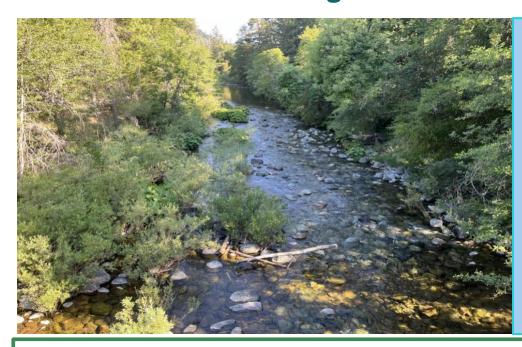


OACD NEWS

August 2024



LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT Page 2

OACD ELECTIONS
Page 3

COMING EVENTS
Page 4

FUNDING RESOURCES
Page 7

NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES Page 9

DISTRICT to DISTRICT Page 10

> CONTACT US Page 11

EXTENDED 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: August 12, 2024

Decision date: September 1, 2024

Submission guidelines:

Please submit you presentation or session <u>topic</u> with a <u>description</u> (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 Conservation Partners,

Many of our member districts are dealing with active wildfires or threats. The Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) reports that more than half a million Oregonians are under "red alert" fire warnings, the highest alert category. In the last several days there have been over 2,000 lightning strikes following an extensive heat wave, really bringing the issue to a head. There are currently 38 total fires statewide now in progress covering 767,000 acres. There are more fires in Oregon now than CA, ID and WA combined. Our concern lies with all of you who are in those wildfire areas.

OACD is actively working with ODA, OWEB, and other sources to find additional funding for wildfire mitigation, to provide funding for reseeding, erosion control work, and fencing replacement. OWEB also can fund some work under their restoration grant program if property borders salmon-related streams. There is also a funding program in the Governor's office that can be distributed for wildfire recovery.

Drafts of updated wildfire hazard and wildland-urban interface maps are now available for review and public comment. View the draft maps at Oregon State University's <u>Wildfire Risk Explorer</u>. ODF will be accepting public comment until Aug. 18. When the comment period is complete, ODF and OSU will evaluate all public comments to see whether changes to the maps are warranted. Public comment can be sent by email to: hazardmap@odf.oregon.gov. You can put in an address or site location to see what the hazard classification is in your area.

During fire season, ODF's fire situation map will show active large fires ODF is tracking in the state. See these links for information: <u>State of Oregon Fires and Hotspots Dashboard map</u>; <u>InciWeb - Large fires on all lands</u>; and <u>Regional Wildfire Reports</u>.

On another note, the OACD Board is looking forward to its planning retreat in mid-August to develop a strategic plan for the association. Your survey responses were important in pointing out key issues that will be discussed and in the future there will be a plan available for your review.

Stay cool and help promote fire safety,

Jan Lee, OACD President

janleewater@gmail.com 503-545-9420 cell



COMING EVENTS

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

Oregon Climate Action Commission – Aug 1, Virtual

Oregon Water Resources Commission - Sept 12-13, TBD

Oregon Board of Agriculture - Sept 10-12, Pendleton

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission – Sept 13, The Dalles

OWEB DEI/EJ Committee September 3

OWEB Grants Committee September 5

OWEB Water & Climate Committee September 11

OACD Board Meeting

District participation and comments are encouraged.

August 27, 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 <u>here</u> – stay tuned for more to come!

October 14-16, Hood River Inn, Hood River, Oregon

Join us at the Hood River Inn in Hood River, Oregon, October 14-16!

For Room Reservations, contact the <u>Hood River Inn</u>, make sure to say you are with the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference.

https://hoodriverinn.com

For more Information and Registration

https://www.eventbrite.com/e/oregon-association-of-conservation-districts-annual-conference-tickets-940611082067?aff=oddtdtcreator

ORCP Webinar - Making Headlines for your organization with Earned Media PR

Aug 13 at 10am

Don't let the work of your organization or conservation district go unnoticed. Join our webinar to elevate your earned media public relations game with insider tips and tricks. Learn how to connect with journalists, identify captivating story angles, and create toolkits that will grab the attention of the media. Eric Steen is the founder of Forest Green Marketing & PR, which proudly represents a portfolio of innovators, conservationists, artisans, and environmentalists. The studio's services focus on public relations, marketing and comms planning, and brand management with clients that include Earth Day Oregon, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, Washington Association of Land Trusts, Oregon Agricultural Trust, Ferment Brewing, and Knot Springs.

REGISTER Here: https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_BApzpjq0RCCt46LbBz8DJQ

NRCS Conservation Desktop/Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CD/CART) forums

These days, so much of what we do is dependent on having effective tools and technologies, and understanding how to use them efficiently. Upcoming Conservation Desktop/Conservation Assessment and Ranking Tool (CD/CART) forums for staff and partners who are interested in learning about these primary field tools. In these sessions, you'll get the chance to connect with the CD/CART team as they demonstrate commonly-used tool features. There will be some time for questions and answers during the meetings, and you will also be able to provide valuable feedback through an evaluation form sent out after the meetings.

