



Oregon Conservation Education
& Assistance Network

CONNECT+

20 24



APRIL 16-18 • SUNRIVER RESORT

17600 Center Dr, Sunriver, OR 97707

STATE OF OREGON



1859



THE CONFERENCE

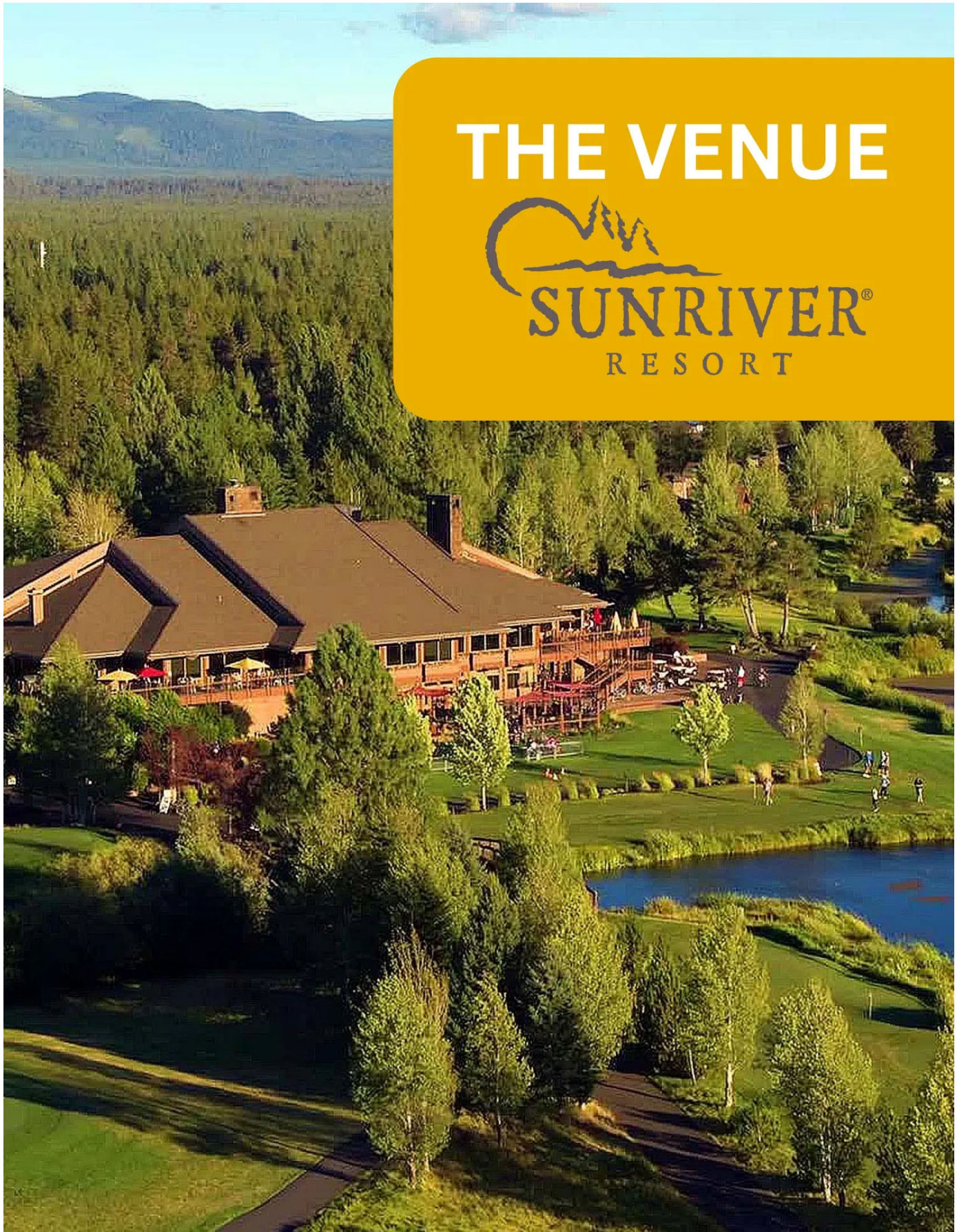
WELCOME TO CONNECT+ 2024!

CONNECT+ is more than a conference; it's a platform for change-makers in conservation. We bring together local, state, and federal decision-makers, professionals from Watershed Councils, Conservation Districts, Land Trusts, and other support organizations dedicated to preserving our state's natural resources.

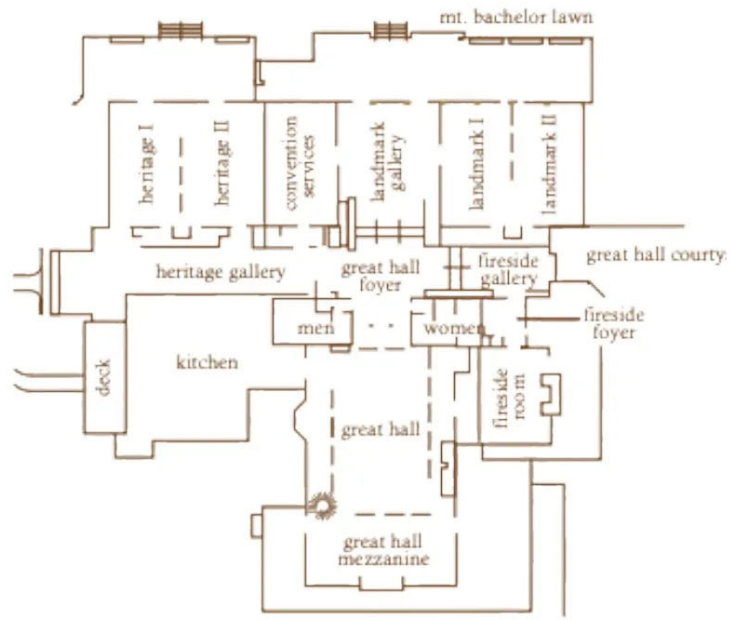
At CONNECT+, you'll gain access to specific, relevant content about current and potential conservation issues. It's an opportunity to learn from the field's brightest, most innovative conservationists.

By attending CONNECT+, you're not just participating in a conference. You're joining a network of passionate individuals committed to advancing Oregon's conservation efforts.

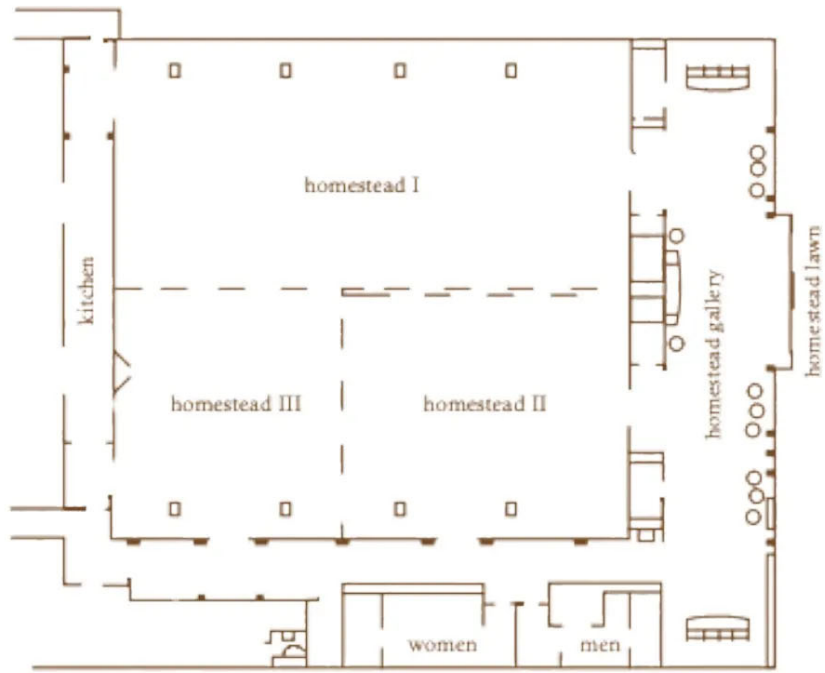
**When we CONNECT,
we advance Oregon's conservation efforts!**



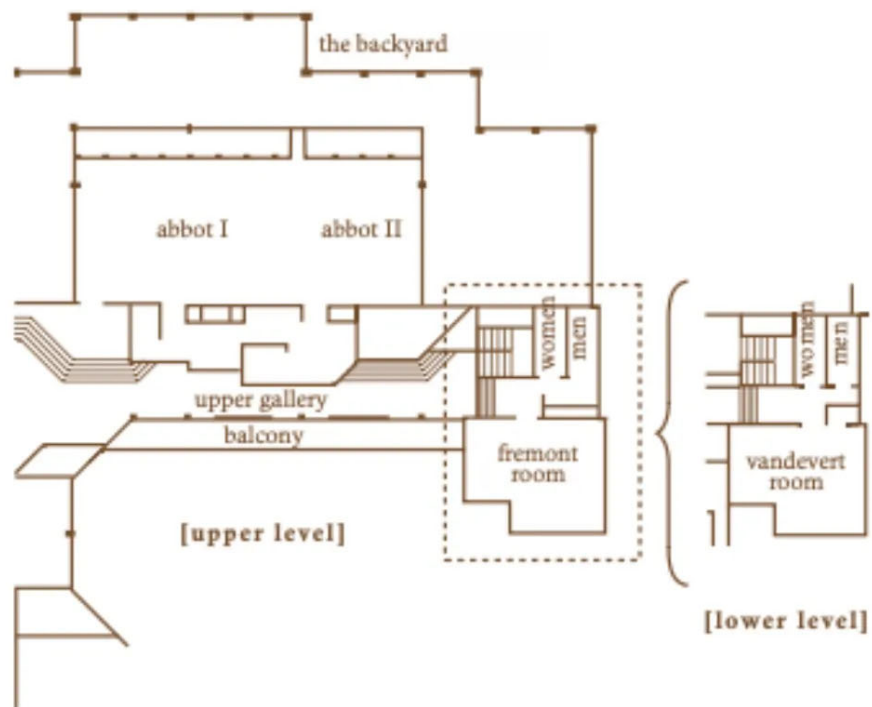
GREAT HALL



HOMESTEAD



SUNRIVER LODGE



[DOWNLOAD RESORT MAP](#)



Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network

The Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN) was formed in 1992 as a membership organization to provide conservation district employees with capacity-building, education, and professional development opportunities to solve natural resource conservation issues that districts face throughout the state.

Our strategic goals are to:

- be the authority for training and conservation technology delivery,
- build bridges between Districts and others to improve conservation effectiveness,
- have the organizational knowledge to be self-sustaining, and enlist members that are actively involved in the organization because of our mission which inspires and enriches.

OCEAN delivers conservation based technical training, professional development, education, assistance, and networking opportunities to 150+ conservation district employees in Oregon.

CONNECT is OCEAN's main endeavor and provides attendees with technical training built around the feedback received from the attendees themselves. It provides a depth of training that was previously unavailable to district employees on a statewide scale.

For more information about OCEAN, visit oceanconnect.org.



Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network

OCEAN Officers and Regional Representatives
OCEAN's Board of Directors consists of 5 Regional Representatives and 6 At-Large Representatives. At-large representatives are divided evenly between Eastern and Western Regions. Region of representation is shown below for each elected director.



Region- EasternOR@2x

Cynthia Warnock

PRESIDENT

Eastern Oregon Representative
Wallowa SWCD



Victoria Fischella

VICE PRESIDENT

Northwest Oregon Representative
Upper Willamette SWCD



Cathy McQueeney

SECRETARY

Western At-large Representative A
Clackamas SWCD



Kelly Dawes

TREASURER

Western At-large Representative C
Tualatin SWCD



Jeremy Baker

PORTLAND/SALEM METRO REPRESENTATIVE

East Multnomah SWCD



Herb Winters

COLUMBIA PLATEAU REPRESENTATIVE

Gilliam County SWCD



Erik Rook

EASTERN AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE A

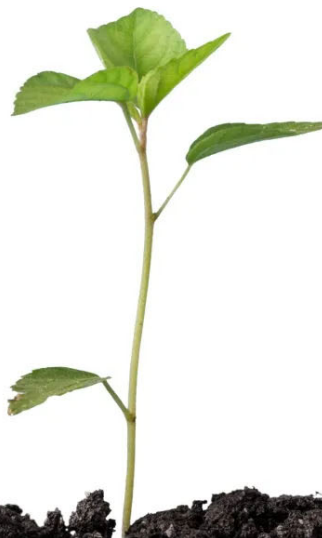
Monument SWCD



Jill Smedstad

SOUTHERN OREGON REPRESENTATIVE

Jackson SWCD



Vacant

EASTERN AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE B

Term Ending: April 2025



Vacant

EASTERN AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE C

Term Ending: April 2025



Vacant

WESTERN AT-LARGE REPRESENTATIVE B

Term Ending: April 2025

THE HOSTS

OCEAN hosts the CONNECT conference annually to provide education and networking opportunities for all Conservation Districts in Oregon. As a participating member of the Oregon Conservation Partnership (OrCP), OCEAN collectively partners with other organizations to maximize efforts and training on alternate years.

CONNECT+ brings together all four members of the OrCP.



Oregon Conservation Education
& Assistance Network



NETWORK of OREGON
WATERSHED COUNCILS



Oregon Association of
Conservation Districts



The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD) is a private, non-profit 501(c)(5) statewide membership organization that represents, supports, and strengthens Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts through four main goals:

To promote the conservation and wise use of Oregon's natural resources by providing a vehicle for local Conservation Districts to build capacity and to work together on common statewide challenges and opportunities.

To be a common voice for those committed to the belief that Oregon's soil, water, air and renewable resources must be used by the needs of the state's people while maintaining a quality environment and a productive economy.

To cooperate with public and private organizations with similar purposes, forming a coalition that will drive the adoption of statewide policies and programs and result in a quality environment and a productive economy.

