



OACD NEWS

January 2025



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Executive Director

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OACD Board Position Opportunity!

If you are in one of the following districts, please consider applying to fill an upcoming OACD Board vacancy. The Columbia Plateau representation has 1 year remaining in its term. If you are interested, send your name and a 150 word (or less) statement of your qualifications and interest in serving on the Board to Andrea Kreiner at andrea.kreiner@oacd.org by January 15, 2025.

Eligible Districts:

Crook, Deschutes, Hood River, Gilliam,
Jefferson, Sherman, Wasco, Wheeler

The OACD Board will vote to fill the vacancy at its meeting on January 21,
2025.



Happy New Year Conservation Partners!

As we ring in 2025, we ring in the start of the long legislative session in Salem. Already, we have seen many legislative concepts that will impact or are of interest to districts across the state. There will be bills impacting the way Oregon manages our water resources, land use bills concerning uses of farm and forest land, agrivoltaics, and funding for natural and working lands and other grants Districts rely upon. OACD is also advocating for funding for OSU Extension to provide Spanish language pesticide worker safety training. We will be offering advocacy training to help you get involved and learn how to advocate on behalf of your District and conservation issues. Join us on January 13 from Noon – 2pm on zoom [HERE](#).

As you have hopefully noticed in recent newsletters, we have been working with a public relations consultant to get news stories about the great work districts are doing. There have been TV stories, OPB stories, and newspaper stories. We have been able to secure funding to continue this work through the Oregon Conservation Partnership through the end of 2025. So....if you have a story to tell, or even think you *might* have a story to tell, let me know and we will link you with our consultant. I LOVE seeing, hearing, and reading about SWCDs!

Your OACD Board has been at work implementing our new strategic plan. As one of their first steps, they have created outreach portfolios – they will be reaching out to Districts to learn more about the specific work you do and how OACD can be of the most assistance. They are very excited about this, to see who your outreach board member is, click on the board members [here](#). (note: they want to learn about districts across the state, so your outreach board member may not be your regional rep).

We are sad to announce that Heather Hendrixson is leaving her position at Hood River SWCD and thus her OACD Board position. We are also sad to announce the retirement of Jim Johnson from ODA. Although we are sad to see Heather and Jim move on, we wish them the best of success in their new roles: Heather at the Northwest Power and Conservation Council, Jim as the Working Lands Policy Director at 100 Friends of Oregon.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, and successful 2025!

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

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



COMING EVENTS

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

[Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission](#) – January 10, Salem

[Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission](#) – January 23-24, Salem

[OWEB Board](#) – January 28-19

OACD Board Meeting

District participation and comments are encouraged.

January 21, 9am-11am. Zoom link [HERE](#).



All the details on registration can be found on the [Annual Meeting webpage](#).

If you are interested in some scholarship money to attend, contact Andrea at andrea.kreiner@OACD.org!

Oregon Soil Health Summit!

The first-ever statewide gathering of Oregon's agricultural service providers to promote soil health for climate resilience on Oregon's farms and ranches!

- **Keynotes** on:
 - Building Farm Resiliency Through Soil Health
 - Relationship and Culturally Based Land Management
- **Workshops** with topics including:
 - Funding opportunities for soil health
 - Carbon sequestration potential of Oregon soils
 - Microorganisms and soil health
 - The current state of soil health science

Wednesday January 22nd, 2025

OSU LaSells Stewart Center, Corvallis, OR

Register on the [Soil Health Summit website](#)

FUNDING RESOURCES

OWEB now accepting online applications for the 2024 Immediate Wildfire Response Grant Offering



Eligible applicants include watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tribes, and other eligible non-profit organizations operating in eligible impacted 2024 wildfire areas that are directly engaging in post-fire natural resources recovery.

- Program funding prioritizes work on non-federal lands (i.e., private, state, and tribal lands). While some small portions of federal land may be included if part of an all-lands approach, applicants should reach out to OWEB prior to submitting an application that includes work on federal land.
- The table on page 1 of the [program guidance](#) has information on eligible fire areas and funding maximums.

