

Board of Agriculture Meeting - December 3-5, 2025

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Meeting Location

In-Person:
Columbia Room
Best Western Plus Hood River Inn
1108 E Marina Dr.
Hood River, OR 97031

Meeting Materials:

Available at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture>

How to Join Virtually

Microsoft Teams [Need help?](#)

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Meeting ID: 271 041 713 790 4

Passcode: Vp3hy3sy

Dial in by phone

[+1 503-446-4951](tel:+15034464951), [414117121](tel:+1414117121) United States,
Portland

[Find a local number](#)

Phone conference ID: 414 117 121#

How to Provide Comment

Written

Please provide written comment by **Tuesday, November 25th, 2025**. Comments received by this deadline will be posted to ODA's website and provided to Board Members in advance of the meeting. You may email your written comments to BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov or upload them at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture>.

Verbal – Remotely

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes. Public comments will be heard at designated times each day. Please notify the Board Coordinator of your intent to join and provide public comment remotely via Microsoft Teams by emailing BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov with the following information:

- Your first and last name
- Your organization/affiliation, if applicable
- Topic of your comment
- Date and time slot you plan to provide comment at (refer to agenda below)

Verbal – In-Person

There will be a sign-in sheet on GREEN paper near the entrance to the meeting room. Please sign-in prior to the scheduled public comment period if you wish to make comments in-person. If you will be providing hand-outs or other written materials, please bring 20 copies with you and give them to the Board Coordinator to distribute to the Board Members.

Contact Board Coordinator for information regarding this agenda or to request ADA accommodations
48 hours advance notice please (503.986.4552)

Agenda subject to change

Wednesday, December 3rd, 2025

ITEM	TIME	AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	PRESENTER
1a	4:30 PM	Welcome and Call to Order Roll Call/Introductions	Elin Miller , Chair State Board of Ag
1b	4:40 PM (35 mins.)	Columbia River Gorge Commission	Krystyna Wolniakowski , Executive Director Lisa Naas Cook , Climate Program Manager
1c	5:15 PM (85 mins.)	Local Industry Panel <i>Confirmed Participants:</i> - Jennifer Euwer, Hood River County Commissioner & local orchardist - Lesley Tamura, Chairperson – Columbia Fruit Growers - Ian Chandler – Chair of the Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission - Adam McCarthy – WA/OR Canned Pear Association & Fresh Pear Committee	
*	6:30 PM – 8:00 PM (90 mins.)	Informal Reception <i>Everyone is invited to join the Board of Agriculture and ODA staff for a reception with light appetizers.</i> Shoreline Room , Best Western Plus – Hood River Inn	

Contact Board Coordinator for information regarding this agenda or to request ADA accommodations
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Agenda subject to change

Thursday, December 4th, 2025

ITEM	TIME	AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	PRESENTER
*	8:30 AM	Welcome and Call to Order Roll Call/Introductions	Elin Miller , Chair State Board of Ag
2	8:40 AM (10 mins.)	Board Business and Action Items Approval of September 2025 Minutes	Elin Miller , Chair State Board of Ag
3a	8:50 AM (50 mins.)	Director's Report - ODA Strategic Plan Progress Report - ODA Division Updates - Rulemaking Updates	Lisa Charpillouz Hanson Director, Dept. of Ag
3b	9:40 AM (50 mins.)	Updates from ODA's Marketing and Development Team	Lindsay Eng , Deputy Director, ODA
*	10:30 AM	BREAK – 10 mins.	
3c	10:40 AM (50 mins.)	ODA Budget and Legislative Updates	Jonathan Sandau , Deputy Director, ODA Lindsay Eng , Deputy Director, ODA Adam Crawford , COO, ODA
4	11:30 AM (50 mins.)	Department of Energy – Energy Strategy Update	Janine Benner , Director, ODOE Jessica Reichers , Tech. & Policy Manager, ODOE Todd Cornett , Assistant Director - Siting, ODOE
5	12:20 PM (15 mins.)	Public Comment – General Topics	
*	12:35 PM	Lunch - Provided for Board of Ag Members	
*	1:15 PM	Site Visits – Offsite	
*	5:30 PM	Dinner - Dinner for Board Members and ODA staff only. No official Board business.	

Friday, December 5th, 2025

ITEM	TIME	AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	PRESENTER
*	8:30 AM	Welcome and Call to Order	Elin Miller , Chair

Contact Board Coordinator for information regarding this agenda or to request ADA accommodations 48 hours advance notice please (503.986.4552)

Agenda subject to change

		Roll Call/Introductions	State Board of Ag
6	8:40 AM (20 mins.)	OSU College of Agricultural Sciences – Dean’s Update	Staci Simonich , Dean Oregon State University
7a	9:00 AM (20 mins.)	Rule-Making: Central Oregon Protected District (COPD) for rapeseed/ <i>Brassica</i> crops	Sunny Summers , Senior Policy Advisor, ODA
7b	9:20 AM (10 mins.)	Public Comment – COPD Rule-making only	
7c	9:30 AM (10 mins.)	Public Comment: General Topics	
8	9:40 AM (40 mins.)	Columbia River Intertribal Fish Council (CRITFC): Organization Overview and Current Projects	Elaine Harvey , Watershed Program Manager (CRITFC)
*	10:20 AM	BREAK – 10 mins.	
9a	10:30 AM (30 mins.)	Rule-Making: Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA)	Isaak Stapleton , Division Director, ODA Eric Orem , Vice-Chair, Board of Agriculture Nick Sirovatka , LUB & IWRS Lead, ODA Ag Water Quality
9b	11:00 AM (15 mins.)	Public Comment – LUBGWMA Rule-making only	
10	11:15 AM (60 mins.)	Board Action Items - Oregon Agriculture Heritage Commission Nomination - Next Steps for the BOA Newsletter - Resolution 000 Review - Resolution 029, 275, & 305 Review 029: Columbia River Water Reservations for Agricultural Purposes 275: Cougar Management Plan 305: The Native Plant Conservation Program 2026 Meeting Dates/Locations - Preview of March 2026 Meeting	

Contact Board Coordinator for information regarding this agenda or to request ADA accommodations
48 hours advance notice please (503.986.4552)

Agenda subject to change

		○ December 2026 Virtual Only Now ○ Date Change for September 2026	
	12:15 PM	Adjourn	

Next meeting: March 18-20, 2026 | Redmond, OR

Contact Board Coordinator for information regarding this agenda or to request ADA accommodations
48 hours advance notice please (503.986.4552)
Agenda subject to change

STATE BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

Member List by Term Expiration

Term Expires

10/28/2028
2nd term
Position #3
Producer
Elin Miller, Chair
Roseburg, OR
Phone: 415.613.5251
elin@elinmiller.com

12/3/2029
2nd term
Position #10
Producer
Eric Orem, Vice-Chair
Heppner, OR
Phone: 541.256.0246
eboremfarms@hotmail.com

10/28/2028
2nd term
Position #7
Producer
Josh Zielinski
Salem, OR
Phone: 503.339.4062
josh.zielinski@gmail.com

12/3/2029
2nd term
Position #5
Producer
Miguel Lopez
Carlton, OR
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lopez.mikey@gmail.com

10/31/2026
partial
Position #2
Producer
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kliewertb@gmail.com

10/31/2026
partial
Position #6
Producer
Ellie Norris
Roseburg, OR
Phone: 503.799.6114
ellie@norrisblueberryfarms.com

9/17/2027
1st term
Position #11
Producer
Chad Allen
Tillamook, OR
Phone: 503-801-1097
chadvictor76@gmail.com

12/19/2028
1st term
Position #8
Public Member
Kirk Maag
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Phone: 541.881.9613
kirk.maag@gmail.com

03/31/2029
1st term
Position #4
Public Member
Mike Dill
Philomath, OR
Phone: 541.602.5338
mdill@organicgrown.com

Ex-officio voting member:

SWCC
Position #9
Barbara Boyer
McMinnville, OR
Phone: 503.472.5974
gourmethay@onlinemac.com

Ex-officio non-voting members:

Staci Simonich, Dean College of Agricultural Sciences
Director of Oregon Agricultural Experiment Stations
Oregon State University
430 Strand Agriculture Hall
170 SW Waldo Place #430
Corvallis OR 97331
Phone: 541.737.2331
staci.simonich@oregonstate.edu

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Oregon Department of Agriculture
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*Effective date: 04/01/2025
Updated: 04/30/2025*

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 1B: *Columbia River Gorge Commission*

I. Introduction

The Board will receive a presentation from the Columbia River Gorge Commission from Executive Director Krystyna Wolniakowski and Climate Program Manager Lisa Naas Cook.

II. Background

The Columbia River Gorge Commission was established in 1987 by the states of Oregon and Washington through an interstate compact, the Columbia River Gorge Compact.

The Commission's mission is to establish, implement, and enforce policies and programs that protect and enhance the scenic, natural, recreational, and cultural resources of the Columbia River Gorge, and to support the economy of the area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and allowing economic development consistent with resource protection.

The Commission also works with the US Forest Service to set policy for protecting nonfederal lands, and they serve as an appeals board for land-use decisions, support counties in administering ordinances, and encourage economic development.

At a glance:

- 13 Gorge Commissioners
 - o 6 from OR, 6 from WA
 - o 1 appointed US Forest Service official (appointed by Sec. Of Agriculture)
- 292,500 acres in the National Scenic Area
 - o 83-miles along the Columbia River (both WA & OR sides)
 - o 70% private land ownership
- 2 States (OR & WA)
- 6 counties

Guiding Legislation and Principles:*National Scenic Area Act*

The Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on November 17, 1986. The Act required CRGC and the USFS to adopt a regional management plan that counties would then use to create land use ordinances. The Act also created specific “special management areas” over which the US Forest Service serves as the principal policy agent. Designated “urban areas” are exempt from the land use regulations set forth in the regional management plan. CRGC serves as the primary policy agent for non-federal land within the area, which is referred to as the “general management area.”

Columbia River Gorge Compact

This is the agreement between the states of WA and OR. Each state Governor appoints 3 commissioners, of which one of those 3 must be a resident within the NSA. The Compact also specifies how states fund the Compact. The Compact serves as the CRGC’s authority.