To inform the public of the value of conservation, including flood prevention, proper land use planning, orderly economic development, recreation development, and fish and wildlife enhancement.

OACD offers services to Conservation Districts through member services, program development, public education, and government relations.



NETWORK of OREGON
WATERSHED COUNCILS

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils is a statewide non-profit organization that supports the work of Oregon's community-based watershed councils. Located in Salem, the state capital in the northwest corner of the U.S., the Network serves some 90 councils across the state through training, conferences, and networking events.

It also provides a voice with agencies and funders, tracks important issues, and helps councils learn from each other to increase their efficiency and impact.

Mission

The Network supports the work of Oregon's watershed councils to enhance watershed health and benefit their local communities.

Vision

We envision increasingly strong, resilient watershed councils throughout Oregon sustaining healthy land, water, and economies. Oregon watershed councils are the pride of our local communities and a model for our country and the world. By focusing the Network's resources, we help councils be more effective, advancing the organizations individually and furthering watershed health collectively.

Purpose

The Network of Oregon Watershed Councils is dedicated to supporting the work of watershed councils throughout the state by focusing on:

- Building watershed council capacity through training, information sharing, funding, and internal communications.
- Improving key relationships with watershed council partners
- Helping build the social capital, financial capital, human capital, and political capital of watershed councils in Oregon (capacity building)



Our mission is to serve and strengthen the land trust community in Oregon. We do that by building connections and advancing policies that help protect our natural world—our water, wildlife and open space—for all people, forever. We started as a need on a list crafted by the land trust community and came to life as a nonprofit in 2012.

We don't own or steward land. But we advocate for those who do, and for the millions of Oregonians who benefit from conservation work around the state. At COLT, we represent more than 25 organizations and serve as the central voice of the land trust community, working to protect the natural world—through unity and advocacy.

OUR VISION

Community

Relationships with landowners, public agencies, tribal governments, community leaders, small businesses, local organizations and passionate individuals so we can all support healthy and thriving lands.

Diversity

A land trust community that reflects the diversity of Oregon's landscapes and voices.

Service

Access to high-quality, reliable land trust services by every community in Oregon.

Transparency, integrity and accountability

THE CONNECT+ PLANNING COMMITTEE

PASSIONATE ABOUT CONSERVATION



ANDY BLECKINGER
YAMHILL SWCD



ANNIE BRONEZ
TUALATIN SWCD



VICTORIA FISHELLA
UPPER WILLAMETTE



ELLEN HAMMOND
JEFFERSON SWCD



JAN LEE
OACD



LINDA LOVETT
MARION SWCD



CATHY MCQUEENEY
CLACKAMAS SWCD



MORGAN NEIL
POLK SWCD



ANNA RANKIN
PUDDING RIVER WC



SHANNON RICHARDSON
SOUTH SANTIAM WC



BRENDA SANCHEZ
MARION SWCD



KRISTEN WALZ
NORTH FORK JOHN DAY WC



CYNTHIA WARNOCK
WALLOWA SWCD



**THE KEYNOTE
SPEAKER**

JEANNE CARVER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

6:45 PM

Jeanne and her late husband, Dan Carver, owned and operated the historic Imperial Stock Ranch since the late 1980s. The ranch has produced sheep, cattle, grains, and hay throughout its 153-year history. Their focus was the stewardship of natural resources. Working in collaboration with agency partners, in 1989, they formulated a Conservation Management Plan for their entire operation with the health of soil and grasslands as the primary focus and grazing animals as the primary tool. In 1999, they faced a new challenge.

With a collapsing wool market due to off-shoring U.S. textile manufacturing, Jeanne led them from commodity wool sales in a new direction. Similar to the farm-to-fork “slow food” movement that reconnects us to our food, Jeanne pioneered taking her wool directly to market, at scale, and built fiber supply chain relationships as close to home as possible. Connecting their ranch’s heritage and mindful stewardship of land and animals to the products, she built a growing textile customer base with an attachment to place.

Her efforts eventually took them to the world stage as a partner to well-known fashion brands. At national trade shows, Jeanne was the “Farmer’s Market of Textiles,” known across multiple segments of the U.S. fashion industry and beyond. She has been the voice and source of American wool for Ralph Lauren’s Team USA Olympic uniforms since 2014. In 2016, Imperial Stock Ranch became the first ranch in the world to be certified by the leading global standard for sheep and wool production, the Responsible Wool Standard. With demand increasing, in 2018, Jeanne launched Shaniko Wool Company to scale the supply of U.S. wool, meeting this leading global standard. Today, Jeanne has become a global voice for Responsible Animal Fiber standards, leading to the development of a fully certified textile supply chain in the U.S., meeting these standards.

Jeanne is an award-winning agricultural entrepreneur and author. In 2023, she received the American Sheep Industry Innovation Award and the Oregon State University College of Agricultural Sciences Hall of Fame Award. She was featured in *His Majesty at 75: The Leadership and Vision of King Charles III* (November, 2023), for her work in regenerative wool production and promoting the provenance of wool in fashion. She coauthored *Stories of Fashion, Textiles and Place - Evolving Sustainable Supply Chains* (Davis and Carver - Bloomsbury Publishing, London).





**THE KEYNOTE
SPEAKER
SARAH
KOENIGSBERG
TUESDAY, APRIL 16
6:45 PM**

Sarah is an award-winning filmmaker, photographer, and educator whose work centers on stories of art, environment, and community in the American West. Her films and teaching across disciplines illuminate the power of storytelling as a medium through which to explore complex social, scientific, and policy issues. Since earning her BA in Environmental Studies and Politics at Whitman College in 2002, she has been inspired by the successes of place-based collaboratives. She is determined to facilitate problem-solving in public land use, watershed health, and climate issues.

Sarah's film work has screened in festivals worldwide and for venues such as the National Climate Adaptation Forum and the North American Congress of Conservation Biology, while her photography has been featured in publications such as Science, High Country News, and the National Climate Assessment. Her feature documentary *The Beaver Believers* has been honored with the Green Spark Award from the American Conservation Film Festival, it has won multiple audience choice awards, and it was a finalist in the Banff Mountain Film Festival, London Eco Film Festival, and the Vancouver International Mountain Film Festival, among many others. In 2020 she was invited to join the Her Wild Vision Initiative, the world's first comprehensive directory of female and female-identifying conservation filmmakers and photographers.

Sarah regularly presents on science communication and storytelling for universities, land management agencies, and restoration practitioners, and she has developed multiple project curriculum and workshops in audio and video production for college and university students. Sarah is based in Walla Walla, Washington, where she runs Tensegrity Productions with the help of her canine Creative Director, Willow.





THE AGENDA

TAKE A BREAK WITH LLAMAS

GENEROUSLY HOSTED BY
ELLEN HAMMOND

CONSERVATION SPECIALIST, JEFFERSON SWCD | CONNECT+ 2024 COMMITTEE MEMBER



**TUESDAY
APRIL 16
11 AM - 5:30 PM**

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

APRIL 16

10:30 AM	REGISTRATION / CHECK-IN
11:45 AM	LUNCH / CONFERENCE OPENING
12:00 PM	VENDOR SET UP
1:30 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1
2:30 PM	BREAK
2:45 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2
3:45 PM	BREAK
4:00 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3
5:00 PM	CONFERENCE RECEPTION
6:00 PM	CONFERENCE DINNER
6:45 PM	KEYNOTE ADDRESS - SARA KOENIGSBERG
8:00 PM	DAY ONE ENDS

DAILY GIVEAWAYS!

EVERY ATTENDEE HAS A CHANCE TO WIN BIG!

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

April 17

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM	VENDOR SET UP
7:00 AM	BREAKFAST
8:00 AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1
9:00 AM	BREAK
9:15 AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2
10:15 AM	BREAK
10:30 AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 3
11:30 AM	LUNCH
1:30 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 4
2:30 PM	BREAK
2:45 PM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 5
5:00 PM	RECEPTION
6:00 PM	DINNER
6:45 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER - JEANNE CARVER
8:00 PM	DAY TWO ENDS

DAILY GIVEAWAYS!

EVERY ATTENDEE HAS A CHANCE TO WIN BIG!

SCHEDULE-AT-A-GLANCE

April 18

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM	VENDOR SET UP
7:00 AM	BREAKFAST
8:00 AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 1
9:00 AM	BREAK
9:15 AM	CONCURRENT SESSIONS 2
12:30 PM	ALL ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS END

CONNECT+ 2024 ENDS



ORGANIZATIONAL MEETINGS



ORGANIZATION	DAY	TIME	ROOM
NRCS	Wednesday, April 17	1:30 pm - 5:00 pm	HOMESTEAD 3
OACD	Wednesday, April 17	2:00 pm - 4:00 pm	GREAT HALL
OCEAN	Wednesday, April 17	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	LANDMARK 2
OWEB	Wednesday, April 17	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	HERITAGE 1
NOWC	Wednesday, April 17	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	LANDMARK 1
OACD DISTRICT MANAGER ROUNDTABLE	Wednesday, April 17	5:00 pm - 6:00 pm	LANDMARK 2
SWCC	Thursday, April 18	8:30 am - 12:30 pm	LANDMARK 1



TUESDAY, APRIL 16

TRACK	COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	CONSERVATION IN UPLANDS	ORGANIZATIONAL ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, POLICY	WATER	WEED & PEST MANAGEMENT	WORKING LANDS
DAY ONE	TUESDAY, APRIL 16					
10:30 AM	REGISTRATION / INFORMATION DESK HOMESTEAD LOBBY					
11:45 AM - 1:15 PM	LUNCH HOMESTEAD					
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	VENDOR SET UP GREAT HALL FOYER					
CONCURRENT SESSIONS ONE						
ROOM	LANDMARK 1	LANDMARK 2	HERITAGE 1	HERITAGE 2	GREAT HALL	ABBOT 2
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Learning From and Supporting Community Gardeners	Searching for climate-smarter forestry: walking in the woods with 66 Oregonians	Putting the FUN in FUNdraising	Everybody Drinks: Making the Conservation and Restoration Partnership Connection in Drinking Water Source Areas	Emerald Ash Borer in Oregon: the Latest Strategies for Planning and Management	Agroecological Restoration for Livestock and Native Prairies in the Willamette Valley
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	BREAK GREAT HALL FOYER					
CONCURRENT SESSIONS TWO						
ROOM	LANDMARK 1	LANDMARK 2	HERITAGE 1	HERITAGE 2	GREAT HALL	ABBOT 2
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Making Space(s) for Wildlife Y Todos: Tools, Templates, Ideas and Processes for Reaching More of Your Communities	Operationalizing Equity: Lessons Learned from Two Distinct Approaches	The Workplace Ecosystem: Management Tools for Employee Satisfaction and Retention	Stream Flows & Cash Flows: Restoring Rivers through Voluntary Water Transactions	Urban Forest Tools in the Wake of Emerald Ash Borer	Building a Regenerative Ranching Economy in the West
3:45 PM - 4:00 PM	BREAK GREAT HALL FOYER					
CONCURRENT SESSIONS THREE						
ROOM	LANDMARK 1	LANDMARK 2	HERITAGE 1	HERITAGE 2	GREAT HALL	ABBOT 2
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Education/Outreach/Communications Meet and Greet	Forestry for the Birds - a Guide for Western Oregon	Website and Guidebook for Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration Projects	Overview of National Weather Service Hydrologic Services for Oregon	A Collaborative and Interagency Approach to Evaluating and Addressing the Inequities of the State of Oregon's Private Pesticide Applicators License Exam	Building a Soil Health Network for Oregon Agriculture
5:00 PM	RECEPTION HOMESTEAD FOYER					
6:00 PM	DINNER HOMESTEAD					
6:30 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER - SARAH KOENIGSBERGER					
8:00 PM	DAY ONE ADJOURNS					