Eligible technical assistance activities include:

- Resource assessment and planning to convene local teams to complete post-fire impact assessments and identify and/or plan prioritized restoration actions to address post-fire impacts
- Engagement to secure landowner commitment and coordinate planning for future post-fire restoration actions
- Restoration implementation activities are not eligible for funding under this offering.

Applications are due by 5:00 pm on May 29, 2025

Applications must be submitted using OWEB's [online grant application](#).

Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and applicants are encouraged to submit an application as early as possible. Applications will be reviewed upon submission and award decisions are to be made within approximately two weeks following application submission.

Application Guidance - Please see [program guidance](#) for additional information on the [program website](#).

SWCD Capacity Grant Supplement Opportunity Related to Website Development

OWEB and ODA have approximately \$193,000 to assist districts develop websites, upgrade websites, and ensure that their websites meet the new accessibility requirements under WCAG 2.1 AA and DOJ 28 CFR Part 35. Funds will be awarded up to \$20,000 through an amendment to your current 2023-2025 SWCD Capacity Grant and must be expended by July 31, 2025. No additional match is required.

How to Apply:

Fill out the provided application. **The application deadline is January 17, 2025,**

Grant amendments will be completed shortly thereafter. Awards will be based on need, current condition and accessibility of your district website, and completeness of application.

Contact sandi.hiatt@oda.oregon.gov for grant forms and more information

PLIC/NFHP Request for Project Proposals is OPEN NOW

Proposals are due February 14.

PLCI will award \$250,000-\$350,000 in FY2026 for on-the-ground restoration and habitat assessment project proposals that address PLCI's priorities and Regional Management Unit (RMU) specific threats and concerns. Updated RMU Regional Implementation Plans (RIPs) detailing region specific threats and research needs, as well as contact information for RMU leads can be found on [our website](#).

In an effort to fund a diverse portfolio of projects, strong project proposals that request less than \$100,000 are preferred. Find the link to the full Funding Guidance and instructions on How To Apply on the Pacific Lamprey Conservation Initiative website: <https://www.pacificlamprey.org/funding-nfhp/>

Introducing America's first Virtual Fence Conservation Fund

This groundbreaking quarter-million dollar initiative aims to enhance wildlife conservation by empowering ranchers and conservationists to adopt virtual fencing technology on public and private lands. [Learn more](#)

NOAA is [announcing](#) the availability of \$20 million in funding for projects that will advance the coastal habitat restoration and climate resilience priorities of tribes and underserved communities.

Of the \$20 million in funding available, 15 percent is specifically available to U.S. federally recognized tribes, Alaska Native Corporations, and organizations that represent tribes through formal legal agreements. It is available through direct awards or subawards:

- A direct award is an award where the tribe is the applicant, receives an award from NOAA, and administers the award
- A subaward to a tribe is an award where a non-tribal applicant receives a direct award from NOAA, but provides a specific amount of funding to a tribe to carry out a portion of the award

The remaining funding will be available to all eligible applicants, to support opportunities for tribes and underserved communities to meaningfully engage in coastal habitat restoration activities.

NOAA will accept proposals with a federal funding request of between \$75,000 and \$2 million for the entire award. We anticipate typical funding to range from \$250,000 to \$1 million. Applications are due by May 12, 2025.

NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES



Oregon Spotted Frog Recovery Plan

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is [announcing the availability](#) of a final recovery plan for Oregon spotted frog. It can be viewed and downloaded from the Service's ECOS website here: [Oregon spotted frog recovery plan](#)

Place-Based Water Planning Rulemaking (OAR 690, Divisions 602) - Notice and Opportunity to Comment

OWRD is seeking public comment on proposed rule adoption regarding Place-Based Water Planning funding and implementation. These rules are needed to implement ORS 537.872 and ORS 537.873 (HB2010, 2023), for the administration of place-based water planning.

Link to view rulemaking material: [Division 602 website](#). Link to view Notice: [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#).

How to Comment: You may comment on the proposed rules by sending **written comments by 5 p.m. on January 15, 2025**.