III. Presentation Overview

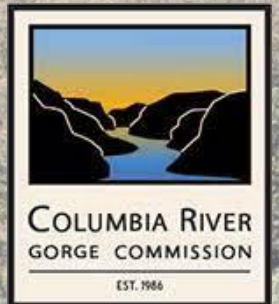
The CRGC will provide an overview of the National Scenic Area and the role of agriculture land use planning here and provide examples of their work to support the agricultural industry within the National Scenic Area.

Supporting Agriculture in the Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

Columbia River Gorge Commission Presentation to the
Oregon Department of Agriculture

Hood River, December 3, 2025

Photo Credit: Stephen Strom





Darker colors: Reservations
Lighter colors: Ceded lands

Credit: CRITFC website



Presentation Overview

- Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area (NSA) and Gorge Commission Background
- Role of Agriculture in Land Use Planning in the NSA
- Commission's Support of the Agricultural Industry: A Few Examples
- Questions and Discussion



National Scenic Area Act Passed By Congress on November 17, 1986

Purposes of the National Scenic Area Act

Purpose

To establish a national scenic area to protect and provide for the enhancement of the scenic, cultural, recreational, and natural resources of the Columbia River Gorge; and

Purpose

To protect and support the economy of the Columbia River Gorge area by encouraging growth to occur in existing urban areas and by allowing future economic development in a manner that is consistent with paragraph (1).

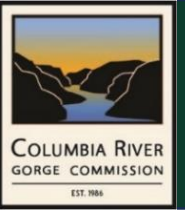


Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area

85 miles of the Columbia River
292,500 Acres
Largest and Most Unique NSA in the US



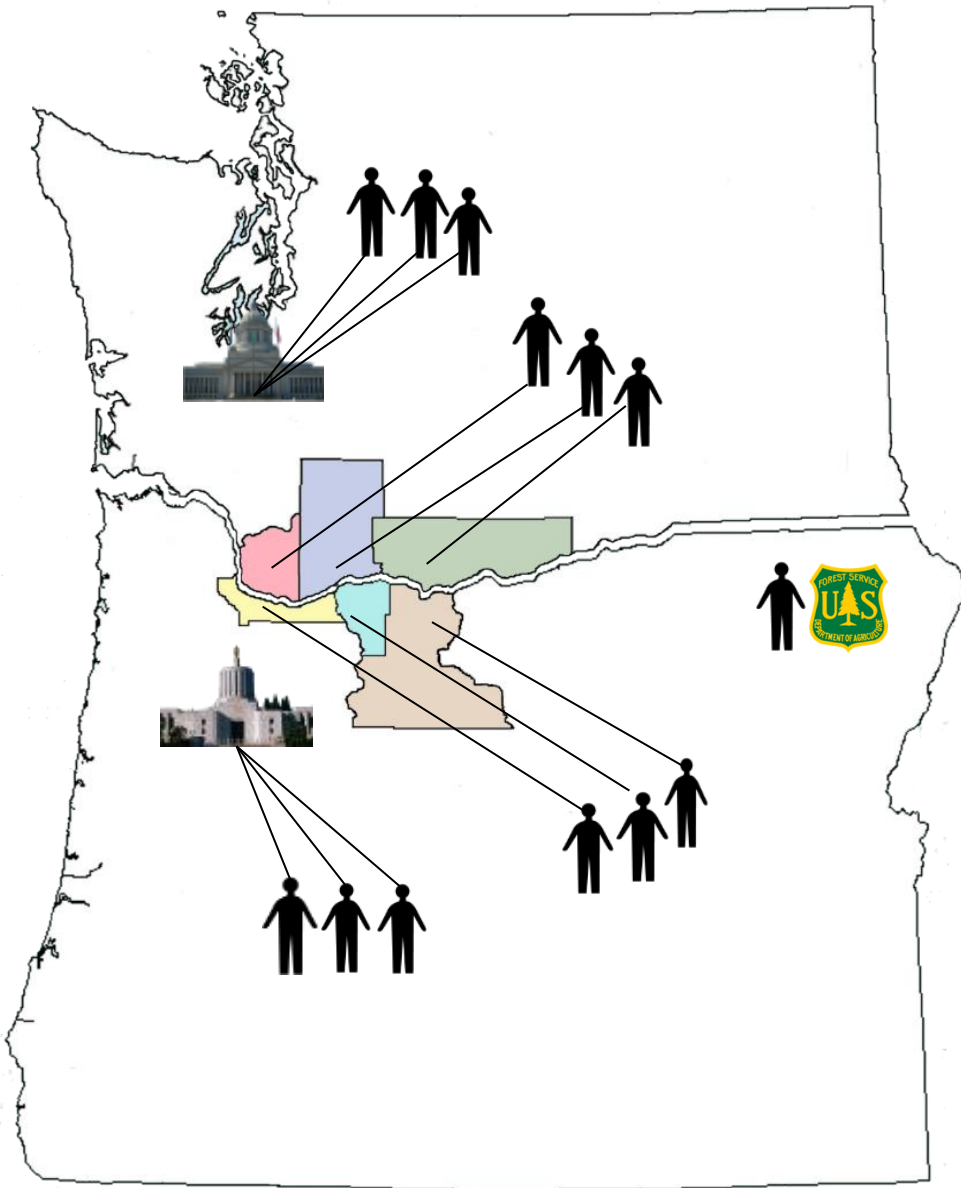
What is the Gorge Commission?



- Bi-state regional planning agency created by a compact between Oregon and Washington in 1987
- Mission is to establish, implement, and enforce policies through a long-range comprehensive management plan for the bi-state Columbia River Gorge National Scenic Area to fulfill purposes of the Act, and hear land use appeals within the National Scenic Area



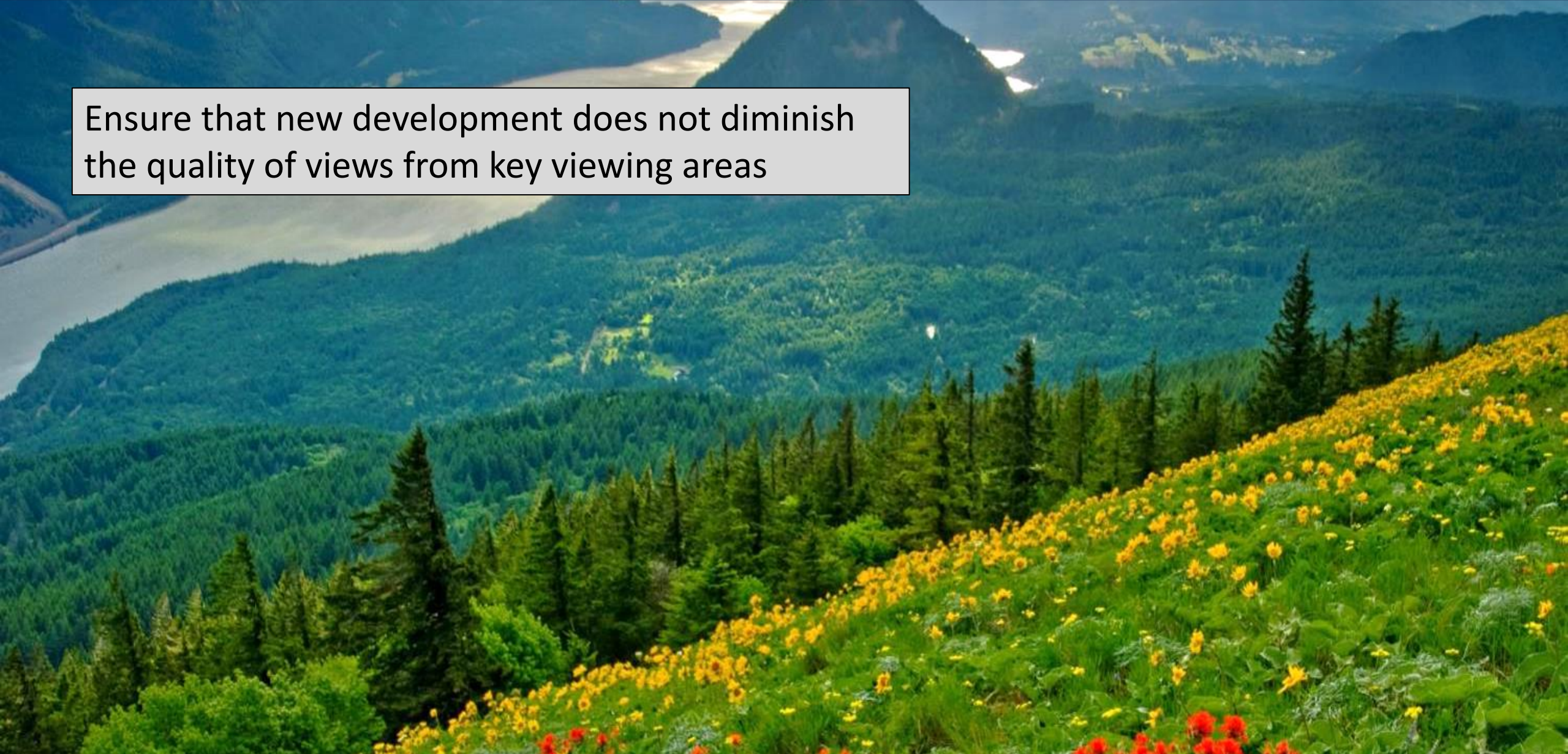
The Gorge Commission's 13 Members



- Each of six counties selects a Gorge Commissioner
- Two Governors select three Gorge Commissioners
- Three of the Governor-appointed Commissioners are tribal members representing Yakama Nation and Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
 - *Carina Miller, incoming Chair*
 - *Jerry Meninick, Vice-Chair*
- The United States Secretary of Agriculture selects one Forest Service representative

Scenic Landscapes

Ensure that new development does not diminish the quality of views from key viewing areas