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM	VENDOR SETUP							
6:00 AM - 5:00 PM	REGISTRATION INFORMATION DESK HOMESTEAD LOBBY							
TRACK		COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	CONSERVATION IN UPLANDS	ORGANIZATIONAL ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, POLICY	WATER	WEED & PEST MANAGEMENT	WORKING LANDS	
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	BREAKFAST HOMESTEAD							
	CONCURRENT SESSIONS ONE							
ROOM		LANDMARK 1	LANDMARK 2	HERITAGE 1	HERITAGE 2	ABBOT 1	GREAT HALL	
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM		Dry Farming as a Climate-resilient Food Production Strategy in Oregon	Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas (pwcas) in Oregon-- a New Tool for Conservation Action, Investment, and Planning	Facility Construction: Building a Conservation Hub	Water Storage for Water Resilience: Developing Best Practices for Agricultural Ponds and Reservoirs	Controlling Eurasian Watermilfoil Through a Complicated and Innovative Partnership on Lake Billy Chinook	Equipment Rental Programs- Do You Have One, Want One, Need One?	
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	BREAK GREAT HALL FOYER							
	CONCURRENT SESSIONS TWO							
ROOM		LANDMARK 1	LANDMARK 2	HERITAGE 1	HERITAGE 2	ABBOT 1	GREAT HALL	
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM		Cultivating Environmental Stewardship: Harnessing the Power of Local Print Newsletters	Partnering to Preserve Threatened and Endangered Species	Agricultural Water Quality: The Way Forward	Expanding Stream Temperature Monitoring Beyond the Basics to Improve Understanding, Prioritization, and Evaluation of Restoration Efforts	Creating a SWCD Weed Control Program	Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge Into Conservation Projects	
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	BREAK GREAT HALL FOYER							
	CONCURRENT SESSIONS THREE							
ROOM		LANDMARK 1	LANDMARK 2	HOMESTEAD 1	HOMESTEAD 2	ABBOT 1	GREAT HALL	
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM		Running Successful Hybrid Meetings	Prioritizing Forest Resilience Outreach and Project Enrollment in the Tualatin Basin	Effective Boards: Managing Board Relationships, Expectations, Conduct, and Conflicts	Montane Hydroclimatic Monitoring in Oregon by the Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program: Current Operations and Future Expansion	Invasive Species: Drivers of Watershed Degradation	Post-wildfire Recovery: Challenges and Opportunities	
11:30 AM	LUNCH HOMESTEAD							
12:00 PM - 1:15 PM	OPENING / ANNOUNCEMENTS							
	CONCURRENT SESSIONS FOUR							
ROOM		HOMESTEAD 3	LANDMARK 1	LANDMARK 2	HOMESTEAD 1	HOMESTEAD 2	ABBOT 1	GREAT HALL
1:30 PM - 2:30 PM		NRCS	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice: a Statewide Affinity Group Through the Oregon Conservation	Process-based Restoration in the John Day Basin's Thirty-mile Creek: Landscape-scale Low-tech	OWEB Grants & Cultural Resources Review Requirements in 2024	Benefits of Community Forestry on Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat, and the Connection to Local Economic	Using Data for Communication and Management	OACD
2:30 PM - 2:45 PM	BREAK GREAT HALL FOYER							
	CONCURRENT SESSIONS FIVE							
ROOM		HOMESTEAD 3	LANDMARK 1	LANDMARK 2	HOMESTEAD 1	HOMESTEAD 2	ABBOT 1	GREAT HALL
TRACK		COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	CONSERVATION IN UPLANDS	ORGANIZATIONAL ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, POLICY	WATER	WEED & PEST MANAGEMENT	WORKING LANDS	
2:45 PM - 3:45 PM		NRCS	Fostering Stewardship: a How-to Guide for Trainers- Explore and Receive the Land Steward Curriculum from Oregon State University	Operationalizing Equity: Lessons Learned from Two Distinct Approaches	Cultural Resources Review Process	A Vision for Sustainably Managing Water in Oregon	Playing the Long Game: Ribbongrass and Yellowflag Iris on Central Oregon's Metolius River	OACD
3:45 PM - 4:00 PM	BREAK GREAT HALL FOYER							
ROOM		HOMESTEAD 3	LANDMARK 1	LANDMARK 2	HOMESTEAD 1	HOMESTEAD 2	ABBOT 1	GREAT HALL
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM		NRCS	NOWC	OCEAN	OWEB			
5:00 PM - 6:00 PM				OACD DISTRICT MANAGER ROUNDTABLE				
5:00 PM	RECEPTION GREAT HALL							
6:00 PM	DINNER HOMESTEAD							
6:30 PM	KEYNOTE SPEAKER - JEANNE CARVER							
8:00 PM	DAY TWO ADJOURNS							

THURSDAY, APRIL 18

6:00 AM - 7:00 AM	VENDOR SETUP						
7:00 AM - 8:00 AM	BREAKFAST HOMESTEAD						
7:00 AM - 11:30 AM	INFORMATION DESK HOMESTEAD LOBBY						
CONCURRENT SESSIONS ONE							
		LANDMARK 1	LANDMARK 2	HOMESTEAD 1	HOMESTEAD 2	ABBOT 1	GREAT HALL
8:00 AM - 9:00 AM		SWCC	John Day Basin Partnership Upland Prioritization Process	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (oweb) Grant Management Software (ogms) of the Future: Hopes, Dreams, Realities	Riparian Restoration and Public Engagement to Facilitate Beaver Habitat Expansion	Biocontrols for Integrated Pest Management: the Basics and the Latest	Investing in Natural Climate Solutions on Working Lands: The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
9:00 AM - 9:15 AM	BREAK IN GREAT HALL FOYER						
CONCURRENT SESSIONS TWO							
		LANDMARK 1	LANDMARK 2	HOMESTEAD 1	HOMESTEAD 2	ABBOT 1	GREAT HALL
9:15 AM - 10:15 AM		SWCC	Oregon White Oak Habitat Restoration in a Suburban Community	Public Meeting Law: Frequently Asked Questions and Recent Changes to the Law.	Beaver Managed Floodplains and the "Beaver Part" – What's Missing	Strategic Knotweed Control in the Mid-willamette Valley: Persistence and Adaptive Management	Science and Opportunity in the Emerging Pnw Bigleaf Maple Syrup Conservation Economy
10:15 AM - 10:30 AM	BREAK IN GREAT HALL FOYER						
TRACK		COMMUNICATIONS AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT	CONSERVATION IN UPLANDS	ORGANIZATIONAL ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, POLICY	WATER	WEED & PEST MANAGEMENT	WORKING LANDS
10:30 AM - 11:30 AM		SWCC					
12:00 PM	CONFERENCE ADJOURNS						



TUESDAY, APRIL 16 - SESSIONS

TRACK	SESSION TITLE	DAY	TIME	ROOM
Communications and Community Engagement	Learning from and Supporting Community Gardeners	Tuesday	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Landmark 1
Conservation in Uplands	Searching for Climate-smarter Forestry: Walking in the Woods With 66 Oregonians	Tuesday	1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	Landmark 2
Organizational Administration, Management, Policy	Putting the Fun in Fundraising	Tuesday	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Heritage 1
Water	Everybody Drinks: Making the Conservation and Restoration Partnership Connection in	Tuesday	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Heritage 2
Weed & Pest Management	Emerald Ash Borer in Oregon: the Latest Strategies for Planning and Management	Tuesday	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Great Hall
Working Lands	Agroecological Restoration for Livestock and Native Prairies in the Willamette Valley	Tuesday	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Abbot 2
Communications and Community Engagement	Making Space(s) for Wildlife Y Todos: Tools, Templates, Ideas and Processes for Reaching More	Tuesday	2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Landmark 1
Organizational Administration, Management, Policy	Operationalizing Equity: Lessons Learned from Two Distinct Approaches	Tuesday	2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Landmark 2
Organizational Administration, Management, Policy	The Workplace Ecosystem: Management Tools for Employee Satisfaction and Retention	Tuesday	2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Heritage 1
Water	Stream Flows & Cash Flows: Restoring Rivers Through Voluntary Water Transactions	Tuesday	2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Heritage 2
Weed & Pest Management	Urban Forest Tools in the Wake of Emerald Ash Borer	Tuesday	2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Great Hall
Working Lands	Building a Regenerative Ranching Economy in the West	Tuesday	2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Abbot 2
Communications and Community Engagement	Education/Outreach/Communications Meet and Greet	Tuesday	4:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Landmark 1
Conservation in Uplands	Forestry for the Birds - a Guide for Western Oregon	Tuesday	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Landmark 2
Working Lands	Website and Guidebook for Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration Projects	Tuesday	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Heritage 1
Water	Overview of National Weather Service Hydrologic Services for Oregon	Tuesday	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Heritage 2
Weed & Pest Management	A Collaborative and Interagency Approach to Evaluating and Addressing the Inequities of the	Tuesday	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Great Hall
Working Lands	Building a Soil Health Network for Oregon Agriculture	Tuesday	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Abbot 2



WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 - SESSIONS

TRACK	SESSION TITLE	DAY	TIME	ROOM
Communications and Community Engagement	Dry Farming as a Climate-resilient Food Production Strategy in Oregon	Wednesday	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Landmark 1
Conservation in Uplands	Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas (pwcas) in Oregon- a New Tool for Conservation Action,	Wednesday	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Landmark 2
Organizational Administration, Management, Policy	Facility Construction: Building a Conservation Hub	Wednesday	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Heritage 1
Working Lands	Equipment Rental Programs- Do You Have One, Want One, Need One?	Wednesday	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Great Hall
Water	Water Storage for Water Resilience: Developing Best Practices for Agricultural Ponds	Wednesday	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Heritage 2
Weed & Pest Management	Controlling Eurasian Watermilfoil Through a Complicated and Innovative Partnership on Lake	Wednesday	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Abbot 1
Communications and Community Engagement	Cultivating Environmental Stewardship: Harnessing the Power of Local Print Newsletters	Wednesday	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Landmark 1
Conservation in Uplands	Partnering to Preserve Threatened and Endangered Species	Wednesday	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Landmark 2
Organizational Administration, Management, Policy	Agricultural Water Quality: the Way Forward	Wednesday	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Heritage 1
Water	Expanding Stream Temperature Monitoring Beyond the Basics to Improve Understanding,	Wednesday	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Heritage 2
Weed & Pest Management	Creating an SWCD Weed Control Program	Wednesday	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Abbot 1
Working Lands	Incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge Into Conservation Projects	Wednesday	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Great Hall
Working Lands	Post-wildfire Recovery: Challenges and Opportunities	Wednesday	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Great Hall
Communications and Community Engagement	Running Successful Hybrid Meetings	Wednesday	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Landmark 1
Conservation in Uplands	Prioritizing Forest Resilience Outreach and Project Enrollment in the Tualatin Basin	Wednesday	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Landmark 2
Organizational Administration, Management, Policy	Effective Boards: Managing Board Relationships, Expectations, Conduct, and	Wednesday	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Homestead 1
Water	Montane Hydroclimatic Monitoring in Oregon by the Snow Survey and Water Supply	Wednesday	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Homestead 2
Weed & Pest Management	Invasive Species: Drivers of Watershed Degradation	Wednesday	10:30 AM - 11:30 AM	Abbot 1
Communications and Community Engagement	Fostering Stewardship: a How-to Guide for Trainers- Explore and Receive the Land Steward	Wednesday	2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Landmark 1
Organizational Administration, Management, Policy	Cultural Resources Review Process	Wednesday	2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Homestead 1

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 - SESSIONS

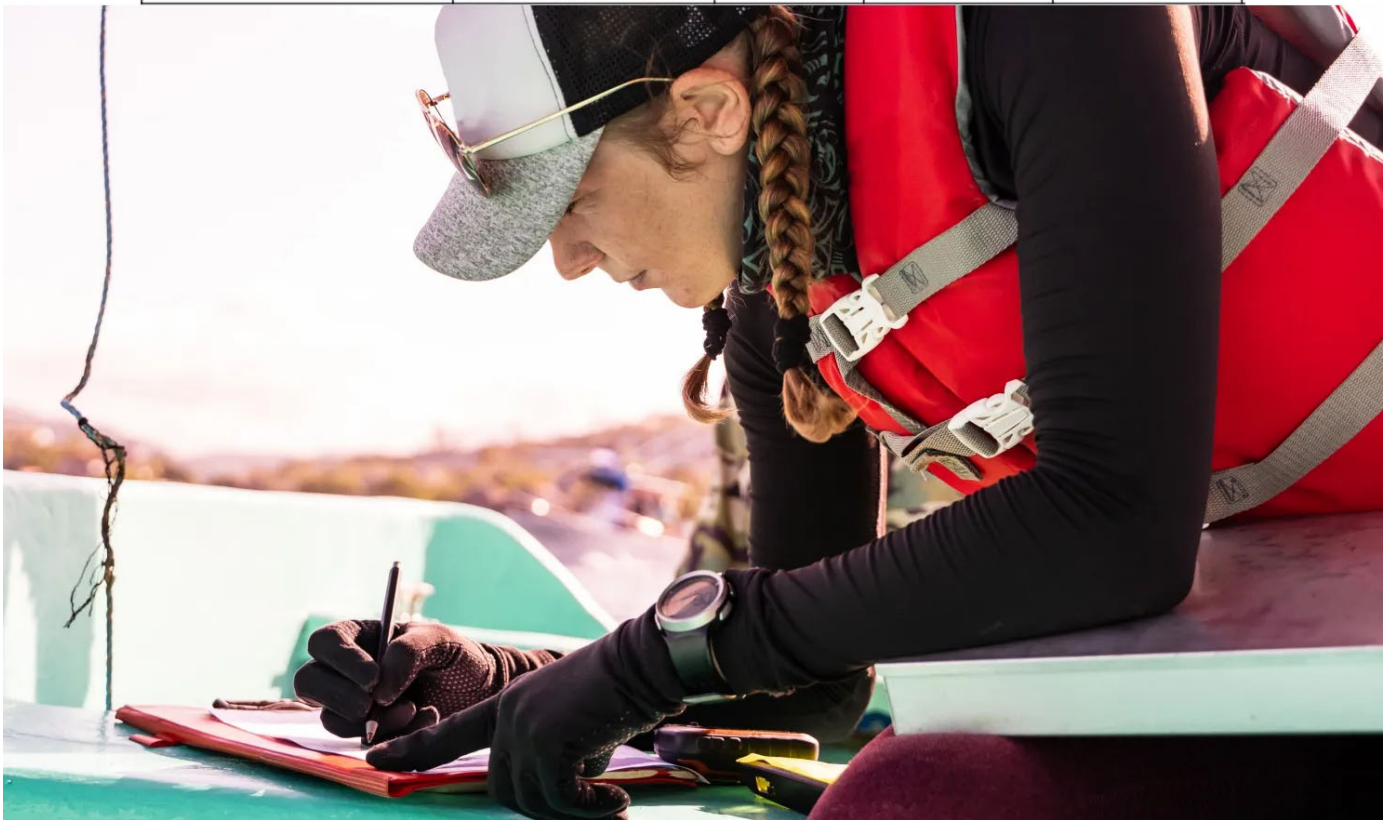
TRACK	SESSION TITLE	DAY	TIME	ROOM
Water	A Vision for Sustainably Managing Water in Oregon	Wednesday	2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Homestead 2
Working Lands	Wrap Around Support for Conservation on Working Lands	Wednesday	2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Abbot 2
Communications and Community Engagement	Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice: a Statewide Affinity Group Through the Oregon	Wednesday	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Landmark 1
Conservation in Uplands	Process-based Restoration in the John Day Basin's Thirtymile Creek: Landscape-scale Low-tech	Wednesday	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Landmark 2
Organizational Administration, Management, Policy	OWEB Grants & Cultural Resources Review Requirements in 2024	Wednesday	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Homestead 1
Water	Benefits of Community Forestry on Water Quality, Wildlife Habitat, and the Connection to	Wednesday	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Homestead 2
Weed & Pest Management	Using Data for Communication and Management	Wednesday	1:30 PM - 2:30 PM	Abbot 1
Weed & Pest Management	Playing the Long Game: Ribbongrass and Yellowflag Iris on Central Oregon's Metolius	Wednesday	2:45 PM - 3:45 PM	Abbot 1





