



OACD NEWS

February 2023



Oregon Legislature Now in Session

The Oregon Legislature began its long session (160 days) last month. OACD's Advocacy Committee continues its work to address the 2,050 bills now in process with several hundred more to come.

Advocacy Training Available

We held a successful advocacy training January 19th and a recording and the PowerPoint presentations with links to sections of OLIS (Oregon Legislative Information System) are now available. These items are in the members' portal. If you have not yet signed up for access, go [here](#). All district staff and board members are eligible to enter the member portal.

Session in General

The 3rd full week of the session has been completed with lots of public hearings completed and some bills sent to the floor for a vote. February 21st is the deadline for bills that have been drafted to be introduced. On the Senate side bills have been coming out of committees with unanimous votes. Hybrid hearings continue as access to

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the capitol is limited due to construction and the hybrid hearings provide the opportunity for more public interaction. OACD has testified at hybrid meetings and submitted written testimony for the record. You can see our testimony in the member portal.

Senate Republicans are requiring all bills be read aloud in their entirety (reading aloud routinely waived until recently). This potential tool dates back to the Oregon Constitution to a much earlier day, prior to typing and photocopying, but this tool is now being used as a political tactic. The voters in 2022 passed a state initiative to not allow legislators to walk out when there were controversial bills under certain conditions.

Major 2023 Issues

[HB 2527 Wildlife Habitat Conservation & Management Program \(WHCMP\)](#)

A consortium of several SWCDs has been working on revitalizing the WHCMP, a program providing tax credits for wildlife benefits on private property. See the [flyer](#) about the program.

Although enacted in 1993, the program has been primarily unavailable for a number of years, but this bill, sponsored by OACD on behalf of the districts' consortium, provides a more streamlined process that will enable ODFW to work in coordination with soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs) to serve the needs of agriculture and forestry landowners. In 2021 the legislature funded additional staff in its habitat division which will oversee the program.

Currently landowners are at risk of losing their property tax deferral when they take some land out of production and instead provide habitat for wildlife on those grounds. This program protects those lands providing habitat so the credit is not lost for accomplishing the public benefit. SWCDs will work with ODFW, their local counties and landowners to provide this tool. More information is available [here](#) as outlined in the flyer prepared by the sponsoring districts (Clackamas, East Multnomah, Jackson, Marion, Polk, Tualatin, West Multnomah and Yamhill SWCDs).



This program is available statewide in coordination with any SWCD and some other local government sponsors. The bill was heard by the House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources and Water Committee in January and was passed out of a work session on January 31st to be voted on by members of the House later. It first

has a review by the House Revenue Committee, as do all bills that reduce state revenue. It will then go to the House floor and then be sent to the Senate for the same process. (To review the legislation, click on the bill number above.) Over 30 letters of support, many from SWCDs statewide, were entered into the legislative [record](#). A flyer with details of the program is in the member portal.

[HB 2998 Soil Health Initiative](#)

The bill creates the Oregon Soil Health Initiative to improve soil health in Oregon by collaborating on and advancing voluntary incentive-based soil health strategies, including financial incentives, technical assistance, outreach and education, research and other resources. Collaborating

entities and agencies include ODA, OWEB, OSU Extension, and SWCDs. This [flyer](#) will share more details on the proposed program which will include development of a statewide Soil Health Roadmap, set up an oversight committee at ODA, and include grants for beneficial practices through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP). In addition to \$2 million in grants through the OAHP program housed at OWEB, \$480,000 is called out for grants and equipment through SWCDs from OWEB funding provided by this bill. HB 2998 was requested by the Oregon Climate Agriculture Network (OrCAN). OACD is working with the sponsor and will testify at a mid-February hearing and we will make a call for letters of support from SWCDs.

SB 530 *Natural Climate Solutions on Oregon's Natural and Working Lands*

We also continue to work with Senator Dembrow and a large working group on providing a statewide program for carbon sequestration practices on natural and working lands, following up on the Oregon Global Warming Commission (OGWC) September 21, 2021 [proposal](#) on natural and working lands. The bill will establish the Natural and Working Lands Fund which can then be disbursed to agencies providing resilience work for project grants to OWEB, ODFW, ODF and ODA for technical support and incentives. The important components of the bill include support for a statewide program, positioning the state to leverage federal funds, creating a source of funds to incentivize voluntary actions, develop a natural and working lands inventory and establish opportunities for workforce development and training. More information [here](#). OACD will be asking for your help this month to support the legislation.

This bill and several others could be the home for **federal dollars** coming down to the states. The Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) is set to deliver approximately \$550 billion in new spending over the coming decade, making it one of the largest public-works investments in history. More than 85% of the total will go to state and local agencies via project grants, creating a large and more complex funding process with detailed eligibility requirements. The Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) will also make significant investments in infrastructure. The objective of this bill is to make sure that applicants can identify and successfully implement investment ready projects. Focus areas include: (a) dedicated capacity within the Governor's Office to coordinate infrastructure investments; (b) improved interagency coordination around state and federal funding opportunities; (c) increased access to technical assistance to secure funding and flexible funding to match with federal funds; and (d) tracking and accountability.



Funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

OAHP funding is an important component to fund some of the SWCD programs, including conservation easements and conservation management plans that can lead to funding agriculture practices that can additionally include carbon storage. In the 2022 legislative session OAHP was awarded \$5 million to fund the program which had previously received no funding since its inception in 2017. OACD was

one of the partners promoting the original legislation in 2017 as well as joining with a group of partners to promote the 2022 investment. That investment in 2022 leveraged an additional \$6.7

million in federal matching funds. We have joined the partnership again in the request for a \$10 million investment in 2023 and \$800,000 to staff the program and provide grants.

The Oregon Conservation Partnership (Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, COLT; the network of Oregon Watershed Councils, NOWC; OACD; and OCEAN) recently provided a [webinar](#) in which OWEB's Grant Manager Eric Williams and OAHF Director Taylor Larson shared information on the OAHF program. Recent solicitation for funding has resulted in a number of applications which will be reviewed by the OAHF Commission for a funding recommendation to OWEB.



OACD Letter from the President

Hello Conservation Colleagues and Happy February!

Things are fully underway now both out in the fields pruning and planning for the growing season, and in the state capitol as Salem ramps up for a long legislative session. In this newsletter you will find more information about house and senate bills that may be of interest to your specific district. If you want to engage further in advocating for or against proposed legislative bills, our Advocacy Committee is available and eager to assist!

The OACD Advocacy Committee meets every other Friday, 9:30 – 11am during the legislative session, virtually. This is an easy and efficient way to learn about all of the bills relevant to SWCD work this session, from soil health, water rights, energy production, land use on agricultural land, and more! Please let Jan Lee (jan.lee@oacd.org) or Stan Dean, the Advocacy Committee Chair (stan.dean@jswcd.org), know if you would like to be added to the meeting notice. Meetings are virtual. Our committee does not have an expectation that everyone in attendance can engage beyond participation in the meeting, nor that everyone can stay for the entire duration of the meeting – we're an easy group, just trying to determine how best we can support SWCDs throughout the state with good legislation. Please join us!

This month and next are also full of valuable trainings for SWCD Board members, hosted by the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA). This training is truly valuable for our new Directors – and a great refresher for our directors who have served for years. These trainings will help orient directors with information on fiduciary responsibilities and policies and procedures, such as public meeting rules. An OACD board member at each location will participate in the in-person trainings to provide a short presentation during the lunch on what we do and how we can support districts. If you are a new Director, I strongly urge your participation – and if you are a 'veteran', like myself (18 years as Director this year – time flies!), I recommend participating to brush up on rules and learn of any policy changes that have occurred recently.

All meetings will take place from 10:00-2:00. The training is scheduled to conduct a new public official orientation at the beginning of the day from 10:00-11:30 (to allow more experienced directors the option of attending only the more detailed training topics if they, from 11:40-2:00). Meetings will be in-person only, but there will be two virtual training dates for the New Director Orientation Session later (information to be provided then). For questions and more information, please call Eric Nusbaum at 503-510-8930 or email eric.nusbaum@oda.oregon.gov.

Dates and Locations of In-Person Trainings:

- February 21, 2023 Eugene – Upper Willamette SWCD Meeting Room
3291 W. 1st Ave, Eugene, OR 97402
- February 22, 2023 Central Point – Jackson SWCD Meeting Room
89 Alder St, Central Point, OR 97502
- February 23, 2023 Beaver Creek – Clackamas SWCD Meeting Room
22055 S Beaver Creek Rd., Beaver Creek, OR 97004
- February 28, 2023 Madras – Madras Municipal Airport Conference Room
2028 NW Berg Dr., Madras, OR 97741
- March 1, 2023 Burns – Harney County Community Center
484 N. Broadway, Burns, OR 97720
- March 2, 2023 Island City – Urban Vine
10107 W. 1st Street, Island City, OR 97850

In service of our Oregon conservation districts,



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



COMING EVENTS

OACD

Annual Conference: Eagle Crest – 77th Annual Conference

October 16-18: A two-day conference with exhibits and workshop training to be held at

Eagle Crest, Redmond, OR. Rooms at the hotel or shared condos will be available. The Soil and Water Conservation Commission meeting will also be held on site.