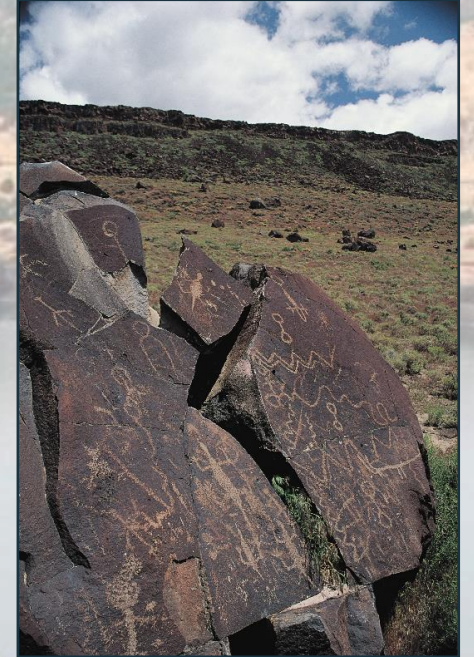
Natural Resources

Protect native plants, wildlife, and habitats, as well as air and water quality



Cultural Resources

Protect archaeological and historic resources, and tribal treaty rights



Recreation

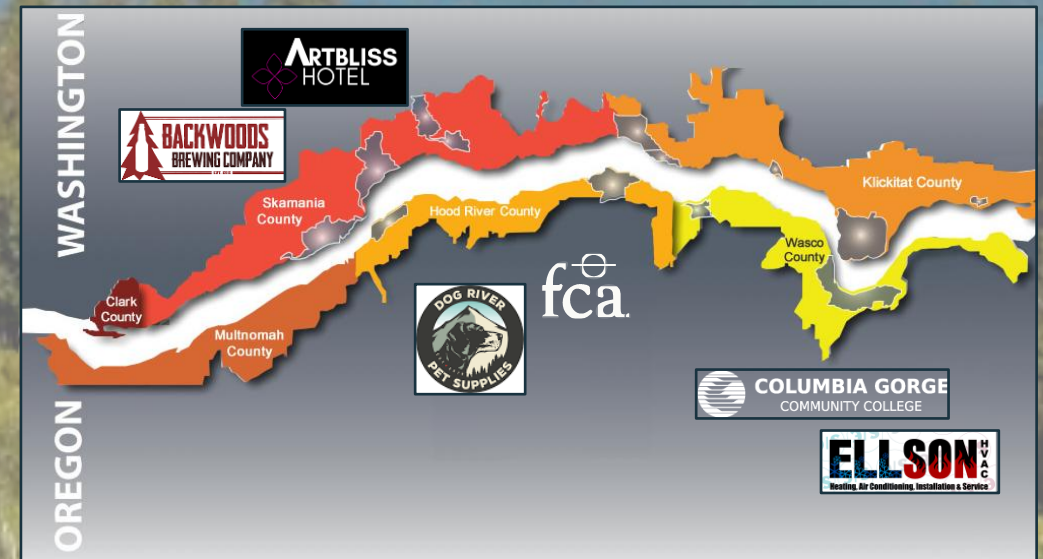
Provide diverse and accessible recreation opportunities, while protecting resources



Economic Vitality

Encourage development within Urban Areas and allow outside UAs as consistent with resource protections

Ensure that Agricultural and Forest uses are protected



Bi-State Inter-Agency Collaboration and Key Partners



- **Four Treaty Tribes**
- **Two State Governors**
- **Two Legislatures**
- **Six County Commissions**
- **Five County Planning Departments**
- **Thirteen Urban Areas**
- **Federal Agencies**
 - USDA Forest Service
 - National Park Service
 - US Fish and Wildlife Service
 - Environmental Protection Agency
 - US Geological Survey
- **Numerous State Agencies**
- **Five Ports**

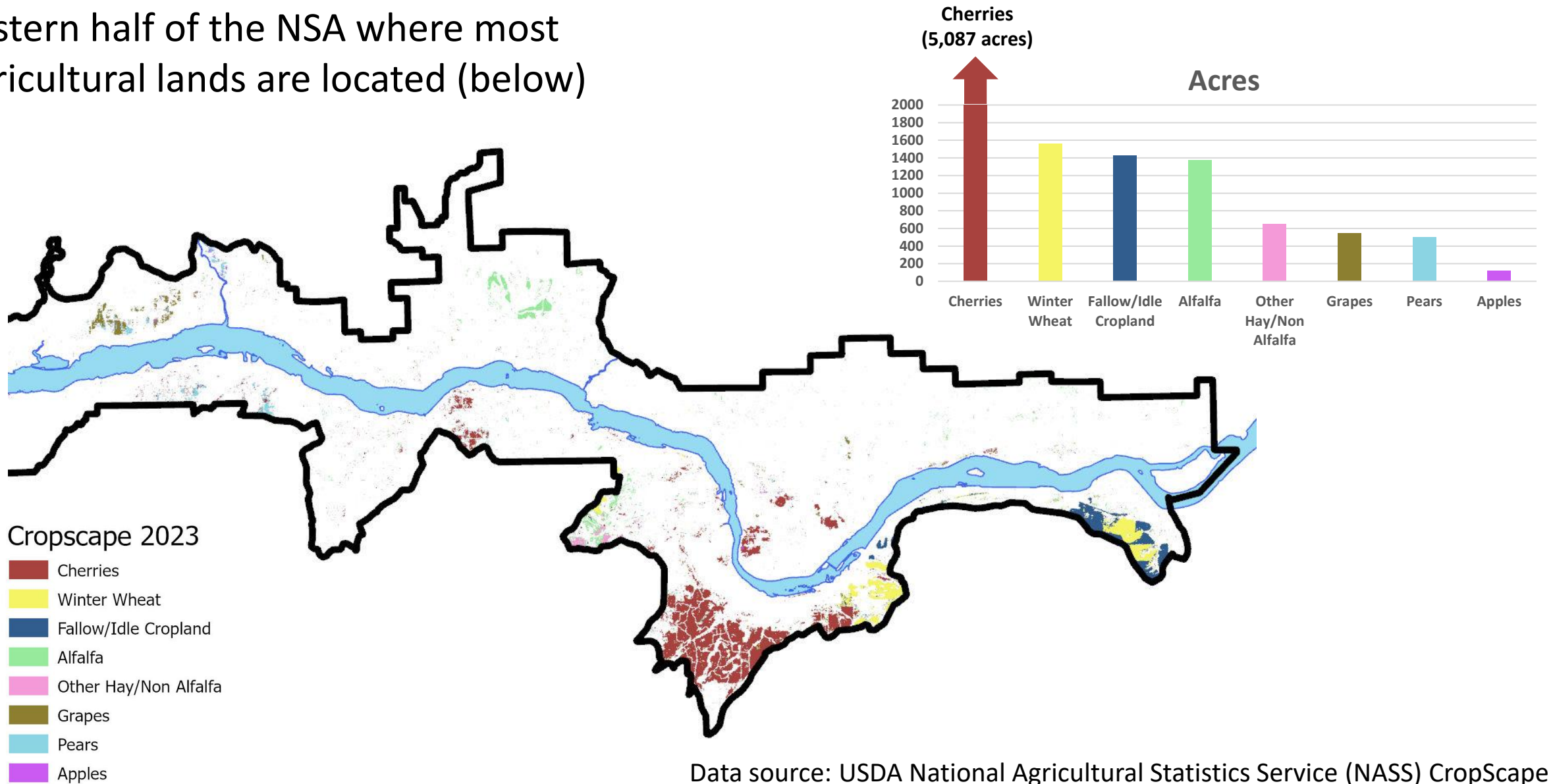
Land Designated for Agriculture in the National Scenic Area



33% of the NSA is Agricultural Land (shown in green)

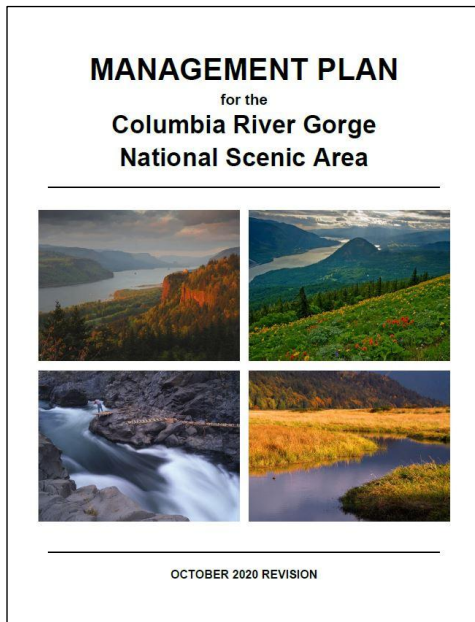
Main Crop Types in the National Scenic Area (2023)

Eastern half of the NSA where most agricultural lands are located (below)



Supporting Agriculture through Land Use Planning

National Scenic Area Management Plan



Land Use Designations

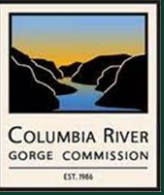
- Special Management Areas
- General Management Area
 - Small-Scale Agriculture
 - Large-Scale Agriculture



Agriculture Policies

- Prevent land fragmentation
- Ensure that development does not conflict with agricultural uses
- Enhance agricultural lands for agricultural uses
- Encourage conservation efforts
- Allow commercial uses on GMA agricultural lands

Management Plan Agriculture Policy Updates (2020)



Agriculture Policy Updates

- Addition of cideries
- Wine or cider sales and tasting rooms, in conjunction with an on-site winery or cidery
- Fruit and produce stands with value added products
- Increased agriculture income test on Large Scale Agriculture LUD to match Oregon standard

Agriculture in the National Scenic Area: Cideries



Photo credit: www.runciblecider.com
and www.facebook.com/runciblecider

- Cideries added as agricultural use in Management Plan update (2020)
- Runcible Cider is a farm and cidery in the NSA within Wasco County
- Includes a farm stand and tasting room

Agriculture in the National Scenic Area: Vineyards



Photo credit: www.analemmawines.com

“The National Scenic Area—and the Gorge Commission who champions its mandate—safeguards farmable lands valuable to the wine industry, along with sales activities that allow wine businesses to be successful.”