By Mail: Oregon Water Resources Department Attn: Margo Mashkovskaya 725 Summer St. NE, Suite A Salem, OR 97301-1271

By Email: WRD_DL_rule-coordinator@water.oregon.gov.

Hybrid Rulemaking Hearing: You also may provide oral or written comments on the proposed rules at the rulemaking hearing, which will take place in person (Salem, OR) and virtually.

Date: **January 7, 2025 Time: 11 a.m.–12 p.m.** Location: North Mall Office Building 725 Summer St NE, Room 124b Salem, OR 97301

Zoom: [Zoom registration link](#).

NRCS Oregon Annual Report

[See Here](#)

Fall/Winter issue of ODA Pesticides Newsletter now available!

Information in this issue includes:

- ODA names Eng, Sandau as deputy directors; agency honors Henderson as he retires
- Pesticide program employees participate in outreach event for Spanish speakers
- ODA launches new agency website to improve user experience
- Remember to communicate with school IPM coordinators before spraying
- EPA finalizes Herbicide Strategy; what it means for you

[View the Pesticide Newsletter](#)

Water Investment Needs Survey Extended to January 15

The deadline to submit water investment needs via a [survey](#) has been extended to January 15.

The Water Caucus is asking Oregonians to submit their current and future water investment needs via a statewide survey to help inform budget requests and strategic planning. In the time since the [Statewide Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#) was initially adopted in 2012, the state has been incrementally increasing its attention to critical water priorities, but the Legislature does not have a comprehensive inventory of water investments needs. In an effort to fill that gap, the Water Caucus invites water managers, users, stewards, advocates and members of the public to submit water investment needs by January 15 via a statewide survey: <https://bit.ly/2024waterinvestmentsurvey>. By doing so, Oregonians can help the Water Caucus understand investment-ready water projects. In addition to physical projects, water investment needs can include data, planning, and other needs that benefit the environment, communities, and economy. The survey is for informational and planning purposes only and does not guarantee funding or replace other legislative processes. View the dashboard at: <https://bit.ly/2024waterinvestmentdashboard>.

Call for Abstracts - CONNECT 2025 | April 8-10 Florence Event Center - Florence, Oregon

CONNECT 2025 is not just another conference but a gathering for visionaries in soil and water conservation. This event brings together local, state, and federal decision-makers, professionals from Conservation Districts, and supportive organizations dedicated to preserving our natural resources. **CONNECT 2025** offers a comprehensive program that addresses both technical and administrative aspects of soil and water conservation, tailored for:

- Rural and urban conservation implementation
- Managerial and administrative functions
- Policy development and discussion
- Education and outreach activities

[Submit your abstract by January 10, 2025](#), and become an essential part of this transformative event.

Farm and Forest Modernization Rules Passed by Land Conservation and Development Commission

A summary of the adopted rules that outlines those adopted by the commission may be found [here on the Department's website](#).

Webinar: Google Tools Training at Your Pace

Offered by SDAO Vendor Solutions Network vendor Strike Services, learn how simple, one-on-one virtual training with Google tools can save time and money by Streamlining your internal processes.

[Sign up!](#) No cost to SDAO members.

DISTRICTS IN THE NEWS

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

[Robbie Lascheck – South Coast Watershed Council Coordinator](#), KCBY 11

[Test the river, teach the children: Students and salmon pay a fall visit to the Alsea River](#), OPB

[Troutdale 14-acre farmland saved through ongoing easement program](#), Business Tribune

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

DISTRICT TO DISTRICT

We regret to announce that former OACD board member and long-time West Multnomah SWCD board member (over 40 years!) **Brian Lightcap** passed away November 15, 2024. West Multnomah's remembrance of Brian can be found at: <https://wmswcd.org/2024/11/remembering-brian-lightcap/>



Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
P.O. Box 10527, Portland, Oregon 97296
www.oacd.org

Andrea Kreiner,
Executive Director
andrea.kreiner@oacd.org
971.988.9929

Jan Lee
OACD President
jlee@conservationdistrict.org
503-545-9420