AGENCY EVENTS (all events also hybrid; see details at agency websites)

OWEB meets April January 25th and 26th in Salem

BOARD OF AGRICULTURE meets February 21 and 22 in Salem

WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION meets February 23 & 24th in Salem

SWCC Soil and Water Conservation Commission meets February 8 & 9 at Clackamas SWCD offices in Beaver Creek

OTHER EVENTS

SDAO 2023 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Reminder to register Now for the SDAO 2023 Annual Conference

Mark your calendar for the 2023 SDAO Annual Conference! It will be three years since Being able to meet in person at the annual event. There will be over 20 training and education sessions, networking opportunities, exhibitor trade show, and more. Location: This year's conference will take place at Sunriver Resort in Sunriver, Oregon. **February 9:** Pre-Conference Sessions **February 10-12:** Annual Conference [Learn More and Register!](#)

NACD ANNUAL CONFERENCE – NEW ORLEANS, LA

Registration is now open for the National Association of Conservation Districts Annual [Conference.](#)



**NACD's 77th Annual Meeting
February 11-15, 2023**

NORTHWEST LEADERSHIP SEMINAR, PORTLAND

The Northwest Leadership Seminar will be celebrating its 53rd anniversary in 2023, happy to be returning to an in-person event. The seminar will take place **March 1 through 3** at the Holiday Inn – Columbia Riverfront in Portland, Oregon. The theme for the seminar is "Moving Forward Together: Finding Possibilities and Purpose in Changing Times." We hope to see you there. More information as well as registration can be found at the website:

www.nwleadershipseminar.com.



FUNDING RESOURCES

NACD URBAN GRANTS

Since 2016, NACD has partnered with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) on a very successful Urban Agriculture Conservation (UAC) grant initiative, awarding over \$6.5 million dollars to 121 conservation districts in 38 states.

In fiscal year 2023, NACD will again award up to \$1.35 million through the UAC program. Districts may apply for two different tracts of funding: up to \$10,000 for a UAC planning grant, to begin early stage program development, or for up to \$60,000 for a UAC implementation grants. In both cases, these grants are meant to develop conservation district capacity, so grant budgets should focus primarily on staff time. Conservation districts may view the complete request for proposals (RFP) on the [Urban Agriculture Conservation webpage](#). The [online application portal](#) is now open, with a deadline of 11:59 p.m. Pacific on March 10, 2023. *Interested districts may direct any questions to Dr. Ariel Rivers, NACD's Director of Membership Engagement, at ariel-rivers@nacdnet.org.* The [online application portal](#) is now open, with a deadline of 11:59 p.m. Pacific on March 10, 2023.

OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT GRANTS

Application materials are now available for the 2023 [Water Project Grants and Loans](#). Applications are due April 26th. Contact [Adai Muth](#) 971-301-0718.

Eligible projects include: conservation, reuse, above-ground storage, below-ground storage, streamflow protection or restoration, water distribution, conveyance or delivery systems, and other water resource development projects that result in economic, environmental, and social/cultural public benefits. Grants require a 25% cost match. Any local government, Indian tribe, or person may apply for funding.



USDA FOREST SERVICE GRANT

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service today announced it will offer \$41 million through the 2023 Wood Innovations Grant and 2023 Community Wood Grant programs to spark innovation and create new markets for wood products and renewable wood energy. The application deadline for both grant programs is Thursday, March 23, 2023 at 5 p.m. local time. Learn more [here](#).

USDA URBAN AG GRANTS

USDA is making available up to \$7.5 million for grants through its Office of Urban Agriculture and Innovative Production (OUAIP). The competitive grants will support the development of urban agriculture and innovative production projects through two categories:

[Planning Projects and Implementation Projects](#). A webinar on this program can be visited [here](#).

OHRC BOARD RESEARCH PROJECT FUNDING

The Oregon Hatchery Research Center Board (OHRC) recommended funding of nearly \$1 million to conduct research projects that will occur in 2023-2035. These innovative projects include research on 1) mate selection for hatchery salmon that mimics natural pairings, 2) olfactory imprinting techniques to reduce straying of hatchery salmon, 3) alternative hatchery rearing and release strategies in the face of climate change, and 4) a study of public perceptions of fish hatcheries in Oregon, including interviews with Tribes. The Oregon Hatchery Research Center is a unique facility specifically designed to support both basic and applied research. Studies focus on the mechanisms that may create differences between wild and hatchery fish and ways to manage these differences to meet fishery and conservation objectives.

The OHRC is a cooperative research project between the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Oregon State University, and the Board advises the OHRC Director on activities and functions related to the operation and maintenance of the OHRC.

Contact: Dr. Marc Johnson (541) 224-4063 Kerrie Tarkinton (541) 757-5101



OREGON CONSERVATION AND RECREATION FUND

The advisory committee of OCRF is pleased to announce The opening of the Winter 2023 funding opportunity for conservation and recreation projects.

The winter 2023 Request for Proposals is a two-part application process - an [online questionnaire](#) and an emailed [written project proposal](#).

The maximum allowable grant request per institution and/or organization will be \$50,000.

- Any public or private non-profit organization may request funds. Private non-profit organizations must have tax-exempt status under the IRS Code Section 501(c)(3).
- A newly required cap on institutional/organizational indirect overhead rates at 20% of the requested project budget.
- Updated [project insurance guidelines](#).