— Kris Fade, Analemma Wines Co-Founder and Managing Partner

- Analemma Wines is a vineyard and tasting room in the NSA outside of Mosier
- Incorporate biodynamic agriculture practices and highlight how geology influences grapes grown in the region

Agriculture in the National Scenic Area: Ranching & Farm Stand



Highland Cattle Herd



Ranch Shop Interior



Barn (Before)

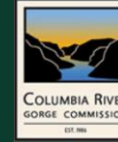


Ranch Shop (After)

- Worked with Little Seven Seven Ranch owner to permit Ranch Shop in the NSA within Klickitat County, WA
- Grass-fed, pasture raised Highland beef for purchase in Ranch Shop, by appointment

Photo Credit: L77 Ranch

Agriculture in the National Scenic Area: Community Outreach 2025 Climate Stewards Course



“Because of the hard work and nuanced approach of the Gorge Commission, we are able to optimize the benefits and navigate the challenges that come with growing high-quality fruit in such a special area.”

— Eduardo Garcia M.S., Cherry Grower and Agricultural Consultant

- Community program explores climate impacts in the Gorge and local resilience efforts focused on agriculture, First Foods, and fire adapted communities
- Visited two cherry orchards in Wasco County to learn how orchardists are adapting to climate change
- Topics included soil health, integrated pest management, and farmworker housing



Photo Credit: Stephen Strom

Thank You

Krystyna Wolniakowski, Executive Director, Krystyna.Wolniakowski@gorgecommisison.org

Lisa Naas Cook, Climate Program Manager, Lisa.NaasCook@gorgecommission.org

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 1C: *Industry Panel*

I. Introduction

Hood River County Commissioner Jennifer Euwer will facilitate a panel discussion before the Board. Discussion will include current issues facing the agriculture and food/beverage industry in the Hood River area. The goal is to inform Board members and ODA staff of the current issues facing local agriculturists.

Confirmed Panelists:	
Jennifer Euwer	Commissioner, Hood River County & local orchardist
Lesley Tamura	Chairperson, Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers & local pear grower
Adam McCarthy	Pear, cherry, and apple grower; WA/OR Canned Pear Association and Fresh Pear Committee
Ian Chandler	Cherry grower; Chair of the Oregon Sweet Cherry Commission



Oregon State Board of Agriculture Minutes

DATE	LOCATION	START TIME	END TIME
09/03-09/06 2025	Running Y Resort, Klamath Falls, OR	5:00 pm	11:50 PM
FACILITATOR	CONTACT EMAIL	CONTACT PHONE	
John Boyes	BoardAgriculture@ODA.oregon.gov	503.986.4552	

Meeting Recording:

September 3 – Meeting recording Part 1 – <https://youtu.be/RHfOc7SG3wk>

September 4 – Meeting recording Part 2 – <https://youtu.be/SjCwvKupU3M>

September 5 – Meeting recording Part 3 – <https://youtu.be/yFeKviTGTsc>

Wednesday, September 3rd, 2025

Agenda Item 01 – Welcome and Introductions ([Timestamp: 0:00:20](#))

Chair Elin Miller called the meeting to order at 5:01 pm. Introductions of board members followed. John Boyes, Board Coordinator, called the roll of board members.

Board Members:	ODA Staff Present:	Others Present:
Present: Elin Miller, Chair Chad Allen, Vice-Chair Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson Eric Orem Kirk Maag Mike Dill Barbara Boyer Ellie Norris Ty Kliewer Josh Zielinski (Remotely) Absent: Dean Staci Simonich Miguel Lopez	Lindsay Eng Jonathan Sandau Rusty Rock Casey Prentiss Isaak Stapleton Sherry Kudna Karla Valness John Boyes	Misty Buckley Keri Brookshire Marc Staunton Brooke Boyes Kelley Minty Sue Liskey Tracey Liskey Leslie Druffel (Remotely) Colleen Roberts (Remotely) Dave Henslee Mike McKoen Scott Seus Regan Coordes

Roll call of officers confirmed that a quorum (majority of voting members) was met and that the meeting could continue.

Agenda Item 02 – Industry Panel ([Timestamp: 00:04:35](#))

The Board heard a facilitated panel discussion about issues facing Klamath Basin agriculture producers. Facilitator Dave Henslee prepared discussion questions centered around four focus areas: workforce

challenges, commodity-specific concerns, market stability and Klamath product competitiveness, and a look toward the future of Klamath Basin agriculture.

The panel consisted of the following members:

- **Dave Henslee (Facilitator)** - Former Klamath County Commissioner, owner/operator of 5-H Cattle Company based in Merrill, OR; Consultant for United Strategies Consulting; serves on the Board of the Klamath Irrigation District
- **Kelley Minty** – Klamath County Commissioner
- **Marc Staunton** – 4th generation farmer; President of Cal-Ore Produce and trucking company; Secretary of the Klamath Water Users Association Board; serves on the Klamath County School Board
- **Kerri Brookshire** – President of the Klamath County Cattlewomen; serves on the Fremont-Winema Forest Citizens Advisory Committee
- **Brooke Boyes** – OR/CA Brand Inspector, cattle producer, past Cattlewomen’s president, area VP for OR Cattlemen’s Association
- **Mike McKoen** – Farmer in Merrill, OR; Vice President of the Klamath Water Users Association and serves on the board of the Drought Response Agency, Director of Brimmer Ditch Company, member of ODA’s Shipping Point Advisory Committee
- **Scott Seus** – Farmer on the California side of the Basin; president of the Klamath Water Users Association Board

Chair Elin Miller invited everyone to the reception at the Running Y Hotel across the parking lot.

Chair Elin Miller recessed at 6:37 pm to reconvene at 8:30 am September 5th, 2025.

[Thursday, September 4th, 2025](#)

Agenda Item 03 – Welcome and Introductions ([Timestamp: 00:00:17](#))

Chair Elin Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. Introductions of board members followed. John Boyes, Board Coordinator called the roll of Board members.

Board Members:	ODA Staff Present:	Others Present:
Present: Elin Miller, Chair Chad Allen, Vice-Chair Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson Eric Orem Kirk Maag Mike Dill Barbara Boyer Ellie Norris Ty Kliewer Josh Zielinski (Remotely) Absent: Dean Staci Simonich Miguel Lopez	Lindsay Eng Jonathan Sandau Rusty Rock Casey Prentiss Isaak Stapleton Sherry Kudna Karla Valness John Boyes Andrea Cantu-Schomus (Remotely) Sunny Summers (Remotely) Laura Passage (Remotely) Adam Crawford (Remotely)	Bill Miller Representative Anna Scharf (Remotely) Diana Wirth (Remotely) Gene Souza Paul Poister Susan Topham Virginia Topham Jennifer Detwiler Tonia Henderson Delaney Ryde Dayle Robnett Kerri Brookshire Nell Scott Larry Nicholson Becky Hatfield Hyde Elizabeth Nielsen Regan Coordes

Roll call confirmed that a quorum (majority of voting members) was present, and the meeting could continue.

Approval of minutes ([Timestamp: 00:04:15](#))

Draft minutes from the June 4th-6th, 2025, board meeting were presented for review and approval.

MOTION:

Barbara Boyer moved to approve the June 2025 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ellie Norris. No discussion. Motion passed unanimously by: Kirk Maag, Ty Kliewer, Chad Allen, Barbara Boyer, Ellie Norris, Mike Dill, Eric Orem, Josh Zielinski, and Chair Elin Miller. No abstentions, recusals, or no votes.

Director's report ([Timestamp: 00:05:12](#))

Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson highlighted work done by the Oregon Department of Agriculture since the June meeting.

- Since the last meeting in La Grande, OR there have been several staffing changes.
 - John Boyes recently joined ODA as the new Board Coordinator and will be housed in the Communications Department within the Director's Office. Andrea Cantu-Schomus is leading the Communications Department.
 - Director Charpiloz Hanson is going to be onboarding a new Executive Assistant in two weeks. Laura Passage, the previous Executive Assistant, promoted to a new role within the Communications Department to help develop an intranet site for ODA and providing a centralized place for internal communications after a year as Executive Assistant. Charlotte Campbell will fill the role as Executive Assistant, coming to ODA with a background at a law firm.

- Sherry Kudna and Karla Valness have been providing important support to the team especially related to Board operations.
- July was a big travel month.
 - Deputy Director Lindsay Eng and Director Charpilloz Hanson attended the Western United States Department of Agriculture regional meeting in Montana. The meeting lasted 4 days.
 - They toured economic development projects related to state-to-state and state-to-providence relations between the US and Canada. It highlighted the importance of strengthening regional food systems. They also spent time with potato farmers who grow for Frito Lay and spent time behind the scenes at the Calgary Stampede learning the economic and cultural contributions that come from the event.
 - To round out the expedition, they spent time at Olds College of Agriculture and Technology which has programs dedicated to developing technical competence in agriculture.
- August moved quickly with a heavier focus on internal business.

Director Charpilloz Hanson highlighted the success of the ODA team in the last legislative session and mentioned that additional information would be presented during the meeting.

It was noted that the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) Farm Stand Rulemaking agenda item was pulled from this Board Meeting due to the process being paused. Director Charpilloz Hanson explained that ODA and DLCD continue to work in tandem together on the farm stand rules, identifying the scope of rules and where administrative actions can be taken and where legislative action may be required. She also explained the complexity of determining which operations need permits for agritourism as the process is highly nuanced. Director Charpilloz Hanson and Deputy Director Lindsay Eng toured Topaz Farms on Sauvie Island recently and were able to hear their specific operational hurdles and how agritourism helps with the overall financial viability of their farming operation. A more detailed discussion is slated to happen at the December 2025 Board of Agriculture meeting, depending on the rulemaking progress at that time.

The governor (Tina Kotek) is doing her first mission overseas to South Korea and Japan October 23rd-30th. The focus in Japan will have an agriculture delegation accompanying her.

In September, Director Charpilloz Hanson is planning to travel to Arkansas to attend the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture's (NASDA) annual meeting. Over the last year, she has served in an at-large position for NASDA and is looking for additional ways to stay involved with the policy-making functions with NASDA to ensure Oregon can help shape national agricultural policy and protect Oregon's diverse agricultural economy.

Chair Elin Miller asked if NASDA would be more involved in labor and immigration issues. Director Charpilloz Hanson confirmed that there has been more conversation around those topics.