Upcoming CD/CART Forums

- August 21st at 10:30-12:00 Pacific: Mapping 101 Click <u>here</u> to join
- September 18th at 10:30-12:00 Pacific: CART Geospatial Ranking Capabilities Click <u>here</u> to join
- October 16th at 10:30-12:00 Pacific: New Features Coming in FY25 Click here to join

After this first series of events, we will evaluate participant feedback and schedule additional forums based on your most requested topics.

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 - <u>Board Succession Planning</u> 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**

REGISTER!

SageCon Summit 2024

September 24th -25thPrineville, OR

Join us in Central Oregon for presentations from researchers and practitioners followed by a field trip exploring the sites and soils at the foundation of our plant communities.



The agenda will be out in August!

Save the Date: 2024 Fall Energy Symposium!

Sept. 18th-20th, 2024 | Wasco County & surrounding areas

Sustainable Northwest, with support from <u>Energy Trust of Oregon</u> and <u>Wy'East RC&D</u>, is proud to host the **9th Annual Fall Energy Symposium** on Sept 18th - 20th, 2024.

Join us for an engaging multi-day event that brings together rural energy leaders from across the state for local field tours, insightful panel presentations from regional experts, and lively networking receptions.

Key highlights this year include discussions around statewide decarbonization pathways, transmission constraints and solutions, community energy resilience and microgrid development, and rural and agricultural electrification. We'll also host live demonstrations with electric tractors and other heavy equipment.

We are currently workshopping a unique agenda that prioritizes the most relevant topics related to clean energy in rural Oregon. Stay tuned for more information. We hope you can join us!

If you have any questions, please contact Faith Yorba at fyorba@sustainablenorthwest.org.

REGISTER HERE

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.

Klamath Water Quality Improvements Grant Program

OWEB is accepting project pre-proposal applications for the Amended Klamath Hydroelectric Settlement Agreement (KHSA) Interim Measure 11: Klamath Water Quality Improvements Grant Program. The Klamath Water Quality Improvements Grant Program addresses water quality concerns in the Klamath River via nutrient reduction projects. PacifiCorp has provided funding of up to \$6,433,500 for the design/engineering and implementation of water quality improvement projects in the Klamath Basin in Oregon. All proposals must demonstrate in detail how the proposed project will benefit water quality in the Klamath River and fulfill the goals of the KHSA Interim Measure 11.

IMPORTANT: This grant offering includes a two-step competitive proposal process.

- 1. **Pre-proposal:** OWEB is accepting project pre-proposals as the first step. The pre-proposals are limited to 2 narrative pages plus the required attachments, which shall be submitted via email to Theresa
 DeBardelaben.
 - o A template for the pre-proposal is located on OWEB's website.
 - Project pre-proposals are due by 5:00 pm on August 16, 2024.
 - Following the Steering Committee review of project pre-proposals, applicants will be notified of which projects are invited to be submitted as a full proposal on October 3, 2024.
- 2. **Full proposal:** Based on the Steering Committee's recommendations, OWEB will initiate the second step in the process by inviting applicants to submit a full proposal.
 - The full proposal will use OWEB's online application system and will open on October 3, 2024 for selected projects. The application deadline for full proposals is 5:00 pm on November 14, 2024.

Information about the Klamath Water Quality Improvements Grant Program can be found on the <u>webpage</u> for this grant offering.

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.

Culvert AOP Grant Program

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

Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Program

The Urban & Community Forestry (UCF) Program is pleased to announce that the online grant application portal for the <u>UCF All-Entities Subaward Program</u> opened on July 15. You can now create an account and complete an application via the <u>online portal</u> through October 15, 2024. You can find all available information for the existing UCF subaward programs, including written <u>registration</u> and <u>application</u> instructions, on the <u>UCF subaward program webpage</u>.

NEWS and OPPORTUNITIES



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) Rule Revisions Meeting

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Rulemaking Advisory Committee will hold a virtual meeting on August 7, 2024, from 2:00 pm to 5:00 pm.

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) funds voluntary incentives to support practices that maintain or enhance both agriculture and natural resources such as fish and wildlife habitat on agricultural lands. The Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC) members will be the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commissioners who will assist OWEB in updating administrative rules that define program administration requirements. The **third RAC meeting** will take place virtually:

Date/Time: August 7, 2024, 2:00 pm - 5:00 pm

YouTube streaming/recording: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC0dl-TOwLt4Sp--i1KEa_OA/videos **Zoom**: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82764642389?pwd=RevMAWvxXCRjBci3f4YptuxydHeKwg.1

Meeting agendas, materials, and minutes will be posted on the <u>Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program</u> Webpage.