The Winter 2023 grant application period opened January 30th, 2023, and will remain open until March 27th. <https://www.dfw.state.or.us/conservationstrategy/OCRF/grants.asp>



Contact: *Charlotte Regula-Whitefield, Ph.D.* Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund
Coordinator, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
Charlotte.M.REGULAWHITEFIELD@odfw.oregon.gov 541-961-8421

OWEB GRANTS

Open Solicitation

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

- [Restoration](#)
- [Technical Assistance \(\\$75,000 cap per project\)](#)
- [Stakeholder Engagement](#)
- [Monitoring](#)

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 May 1, 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 October 2023 meeting. [Read More...](#)

WATER SMART – BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

The [FY 2023 WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects program](#) is accepting applications until March 28, 2023. The program provides funding for projects focused on environmental benefits and that have been developed as part of a collaborative process to help carry out an established strategy to increase the reliability of water resources. Projects with multiple benefits to watershed health are encouraged and prioritized. Projects include water conservation and efficiency or management that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and have ecological values and restoration projects benefitting ecological values or watershed health and have a nexus to water resources or management. Eligible applicants are states, tribes, water delivery organizations and nonprofit conservation organizations working in partnership with those entities. A 25% cost share is required and awards can be up to \$3 million.

COMMUNITY RENEWABLE ENERGY GRANT PROGRAM

The Oregon Department of Energy is now accepting applications for the second round of funding through the [Community Renewable Energy Grant Program](#). A total of \$12 million is available to support planning and construction of renewable energy or energy resilience projects for tribes, public bodies such as local governments and consumer-owned utilities.

Grant dollars are available for four types of projects: planning a renewable energy project, planning a renewable energy project that also has a resilience component, construction of a renewable energy project, or construction of a renewable energy project with a resilience component. Eligible projects include renewable energy generation systems like solar or wind, as well as energy storage systems, electric vehicle charging stations, or microgrid technologies paired with new or existing renewable energy systems. Eligible applicants are encouraged to partner with community groups, non-profits, private businesses, and others on potential projects. In October, the agency [announced 21 recipients](#) of the first round of grant funds totaling \$12 million.

ODOE will again offer grants up to \$100,000 for eligible planning projects and up to \$1 million for eligible construction projects. [Applications](#) are due by February 15, 2023. A recording of a webinar on applications will be available for applicants. Details are available [on ODOE's website](#).



NATIONAL COASTAL WETLAND CONSERVATION GRANT

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) is pleased to announce the FY2024 National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grant (NCWCG) Program solicitation for restoration projects. NCWCGs are awarded annually with funding from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to acquire, restore, and enhance coastal wetlands. NCWCG projects are collaborative grants for which state agencies are eligible to apply. 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. Eligible projects must ensure long-term conservation of coastal wetland ecosystems. OWEB is currently accepting applications for coastal wetland ecosystem restoration, enhancement, or management projects. A separate solicitation for NCWCG land acquisition projects (permanent conservation easement or fee title) will be announced in the fall of 2023.

Application Deadline

NCWCG projects proposing restoration activities are due May 1, 2023, by 5:00 pm and must be submitted via OWEB's online grant application.

How to Apply

Please visit OWEB's [Coastal Wetlands Grant webpage](#) for program and login information. If you already have an Online Application login, you may access the application directly. If you do not have a login, please [email Leilani Sullivan](#) to request one.

1. Coastal wetland projects proposing restoration activities must be submitted through the Restoration Open Solicitation Offering via OWEB's online grant application. A pre-application consultation is required. Please contact [Jillian McCarthy](#) (971-345-7016) to schedule.
2. All applications must include a completed draft Project Summary, Project Narrative, Budget Narrative, and Ranking Criteria in accordance with the [USFWS current Notice of Funding Opportunity](#) as an attachment to the application.

Contact Information

Please direct questions about the grant program and project eligibility to [Jillian McCarthy](#), Coastal Programs Coordinator.

DRINKING WATER SOURCE PROTECTION FUND GRANTS

Applicants may apply for the 2023 Drinking Water Source Protection Fund Grants that can be used to implement protection activities in a public water system's surface water or groundwater source area for their drinking water. Grant funds of up to \$50,000 or low interest loans of up to \$100,000 may be granted based on "**Letters of Interest**". Applications will be accepted through **March 22nd** by the Oregon Health Authority. Partnering with a public water system in your watershed may be a great opportunity for watershed partners (SWCDs, Watershed Councils, local governments, etc.) to work with local public water systems on projects that are mutually beneficial.