THURSDAY, APRIL 18 - SESSIONS

TRACK	SESSION TITLE	DAY	TIME	ROOM
Organizational Administration, Management, Policy	Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (oweb) Grant Management Software (ogms) of	Thursday	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Homestead 1
Conservation in Uplands	John Day Basin Partnership Upland Prioritization Process	Thursday	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Landmark 2
Working Lands	Investing in Natural Climate Solutions on Working Lands: The Oregon Agricultural Heritage	Thursday	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Great Hall
Water	Riparian Restoration and Public Engagement to Facilitate Beaver Habitat Expansion	Thursday	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Homestead 2
Weed & Pest Management	Biocontrols for Integrated Pest Management: the Basics and the Latest	Thursday	8:00 AM - 9:00 AM	Abbot 1
Water	Beaver Managed Floodplains and the "Beaver Part" – What's Missing	Thursday	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Homestead 2
Weed & Pest Management	Strategic Knotweed Control in the Mid-willamette Valley: Persistence and Adaptive	Thursday	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Abbot 1
Conservation in Uplands	Science and Opportunity in the Emerging Pnw Bigleaf Maple Syrup Conservation Economy	Thursday	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Great Hall
Conservation in Uplands	Oregon White Oak Habitat Restoration in a Suburban Community	Thursday	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Landmark 2
Organizational Administration, Management, Policy	Public Meeting Law: Frequently Asked Questions and Recent Changes to the Law.	Thursday	9:15 AM - 10:15 AM	Homestead 1





COMMUNICATIONS & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

TRACK CHAIRS

Morgan Neil, Cathy McQueeney
Annie Bronez

LEARNING FROM AND SUPPORTING COMMUNITY GARDENERS

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | LANDMARK 1

Adriana Lovell, Mary Logalbo

Community gardens increase access to affordable and healthy food, provide land-based education and engagement opportunities, contribute to individuals' health and well-being, beautify the landscape, and create a sense of community. Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District and West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCDs) have been working to improve community and school garden access and education. Both SWCDs initiated community engagement projects to assess garden and conservation education needs. Community members provided input through surveys, advisory groups, interviews, and group discussions. These assessments found a strong need for increased access to land for community gardens, culturally specific and land-based. They translated educational materials and resources for planning, designing, and managing gardens. Community members expressed interest in seeing SWCDs address systemic barriers internally and externally and requested more engagement with community groups. Many valued SWCDs as resource providers and connectors between garden managers. This engagement work highlighted that clean water, clean air, soil health, and climate change concern communities surveyed, especially BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, and People of Color) and underserved communities. Strapped for time, volunteers, and funding, many community gardens have been heavily impacted by COVID-19. But they're bouncing back and value groups who can connect them with the resources to recover faster. In this presentation, the SWCDs reflect on gaps in services and funding for new and active gardeners and share the early steps they've taken to expand programming in partnership with nonprofit, community-based, and agency partners in their service areas."

MAKING SPACE(S) FOR WILDLIFE Y TODOS: TOOLS, TEMPLATES, IDEAS AND PROCESSES FOR REACHING MORE OF YOUR COMMUNITIES

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM | LANDMARK 1

Samantha Bartling

What resonates with people and gets at change? We are ultimately change-makers, right? That's the work we do. We get people to care, connect, and move them to action through the stepping stones of engagement. We also can foster a sense of belonging by making our places and programs as accessible and inclusive as possible. No matter where you are on your community engagement or DEIB journey, and no matter who your audience is, we'll look at examples, projects, and processes that will inspire you to take that first or next step.

We'll ensure you go home with tools, templates, ideas, processes, and treasures. Together we can all try something new, reach farther, do something differently, engage with a new audience, and/or make welcoming spaces.

EDUCATION/OUTREACH/COMMUNICATIONS MEET AND GREET

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM | LANDMARK 1

Cathy McQueeney

Education, Outreach, and Communications staff from Conservation Districts and other agencies are invited to meet on the first day of the conference to make new relationships and rekindle old ones. Build connections with staff who share your work, enthusiasm, concerns, and challenges. Between us all, there is an amazing collection of experience AND expertise. Learn how to collaborate best and make some new friends to hang out with over the course of the conference!

DRY FARMING AS A CLIMATE-RESILIENT FOOD PRODUCTION STRATEGY IN OREGON

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | LANDMARK 1

Lucas Nebert

For millennia, people have used dry farming practices to grow food through arid, warm seasons without relying on irrigation water. While dry farming has a history in our region and worldwide, its use has been overshadowed by high-input modern irrigation farming practices. Approximately 85% of all freshwater consumed in Oregon is used for agriculture. Unsustainable freshwater use is exacerbated by droughts and hotter, drier summertime temperatures that cause costly water shortages for farmers, threaten local food security, and negatively impact our watersheds' long-term ecological health and resilience.

In the last decade, dry farming has experienced a resurgent interest among farmers and gardeners in Oregon, facilitated by new dry farming research, education, and marketing initiatives within Oregon State University, the Dry Farming Institute 501(c)3, and innovative growers who compose the grassroots Dry Farming Collaborative. In this session, I will cover the basic principles of dry farming, including efficiently using and conserving soil moisture and working with appropriate crop varieties that perform well with limited water. I will outline progress in the past decade in understanding a site's suitability for dry farming, strategies to improve dry farming success, evaluating which crop types and cultivars perform best when dry farmed, and the marketing and education of dry farming among diverse growers and consumers. Lastly, I will share resources and language that organizations can use to increase awareness and knowledge about dry farming as a viable option for diverse stakeholders looking for more climate-resilient farming solutions.

CULTIVATING ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP: HARNESSING THE POWER OF LOCAL PRINT NEWSLETTERS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM | LANDMARK 1

Morgan Neil

Education, Outreach, and Communications staff from Conservation Districts and other agencies are invited to meet on the first day of the conference to make new relationships and rekindle old ones. Build connections with staff who share your work, enthusiasm, concerns, and challenges. Between us all there is an amazing collection of experience AND expertise. Learn how to best collaborate with one another and make some new friends to hang out with over the course of the conference!

RUNNING SUCCESSFUL HYBRID MEETINGS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM | LANDMARK 1

Deborah Jeffries

Over the last few years, the remote meeting model has evolved. With today's technology it's now easy to bring remote and in-person individuals together to have an excellent, productive and engaging meetings. Our collective goal is for better outcomes, correct? So, whether it is keeping up or doing better with your board meetings this program is for you. When done well, hybrid meetings can be very productive and engaging, less trouble for participants, can have accountability and collaboration built into your process as well. There are definitely steps and measures to follow for the best outcomes and that's what this program is all about! We'll explore best practices for your public meetings from technology to managing interactions to setting the agenda and the best tools to use to involve more participants and accomplish your goals. There will be "samples" to take back and use. We'll cover it all, answer your questions along the way, and we can even have some fun too.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND JUSTICE: A STATEWIDE AFFINITY GROUP THROUGH THE OREGON CONSERVATION PARTNERSHIP

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | LANDMARK 1

Alexis Barton, Jack Halsey

The Oregon Conservation Partnership's Affinity Groups meet six or more times per year, providing an opportunity for colleagues across the state's Land Trusts, Conservation Districts, and Watershed Councils, to connect and collaborate; the newest Affinity Group is on Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice. Join the co-facilitators for an overview of the group's work thus far, including how we contextualize, plan, and spend time together. Below is the Affinity Group's description:

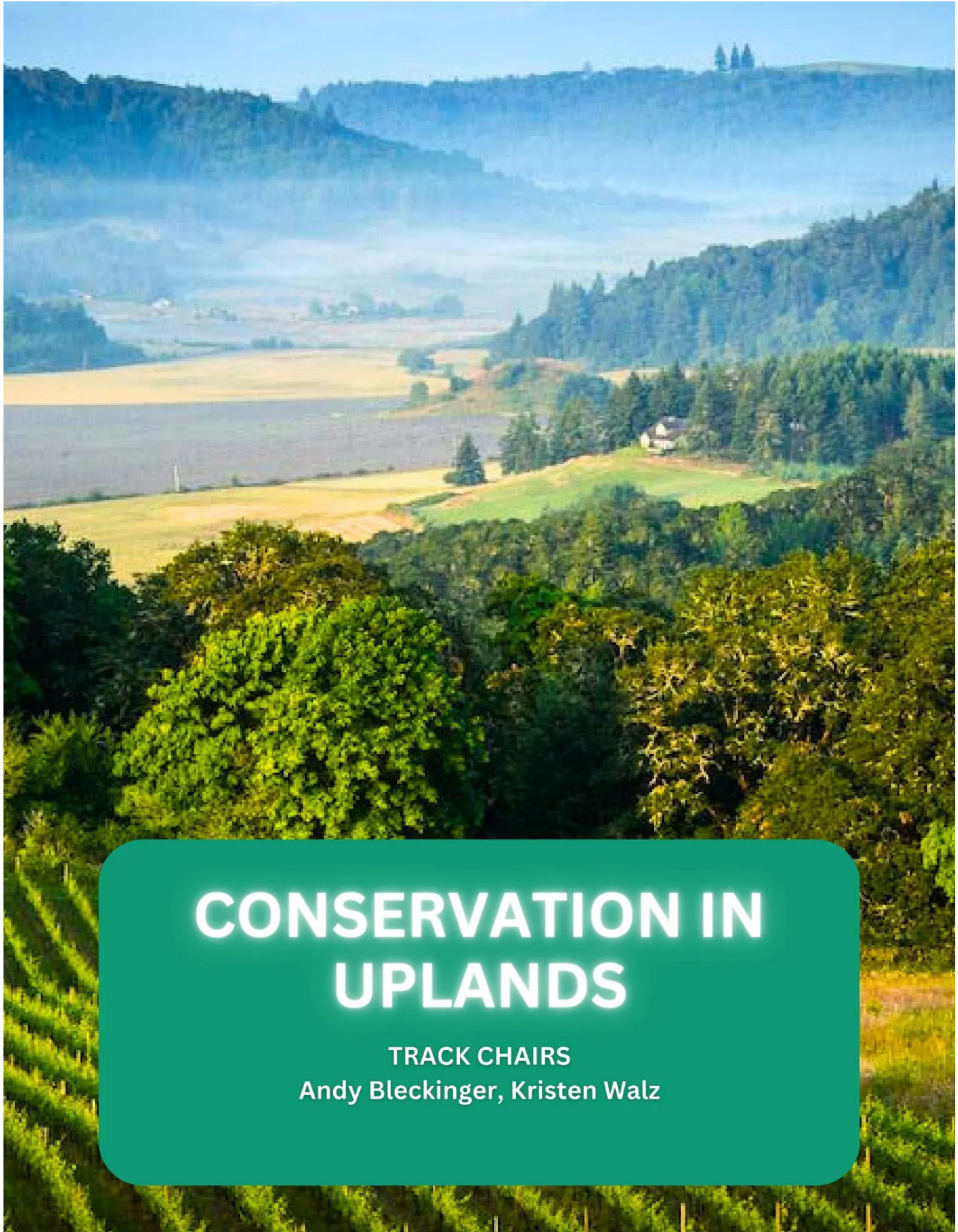
The purpose of this group is to provide an opportunity for those of us who are working to advance justice & equity issues in the context of our organizations, to be in community with one another. The goal of this group is to work and learn together and to share ideas, resources, and lessons learned. We welcome people whose organizations are in various stages of practicing equity work to better advance environmental justice with our communities (whether early DEIJ planning and learning, transforming organizational culture, or decolonization efforts). In contrast with much of what we do that we can leave "at work," justice-driven work is inextricably linked with our interpersonal relationships, personal lives, emotions, and perspectives. This opportunity for cross-organizational and interpersonal collaboration around justice and equity work is responsive to the needs of staff at Watershed Councils, Soil & Water Conservation Districts, and Land Trusts.

FOSTERING STEWARDSHIP: A HOW-TO GUIDE FOR TRAINERS- EXPLORE AND RECEIVE THE LAND STEWARD CURRICULUM FROM OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM | LANDMARK 1

Rachel Werling

More than a decade of collaboration with dozens of partners across disciplines has resulted in a 2023 gold award for outstanding educational materials for the new Land Steward curriculum from Oregon State University. Join our session to learn the many ways the tools of this program can benefit your audiences and receive a hard copy of *Fostering Stewardship: A How-To Guide for Trainers*. Our interactive presentation will share the program's impacts and highlight the varied possibilities to leverage Land Steward tools with your program. We will outline the 11-week field training, the 9-week online or hybrid course, the Rural Resource Guideline series, and the powerful community-building methods of the program. The award-winning Land Steward (LS) training stimulates those living on rural land to adopt best management practices by teaching them about land management in a holistic, multi-disciplinary way and guiding them through a planning and technical assistance process. The adaptable program uses many formats to introduce landowners to best management practices for woodlands, wildlife habitat, riparian systems, fire hazard reduction, pastures, soil health, rural economics, water systems and more. It bridges the divide of many natural resource fields with a multi-disciplinary approach to the complex management realities of life on rural land. This approach has broad appeal for landowners, be they foresters, farmers, ranchers, hobbyists, or conservationists. Consider partnering with us or leading your own course to serve your area. Leave with the curriculum and join the Land Stewards!