Insect Prevention and Management staff were commended for their work around spotted wing *Drosophila*. The Agriculture Services Division was recently restructured to centralize on-the-ground and fee-for-service programs to optimize efficiency of program delivery. Ontario, OR area staff have been champions for this new approach of integrating Brand Inspectors with Shipping Point Inspectors and CAFO Inspectors. After several

injuries to several personnel in the leadership team of that program in Ontario, staff stepped up to fill gaps in service delivery outside their explicit roles to ensure continuity of service delivery.

Director Charpilloz Hanson provided an update on agency rule making activities, including SB 777 Wolf Depredation Compensation program and the Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA) rules. Early next year, ODA will be reevaluating the Central Oregon Control District for Rapeseed after determining that there may not be a statewide solution for issues facing the canola industry.

A brief update was provided on current agency proceedings with a seed dealer in Central Oregon who chose not to charge the set price established through the bargaining association for rye grass seed. There are slow pay/no pay actions the Department can take in cases where producers have not been paid according to the set price order from the bargaining association.

The quota for shrimp with the European Union has been increased, which is a big win.

Chair Elin Miller referenced the division update reports and asked Rusty Rock about the services that ODA developed to test for *Vibrio parahaemolyticus* in shellfish intended for raw consumption. ODA is currently working through approval with the Food and Drug Administration and will be sharing protocols and knowledge with Washington and California once finalized.

Barabra Boyer asked how far behind organizations need to be for slow pay/no pay rules to take effect. Deputy Director Lindsay Eng clarified that each contract has a date enumerated where producers can apply to the Department to investigate a slow pay/no pay claim. Typically, this date is May 1st following the crop year the seed was harvested. This is guided by statutory language. There is no deadline to apply for slow pay/no pay claims. The Department investigates each claim; if it is determined that producers were not paid correctly, the Department issues a notice of payment demand giving the supplier 30-days to pay. There are also provisions within statute that require interest charges for late payments. Beyond interest, there are no additional penalties. The contested case process as required by the Administrative Procedures Act lengthens the process and adds frustration.

Agenda Item 04 – ODA Budget and Legislative Update ([Timestamp: 00:34:25](#))

The Board heard updates on ODA's Budget and Legislative efforts from Director Charpilloz Hanson, Deputy Director Jonathan Sandau, and Deputy Director Lindsay Eng. Highlights included:

- \$9.4 million appropriated for information technology modernization efforts at ODA
- Additional funding added to the Wolf Depredation Compensation Grant Program
- Funding loss to the Japanese Beetle eradication program
- Statutory fee increases for several ODA fee-based services including:
 - Food Safety
 - Pesticide
 - Brand Inspection (including added flexibility to contract for brand inspection services)
- ODA's legislative efforts during the 2025 Legislative Session:
 - 3 fee-related bills that increased fee caps or percentages
 - 3 policy bills including:

- Clarification of poultry in the state meat inspection program
- Addition of a civil penalty authority for Animal Health and Feeds program
- Realignment of soil-enhancing product label requirements with current federal guidelines and rules

Deputy Director Jonathan Sandau provided updates on the following bills which were passed in addition to the bills listed above:

- SB 777 – Modifying the Wolf Depredation Grant Program
- SB 1154 – Relating to Ground Water (Modifies provisions of law related to declarations of ground water quality concern areas and ground water quality management areas.)

A brief look ahead at the 2026 short legislative session was provided, too. There is projected to be a statewide budget deficit of around \$373 million, contrary to earlier projections that predicted a budget surplus. There are two key strategies that may be selected – decreasing the state budget commensurately or decoupling from the federal tax code.

Director Charpilloz Hanson shared that the current biennium budget is good, but there are significant risk factors that put that budget at risk, especially with federal funding sources. There have been instances where ODA has walked away from federal program implementation because the dollars offered by the federal agencies do not cover the cost of conducting those programs at the state level. She also shared that Oregon devoted 15% of the lottery funds to natural resource agencies, but there is added vulnerability of those funds as well.

Chief Operating Officer Adam Crawford also added caution around the budget and spoke to the cyclicity with which ODA receives its funds (twice a year). He is regularly monitoring ongoing budget issues.

Agenda Item 05 – Local Food Network ([Timestamp: 01:16:48](#))

Amy Gilroy, a Trade Manager with ODA, introduced the next group of presenters. She facilitated a panel of local community members engaged with local food systems. The panel consisted of the following members:

- **Delaney Ryde** – Program Coordinator for the Klamath Grown Food Hub
- **Jennifer Detwiler** – Nutrition Services Supervisor for the Klamath County School District
- **Susan Topham** – Owner of Flying T Salers Ranch in Sprague River, Oregon
- **Tonia Henderson**, Registered Dietician and Director of Food, Nutrition, and Diabetes at Sky Lakes Medical Center
- **Katie Swanson** – Owner of Seet Union Farm in Klamath Falls, Oregon

Amy Gilroy facilitated the discussion and asked the panel the following four questions:

- What do you think the benefits are of the work you do?
- What is a milestone or accomplishment that you feel the most proud of?
- What is the hardest part of working in the local food system for you?
- What is one thing that would make it easier for you to overcome a challenge in this work?

The meeting recessed for a five-minute break following the local food panel discussion.

Agenda Item 06 – Klamath Basin Restoration ([Timestamp: 02:00:30](#))

Larry Nicholson, Executive Director of the Upper Klamath Basin Agricultural Cooperative (UKBAC) and Becky Hatfield Hyde, Deputy Director of UKBAC and Vice-Chair of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission, shared a presentation highlighting the restoration efforts being undertaken in the Upper Klamath Basin. The UKBAC was formed in 2022 by a group of farmers to help unify efforts in restoration in the Upper Klamath Basin. They focus on the region above Klamath Lake, including the Sprague River, consisting of off-project irrigators. UKBAC is the steward of a grant issued by OWEB to many community partners in 2026. Goal one is to do 26 miles of low process-based restoration on the upper tributaries of the Sprague River. To date, approximately 14 miles have been completed. The second goal is to come up with a concept to restore 80 miles of the Sprague River to promote water quality and retention for agricultural and wildlife uses. Goal three is to develop tools and incentives for agricultural landowners to do restoration work:

- One of those tools was an NRCS RCPP program to simplify the participation process for landowners
- Another tool was to implement conservation leases for agricultural landowners which would allow other federal programs to be utilized on those acres leased for conservation purposes which helps overcome issues with conservation easements
 - Issues identified with this approach included the need for funding matches from the state, which may not be available, and a lower pay out for leases compared to easement agreements
 - The Klamath Tribes have expressed opposition to conservation easements in these areas because they do not want lands acquired by them in the future to be encumbered by conservation easements

Agenda Item 07 – Klamath Irrigation Project ([Timestamp: 02:31:55](#))

Gene Souza, Executive Director for the Klamath Irrigation District, Elizabeth Nielsen, Executive Director of the Klamath Water Users Association, and Jaxsen Sikorski, District Manager for the Klamath Irrigation District, presented the history and current happenings on the Klamath Irrigation Project.

Agenda Item 08 – Public Comment ([Timestamp: 02:52:43](#))

Chair Elin Miller called for public comment at 11:30 am. However, no requests for public comment were received for this time slot.

The Board received four submissions of written comments prior to the meeting and reviewed them:

Submitter:	Organization/Affiliation:	Topic:
Andrea Kreiner	Oregon Association of Conservation Districts	Land Use and Planning Coordinator Position at ODA
Dani Lightle	Oregonians for Food and Shelter	LUBGWMA Rule Making
Sophie Els	Oregon Climate and Agriculture Network	Resolution 319: Climate Change Policy Considerations
Justin Green	Water for Eastern Oregon	LUBGWMA Rule Making

Sally Compton Colin Reynolds Bethany Cotton Story Warren Joe Liebezeit Amaroq Weiss Brian Posewitz	Think Wild Defenders of Wildlife Cascadia Wildlands Humane World for Animals Bird Alliance of Oregon Center for Biological Diversity Humane Voters Oregon	SB 777 Rule Making and Implementation
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Agenda Item 09 – Site Visits

The meeting recessed at 11:50 am to reconvene at 8:30 am September 5th, 2025. The Board toured the following locations, led by Gene Souza and Elizabeth Nielsen:

- Link River Estates to view a panoramic view of Klamath Lake and the dam on the Link River
- Pumping station on the Klamath Drainage District where Manager Scott White explained the flow of water through the KDD and showcased the recirculation process which recycles water during dry years to help meet irrigation needs.
- Active potato harvest at Scott Fenters’ field to observe harvest of fingerling potatoes.
- Lost River High School FFA program where student officers and ag teacher Meghan Miller showcased their school farm which provides meat and eggs to the school cafeteria for the lunch program.
- Oregon State University’s Klamath Basin Research and Extension Center where the Board toured ongoing hemp planting density trials, wheat breeding trials, and potato genetics projects.

The tours concluded and the meeting recessed at 6:00 PM to reconvene at 8:30 AM on Friday, September 5th, 2025.

Friday, September 5th, 2025

Agenda Item 00 – Welcome and Introductions ([Timestamp: 00:00:03](#))

Chair Elin Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 am. John Boyes, Board Coordinator called the roll of Board Members.

Board Members:	ODA Staff Present:	Others Present:
Present: Elin Miller, Chair Chad Allen, Vice-Chair Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson Eric Orem Kirk Maag Mike Dill Barbara Boyer Ellie Norris Ty Kliewer Josh Zielinski (Remotely) Absent: Dean Staci Simonich Miguel Lopez	Lindsay Eng Jonathan Sandau Rusty Rock Casey Prentiss Isaak Stapleton Sherry Kudna Karla Valness John Boyes Sunny Summers (Remotely) Sandi Hiatt (Remotely) Amy Gilroy (Remotely) Nick Sirovatka (Remotely) Andrea Cantu-Schomus (Remotely) Sunny Summers (Remotely) Laura Passage (Remotely) Adam Crawford (Remotely)	Ron Anderson Amy Fitzpatrick Dayle Robnett Joseph Vaile Barry Shullanberger Paul Poister Keri Brookshire Ryan Krabill Tom Flynn Rick Crook Wanda Crook Bill Lehman Lee Bradshaw Le Rae Bradshaw Terra Ochsner (Remotely) Una Johnson (Remotely) Lauren Kuenzi (Remotely) Misty (Remotely) Danie Lightle (Remotely) Neil Ferguson (Remotely) Pasigo Ranch (Remotely) Justin Green (Remotely) Nicole Mann (Remotely) Carlos Bonilla (Remotely) Katie Murray (Remotely) Roblyn Brown (Remotely)

Roll call confirmed that a quorum (majority of voting members) was present, and the meeting could continue.