The application process is fairly simple and no match is required for grant funds if awarded. Projects are rated on the potential to reduce risk in the delineated source areas or contribute to reduction in contaminant concentrations at the drinking water source. For more information see <http://public.health.oregon.gov/HealthyEnvironments/DrinkingWater/SRF/Pages/spf.aspx>. Information on eligible projects and the rating criteria are found in the document titled: [DWSPF - General Information on Funding \(pdf\)](#) which is towards the bottom of the page. Maps of drinking water source areas can be found on DEQ's DWP Interactive viewer at <http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/DWP-Maps.aspx>

Laura Johnson, Alyssa Leidel and Tessa Edelen (contact information below) are available for questions and can assist public water systems (and their partners) with the application process. They can also work with basin partners to help identify source areas and PWSs that may be willing to partner.

For Technical Assistance:

Focusing on Northwest Region and Eastern Region public water providers:

Alyssa Leidel alyssa.leidel@deq.oregon.gov and Tessa Edelen tessa.edelen@deq.oregon.gov

Focusing on Western Region public water providers:

Laura Johnson laura.j.johnson@deq.oregon.gov

<http://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/programs/Pages/DWP.aspx>



JOBS, H. R. INFORMATION, TRAINING

UPPER WILLAMETTE SWCD



Grant Management Specialist: Salary range \$63,800-\$94,813
District office in Eugene – hybrid telework potential. Provide reports
And updates to the board on grants; work with grant software and
district partners. Contact: Leslie Owens adm@uwsxcd.org



WHEELER SWCD

Wheeler SWCD in Fossil Oregon is seeking **3 employees:** District Manager,
Conservation Manager and Office Assistant. All are open until filled.

[Employment Opportunities - Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District \(wheelersxcd.org\)](http://wheelersxcd.org)

MILLER WOODS NURSERY CARETAKER – YAMHILL SWCD

The District is hiring a **Miller Woods Nursery Caretaker** *Open until filled*

JACKSON SWCD

Resource Conservationist/Agriculture Specialty - open until filled



LINCOLN SWCD

Noxious Weeds Control Program Specialist, full-time, non-exempt
Open until filled. For more information, contact: Breanna Henderson
Office: 541-265-2631 admin@lincolnswcd.org

CROOK SWCD



Crook SWCD is hiring a **Project Manager**. The position is in Jefferson
County. Email a cover letter, resume, and contact information for up to
three references to andy.gallagher@oregonstate.edu with “Project
Manager” in the subject line. Applications are due by Friday, Jan 31,
2023 but the position will remain open until filled.

WILLAMETTE PARTNERSHIP

Two new positions: **Administrative & Human Resources Generalist** and
Community Water Solutions Partner Both positions open until filled; review of
applications begins February 20.



Tillamook Estuaries Partnership (TEP)

received additional funding through the National Estuary Program thanks to bipartisan support in Congress. Funds will be used to implement green infrastructure projects and to install climate change monitoring instrumentation throughout Tillamook County. More staff is needed to do this work.

TEP is seeking to fill experienced and entry level positions in Garibaldi, OR. All applications are due on February 28, 2023.

Go to <https://www.tbnep.org/we-are-looking-for-5-people-to-join-our-team-131.php> to learn more about the jobs and how to apply. Competitive salaries, great benefits, and a friendly work environment are offered.

ROGUE FARM CORPS



- Rogue Farm Corps announces several positions including
- Co-Executive Director of Development and Communications
 - Farmer Training Programs Manager. Learn more by visiting [here](#).
- Application deadline February 15th.



MC KENZIE RIVER TRUST

MRT is hiring a Restoration Projects Manager to serve as a lead on all aspects of planning and implementation of restoration projects on MRT-owned properties. Qualified candidates may apply via the McKenzie River Trust website. For more information, visit [Jobs page](#). Review of applications begins February 9th—position open until filled. www.mckenzieriver.org

HR TRAINING AND RESOURCES

OACD and a number of SWCDs are members of Cascade Employers Association, a company that serves nonprofit entities with recruiting and human resources training. You can contact them for assistance on employers paid leave and other HR issues.



Cascade Employers Association

Building better workplaces through
compliance, culture, connection

ABOUT DISTRICTS

WEST MULTNOMAH'S NEW MANAGER



The West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District Board of Directors is very pleased to announce selection of Lynn Barlow as its new District Manager. Lynn joins WMSWCD's team with over 24 years of experience in the conservation field. Her career includes 19 years acquiring, managing, and restoring public natural areas with City of Portland, and most recently, nearly four years with the state Department of Environmental Quality where she managed a federal loan program that funds water quality improvement projects throughout Oregon.

Lynn began her conservation career as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer working with food crop farmers to conserve topsoil in a mountainous region of west Africa. She values public and private landowner engagement in sustainable management of natural and working lands. Lynn is committed to the District's work in culturally inclusive outreach to communities for the purpose of enhancing livability through healthy soil, clean water, and diverse habitats.