CONSERVATION IN UPLANDS

TRACK CHAIRS
Andy Bleckinger, Kristen Walz

SEARCHING FOR CLIMATE-SMARTER FORESTRY: WALKING IN THE WOODS WITH 66 OREGONIANS

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | LANDMARK 2

Dean Moberg

During the summer of 2022, sixty-six Oregonians with diverse experiences, perspectives, and priorities participated in climate-smarter forestry workshops in a western Oregon forest. Climate-smarter forestry was defined as practices that help forests mitigate climate change and become more resilient to climate-related stresses. Participants were divided into four groups: the design/build sector, elected and appointed leaders, forest practitioners, and advocates from non-profit organizations. Each group attended a separate workshop, which was structured the same to facilitate comparisons of opinions between the groups. Peter Hayes (Hyla Woods) and Dean Moberg (Director, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District) facilitated the workshops. The results summarize the views of each group regarding seven mitigation and seven resiliency strategies.

FORESTRY FOR THE BIRDS - A GUIDE FOR WESTERN OREGON

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM | LANDMARK 2

Maura Olivos

Released within the last year, Forestry for the Birds: Western Oregon uses the science behind birds, forestry practices, and community engagement to guide greater forest health across the Western Oregon landscape. Developed by the Forest Stewards Guild with the technical assistance and support of the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon State University, Portland Audubon, Trout Mountain Forestry, Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District, and the U.S. Geological Survey, the Guide is a communication tool for natural resource service providers and forest landowners to support healthy forests with birds in mind. The program was originally developed in Vermont and has slowly migrated south and west with an eye and heart on songbirds, some of our most charismatic woodland occupants. This time will be used to share the development of the Guide, application (rural and urban, workshops, site visits), and additional opportunities for each county or ecoregion to make this program their own. Additionally, free copies of the Guide will be available.

PRIORITY WILDLIFE CONNECTIVITY AREAS (PWCAS) IN OREGON- A NEW TOOL FOR CONSERVATION ACTION, INVESTMENT, AND PLANNING

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | LANDMARK 2

Rachel Wheat

Connected habitats aid wildlife in responding to shifting landscape conditions, allowing animals to safely move to seek new habitat following disturbances like human development, wildfire, drought, severe weather, the spread of invasive species, and climate change. The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife recently completed a multi-year, collaborative effort to identify Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas (PWCAs) in the state, developed from connectivity models for 54 Oregon wildlife species selected as surrogates, representing diverse taxa and habitat associations. Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas provide non-regulatory information on the parts of the landscape with the highest overall value for facilitating wildlife movement. Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas include both quality habitat in intact, relatively undisturbed parts of the landscape as well as the best remaining marginal habitat to help wildlife navigate through developed or degraded areas. Focused investments in habitat within PWCAs can increase the likelihood of long-term maintenance of wildlife connectivity in Oregon and can maximize effectiveness over larger landscapes, improve funding efficiency, and promote cooperative efforts across ownership boundaries to better enhance and protect habitat critical to wildlife movement. This talk will discuss the development of PWCAs and their potential value for practitioners engaged in conservation planning and on-the-ground work. The network of PWCAs in Oregon serves as a science-based, informational tool to support planning for and implementation of habitat enhancement, restoration, conservation, climate adaptation, transportation mitigation, land-use, and development efforts.

PARTNERING TO PRESERVE THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM | LANDMARK 2

Sara Alaica

The decline of native prairie by more than 99% in the Willamette Valley has reduced the habitat for many prairie species, including the threatened Kincaid's lupine (*Lupinus oreganus*) and endangered Willamette daisy (*Erigeron decumbens*). Restoring these species is complicated by the lack of suitable reintroduction sites: there are few remnant prairies, and many are invaded by non-native species, particularly introduced pasture grasses. Prairies are also naturally early seral habitats that require periodic disturbance to stop woody encroachment and the progression to shrubland and forested habitat. The Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE), with funding from the Oregon Web Enhancement Board and the US Fish and Wildlife Service, has been working to recover these species through habitat enhancement, seed and plug production, and outplanting. Since 2019, IAE has planted over 47,000 plugs and 150 pounds of seed of these two species. To reach recovery goals, the species must have a healthy population network across its historical range, requiring restoration throughout the Willamette Valley. IAE has collaborated with a diverse group of private landowners and local, state, and federal agencies to achieve results at an ecosystem-level scale that will help these rare species and the wildlife that rely on them.

PRIORITIZING FOREST RESILIENCE OUTREACH AND PROJECT ENROLLMENT IN THE TUALATIN BASIN

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM | LANDMARK 2

Brandy Saffell

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (Tualatin SWCD) prioritizes enhancing and maintaining healthy, functioning forests across the Tualatin basin. Increased incidences of extreme heat and longer periods of drought increase wildfire risk and create new challenges to sustaining long-term forest health in northwest Oregon. Tualatin SWCD led a geographic information system analysis to score vulnerability to wildfire and climate impacts across the landscape, and inform where and how to focus Tualatin SWCD technical and financial assistance. The resulting geographic focus areas led to the creation of a local forest health partnership, an upcoming wildfire-focused outreach event, and a working strategy to mitigate risk and build forest resilience on local small woodland properties.

PROCESS-BASED RESTORATION IN THE JOHN DAY BASIN'S THIRTYMILE CREEK: LANDSCAPE-SCALE LOW-TECH

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | LANDMARK 2

Herb Winters, Gus Wathen, Nick Weber

Managing watershed conservation and restoration poses significant challenges due to the large spatial extent of any watershed, necessitating collaborative efforts among agencies, public land managers, and private landowners. In Gilliam County, Oregon, we have attempted to identify keystone restoration objectives important to all partners and to leverage these commonalities in order to promote conservation and restoration achieved at an ecologically meaningful scale. Specifically, in the Thirtymile Creek watershed, we have pioneered a cost-effective prioritization process to identify opportunities and refine restoration objectives. We have employed Low-Tech Process-Based Riverscape restoration to promote aquatic ecosystem recovery. To date, we have over 12 miles of stream treated with LTPBR with another 18 designed, making Thirtymile Creek the watershed containing the most extensive treatment of LTPBR in the west. However, these efforts to undertake restoration at the watershed scale have created myriad challenges, from permitting to perception. Consistent and committed partnerships have been the key to ensuring the work gets done to maintain progress towards our ecological objectives on Thirtymile Creek. This presentation highlights our experiences and strategies in watershed management, emphasizing the importance of collaborative efforts and strategic planning for achieving restoration goals.

JOHN DAY BASIN PARTNERSHIP UPLAND PRIORITIZATION PROCESS

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | LANDMARK 2

Erik Rook, Hannah Latzo, Herb Winters

The John Day Basin Partnership will present an overview of the process used to create a mule deer specific Uplands Prioritization Framework for the John Day river basin. The session will include a brief overview of the partnership and the past work that led to the creation of the uplands tool.

SCIENCE AND OPPORTUNITY IN THE EMERGING PNW BIGLEAF MAPLE SYRUP CONSERVATION ECONOMY

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM | LANDMARK 2

Eric Jones, Andy Bleckinger, Ron Reuter, Barbara Lachenbruch, Christopher Still

“Sugaring”, the collection of maple sap to make pure maple syrup and sugar, is an emerging commercial industry in the Pacific Northwest. Many native and non-native deciduous trees can be tapped for sap collection, but bigleaf maple (*Acer macrophyllum*) is currently the primary focus. Bigleaf maple is ubiquitous west of the Cascades despite routine management to stymie growth through herbicide treatments in conifer plantations. Research and development projects at OSU, WSU, and UW are collaborating with small farmers and foresters beginning or expanding commercial production. In addition to learning what can be adapted from the northeast sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*) industry, numerous exploratory scientific studies are underway to understand the conservation and economic opportunities and risks with maple sugaring on working lands. Our research team is taking a broad, interdisciplinary approach to discern interconnections among: heat stress and soil moisture impacts on forest health; sap flow and unique physiological characteristics of bigleaf maple; sap relationships with terroir; food safety and processing efficiency; sustainable and diversified landowner economy; consumer and culinary professional sensory tests; and using bigleaf maple as a primary species and economic driver for restoring degraded riparian areas through a carbon offset strategy. This session will also include an informal tasting of bigleaf maple and other tree syrups.

OREGON WHITE OAK HABITAT RESTORATION IN A SUBURBAN COMMUNITY

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM | LANDMARK 2

Jack Halsey

The Oswego Lake Watershed Council (OLWC) has been working to conserve and enhance Oregon white oak systems, which the Oregon Conservation Strategy identified as an imperiled habitat. OLWC and partners have been working to enhance 22 acres of Oak habitat with the Westlake Homeowners Association since 2018. Key project components include the removal of 17 acres of invasive species, streamside and wetland revegetation, oak release through selective treatment of other native tree species, and community engagement.

Habitat has been enhanced to support wildlife, wildflowers including camas and trilliums, native flowering shrubs, snags, centuries-old oak trees, ash trees, and more! We are learning how this woodland fits into larger systems - climate change, fire, active management, food systems, watershed health, upland successional processes, and partnerships will be highlighted. Westlake Oak Woodland is a reference site and a space for community learning and collaboration. As Emerald Ash Borer and Mediterranean Oak Borer have emerged in our region, Westlake provides opportunities for monitoring, research, and active management of oak and ash in an urban forest.

Lake Oswego has a significant high-density area of oak habitat with varied levels of connectivity. Learn more about Oswego Lake Watershed Council's new initiative to develop the Lake Oswego Oak Strategic Action Plan, which will define a community program for oak protection and restoration on 1900 acres of significant oak habitat within the City of Lake Oswego."



**ORGANIZATIONAL
ADMINISTRATION,
MANAGEMENT, POLICY**

TRACK CHAIRS

Brenda Sanchez, Linda Lovett

PUTTING THE FUN IN FUNDRAISING

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | HERITAGE 1

Heather King

Raising money can be a scary process for many organizations, but it shouldn't be. During our time together, you will learn tips and skills and generate ideas to help elevate and grow your organization's fundraising capacity by upgrading your written appeals, attracting, educating, and engaging donors, and practicing making an ASK! And we will have fun while doing it!

THE WORKPLACE ECOSYSTEM: MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR EMPLOYEE SATISFACTION AND RETENTION

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM | HERITAGE 1

Maya Cook

Fact: 48% of employees (73% of Gen Z) are actively looking for another job or watching for opportunities. Brain drain from resignation and disengagement can jeopardize an organization's ability to deliver project commitments. It's also expensive. Personnel replacement costs an additional one-half to two times over an employee's annual salary. Compounding that, employees who land in a disengaged team leave sooner – especially when the hire is neurodivergent – time and budget are too precious for this vicious cycle. Yet humans aren't budget lines, problems to solve, or even the same; each of us brings life demands, experiences, assumptions, needs, and limitations to work each day, making effective leadership more akin to psychiatry than obedience training.

During this session, learn:

- How the right leadership can increase productivity, unlock potential, and future-proof your organization.
- Where to find high-quality free or low-cost resources to help you succeed.
- The principles behind managing “smarter, not harder” to get better results from less effort.

OPERATIONALIZING EQUITY: LESSONS LEARNED FROM TWO DISTINCT APPROACHES

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM | LANDMARK 2

Chelsea White-Brainard, Mary Logalbo

East and West Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) took two distinct approaches to operationalizing their equity work. East Multnomah SWCD wrote a stand-alone 5-year Equity Plan, while across the river, West Multnomah incorporated equity into their 5-year Long Range Business Plan. A few years in, these SWCDs take a look back at what worked, where they struggled, and what they would do differently based on what they know now. Tools and strategies to craft, implement, and assess a living plan that guides equity work and holds organizations accountable will be explored. Learn the pros and cons of these approaches as your organization plans its own journey to incorporate equity into its work and culture.

FACILITY CONSTRUCTION: BUILDING A CONSERVATION HUB

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | HERITAGE 1

Cassi Newton, Ayla Morehouse

Learn how Wheeler Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD), a non-tax-based district, aspires to restore landscapes, support the economy, foster local talent, showcase mass timber, and fill resource gaps in rural Wheeler County through constructing a centrally-located conservation community center. The presentation will show how restoration and climate mitigation are a key focus of the construction plan and what has/hasn't worked thus far.

AGRICULTURAL WATER QUALITY: THE WAY FORWARD

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM | HERITAGE 1

Olivia Jasper,

Since its inception in 1998, the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Water Quality Program has been working to improve agricultural water quality through a partnership with Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs). The Water Quality Program continues to evolve, and we want to hear from YOU! In this presentation and listening session, we are prepared to get into the nitty-gritty details of the SWCDs' role in Oregon's Ag Water Quality Program, provide an overview of the Ag Water Quality Program, and current and upcoming changes:

- Technological advances in SOW reporting- improving our ability to track progress and tell the story of SWCD working with landowners to improve agricultural water quality.
- TMDL implementation Plans, upcoming TMDLs, and what they mean for SWCDs
- Compliance with the Rules. What are the landowner's responsibilities? What does compliance with the Rules look like?
-

But our main goal is to hear from you, the SWCDs from across the state!

We will provide ample time for a listening session. Please bring your questions and ideas for working together to improve Oregon's Ag Water Quality Program. What do you see as the role of the SWCDs related to AgWQ? What does your SWCD want/need from your WQ Specialist and other ODA staff? Are there connections that ODA's WQ program has missed? We look forward to this chance to have a conversation with the SWCDs to help us improve Oregon's Ag Water Quality Program. Big things are coming, and we can't do it without you, our partners!"

EFFECTIVE BOARDS: MANAGING BOARD RELATIONSHIPS, EXPECTATIONS, CONDUCT, AND CONFLICTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM | HOMESTEAD 1

Eric Nusbaum

A well-functioning board is critical to your organization's success. Suitable for both Soil and Water Conservation District and Watershed Council boards, this session will look at the roles and responsibilities of board members, expectations of board members amongst themselves and with the organization's executive director/manager, and how a code of conduct can help with internal conflicts. We will also discuss strategies to deal with "rogue" board members and conflicts between board members and staff.