Agenda Item 10 – SB 777 Wolf Depredation Compensation Program – Implementation ([Timestamp: 00:05:40](#))

The Board heard a joint presentation between ODA and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) on the Wolf Depredation Compensation Program presented by Deputy Director Jonathan Sandau, Senior Policy Advisor Sunny Summers, and Wolf Coordinator Roblyn Brown (ODFW).

Roblyn Brown provided an overview of the wolf population and status in Oregon as well as management tips and tricks to deter wolf activity on ranches.

Sunny Summers, Senior Policy Advisor for ODA, and Jonathan Sandau, Deputy Director at ODA, provided an overview of the ODA-administered Wolf Depredation Compensation Grant Program. They clarified that ODA is

not involved in the confirmation of a depredation event, but that the program would reimburse ranchers for “confirmed” or “probable” wolf kills according to ODFW’s determination.

SB 777 from the 2025 legislative session changed the compensation model for the wolf depredation program:

- The missing category was eliminated
- A new multiplier for confirmed/probable losses which will pay up to 3x-5x the animal’s market value with a \$25,000 payment cap per animal.
- At least 50% of funds must be used for preventative measures.

The revised rules to implement the changes enacted by SB 777 are scheduled to be posted in November after convening the Rules Advisory Committee.

Agenda Item 11 – Public Comment ([Timestamp: 00:57:00](#))

This time was reserved for public comment. The Board received verbal comments from the following people:

Name:	Organization/Affiliation:	Topic:
Dani Lightle	Oregonians for Food and Shelter	LUBGWMA Rule Making
Justin Green	Water for Eastern Oregon	LUBGWMA Rule Making
Paul Poister	Nutrien Ag Solutions; Member of LUBGWMA RAC	LUBGWMA Rule Making
Keri Brookshire & Dayle Robnett	Klamath Co. Cattlewomen’s Association & Diamond S Meat Co.	SB 777 and Wolf Depredation Impacts
Lauran Kuenzi	Oregon Farm Bureau	SB 777 and Wolf Depredation Impacts
Ryan Krabill	Oregon Farm Bureau	General Ag Economic Overview for OR Agriculture
Ron Anderson	Rancher – Butte Falls	SB 777 and Wolf Depredation Impacts
Bill Lehman	Klamath Watershed Partnership	Klamath Basin Water Issues
Joseph Vaile	Defenders of Wildlife	SB 777 and Wolf Depredation Impacts
Lee Bradshaw	Jackson County Farm Bureau, Rancher from Eagle Point	SB 777 and Wolf Depredation Impacts
Le Rae Bradshaw	Rancher	SB 777 and Wolf Depredation Impacts

The meeting paused for a 10-minute break following public comment.

Agenda Item 12 – Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) Rules ([Timestamp: 01:50:50](#))

Eric Orem, Board Member, Isaak Stapleton, ODA, and Renee Moulun, ODA, presented an update on the rules being made for the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. The LUBGWMA has historically had

high nitrate infiltration to ground water sources. In September of 2024, the state published a management plan from ODA, Oregon Department of Water Resources (ODWR), and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to help mitigate these ground water issues.

Monthly Rules Advisory Committee Meetings have been happening in March – September of 2025. The goal is to publish proposed rules in October 2025, hold public hearing and revise rules in November 2025, and rule adoption and finalization in December 2025.

The goal is not to achieve 100% nitrogen utilization but rather minimizing nitrogen leaching. The control strategy consists of adjusting fertilizer application rates according to crop need, reducing nitrate loading in soils at the crop root zone, and preventing or reducing excess nitrate from leaching into groundwater. Rule making was approached with keeping best management measures in mind, including leaving farm management decisions to farmers, ensuring the rules are results oriented, and providing grower assessment tools.

Renee Moulun gave an overview of the draft LUBGWMA rules. There are rules that apply to all landowners and rules that apply to large, irrigated acreages.

Rules for All Landowners:	Large, Irrigated Acreage (1,000 ac +) Rules:
Prohibited acts Application rates/restrictions Irrigation management Animal pasturing	Annual nitrogen plan Post-harvest summary Nitrogen evaluation plan Adaptive management measures

Details of each of these rules were shared by Renee Moulun. Key concerns raised by the Board included considerations for older irrigation infrastructure, issues with controlling infiltration depth during flood irrigation, and ensuring growers were left the authority of making management decisions for their operations.

Isaak Stapleton shared there are data challenges with identifying operations that meet the 1,000 irrigated acre threshold. Renee Moulun explained that the largest component for these larger operations is the annual nitrogen plan that focuses on nitrogen inputs at levels that are reflective of the crop demand and requires end-of-year assessment to determine if the plan was effective.

Under these draft rules, ODA will evaluate the program and be engaged with:

- Determining compliance by way of records auditing and performing on-farm inspections
- Determining the percentage of participants based on submitted proof of certifications
- Monitoring soil nitrate levels to determine program effectiveness

It was clarified that the source waters for irrigation in this project area vary – some draw from shallower alluvial aquifers while others have drilled into the Columbia basalt aquifer.

Agenda Item 13 – Board Resolutions ([Timestamp: 02:53:30](#))

Board Resolution 319 – Climate Change Policy Considerations:

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to Board Resolution 319 as submitted.

MOTION

Kirk Maag moved to approve the Board Resolution revisions as submitted. Elli Norris seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by: Ty Kliewer, Kirk Maag, Chad Allen, Eric Orem, Mike Dill, Ellie Norris, Josh Zielinski and Elin Miller. No abstentions, recusals, or no-votes were cast.

Agenda Item 14 – Public Comment ([Timestamp: 02:56:54](#))

This time was reserved for additional public comment. The Board received the following public comments:

Name:	Organization/Affiliation:	Topic:
Una Johnson	Member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	SB 777 and Wolf Depredation Program on Reservation Lands
Carlos Bonilla	Oregon State University Faculty; Chair of the LUBGWMA Working Group	LUBGWMA Rule Making

Una Johnson asked how the Wolf Depredation Program on Reservation Lands. Elin Miller permitted responses from the agency. Deputy Director Jonathan Sandau and Senior Policy Advisor Sunny Summers provided clarification that Jefferson or Wasco Counties would need to establish wolf committees. Jefferson County has been in contact with ODA to begin the process of applying for the Wolf Depredation Compensation Program.

Agenda Item 15 – Board Business ([Timestamp: 03:06:00](#))

Election of Officers:

MOTION:

Ty Kliewer moved to nominate Elin Miller to serve as Chair of the Board. Chad Allen seconded the motion. No discussion or further nominations were received. Motion passed unanimously by: Ty Kliewer, Kirk Maag, Chad Allen, Ellie Norris, Mike Dill, Josh Zielinski, and Elin Miller. No abstentions, recusals, or no votes were cast.

MOTION:

Ty Kliewer moved to nominate Eric Orem for the role of Vice-Chair. Mike Dill seconded the motion. Mike Dill offered comment that having continuity of Board leadership for new members is helpful. Eric Orem added that continuity will help be beneficial. Mike Dill added that the difference in how boards operate can be vast. Elin Miller thanked the Board. The motion was passed unanimously by: Ty Kliewer, Kirk Maag, Chad Allen, Ellie Norris, Mike Dill, Josh Zielinski, and Elin Miller. No abstentions, recusals, or no votes were cast.

Newsletter Topics: ([Timestamp: 03:10:50](#))

Chair Elin Miller opened the floor for discussion about topics for the Board Newsletter.

The following assignments were made:

Board Member:	Newsletter Topic:
Ellie Norris	Klamath County Farm-to-School
Kirk Maag	SB 777 and Wolf Depredation
Ty Kliewer	Water Issues in the Klamath Basin
Eric Orem	LUBGWMA RAC

Future Meeting Dates and Locations: ([Timestamp: 03:18:25](#))

The Board proposed the following locations for the 2026 meetings:

- Redmond in concert with the Oregon FFA Convention (March 17-20, 2026)
- Madras, OR (June 3-5, 2026)
- Southern Oregon Coast (September 2-4, 2026)
- McMinnville, OR/Yamhill County (December 2-4, 2026)

It was recommended that the September 2026 meeting dates be altered to account for back-to-school days.

Elin Miller adjourned the meeting at 12:05 pm

Next meeting: December 3-5, 2025
In-person – Hood River, OR | Virtual option will be available.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 3A: *Director's Report*

I. Introduction

Director Lisa Charpiloz Hanson will provide an update to the Board on ODA's operations since last quarter's meeting. Also included in her report will be written updates from each of ODA's divisions. Director Charpiloz Hanson will address:

- ODA's progress on its [2024-2027 Strategic Plan](#)
- Rulemaking activities over the last quarter
- Statewide government funding and budget conversations
- Director's travel
- Governor's trade mission with South Korea and Japan
- Preview of Governor Kotek's Executive Order on Climate Change and Resiliency (EO 25-26)
 - o Building a more resilient Oregon together
 - OWEB & ODFW will lead an interagency workgroup to identify key attributes of resilient lands and waters, how the state defines the baseline and tracks progress
 - Biennial agency plans related to this initiative
 - Identifying and offering funding pathways for strategies to help communities implement measures under this EO
 - Developing a state climate action and resilience dashboard
 - 10% in 10 Years initiative – restoring 10% of OR lands and waters within 10 years
 - Will likely be a focus of the 27-29 Agency Requested Budgets
- DLCD Farmstand Rulemaking Status Update
- Governor's Expectations Update
(<https://www.oregon.gov/das/strategy/Documents/2025-09-29-Report.pdf>)
 - o ODA highlights:
 - Performance Feedback for Employees – Expectation: 90%+ complete; ODA: 99% complete (256/258)
 - Average Days to Fill Vacancies – Expectation: fewer than 50 days; ODA: 42 days
 - Vacancy Rates – Q2 2025