Contact: Lynn Barlow: lynn@wmswcd.org



OREGON

OWEB RULES ON CLIMATE

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) will be holding a virtual Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC) meeting from 9:00 am-11:00 am on **Friday, February 10, 2023**, to discuss adding evaluation criteria related to climate change for OWEB grants to the agency's administrative rules. Materials for the RAC meeting are now posted in the [Rulemaking: Climate Evaluation Criteria](#) pull-down on the webpage. As part of this meeting, the latest draft evaluation along with draft guidance for grant applicants will be discussed. The OWEB Board authorized this rulemaking at their July 26-27, 2022 meeting, and the associated [staff report](#) provides additional details. The public is welcome to listen to the RAC

meeting through **YouTube Streaming**

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOWLt4Sp--i1KEa_OA.

OWEB encourages public comment on any agenda item. Public comments may be made in two ways:

Written Comments Written comments should be sent to April Mack at April.mack@OWEB.oregon.gov. Written comments received by Thursday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m. will be provided to the RAC at the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard during the public comment period. To provide verbal comment, you must contact April Mack at April.mack@OWEB.oregon.gov, by Thursday, February 9 at 1:00 p.m. and provide your name and the topic you wish to comment on. You will then be provided with information on how to access the meeting.

For more information, contact Eric Hartstein at eric.hartstein@oweb.oregon.gov. There are two SWCD members on the RAC. You can see them listed on the RAC list at the link above regarding RAC materials.

SECRETARY OF STATE AUDIT ON WATER

The Secretary of State Audits Division [released an Advisory Report](#) last month regarding Recommendations for water governance in the state. Water equity and security statewide were assessed among multiple agencies related to water resources. The report provides 11 recommendations and legislative actions.

DRYLAND FARMING

Dryland farming techniques – partial resolution to continuing drought?

OPB: <https://www.opb.org/article/2023/01/30/dry-farming-oregon-techniques-agriculture/>

POLLINATOR LICENSE PLATES

Oregon drivers can soon showcase their love for pollinators with a new state license plate featuring a honey bee, a native bumble bee and hives in a field of clover.



Oregon State University's Horticulture Department has started taking pre-orders on its newly designed "pollinator paradise" license plate, which aims to celebrate the more than 600 bee species in the state.

OSU must sell 3,000 license plate vouchers, then the Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles, or DMV, will begin official production of the new plates.

"I think it's a big deal," said Sarah Kincaid, faculty research assistant in OSU's Horticulture Department. "In a state like Oregon where so many people are passionate about bees, we should have a license plate celebrating that. With its abundance of native bees, Oregon should, too." Ordering a plate voucher will cost drivers \$40, and for each sale, \$35 will go to

support bee research conducted by OSU's Extension Pollinator Health Lab and Honey Bee Lab programs.

OREGON CLIMATE ASSESSMENT AVAILABLE

The **OCCRI: Oregon Climate Assessment** released by the Oregon Climate Research Institute (OCCRI) is now available as the sixth biennial report. It is organized around climate-related natural hazards and the six adaptation sectors identified in the Climate Change Adaptation Framework.

SPECIAL DISTRICTS ASSOCIATION OF OREGON: ANNOUNCES NATIONAL SPECIAL DISTRICTS COALITION

Earlier this year, the National Special Districts Coalition (NSDC) launched a tool to streamline special district members' ability to search for project or program funding opportunities. In partnership with The Ferguson Group (TFG), NSDC established a "[project idea portal](#)" for districts to submit projects for which funding opportunities are sought. Districts are welcome to submit details of the project via the webform, which TFG's grants team will review and work with the district to identify and apply for potential grant and finance opportunities.

[Click here to access the NSDC Project Idea Portal](#)

Because of SDAO's membership in the National Coalition, SDAO offers this value-added benefit to the national Coalition at no cost to SDAO members. Most SWCDs are members of SDAO through its special district group insurance plans.



25-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALMON LICENSE PLATE

In February 1998 the state began selling salmon license plates with funds going to OWEB for restoration projects benefitting salmon habitat.

Current revenue equates to about \$250,000 per year.

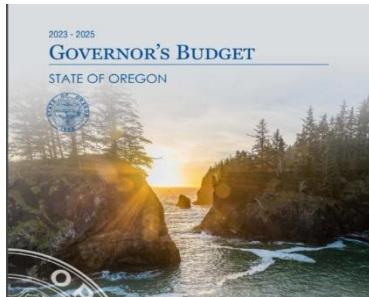
Last year a newly designed version of the plate was made available and can now be ordered through the [Department of Motor Vehicles](#).



INCENTIVES FOR WILDFIRE RESILIENCE

Oregon lawmakers are now looking to provide incentives for landowners for increasing wildfire resilience, a different approach from the earlier regulatory mapping for defensible space generated last summer, following significant backlash from rural communities. The program

was part of SB 762 adopted in 2021. Oregon insurance regulators are considering a bill that would require companies to substantiate why increased rates or refusal occur in policy renewal. The concept would also provide more time to rebuild after a fire.