OWEB GRANTS & CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW REQUIREMENTS IN 2024

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | HOMESTEAD 1

Jeremy Baker, Courtney Shaff, Shane James

Beginning in July 1, 2024, OWEB will be required to screen all PCSRF-funded projects—AND all Lottery-funded projects used as match funds to PCSRF—for compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) to consider the effects on historic properties and cultural resources of projects they carry out, assist, fund, permit, license, or approve. This session will provide detail on the CR process, and planning and funding available to meet the requirements.

CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW PROCESS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM | HOMESTEAD 1

Jeremy Baker

This session will provide detail on Oregon State laws, concepts and outline the process for determining when a cultural resource survey should occur, and how to do it.

OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD (OWEB) GRANT MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE (OGMS) OF THE FUTURE: HOPES, DREAMS, REALITIES

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | HOMESTEAD 1

Cyrus Curry, Liz Redon

Connecting with friends of OWEB on the future of our web applications. OWEB's Software Engineer will lead the session alongside a facilitator. The session will demonstrate concepts on a screen but mostly focus on back and forth between presenters and the audience. The session will have four parts:

What have we done lately?

What is happening?

What is OWEB planning to do next?

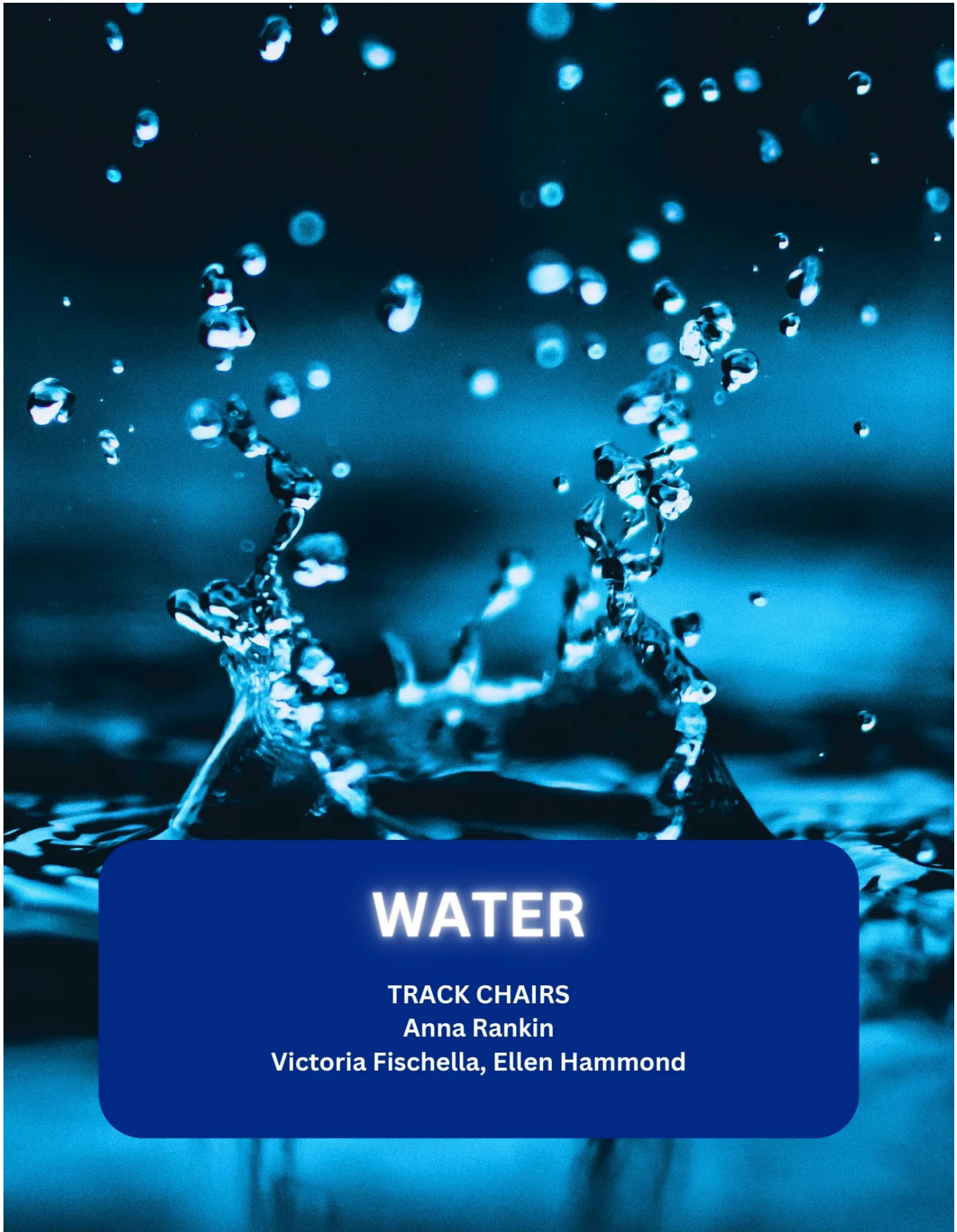
What are the Hopes and Dreams of our users?

PUBLIC MEETING LAW: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS AND RECENT CHANGES TO THE LAW

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM | HOMESTEAD 1

Eric Nusbaum

This session is for Soil and Water Conservation District managers and administrative staff. After an update on significant changes to public meeting law from the last legislative session we will look at the most frequently asked questions concerning public meetings. In particular we will discuss public meeting requirements for committees and work groups. There will be ample time allocated to answering specific questions from attendees.



WATER

TRACK CHAIRS

Anna Rankin

Victoria Fischella, Ellen Hammond

EVERYBODY DRINKS: MAKING THE CONSERVATION AND RESTORATION PARTNERSHIP CONNECTION IN DRINKING WATER SOURCE AREAS

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | HERITAGE 2

Laura Johnson, Andrew Chione, Leah Corral, Tyler Clouse

Access to clean and reliable drinking water is a critical need for all communities. Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs), Watershed Councils, and drinking water providers all share common goals related to soil protection, enhancing water quality and quantity, and managing for resilient ecosystems. Technical assistance (TA) providers who can effectively connect conservation and restoration actions to benefits for drinking water quality and quantity can broaden community support and engagement for implementing their projects. An additional benefit to working in drinking water source areas is the ability to leverage sources of funding that are specific to drinking water priorities. This presentation will provide information on what drinking water source protection is, and the role of state agencies (like the Oregon Health Authority and the Department of Environmental Quality) in supporting drinking water source protection. This presentation will also highlight funding sources specific to projects with a drinking water nexus. The connections between source water protection and the goals of SWCDs and Watershed Councils will be explored through case studies from the south and midcoast regions.

STREAM FLOWS & CASH FLOWS: RESTORING RIVERS THROUGH VOLUNTARY WATER TRANSACTIONS

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM | HERITAGE 2

Brian Wolcott, David Pilz, Jim Bond, Paul Demaggio

Oregon's rivers and creeks are part of our state's core identity, but our waterways are experiencing longer periods of low stream flows and high water temperatures. This hurts fish, wildlife, aquatic habitats, farmers, fishers, families, and factories that rely on rivers for livelihoods. Voluntary instream water transactions are a way to increase river flows by shifting the timing, method, source, and/or quantity of water withdrawals. Learn about voluntary water transaction tools implemented with willing water rights holders across Oregon to improve the resiliency of rivers and all who depend on them for survival. In this workshop, you will:

- Hear from water transaction practitioners about the suite of voluntary tools available to restore streamflows, including instream leasing, split season leasing, instream water transfers, Allocation of Conserved Water efficiency projects, and instream water agreements.
- Learn about water rights due diligence and deal development.
- Hear case studies about innovative water transactions that generated benefits for fish, irrigators, and communities.
- Discover new state and federal funding sources for instream water transactions.

OVERVIEW OF NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE HYDROLOGIC SERVICES FOR OREGON

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM | HERITAGE 2

Andy Bryant

The mission of the National Weather Service is to provide weather, hydrologic, and climate forecasts and warnings... for the protection of life and property and the enhancement of the national economy. Many people are aware of NWS services for weather forecasts and warnings, but fewer are aware of river and water supply forecasts. This presentation will provide an overview of deterministic and probabilistic forecasts for streamflow and watershed runoff volume. Sources of error and uncertainty will be discussed. The presentation will also include an overview of the new National Water Prediction Service website and tools.

WATER STORAGE FOR WATER RESILIENCE: DEVELOPING BEST PRACTICES FOR AGRICULTURAL PONDS AND RESERVOIRS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | HERITAGE 2

Abigail Tomasek, Miranda Gray, Maria Zamora Re, Samuel Chan, Derek Godwin, Guillermo Giannico

OSU Extension has been receiving an increasing number of requests from stakeholders seeking information about the use of ponds and reservoirs. However, there is a lack of regional and state-specific information, meaning these questions cannot be efficiently and effectively answered. As a result, OSU Extension is working to develop key information based on needs addressed by stakeholders. In a recent statewide needs assessment conducted by OSU, ponds and reservoirs were among the most frequently cited irrigation system-based strategies producers utilized for adapting to drought and heat stress. The farmers and ranchers interested in ponds and reservoirs spanned all regions and commodities. They stressed that these structures were necessary for storing water for irrigation and crop protective cooling and improving their on-farm resilience. In addition to the agricultural benefits, ponds and reservoirs offer multi-purpose benefits, including habitat for fish and birds, fire suppression, and natural water treatment.

The first step in developing appropriate pond-related information and training resources is determining region-specific information gaps, interests, expertise, and needs surrounding ponds and reservoirs. This session will present our current working topics based on initial stakeholder inquiries (e.g., permitting/design/construction, hydrology/habitat, use/function, weed/invasive species management, and overall maintenance). We will use interactive audience platforms (e.g., Slido and Qualtrics) to solicit feedback, prioritize topics, and include missed needs. This baseline assessment and partner engagement will provide us with information and connections for a follow-up statewide survey in 2024-25.

EXPANDING STREAM TEMPERATURE MONITORING BEYOND THE BASICS TO IMPROVE UNDERSTANDING, PRIORITIZATION, AND EVALUATION OF RESTORATION EFFORTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM | HERITAGE 2

Derek Godwin, Carlos Ochoa

Stream temperature is the most common factor degrading water quality for aquatic health in Oregon. Restoration programs involve significant financial and human resources over many years to improve conditions and gain ecosystem benefits, yet stream temperature monitoring to aid these efforts and measure progress are inadequate. Temperature monitoring programs typically gather data across multiple locations for comparing to cold water standards. This approach tends to minimize analysis for choosing monitoring locations, stifle gathering additional environmental data to increase understanding, and limits data analysis beyond status and short-term trends. It also is an inefficient, costly approach to data collection and management resulting in minimal understanding of how local stream-riparian-land use interactions affect water quality and limits our ability to measure progress. This interactive session will share practical examples for designing stream temperature monitoring programs and analyzing results to expand learning beyond basic status and trend analysis. Examples will include using temperature and environmental data to inform restoration priorities in variable riparian conditions, stream types, and land use, track restoration progress over time, and increase understanding of ecosystem processes to improve future monitoring strategies to answer a wider variety of questions. Participants will share monitoring goals and challenges to inform the presentation. Since time is limited, we will discuss how to support each other's monitoring moving forward, such as creating discussion groups for in-depth learning, providing technical assistance, sharing equipment and data analysis software/programs, and creating data visualization and outreach materials.

MONTANE HYDROCLIMATIC MONITORING IN OREGON BY THE SNOW SURVEY AND WATER SUPPLY FORECASTING PROGRAM: CURRENT OPERATIONS AND FUTURE EXPANSION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM | HOMESTEAD 2

Matthew Warbritton

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program (SSWSFP) collects observational montane hydroclimatic data at nearly 1,800 sites and generates seasonal water supply forecasts for 585 stream points across the western U.S. Oregon alone has 103 automated stations, 69 manually measured sites, and 73 forecast points. Data from monitoring sites and forecasts cater to an extensive suite of applications ranging from crop selection to irrigation timing, municipal water supply, drought monitoring, hydropower optimization, hydrologic and climatic modeling, ecosystem management, and natural hazard (i.e., flood, wildfire, and avalanche) assessments.

To continue meeting the needs of data users across the state and ensure robust network viability in the future, network expansion is essential, both in terms of augmenting existing stations and adding new ones. Anthropogenic climate change will significantly impact future water supply, with climate models projecting warmer winter temperatures, less snowpack, and a higher frequency of extreme events in the Northwest. A monitoring network's viability in a changing climate reflects the ability to continue enhancing our understanding of relationships between the hydroclimate and environment, including snowpack and summer water supply, while also providing adequate monitoring for other purposes, such as natural-hazard assessments.

BENEFITS OF COMMUNITY FORESTRY ON WATER QUALITY, WILDLIFE HABITAT, AND THE CONNECTION TO LOCAL ECONOMIC AND CONSERVATION PRIORITIES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | HOMESTEAD 2

Daniel Wear, Jason Faucera

Community Forestry is gaining momentum as a tool to support locally-led forestland acquisition and management efforts. Through community forestry management, smaller communities, land trusts, counties, and Soil and Water Conservation Districts are some of the many new local landowners who have begun managing forestlands to support local priorities. Across the state of Oregon, several examples of community forests are maintaining their properties with the goal of maintaining a healthy forest habitat for the direct benefit of water quality, stream health, and riparian habitats.

One community forest in the region is the Eagle Creek Community Forest. It is owned and managed by the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District. This 317-acre community forest has been under Clackamas SWCD Ownership since 2019. It maintains the goal of managing the property to develop a healthy and diverse forest composition while providing cool and clean water for wildlife and salmonid habitat in the neighboring Suter Creek. Jason Faucera, Community Forest Manager, will share more context on the property, including the goals, management priorities, and process for a SWCD to pursue ownership and transition to property management.