COMMENT OPPORTUNITY - WATER PROJECT GRANTS AND LOANS AND IRRIGATION MODERNIZATION

OWRD invites written public comment on applications received for the second 2024 cycle of <u>Water Project Grants and Loans Funding and Irrigation Modernization Funding</u>. OWRD received seven complete Water Project Grants and Loans grant applications requesting a total of \$9,279,591 in funding. OWRD received one complete application for Irrigation Modernization Funding requesting \$907,290.

A multi-agency Technical Review Team (TRT) will consider public comments submitted in their evaluation of applications. The TRT will evaluate applications and make a funding recommendation to the Water Resource Commission. OWRD will post the TRT funding recommendation for an additional public comment period in the fall. The tentative date for the Commission to make its funding decision is December 12-13, 2024.

- View <u>summaries</u> of the <u>project applications</u>.
- View the 2024 applications received by visiting the <u>Funding Cycle History page</u>.

Written comments on the applications will be accepted until 5 p.m. on September 23, 2024.

Please submit comments to: OWRD.Grants@water.oregon.gov or Grant Coordinator, 725 Summer Street NE, Suite A, Salem, OR 97301.

The National Conservation Planning Partnership (NCPP) is accepting nominations for the 2024 Hugh Hammond Bennett (HHB) Awards for Conservation Excellence! Please help us spread the word by sharing the call for nominations with your respective partner organizations.

- The **Producer Award** will be presented to producers who demonstrate a commitment to conservation planning, pioneering new opportunities and leadership in the community. The local field office staff that provides assistance to the producer will also receive recognition.
- The **Conservation Planner Award** will be presented to individuals who demonstrate a high standard of conservation planning and implementation for customers as well as sharing his/her expertise with others.

Successful nominations should contain **concise yet detailed narratives** in each section for the evaluators to effectively assess each candidate's accomplishments. You can save the nomination and come back to it at any time by clicking 'save and resume.'

Nominations will only be accepted through this link. Questions can be directed to the National Conservation Planning Partnership Coordinator email at: coordinator@ncpp.info.

All nominations must be fully completed and submitted by September 1, 2024. The review process then begins after the nomination form closes. Representatives from each partner sit on a review team to score a producer and planner winner in each of the 7 regions (Northeast, Southeast, North Central, South Central, Southwest, Northern Plains, and Pacific). The winners of the regional awards will then automatically be submitted as nominations for the national HHB Awards.

For more information, visit the NCPP website https://www.nationalconservationplanningpartnership.com/awards/hugh-hammond-bennett-awards/hugh-hammond-bennett-award-eligibility/

EPA Seeks Nominations for the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced a <u>solicitation for nominations</u> to serve on its Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC). FRRCC provides independent policy advice, information, and recommendations to the EPA Administrator on a range of environmental issues and policies that are of importance to agriculture and rural communities.

Members will be selected from a variety of relevant sectors. Members may represent farmers, ranchers, and rural communities; allied industries, including farm groups, rural suppliers, marketers, and processors; academia and researchers; state, local, and tribal government; and nongovernmental organizations.

Nominations should be submitted to FRRCC@epa.gov by September 5, 2024, with the subject line "FRRCC Membership 2024." Nominations should include a résumé or curriculum vitae and a statement of interest. Letters of support and recommendation will be accepted but are not mandatory.

From Sustainable Northwest - What is Agrivoltaics?

SNW Intern Guy McFeeters-Krone spent the last few months researching many aspects of agrivoltaics, highlighting potential opportunities in regenerative ranching and clean energy.

Based out of Portland, Guy is an ecological engineer with an incredible passion for agrivoltaics and sustainable agriculture. Guy is established in the agrivoltaics industry and has experience working with regenerative ranchers through RUTE Foundation Systems and Oregon State University.

Read his full report on our blog!

Curious about virtual fence technology?

Learn from early adopters about its potential for livestock management as they share their experiences & insights to help you effectively integrate this precision ag tech into your operations.

Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center (OSU, USDA-ARS & TNC) released a four-part video series about how to set up for success with virtual fence technology. The series is completely free to access and available on the Rangelands Gateway (URL below).

https://rangelandsgateway.org/virtual-fence

Who is the audience?

This series is relevant to anyone interested in adopting/using virtual fence technology. This includes private producers, and the full spectrum of public/private organizations and agencies interested in rangeland management.

Who is the cast

There are 15 speakers within the series, 4 research professionals, 1 rangeland management specialist and 10 private ranchers, located throughout the US, all of which are early adopters of the technology.

What is the goal of the series?