GOVERNOR'S PROPOSED BUDGET

The Governor's Recommended Budget ([GRB document](#)) was released on Tuesday, January 31. The budget is the starting point for negotiations between the executive branch and the legislature. The legislature will need to develop its budget and pass by the end of the session, June 25. The OACD Advocacy Committee also follows natural resource agency budgets and promotes identified needs.

LAWSUIT DISMISSED ON OSHA HEAT AND SMOKE RULES

A federal judge dismissed a lawsuit against Oregon OSHA that claimed that the state's heat and smoke rules violate the 14th amendment of the US Constitution and therefore the rules are unenforceable. The suit was brought by Oregon Manufacturers and Commerce, Associated Oregon Loggers and the Oregon Forest and Industries Council, claiming that air quality fluctuates from a number of factors, not just wildfire smoke.

OREGON PUBLICATION ON WATER FUTURE

The Portland Business Journal has published a book featuring articles from prominent Oregonians on water issues now and in the future.

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/ORWRD/2022/12/14/file_attachments/2355320/208688.pdf

KLAMATH RIVER DAM REMOVAL PLAN PROCEEDS

Oregonian [article](#)

ODFW SEEKS FISH SCREENING TASK FORCE AG REPRESENTATIVE

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife is looking for an agriculture representative to join its Fish Screening Task Force. The 7-member task force typically meets two to three times a year to discuss fish screening and passage issues and make recommendations to the agency — including funding, monitoring, technology, reporting and project prioritization. Members are appointed by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and serve two-year terms. Three members represent agricultural interests, three represent fishing or fish conservation interests, and one represents the public at large. All meetings have in-person or virtual options. The task force will continue to address water diversions through voluntary cooperation from water users in 2023 and will also participate in a statewide prioritization of unscreened water diversions. The deadline to apply is Jan. 15. For more information and to submit an application, contact Katherine Nordholm, ODFW fish screening coordinator, at 503-507-5843 or email katherine.e.nordholm@odfw.oregon.gov.

OREGON WATER RESOURCES COMMISSION GRANTS

The Oregon Water Resources Commission awarded \$6,642,745 in grants to fund three projects for the 2022 cycle of [Water Project Grants and Loans](#).

ASSESSMENT OF RIPARIAN PLANTINGS

The Nature Conservancy is seeking cooperation from Soil and Water Conservation Districts for identifying study sites to collaborate on an assessment of riparian plantings in Oregon. Specifically, they are looking for sites where data can be collected on carbon stocks (aboveground woody biomass and soil carbon) as well as assess various riparian outcomes. They are asking for potential sites to include in their study of riparian revegetation outcomes. And they will compile a database of possible sampling sites and would welcome any contributions, particularly for sites that are not already included in OWEB's OWRI dataset. They are using the OWRI dataset as their primary database of potential sites.

As part of the data collection, researchers will be collecting soil samples, information on vegetation density, height and canopy cover data, as well as hemispherical photos which can be used to estimate shading. Co-locating sites where vegetation monitoring data has been collected in the past could lead to additional insights on the outcomes of riparian revegetation projects.

Potential sites should be at least 5 years since initial planting and at least 2.47 acres in area. At this point, TNC is compiling possible study sites into a geodatabase. Information needs at this point are x,y coordinates, year of initial planting, and areas of riparian area planted. Sites need not include landowner data but should have a contact person (which can be an SWCD staff person) in the event that the site fits into the sampling scheme. If it does, they'd reach out to the SWCD staff to facilitate contact with the landowner. If you have site(s) in mind that you'd like them to consider, please advise by February 24, 2023 to ensure inclusion in site selection. **Contact:** Rose Graves rose.graves@TNC.ORG

OREGON WATER DATA PORTAL

The new Oregon Water Data Portal project is underway and will feature water resources data from the following listed agencies. An introductory session was held recently and the portal will be launched in the coming biennium, 2023-2025.

Please contact the project team at any time with questions:

Audrey Hatch, OWEB Audrey.HATCH@oweb.oregon.gov

Ben Scandella, Water Resources Department Benjamin.P.SCANDELLA@water.oregon.gov

Michele Martin, DEQ Michele.MARTIN@deq.oregon.gov

ODA - Winter 2023 Agriculture Quarterly Newsletter is Online!

In this issue... [Read the Aq Quarterly online](#)

- Happy new year from ODA
- ODA commodity commission manager retires
- ODA issues tree debris quarantine in Washington County
- Agricultural overtime requirements
- Mormon cricket and grasshopper survey
- ODA entomologist goes viral on YouTube



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

ODA WEEDMAPPER CALL FOR DATA

The Oregon Department of Agriculture is now accepting 2022 noxious weed distribution data to include in the next WeedMapper update. Deadline for submission is **February 28, 2023**. Data from earlier years will also be accepted if it has not been shared before.

What type of data are we looking for?

Any location information collected for Oregon state-listed noxious weeds. This includes new submissions for those who have previously contributed data, and all past and current data from new contributors.