Additionally, this presentation will highlight the multitude of management and funding approaches and mechanisms that can be instituted to establish a property as a Community Forest. The Community Forest Management approach is an alternative management approach, balancing the priorities of economic drivers for rural communities with the numerous ecological and conservation benefits that sustainable forest management can offer.

A VISION FOR SUSTAINABLY MANAGING WATER IN OREGON

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM | HOMESTEAD 2

Malia Kupillas

Surface water and groundwater can be managed conjunctively for all uses in a sustainable way. Much natural recharge to our aquifers is now lost from flow down roadside ditches, over impervious surfaces, and in drain tiles. Other impacts to natural recharge include dikes to control floodwater and straightening of stream channels to reduce flooding. Much of this lost recharge can be offset using artificial recharge (AR) and aquifer storage and recovery (ASR) and re-introducing beavers to our stream systems. We can conserve and store enough water in the subsurface so all prime agricultural land can have a water right, and those lands with junior surface water rights that may be regulated off can have a supplemental groundwater right. We can fill in the water right gaps and make water resources sustainable regardless of climate changes using conservation, best management practices for farming, beaver dams, AR and ASR. Improving recharge to our aquifers will improve summertime stream flows, thereby providing benefits to fish. Three possible project examples in Oregon will be presented that are based on this vision. These projects could be managed at the watershed scale through Watershed Councils or Water Management Districts for place-based planning.

RIPARIAN RESTORATION AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT TO FACILITATE BEAVER HABITAT EXPANSION

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | HOMESTEAD 2

Sally Compton, Molly Honea

Central and Eastern Oregon landscapes are beset by environmental issues: wildfires, drought, rising water temperatures, invasive species, and a history of harmful land use practices, which threaten habitat for fish, wildlife, and humans. Research supports that the presence of beavers and their activity in stream ecosystems leads to improved habitats for fish, wildlife, and native plants and increased drought, flood, and fire tolerance. However, various factors limit beaver populations' success, including suitable habitat, resource availability, drought, and public perception.

To address these limitations in tandem, Beaver Works creates the habitat conditions and human tolerance necessary to support beaver populations through 1) riparian habitat restoration, 2) outreach, and 3) conflict mitigation. We work to establish stream reaches with adequate food, water, sediment, construction building materials, and human tolerance for beavers to establish and thrive. We collaborate with local watershed councils, agencies, and landholders to identify, consult on, and plan habitat restoration projects to achieve this. We then take volunteer groups to implement and monitor the projects by spending a weekend - planting, camping, and learning about beaver habitats, healthy ecosystems, and working lands.

Because approximately 51% of stream miles exist on private lands, and public support is key to beaver success, our project also includes education, outreach, and support services to rural youth, adults, and agencies about coexistence solutions and the benefits of beavers in watersheds. In this session, we detail how our three-pronged strategy works to amplify restoration outcomes.

BEAVER MANAGED FLOODPLAINS AND THE "BEAVER PART" – WHAT'S MISSING

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM | HOMESTEAD 2

Reese Mercer

As Western stream restoration agencies are recognizing the value of beaver-managed floodplains (BMFP) to watershed health and resilience it's an exciting time to work for beaver recovery in eastern Oregon! Beaver-based restoration - with "long term process-based restoration" (LTPBR) at its core – seeks to mimic the beaver activities that created Oregon's meadowscapes over several millennia. LTPBR as practiced often relies on added structure (like Beaver Dam Analogues and Post Assisted Log Structures) to kickstart dynamic, natural processes in a riverscape so systems can begin to heal themselves. But in many cases structure alone won't provide what beavers need for long term site persistence. Beavers need forage, and ALOT of it. In the arid, wadable streams of the West, we often see stream degradation so severe that beaver food and forage establishment should be considered the essential component of this work. Without a persistent, renewable and accessible source of forage beavers will migrate. In travel, beaver are at the most at risk of predation.

This presentation examines what beavers need to succeed for avoiding predation, and Job #1 as BMFP restoration practitioners. We then look at practical approaches to project design, planning and implementation of the conditions needed to keep beavers in place safely for the long run, removing reason or need to ever stray far from pond safety.



WEED & PEST MANAGEMENT

**TRACK CHAIR
Ellen Hammond**

EMERALD ASH BORER IN OREGON: THE LATEST STRATEGIES FOR PLANNING AND MANAGEMENT

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | GREAT HALL

Lilah Gonen, Evan Elderbrock

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) is an invasive and highly destructive wood-boring beetle that attacks and kills ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.). EAB was first found in Michigan in 2002 and has quickly spread across North America, killing hundreds of millions of native and planted ash trees. In 2022, EAB was detected in Forest Grove, OR, the first known population on the West Coast. Ash trees are common in urban and natural environments throughout Oregon, providing essential ecosystem services like shade, erosion control, air and water filtration, and wildlife habitat. While EAB poses a significant threat to Oregon's ash trees, we're fortunate to draw on over 20 years of research and experience from the Midwest to slow its spread and mitigate its inevitable impacts to public health, ecosystems, and economies. This presentation will provide 1) an overview of EAB biology and natural history, 2) updates to the State of Oregon's ongoing EAB surveying, monitoring, management, and communication strategies, and 3) steps land managers can take now to begin planning for EAB in their communities. By acting proactively and collaboratively, we can use EAB as a catalyst for improving ecosystem resilience across the state.

URBAN FOREST TOOLS IN THE WAKE OF EMERALD ASH BORER

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM | GREAT HALL

Maura Olivos, Victor Vasquez-Ibarra

With the arrival of emerald ash borer (EAB) in Washington County, Oregon, in 2022, natural resource managers have been contemplating and discussing the impacts, management options, restoration, and information sharing people need. As EAB was first detected in the urban area and has already begun to take its toll, urban forest natural areas, street trees, and the urban dwellers within reach of these trees are the first at-risk environmentally, socially, and economically. This presentation will share two new inventory and management development tools for urban forests (natural areas and street trees) to engage communities or municipalities in learning, preparing, and ultimately being proactive in response to the spread of EAB.

Socially, when natural resource threats come to a region, it is not uncommon for events to pass through disadvantaged communities, highlighting the many barriers between service providers and disadvantaged communities, which prevent rapid response. Before long, the impacts are realized, bringing greater disparity. Proactively working first with disadvantaged communities helps dismantle barriers that delay awareness of threats, empower people, and build resiliency for future issues. Environmentally, there are crucial pockets of native Oregon ash habitats throughout our urban areas, providing filtration, infiltration, shade, canopy, and habitat features unique to Oregon ash forests. Urban environments are also already further stressed by higher temperatures, drought, soil compaction, and reduced wildland connectivity. These are complex and challenging considerations in which the tools develop

A COLLABORATIVE AND INTERAGENCY APPROACH TO EVALUATING AND ADDRESSING THE INEQUITIES OF THE STATE OF OREGON'S PRIVATE PESTICIDE APPLICATORS LICENSE EXAM

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM | GREAT HALL

Kris Schaedel

One year ago, the Hood River SWCD, in partnership with OSU Extension, set out to understand Mid-Columbia orchardists' educational and training needs. Through their efforts and the feedback from hundreds of local area orchardists and industry representatives, it was determined that more licensed pesticide applicators were needed to work on-farm. This applicator's license directly impacts regulatory compliance, on-farm operations, access to continuing education, worker safety, pay rates, and job mobility. With this in mind, the Hood River team offered a simple Spanish language exam preparation class to prepare growers for the Oregon Private Pesticide Applicators License Exam. What developed was an assessment of the state resources available for people to prepare, access, and pass this exam to obtain their applicator license. This assessment, lead to an inter-agency, bi-state collaboration to address the statewide limitations of the Oregon Spanish Private Pesticide Applicators exam. The work leads toward meaningful, lasting change to address the vast disparities, inequities, and consequences of a "well-intentioned" state system. This presentation highlights the collaborative work between the Hood River SWCD, Oregon State University Extension, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Washington State Department of Agriculture, and OSU Pesticide Safety and Education Program. With partnership and support from the Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers Association, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, ODA Pesticide Stewardship Partnership program, The Next Step, The Metro Institute, Radcomp, Onsite Irrigation, the Pine Grove Grange, One Community Health, GS Long, and 350+ local area orchardists).

CONTROLLING EURASIAN WATERMILFOIL THROUGH A COMPLICATED AND INNOVATIVE PARTNERSHIP ON LAKE BILLY CHINOOK

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16 | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | ABBOT 1

Bill Reynolds

Eurasian watermilfoil is a highly invasive aquatic plant infesting lakes and ponds throughout western Oregon and the Columbia Basin. Many water bodies are rendered unusable for fishing, boating and swimming due to its invasion. The plant primarily reproduces through stem fragmentation. Eurasian watermilfoil creates significant economic impacts to waterways, irrigation ditches, and drainage canals, inhibiting flow and increasing vegetation removal costs. It is also a pest of rivers, lakes and ponds where it reduces water quality, impedes recreation and boat access and has adverse impacts on fish habitat.

In 2018, the US Forest Service started Eurasian watermilfoil eradication efforts in Lake Billy Chinook, a large reservoir in Central Oregon hugely popular for recreation. Successful eradication is a challenge because it is unclear who actually has the authority and responsibility for weed eradication in this reservoir due to multiple jurisdictions. This effort has turned into a partnership consisting of the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs, Portland General Electric, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon State Parks, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and eventually private landowners. Because there is not yet legal permission to spray herbicides to control watermilfoil in Lake Billy Chinook, the partnership has had to use non-chemical means, especially divers, to control the watermilfoil, with mixed success. Come learn how the partners are addressing this challenge.

CREATING A SWCD WEED CONTROL PROGRAM

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM | ABBOT 1

Cassi Newton, Scott Susi, Staci Merkt

Many groups want to hire a weed coordinator or create a robust weed program. Our panelists are using different methods to establish a weed program for their SWCDs, with varying degrees of success. Learn what they are doing, what is working, and what challenges they are dealing with. Feel free to offer advice!

Cassi will describe their in-house cost-share program with no tax-based funding and their Five-Year Tree of Heaven Treatment Plan. Scott will share experiences with the long-time Lower Deschutes CWMA, including serving on the weed board in Sherman County and managing OSWB grant projects in Wasco County. Scott will also highlight Wasco SWCD's plans to develop a noxious weed program through the SWCD. Staci will discuss current efforts to partner with Jefferson County Public Works on a joint Weed Coordinator position.

INVASIVE SPECIES: DRIVERS OF WATERSHED DEGRADATION

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM | ABBOT 1

Josh Vlach

Invasive species have impacts across all aspects of our lives. For over a decade, Oregon has been invaded by an average of 10 new terrestrial invertebrate species each year. These species affect our food, forests, water, pollinators, and the environment in general. Learn about five invaders that are expected to significantly impact our watersheds: the Asian longhorned beetle and the Japanese Cedar Longhorned beetle can alter tree cover in riparian areas, vine mealybugs, and spotted lanternflies can drive increased pesticide use, and Asian earthworms can permanently alter ecosystems, change soil pH, and have dramatic long-term impacts. These species are a mix of recent Oregon invaders and species that aren't known in Oregon yet can arrive at any minute. We'll discuss why this is happening and what we can do about this largely ignored ecological disaster.

USING DATA FOR COMMUNICATION AND MANAGEMENT

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | ABBOT 1

Tyler Pedersen, Eli Staggs

In 2023, the 4-County Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) identified a need to provide resources on Invasives Species data collection for organizations within Washington, Multnomah, Clackamas County, and Clark County, Washington. Some organizations survey and treat Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR) weeds but do not have data collection systems. The 4-County CWMA created a standardized data collection template using Esri's Field Maps software. Organizations with an ArcGIS Online account can receive a prebuilt data collection layer and field form to hit the ground running with minimal effort. Using this data collection template, or any data collection method, improves collaboration efforts and allows organizations to share successful invasive species control efforts with the public. Recent Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) projects showcase the utility of data collection tools and standards like the CWMA's template. Over the past 6 years, Tualatin SWCD has collected data to inform a 5-year management plan and create a publicly accessible dashboard that provides transparency on the work accomplished by our Invasive Species Program. The 5-year management plan is intended to strengthen and create partnerships to achieve a more inclusive, efficient, and sustainable weed management strategy. The plan will guide decision-making across the entire Tualatin River Watershed by identifying funding opportunities, prioritizing where we focus our weed control and restoration efforts, and shifting the needle from siloed site-based weed management to collaborative landscape-level weed management.

PLAYING THE LONG GAME: RIBBONGRASS AND YELLOWFLAG IRIS ON CENTRAL OREGON'S METOLIUS RIVER

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM | ABBOT 1

Mike Crumrine

Ribbongrass, the ornamental name for a variegated canarygrass, is an old garden favorite often found in older gardens and abandoned farm sites. It makes an effective ground cover and cover. It grows well next to water and thrives in shallow water, which can be highly competitive. Yellow flag iris is a popular ornamental in North America planted in natural and artificial wet areas within urban and rural landscapes. It is particularly popular as a large and colorful flowering element in ponds and has been planted in wastewater ponds where it is used to remove heavy metals. Unfortunately, it commonly escapes from cultivation, has naturalized extensively, and is currently distributed across the United States. Central Oregon's Metolius River was designated a National Wild and Scenic River in 1998 because of its undisturbed, natural state. However, both invasive species, which likely escaped from their original riverside cabin plantings in the 1950s, dominated the riverbanks from the spring-fed source to 18 miles downstream. This is a tale of open communication and consistent, properly timed fall herbicide treatments. Through cautious treatment area expansion and careful survey, both problematic invasive plant species are knocked back an estimated 99% from their Metolius River extent in 2014.