The goal of the series is twofold. One, to flatten the learning curve associated with the adoption and implementation of VF technology, and two, to direct viewers to a centralized location of information about VF we are referring to as the 'VF User Guide' that is being built upon by a national VF working group hosted on the Rangelands Gateway. https://rangelandsgateway.org/virtual-fence

MYTH BUSTERS: LEARN THE TRUTH ABOUT EMERGENCY FOREST RESTORATION PROGRAM

The USDA's Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP) helps the owners of non-industrial private forests restore forest health damaged by natural disasters. But it's important to know the facts to see whether it's right for you. Emily Horsley with USDA's Farm Service Agency helps you here by busting some existing and potential myths around the program.

Read More

State & Local Cybersecurity Grant Program – Application Process Opening Soon

The State of Oregon is preparing to offer another round of cybersecurity grants, with approximately \$6 million available. The process is expected to begin next month, in August. Local governments will receive a notice, allowing 30 days for registration and an additional 30 days to submit an application.

If your district has eligible cybersecurity projects, SDAO encourages you to prepare now. The State and Local Cybersecurity Grant Program (SLCGP) aims to assist state and local governments with the following:

- Advanced endpoint protection (AEP)
- Data backup and recovery testing
- Multifactor authentication capability (MFA)
- Migrating your website domain and email to the .gov extension
- Consulting and planning services related to the above

Unique Entity ID (UEI)

During the registration process, you'll be asked for your Unique Entity ID (UEI). This is a new federal and state requirement for receiving grant funds. Having this information on hand before completing registration will be helpful. If you don't have a Unique Entity ID yet, you can apply for one at SAM.gov.

SDAO will provide application information when the application process opens.

From the Bend Bulletin: Shaniko Wool featured in U.S. Olympic uniforms

Wool from Shaniko Wool Company, headquartered near Maupin, is featured in Ralph Lauren blazers Team USA will wear at the opening ceremony of the 2024 Olympics in Paris on July 26. This is the fourth Olympic partnership between the brand and Jeanne Carver, founder and president of Shaniko Wool Company.

From the Baker City Herald: **Baker Valley Rancher Fears Short Term, Long Term Effects of Cow Valley Fire**

https://www.bakercityherald.com/news/local/baker-valley-rancher-fears-short-term-long-term-effects-of-cow-valley-fire/article_1ddefb1c-453d-11ef-8f1e-fb753f4d915a.html

News About Municipal Audits in Oregon

Annual Filing Reminders and Updates

Oregon's local governments are required to file annual financial reports with the Oregon Secretary of State (ORS 297.405-.990). Since most local governments have a fiscal year end of June 30 that means the annual reporting and audit season is upon us!

LEGISLATIVE CHANGES

Many of you are aware of changes to Municipal Audit Law made during the 2023 legislative session. Those changes became effective for fiscal years ending on or after January 1, 2024. More information about these changes is available online.

DUE DATES

December 31, 2024 - Audit reports and AUP reports are due within 180 days of a local government's fiscal year end. A complete filing includes submitting the following items online:

- Audit report or AUP report with financial statements,
- Summary of Revenues and Expenditures (SRE),
- Filing fee,
- If applicable, a copy of audit deficiencies communicated, and
- If applicable, adopted Plan of Action addressing the audit deficiencies.

September 30, 2024 - Reports in Lieu of Audit are due within 90 days of a local government's fiscal year end. Governments that (1) spend less than \$250,000 a year, (2) have adequate fidelity bond coverage, and (3) file on time may be 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 and
- Filing fee.

USE CURRENT REPORTING FORMS

Legislative changes resulted in updated reporting and forms. To help comply with timely and accurate reporting, please visit our <u>website</u> to ensure the correct version of reports and forms are submitted to our office.

QUESTIONS

If you have questions, please consult our website and FAQs or contact us directly.

Dacia Smith

Municipal Audit Program Lead

dacia.smith@sos.oregon.gov

Amy John, CPA
Municipal Audit Manager
amy.john@sos.oregon.gov

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) indicting 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.
- <u>Southern Oregon Region</u>. 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 <u>dues must be paid</u> 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 <u>andrea.kreiner@oacd.org</u> for assistance.

Example of a bio for ballot:

John Smith:

I have served on the XYZ SWCD board for 10 years. I am a past chair of the board and serve on the working lands committee. We have new issues before us, regenerative agriculture, and carbon sequestration, in addition to the many other projects districts provide their landowners. The challenges of this past year have been great for our landowners, with operations impacted by COVID, climate impacts, and unprecedented wildfires. Yet, this is a time of promise for agriculture with the likely expansion of funding for federal programs. With the implementation of best conservation management and initiatives, I believe Oregon can begin to heal and be a leader moving forward. I see the OACD Board as implementing district needs in the legislature here in Oregon and nationally. I would appreciate your support to continue that effort by your vote for me to serve on the OACD Board.



Oregon Association of Conservation Districts 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
<u>ilee@conservationdistrict.org</u>
503-545-9420