Oregon State Weed Board grant recipients are required to submit new data from grant projects.

The following information is **required**:

- Exact weed location (lat/long in decimal degrees) or GIS shapefile/geodatabase/feature class
- Type of datum used to collect location (e.g. WGS84). *This is not needed for GIS files.*
- Weed species name (common and scientific)
- Contact person name, organization, address, phone and email.
- Oregon State Weed Board Grant Number (For OSWB grant data only)

The following information is also requested:

- Date of find
- Type of location (Aquatic, Field, Forest, Pasture, Prairie, Range, Residential, Riparian, Right-of-way, Urban, Wetland)
- Frequency (spot, patch or solid stand)
- Treatment type and date (Biocontrol, Chemical, Cultural, Manual, Mechanical, None)
- Number of plants (in quantity or net acres)
- Gross acres
- Percent cover
- Land ownership (BLM, USFS, other federal, state, county, city, private or unknown)

What format should the data be in?

Please submit in one of the following formats:

- **GIS shapefiles or a file geodatabase.** These can be point, line or polygon files, but point files are preferred. **The attribute tables must contain the required information noted above and as much of the requested information as is available.** A template file geodatabase can be sent upon request.
- **ODA WeedMapper data submission form.** [See the attached spreadsheet with a tab with complete instructions.](#)
- **Other electronic formats** that have the data stored in table form are also acceptable but will be a lower priority for processing.

Paper forms cannot be accepted.

When do we need the data?

Please send your information by **February 28, 2023.**

Beth Myers-Shenai, Invasive Plant Specialist

Oregon Department of Agriculture Noxious Weed Control Program

503-580-1622

Beth.Myers-Shenai@oda.oregon.gov

NATIONAL

NRCS ADVANCED CLIMATE-SMART AGRICULTURE, BROADENED REACH OF CONSERVATION IN PAST TWO YEARS

Under the Biden-Harris administration, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) continued its conservation work across the country amid an ongoing pandemic and numerous natural disasters, helping agricultural producers and forest landowners – including urban and underserved producers – implement conservation practices on their working lands. These efforts by USDA’s Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) helped conserve natural resources such as soil, water and wildlife while delivering climate solutions and boosting producers’ bottom lines.

[Read More](#)

CONGRESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS FROM OREGON FOR HOUSE NATURAL RESOURCE COMMITTEES



Returning **Congressman Cliff Bentz** was recently named Chair of the House Water, Wildlife and Fisheries Committee. Congressman Bentz represents Congressional House District 2 – Eastern and Southern Oregon; and he is from Ontario.



Newly elected **Congresswoman Andrea Salinas** of Tigard in the newly formed Congressional House District 6 was appointed to the House Committee on Agriculture.



Newly elected **Congresswoman Lori Chavez-DeRemer** of Happy Valley in Congressional District 5 was appointed to the House Committee on Agriculture.

USDA's Peoples' Garden



Sign-up for Urban Ag email Updates at [Farmers.gov/Urban Ag](https://Farmers.gov/UrbanAg)

USDA People's Garden: Do you have a community farm or garden that you would like to designate as a People's Garden? To learn more about People's Garden or to register one, visit the People's Garden webpage at the website, [The People's Garden | USDA](https://www.usda.gov/people-s-garden). You

See video: [The USDA People's Garden Invites Community Gardens to Join Us! - YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=...).

URBAN AGRICULTURE AND INNOVATIVE PRODUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (UAIPAC)

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) will hold a public meeting of the committee to discuss interim recommendations for the Secretary of Agriculture on the development of policies and outreach relating to urban, indoor, and other emerging agriculture production practices. The meeting will be held via Zoom on Thursday, February 23rd, 3:30-6:00 p.m. Eastern. Learn more and register to attend [here](#)



Oregon Conservation Partnership

The Oregon Conservation Partnership (OrCP) is made up of the Oregon Association Of Conservation Districts (OACD), the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), the Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (NOWC) and the Oregon Conservation and Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN). OrCP holds a capacity grant from OWEB to provide deliverables such as the working lands guidebook OACD recently completed, for CONNECT gatherings, for webinars, publications and projects of our members, and for retaining the services of a public relations firm to report on member projects or news. There are 145 member organizations that make up the OrCP's four organizations. We are glad to promote projects that you may have to provide media coverage as possible. Just let OACD know of your needs.

ORCP webinars are generally held on the 3rd Thursday of each month. They are recorded and archived at <https://www.conservationpartnership.org/webinars/> Recent webinars have included:

- Understanding and Dismantling Racism
- The Importance of Meaningful Partnerships with Tribal Nations When Establishing Conservation Programs
- Stitching Together Pollinator Habitat Initiatives Across Oregon
- Changes in OSHA Rules for the Oregon Workplace

To sign up for webinar announcements and access, go to the OrCP website where there are also job listings and news: <https://www.conservationpartnership.org>