BIOCONTROLS FOR INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: THE BASICS AND THE LATEST

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | ABBOT 1

Joel Price

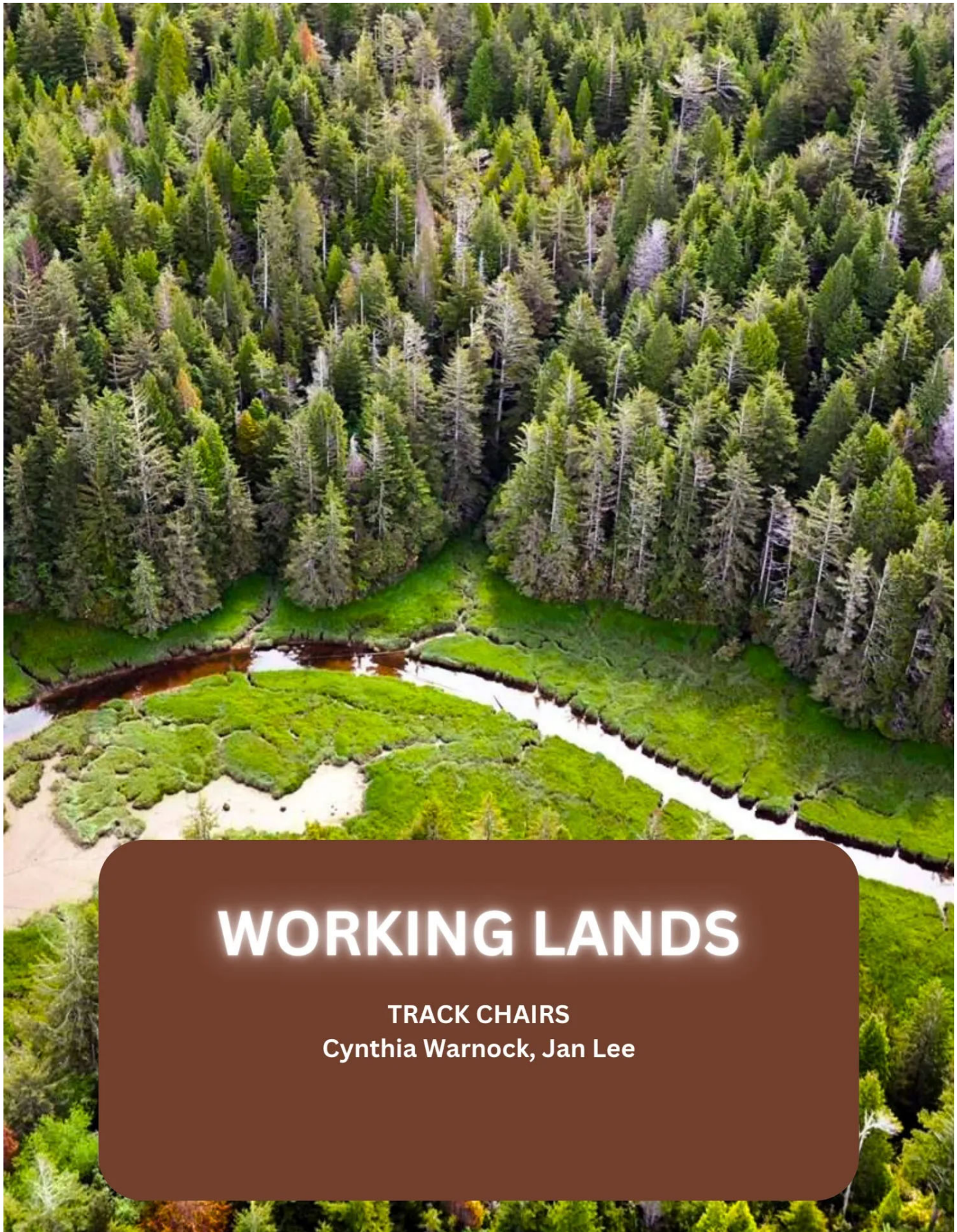
Classical weed biological control is the purposeful introduction of host-specific natural enemies from an exotic plant's native range to an invaded range. Since beginning with tansy ragwort cinnabar caterpillars in 1947, Oregon's Biological Control Program has grown to 80 beneficial insect agents controlling dozens of noxious weeds. The goal is a controlled equilibrium between the herbivore agent and the plant host below an economic impact threshold. Globally, 75% of all agents have at least a minor impact, and 35% are considered to have a major impact. The Noxious Weed Program has overseen over 10k biocontrol releases from federal, state, county, and district cooperators. ODA's biocontrol of noxious weeds position is critical to only a few hundred researchers and practitioners working to forward biocontrol worldwide. Oregon's program provides stakeholders with significant insight into the future direction of federal research, the status of invasive species control through collaboration with out-of-state partners, and a tangible "boots-on-the-ground" application of new biocontrol agents. Every year, this program provides oversight of environmental safety and proper use of agents with 40 partners statewide in alignment with USDA policy. Learn what is being done with biocontrols in Oregon and the latest research/methods for controlling invasive plant species across the state.

STRATEGIC KNOTWEED CONTROL IN THE MID-WILLAMETTE VALLEY: PERSISTENCE AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM | ABBOT 1

Aubrey Cloud

The Luckiamute and Marys River Watershed Councils (LWC & MRWC) have controlled invasive knotweed species within their stewardship areas for nearly 15 years. This growing legacy of work has yielded triumphs and challenges and has demonstrated what is and isn't possible when committing to long-term management of a priority invasive species on the landscape scale. Many restoration practitioners are familiar with general tenets of control regarding invasive knotweeds, considered by the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN) to be one of the 100 worst invasive species in the world. While restoration practitioners are capable of effective localized control of knotweed, strategically suppressing it within an entire landscape can be a much more daunting challenge. This presentation will share lessons learned from 14 years of sustained knotweed control. In addition, we will discuss and articulate the framework for how the LWC & MRWC approach strategic invasive species control on the landscape scale and how that framework can be adapted to other invasive species.



WORKING LANDS

TRACK CHAIRS
Cynthia Warnock, Jan Lee

AGROECOLOGICAL RESTORATION FOR LIVESTOCK AND NATIVE PRAIRIES IN THE WILLAMETTE VALLEY

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 1:30 PM - 2:30 PM | ABBOT 2

Paul Reed, Lauren Hallett

Agriculture has replaced most prairie habitats in western Oregon. However, managing working lands in ways that support conservation objectives may be possible. In a pilot experiment at My Brothers' Farm (MBF) in Creswell, Oregon, we tested whether native prairie restoration can be successful in conjunction with livestock grazing. Specifically, we used rotational grazing to convert a field formally used for annual ryegrass seed production into one that provides perennial forage while supporting diverse native prairie plants. Through two growing seasons, we found greater native cover and richness in grazed relative to ungrazed plots, and these effects persisted through time.

Additionally, seeding natives alongside a perennial forage mix (versus seeding into annual ryegrass alone) did not affect native species' success. We are building upon these results by scaling up restoration across a six-acre paddock. The paddock has been dominated by annual ryegrass and false dandelion, providing minimal forage value. It also suffers from poor soil health. We are disking, amending the soil, and seeding a cover crop mix designed to suppress weeds to alleviate these conditions. Following these treatments, we will seed a mix of native prairie and perennial forage species across the paddock. Ultimately, our goal is to enhance native biodiversity, create more habitats for pollinators, and improve soil health and pasture quality along the way. Through collaborative partnerships and sound management practices, we can create win-win opportunities for both conservation and agriculture.

BUILDING A REGENERATIVE RANCHING ECONOMY IN THE WEST

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM | ABBOT 2

Aubri Spear

In partnership with industry experts, we are building a regenerative ranching economy in the West. Our regenerative ranching program is the largest in the West, with 120 ranchers on 7 million acres in 13 Western states, including Country Natural Beef's 100 producers and other like-minded family and Tribal Ranchers. Together, we are producing high-quality food in ways that benefit nature, people, and local economies. Through Grazewell together, ecological monitoring, technical assistance, climate-smart finishing pilot, and marketing, Sustainable Northwest helps ranchers in our program find ways to produce beef in harmony with nature.

BUILDING A SOIL HEALTH NETWORK FOR OREGON AGRICULTURE

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM | ABBOT 2

Carly Boyer

Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network (OrCAN) will start with its working definition of soil health and share a suite of recommended soil health practices for climate mitigation and resilience in Oregon. Farmers and ranchers experience systemic barriers to accessing critical resources and support needed to implement soil health practices on Oregon's farms and ranches. OrCAN is responding by developing a new "Soil Health Network" to improve access and resources needed to implement soil health practices for all farmers across Oregon. OrCAN is currently clarifying the foundational elements (purpose, principles, priorities, structure, and participation criteria) needed to build an efficient, easy-to-navigate network of technical assistance providers primed to deliver regionally and culturally appropriate on-the-ground results for farmers and ranchers.

We invite you to join the conversation! After sharing their preliminary design, OrCAN staff will lead an interactive conversation and get your feedback on the practical structure and design needed to implement a soil health network with statewide partners."

WEBSITE AND GUIDEBOOK FOR SOIL HEALTH AND CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROJECTS

TUESDAY, APRIL 16 | 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM | HERITAGE 1

Jan Lee

OACD completed a website and guidebook of tools and resources for completing carbon sequestration and other conservation practices, including soil health work, for climate smart projects. These tools can be used by districts, councils or land trusts to provide technical assistance, or by any land owner or manager and will be shared with participants. These tools can be used by any land owner or manager or for districts, councils or land trusts to provide technical assistance to constituents.

EQUIPMENT RENTAL PROGRAMS- DO YOU HAVE ONE, WANT ONE, NEED ONE?

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | GREAT HALL

Tatiana Taylor, Gus Liszka

The proposed session would be an open-discussion-type panel consisting of several SWCD employees who operate equipment rental programs in the state. Panelists would briefly summarize their programs and then the remainder of the session would be opened up for discussion and questions with participants. There are many challenges to setting up and running an equipment rental program. This session would allow SWCD employees to learn more about how other districts operate these programs and ask any questions about their functionality. Equipment Rental programs are beneficial in fulfilling a common need for farmers and ranchers to rent equipment to implement conservation practices. This session would help educate district employees in creating these programs.

INCORPORATING TRADITIONAL ECOLOGICAL KNOWLEDGE INTO CONSERVATION PROJECTS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 9:15 AM - 10:15 AM | GREAT HALL

Corrine Michel

Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) has been studied by anthropologists and archaeologists for years. But we are only recently beginning to explore how this knowledge can be used in conservation projects and land management agencies. This project explores some of the TEK that has been examined in recent years, how it has been incorporated into different projects and programs, and future plans for further collaboration.

POST-WILDFIRE RECOVERY: CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM | GREAT HALL

Autumn Muir

Over 100,000 acres have burned between the Cougar Peak Fire and Patton Meadow Fire in 2021, fueled by and compounding hardships caused by years of extreme drought. Landowners have lost thousands of acres, including cattle, timber, and infrastructure, putting a financial strain on entire communities as they respond and recover. These communities have experienced other hardships from large, high-severity wildfires, including a breakdown in community relations between private and federal agencies and negative impacts on water quality and wildlife habitats. The immense loss to fire is a strong motivator to unite to address restoration across ownership boundaries and through partnerships. Although some resources have come in for fire recovery on federal lands, there is an underfunded need to coordinate and implement restoration for the private landowners within the burned boundaries. The forested landscapes in Lake County evolved with wildfire—both natural and cultural—and historically, most of the landscape relied on frequent low-severity fires to maintain a forest structure and composition that promoted wildfire resiliency, supported landscape heterogeneity, and fostered biodiversity. However, wildfire severity, frequency, and fire season length have increased because of the accumulation of excess fuels due to fire exclusion policies, the loss of cultural fire, and warmer, drier conditions associated with climate change. Without efforts to holistically restore the landscapes impacted by these fires, we risk losing forested landscapes, water resources, carbon storage capacity, habitat for endangered and culturally valuable species, and sustainable economy.

WRAP AROUND SUPPORT FOR CONSERVATION ON WORKING LANDS

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17 | 2:45 PM - 3:45 PM | ABBOT 2

Penny Feltner, Sydney Nilan

The objectives of this project were to (1) develop a comprehensive overview of the existing supports for working lands conservation & regenerative farm management in the South Willamette Valley, (2) identify the collective strengths and weaknesses of these supports, and uncover gaps in services or resources, and (3) develop recommendations to leverage the assets of our region to increase the adoption of best practices and projects for conservation on working lands.

Through interviews with the stakeholders in the sector, an inventory of the regional service landscape was compiled, noting its strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in resources to support sustainable farm operations and regenerative land management. Monthly focus groups with farmers representing a variety of production systems throughout the region were held to describe the positive impacts and shortfalls of existing services and to identify extant needs.

Findings suggest that abundant resources exist in our region to support the diverse needs of land managers when adopting regenerative practices on working lands but that the disconnected nature of these resources presents barriers to their use. Farmers expressed feelings of being overwhelmed, and this common experience prevents many eligible land managers from using the full complement of available resources.

This suggests an opportunity for increased coordination among service providers to adopt communication and referral practices that help to create a one-stop-shop experience for land managers. It also suggests that providing one-on-one support to guide land managers through work with multiple partners is a necessary step in achieving desired outcomes."

INVESTING IN NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS ON WORKING LANDS: THE OREGON AGRICULTURAL HERITAGE PROGRAM

THURSDAY, APRIL 18 | 8:00 AM - 9:00 AM | GREAT HALL

Taylor Larson, Eric Williams

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, a grant program offered by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, supports the long-term viability of Oregon's agricultural operations while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality, and other natural resources on Oregon's working lands. A recent investment into the program by the Oregon Climate Action Commission supports the development and implementation Conservation Management Plans that enhance or protect net biological carbon sequestration on working lands, while maintaining or increasing ecosystem resilience and human well-being. Program Coordinator Taylor Larson and Conservation Easement Specialist Robin Meacher will give an overview of the Oregon

Agricultural Heritage Program (including the role of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission), discuss upcoming funding opportunities, and delve into the intersection of "Climate Smart Agriculture", "Natural Climate Solutions" and "Farm Viability".



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