUTES BASIN](#)

[NEW VIDEO - FOREST RESTORATION AND RESILIENCY IN EASTERN OREGON](#)

[NRCS Oregon Awards Two Conservation Innovation Grants to Develop New Technologies for Agriculture](#)

[OWEB Report Capacity Matters: A 20-Year Review of OWEB's Operating Capacity Investments](#)

OWEB engaged a team from Oregon State University (OSU) and the University of Oregon (UO) to conduct a 20-year programmatic review of Operating Capacity Grants. The review evaluates the impact this funding has had on councils and districts. The review also describes the economic and conservation impacts as these Capacity grants led to partnerships and additional funding to complete watershed restoration projects. Additionally, it helps to inform future capacity-building investments. To view the report, [click here](#)

The **Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance (OCEAN)** is looking for individuals from Conservation Districts, Watershed Councils and Land Trust to help with the **planning of the CONNECT+2024 conference** to be held next spring. An event planner has been hired to help put this conference on, but the input from those who may be attending is important in providing the education and information that is pertinent and desired to the organizations listed above. The planning committee meetings will be virtual. How much time and work a person does depends on how much that individual decides to help with. It does not matter how long you have been with the organization or how young or old you are – everyone has great ideas. We would love your help at any level. 😊 If you would like to be a part of the Planning Committee, please contact me at cynthia.a.warnock@gmail.com by September 24th.



East Multnomah Soil Conservation District – Executive Director. [Learn more about the Executive Director position and how to apply here!](#)

The Nature Conservancy - Oregon Natural Climate Solutions Project Manager. 3-year term position with possibility to extend. [Click here to apply via LinkedIn](#)
[Click here to apply via TNC Career website](#) (if you have link trouble, it's job ID # 53865)

Washington State Conservation Commission – Executive Director. Open until filled. First round application reviews will likely begin the week of **September 10, 2023.**

South Santiam Watershed Council - Watershed Education Coordinator. Please send any questions about the position to Shannon Richardson at: director.sswc@gmail.com. Open until filled.

South Santiam Watershed Council – Ecological Projects Coordinator. Please send any questions about the position to Shannon Richardson at: director.sswc@gmail.com. Open until filled.

Curry Watersheds Partnership - Youth Education Program (2 positions). Rolling Applications- 1st round Closes Sept 8th, 2023. <https://www.currywatersheds.org/about-us/employment-and-contracting/>

Coos Watershed Association - Financial and Office Manager: [Financial-and-Office-Manager-Job-Posting.-FINAL-1.pdf \(cooswatershed.org\)](#) . Applications are due September 13th by 2pm.

Klamath Watershed Partnership - Restoration Project Manager, open until filled. Submit resume, cover letter, and three professional references to: info@klamathpartnership.or



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