Agency	Total Positions	Vacant	Vacant Long Term	Vacant %	Vacant Long Term %
ODA	415	73	57	17.6%	13.7%

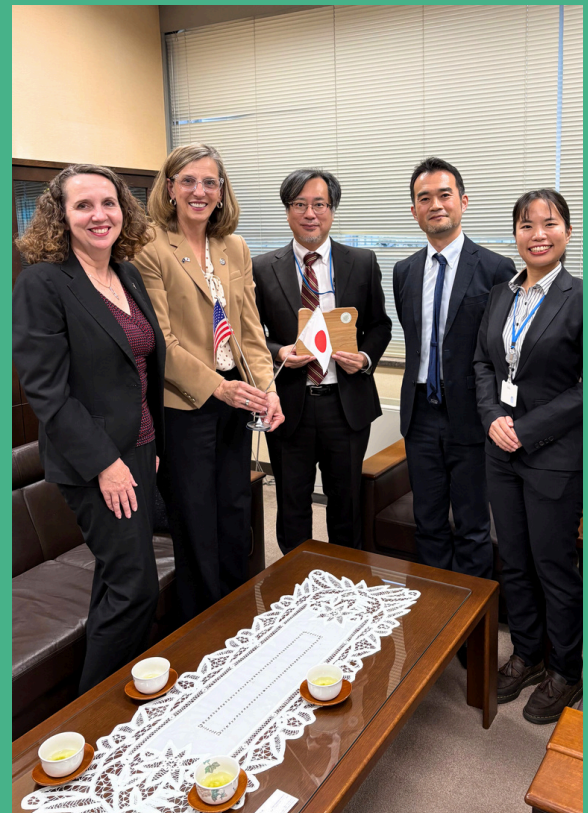
- Customer Service Training – Expectation: 90%+ completed; ODA: 6/6 complete (100%)
- Foundational Training– Expectation: 90% completed; ODA: 1/1 enrollment w/in 5 days (100%), 2/2 w/in 4 months completed (100%)
- New Employee Orientation: Expectation: 90% completed; ODA: 5/5 (100%)
- Uplift Your Benefits Training – Expectation: 90% completed; ODA: 3/5 (60%)
- Performance Accountability and Feedback Training – Expectation: 90% completed; ODA: 1/1 (100%)



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

2024-2027 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report to the Board December 2025



STRATEGIC GOAL 1: ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

We are building a “Mission-Driven Agency” through data-driven engagement and disciplined fiscal stewardship.

Workforce Accountability



- **100% Training Compliance:** ODA achieved a 100% on-time completion rate for required manager training, exceeding the state enterprise target of 90%.
- **Fiscal Resilience:** Facing a 5% budget reduction mandate, leadership identified savings through vacancies and pass-through adjustments, explicitly protecting filled positions to maintain technical expertise.
- **Safety Update:** We matured "Lone Worker" protocols to ensure rapid response and support for staff operating in the field.

Employee Engagement



- **Strong Participation:** We achieved a 63% participation rate in the 3rd annual Employee Engagement Survey, providing a statistically significant baseline for our culture.
- **Culture of Care:** Our highest-rated areas in the survey indicate strong local leadership, with employees rating "My manager cares about me as a person" at 4.30/5.00.
- **Building Connections:** We saw a significant increase in the survey (+0.40) in employees reporting they "have a best friend at work," signaling improved social cohesion and belonging.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: MODERNIZATION

Moving from concept to concrete execution: procurement, intranet, and identity.

Project OneODA: Vendor Selection



The agency's flagship digital transformation has moved from governance design to active procurement.

- Progress: We have selected a vendor and are finalizing the primary project management contract while forming the internal implementation team.
- Impact: This system will eventually provide a "360-degree view" of licensees, combining critical data into a single dashboard for exceptional service delivery.

Connecting the Hybrid Workforce



- Intranet: Development of the new ODA intranet is underway to serve as a central hub for resources and news. The "sandbox" environment is currently in testing.
- Employee Credentials: We procured assets to modernize an enhanced Employee credential card system, establishing a workflow that will ensure field staff have verifiable, professional credentials when entering private businesses.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3: CUSTOMER-FOCUSED SERVICE

OneODA in action.

Crisis in Response: Infant Formula Recall



The power of a flexible workforce was proven during the ByHeart Whole Nutrition Infant Formula recall.

- The Challenge: A multi-state botulism investigation required immediate verification that dangerous product was removed from shelves statewide.
- The Response: ODA mobilized staff from across various agency programs to assist the Food Safety teams.
- The Result: Rapid statewide coverage supported product removal from commerce, directly protecting Oregon families.

Promoting Oregon Agriculture



- Trade Wins: The Governor's trade mission to Japan and Korea, supported by ODA, resulted in a Japanese client committing to launch a new product in Oregon.
- Proactive Biosecurity: The "Fall Flock Watch" campaign successfully disseminated biosecurity practices to small-flock owners during the migration season.

Customer Feedback: "A food safety client explicitly praised their inspector as a 'rock star,' a testament to the professionalism of field staff."

Strategic Goals



Vision of
Resiliency



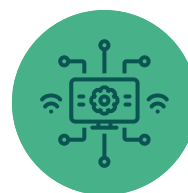
Customer-
Focused



Diversity,
Equity,
Inclusion &
Belonging



Engaged
AGGIES



Modernization

							
Goal 1: Organizational Excellence	1.1	Mission-Driven Agency					
	1.2	Accountability					
	1.3	Business Continuity					
Goal 2: Modernization	2.1	Cloud-First Technology Strategy					
	2.2	Modernize Legacy Systems					
Goal 3: Customer-Focused Service	3.1	Evaluate Services					
	3.2	Focus on Interaction					
	3.3	Continuous Improvement of Service					



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-26

DIRECTING STATE AGENCIES TO TAKE URGENT ACTION TO PROMOTE THE RESILIENCE OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS AND WATERS

WHEREAS, the lands and waters that comprise the State of Oregon have supported people since time immemorial, contributing to clean air and water, food, fiber and shelter, rich biodiversity and ecosystems, recreation, livelihoods, and enhanced quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Oregon is at an inflection point as changing climate and ocean conditions are impacting Oregon's landscapes, waters, communities, and local economies with increased temperatures, warming surface waters, changing precipitation patterns, reduced snowpack, hotter and drier summers, sea-level rise, diminishing water supplies, habitat constraints to iconic species, and more frequent and damaging wildfires and extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's natural and working lands and waters — including forests, grasslands, rangelands, farmlands, wetlands, rivers, lakes and coastal and marine waters, and the parks and open spaces in urban environments — provide a range of environmental, social, health, and economic benefits statewide, including opportunities to increase carbon sequestration to help address climate change; and

WHEREAS, Oregon can realize the promise and power of our natural and working lands and waters through proactive policies and actions that facilitate the management of natural landscapes and waterways in a way that enhances their ability to withstand and recover from climate change impacts; and

WHEREAS, the effects of our changing climate are resulting in direct health impacts from heat and wildfire smoke; damage to and often destruction of homes, businesses, and working landscapes; and economic losses across multiple sectors of the State's natural resource economy; and

WHEREAS, communities have the knowledge, ability, and desire to participate in climate solutions and increase local disaster resilience through collaborative planning and action in partnership with state agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon State Legislature established a definition of climate resilience in House Bill 3409 (2023) as "the capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from significant climate-related threats while minimizing damage to social wellbeing, the economy and ecosystem functions"; and



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-26 PAGE TWO

WHEREAS, meeting Oregon’s resilience goals at scale requires bringing everyone together — Tribes, landowners, communities, business, and government — in partnership to support our lands, waters, and communities; and

WHEREAS, meeting Oregon’s resilience goals requires a coordinated, outcome-focused effort to implement actions that will meaningfully mitigate and adapt the State’s lands and waters to the increasing pace and scale of impacts from the changing climate, so they continue to contribute to the social, environmental, and economic well-being of Oregonians.

**NOW IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED THAT AGENCIES
SHALL FURTHER THE ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BELOW.**

I. FOSTER RESILIENT LANDS, WATERS AND COMMUNITIES

- 1. Define Key Resilience Attributes for Land and Waters.** Agencies shall use existing plans and strategies and the best available science to define key resilience attributes appropriate for Oregon with the goal of identifying characteristics of lands and water that are: (1) currently resilient to impacts from climate change and therefore able to deliver multiple benefits that are likely to persist under future climate conditions; or, (2) capable of achieving multiple benefits of high resilience in the face of changing conditions if supported by focused actions that promote restoration, enhancement or reconnection of those lands and/or waters.
 - a.** The Executive Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (“OWEB”) will partner with the Director of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (“ODFW”) (collectively “Lead Agencies”) to lead a natural resource interagency team to undertake the work associated with development of resilience attributes anticipated by Section 1, including determining baseline conditions against which progress will be measured. The Lead Agencies shall collaborate closely with the Director of the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), who oversees the Natural and Working Lands Program, to ensure consistency across efforts.



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-26 PAGE THREE

2. Keep Oregon's Working Lands and Waters Working.

- a. Executive branch agencies identified in Section II of this Order ("Agencies") are directed to utilize the resilience attributes along with other relevant information to identify and improve programs, processes, and practices that protect and promote stewardship of working lands and waters to adapt to impacts from a changing climate. These include but are not limited to the following:
 - i. Existing programs, tools and incentives that support the stewardship of working lands and waters in order to provide more diverse agricultural, forest and ocean-reliant products while also supporting co-benefits such as clean water, healthy soils and improved resilience to changing climate conditions.
 - ii. Partnerships to increase the pace and scale of adoption of sustainable stewardship and climate resilient practices by landowners including federal, local and tribal governments, businesses, non-profit organizations and private citizens.
 - iii. Application and review processes for grantmaking, loan, and financing programs to improve partner engagement on resilience projects including exploration of opportunities to leverage and expand access to capital and administrative capacity through partnership with third party service providers.
 - iv. Permitting processes for restoration projects on working lands and waters.
- b. The Department of State Lands, Department of Land and Conservation Development and Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall work with the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council, the Oregon Ocean Science Trust and Oregon Sea Grant to evaluate opportunities to support long-term resilience of nearshore resources in Oregon, and incentivize and promote globally competitive ocean-reliant products derived through sustainable practices.



EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-26
PAGE FOUR

3. Conserve Natural Lands and Waters to Act as Resilience Anchors in the Face of Climate Change Impacts.

- a. Ten Percent in Ten Years.** Agencies are directed to protect, conserve, connect or restore ten percent of lands and waters in Oregon within ten years as compared to baseline conditions established for 2025.
- b. Prioritize Key Lands and Waters.** Agencies subject to this Order will utilize resilience attributes developed in Section I (1) to prioritize implementation of programs, policies and projects seeking to advance protection, conservation, restoration, or connection of lands and waters in support of the goal of ten percent in ten years. Durability and effectiveness of actions to conserve, protect, restore, or connect lands and waters must be considered in determining whether proposed actions further this directive. Agencies shall seek to maximize implementation of actions with co-benefits such as increased carbon sequestration and biodiversity, improved community health and cultural well-being, enhanced ecosystem health, and/or reduced fire and flood risk.
- c. Develop Innovative Mitigation Solutions.** The natural resources inter-agency team established in Section II (3) of this Order shall collaborate with Business Oregon as appropriate to explore innovative mitigation tools to support the long-term protection and resilience of land and waters that contain key resilience attributes while ensuring that the economic benefits of mitigation investments support local communities. Consideration shall be given but not be limited to the following potential solutions:
 - i.** Advanced Mitigation Banks: which proactively conserve or restore ecological values in anticipation of future development impacts; and
 - ii.** In-Lieu Fee Programs: which allow project developers to meet mitigation obligations by paying into a state-managed or authorized fund used for strategic conservation, restoration, and landscape resilience projects.
 - iii.** These programs must be designed to:



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1. Maximize ecological outcomes aligned with the protection of lands and waters with key resilience attributes.
 2. Retain mitigation revenue within Oregon, ensuring that funds support in-state projects.
 3. Allow for creative mitigation portfolios that ensure “no net loss” of lands and waters with key resilience attributes while supporting “net benefit” programs and organizations that protect lands and waters from catastrophic wildfire and/or flooding.
 4. Benefit Oregon’s agricultural families and rural communities through partnerships with local landowners, land trusts, and conservation districts.
 5. Create durable and locally beneficial conservation outcomes through transparent governance, science-based site selection, and robust monitoring/accountability requirements
 6. Leverage private investment and market-based tools in ways that complement existing public funding and programs.
4. **Lead by Example: State-Owned and Managed Lands and Waters.** Agencies subject to this Executive Order that own or manage lands or waters (including, but not limited to, those identified below) are directed to develop and implement strategies to enhance climate resilience as a co-benefit of current management objectives and to ensure present and future impacts of climate change are explicitly considered in planning for the management of those lands and waters.
- i. State Parks
 - ii. State Forests, including the Elliott State Research Forest
 - iii. State Wildlife Management Areas
 - iv. State Fish Hatcheries
 - v. State-Owned Properties/Lands (including Trust lands) not principally owned, operated, or managed in support of structures, offices, or facilities serving state agency programs.
 - vi. State Held Conservation Easements and/or Leases
 - vii. State owned submerged and submersible lands and waters, including the Territorial Sea
 - viii. State-Held Water Rights

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5. Ensure a Livable Oregon.

a. Support and Enhance Local Resilience Efforts through Planning and Action in Collaboration with Communities. The Oregon State Resilience Officer shall lead an effort to create a Plan for a Resilient Oregon (“PRO”) that identifies and offers funding pathways for strategies to help communities adapt and thrive in the face of increasingly severe climate risks, and to support communities in long-term recovery from climate-driven disasters. The following actions shall be taken to implement this directive:

- i. Extensive and meaningful outreach with communities shall occur in every region of the State and shall inform the development of the PRO.
- ii. Agencies participating in PRO planning and implementation efforts shall utilize existing and available staffing resources.
- iii. The PRO will integrate with existing strategies and plans, including those related to wildfire and flood protection, energy resilience, and directives of this Order.

b. Protect Oregon from Catastrophic Wildfire.

i. Implement Oregon’s 20-year Landscape Resiliency Plan.

Agencies are directed to leverage partnerships and use available programs and resources to reduce the risk of wildfire and public health impacts of smoke by creating resilient natural and working landscapes. The following actions shall be taken to implement this directive:

- 1. Prioritize landscapes for restoration and resilience treatments and identify pathways to increase the extent and scale of treatments.
- 2. Maximize dedicated funding to promote partnerships through Good Neighbor Authorities to accomplish large scale landscape resilience treatments.
- 3. Identify pathways to increase the extent and scale of prescribed burns and cultural burning while minimizing smoke impacts to public health.



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4. Support the development and implementation of community smoke response plans. Identify additional measures for timely dissemination of air quality information and alerts during wildfire and prescribed fire events.
- ii. **Create Fire-Adapted Communities.** To safeguard lives, property, and critical infrastructure from the growing threat of wildfires, agencies are directed to support efforts to build Fire-Adapted Communities across the state. The following actions shall be taken to implement this directive:
 1. Further defensible space education and establishment across the state. Defensible space is the buffer between a building and the surrounding vegetation that slows or stops the spread of wildfire.
 2. Promote increased use of fire-resistant building materials (home hardening) and community design features to reduce structural vulnerability.
 3. Promote community risk reduction efforts through volunteer programs such as Firewise, local evacuation route planning, and partnerships to increase community survivability during urban wildfire conflagrations.

II. ACCOUNTABILITY, COORDINATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION

1. **Executive Branch Agencies Subject to this Order.** Progress on the direction and commitments of this Order will take focused and coordinated planning and execution by Oregon's natural resource agencies, each of which has its own Board or Commission. The following state agencies and their Boards or Commissions are subject to the goals and directives outlined in this Order as they may apply section by section:
 - i. Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD);
 - ii. Department of State Lands (DSL);
 - iii. Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation (OPRD);
 - iv. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ);
 - v. Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA);
 - vi. Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE);



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- vii. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW);
 - viii. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI);
 - ix. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF);
 - x. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT);
 - xi. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Environmental Public Health;
 - xii. Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD);
 - xiii. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB);
 - xiv. Public Utility Commission of Oregon (PUC); and
 - xv. Oregon Climate Action Commission (OCAC).
- 2. **Reporting and Accountability.** State agencies must deliver transparent, accurate reporting on public programs, maintain accountability to citizens and stakeholders, and establish clear feedback loops that enable public input and demonstrate responsive government action, using the following:
 - a. **Develop Biennial Plans.** Each agency shall develop (or incorporate into an existing planning process) a biennial plan that includes targets and metrics appropriate to the agency's intersection with this Order with the goal of focusing existing and new resources, programs, and incentives to advance the goals and actions in Sections I and II of this Order as applicable:
 - i. **Public Feedback and Oversight.** Agencies will present their biennial plans to their respective board or commission for discussion, review, and comment at a public meeting where public testimony can be received.
 - ii. **Recommendations for Governor's Recommended Budget ("GRB").** Biennial plans will be developed on a schedule and in a format to inform the development of the GRB starting with the 2029-2031 Agency Request Budget ("ARB") biennial cycle. Actions for consideration for the development of the 2027-2029 GRB will be expedited as needed.
 - iii. **Implementation Workplan.** Agencies shall immediately begin developing implementation timelines and pathways to comply with this Order. The following existing reporting requirements

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related to the goals of this Order will be assessed and consolidated to the extent practicable: the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Roadmap, Forest Climate and Carbon Plan, Connectivity Action Plan, Integrated Water Resources Strategy, Climate Adaptation Framework, Natural Climate Solutions, and others as identified.

- b. **Update Key Performance Measures (“KPMs”).** Agencies will work with Department of Administrative Services to review and modify existing plans and KPMs to adjust existing goals as appropriate to integrate with and advance this Order.
 - c. **Engagement with Oregon’s Nine Federally Recognized Sovereign Tribal Nations.** The State, through the Office of Governor Kotek and the State Agencies within the Natural Resources Cluster Workgroup, shall collaborate with Oregon’s nine federally recognized sovereign tribal nations to build, sustain, and enhance relationships to find common ground in support of the implementation of this Order.
3. **Coordination and Oversight of Implementation.** The Governor’s Natural Resources Office will take a leadership role in advancing the efforts associated with this Order. It is the responsibility of each respective agency director to ensure appropriate coordination and implementation contemplated by this Order is integrated into agency programs and initiatives.
 - a. **Agency Leadership Implementation Team.** A group of agency directors and senior staff will be assembled under the auspices of the Governor’s Natural Resources Cabinet. The subgroup, working at the direction of the Governor’s Office and State Agency Natural Resources Cabinet, will:
 - i. Identify existing initiatives and programs that could benefit from increased cross-agency collaboration and develop recommendations to improve integration of climate resilience programs and actions in this Order. These recommendations will



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include both policy and budget needs related to the successful implementation of this Order.

- ii. Develop recommendations to address critical gaps or barriers (e.g., programs, administrative rules, statutory changes) to the state's implementation of this Order.
 - iii. Assess and implement as practicable a State of Oregon Climate Action and Resilience Dashboard to serve as source of information on the work of agencies on this Order.
- b. **Board & Commission Oversight Team.** A subgroup of relevant Board and Commission members will be assembled under the auspices of the Governor's Natural Resources Cabinet. The subgroup will work parallel to the Agency Leadership Team to support the implementation work of the Order.
- c. **Legislative & Public Engagement.** As requested, agencies shall provide updates and presentations on implementation work to relevant Boards, Commissions, Councils, Local Governments, Federal Agencies, and the Oregon State Legislature.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 21st day of October, 2025.

Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Tobias Read
SECRETARY OF STATE

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-29

EXECUTIVE ORDER ON REDUCING GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS AND ADVANCING OREGON'S CLEAN ENERGY FUTURE

WHEREAS, Oregon faces increasing risks from climate change, including extreme weather events, wildfires, water scarcity, and rising energy costs, which threaten public health, safety, outdoor recreation, and economic stability; and

WHEREAS, affordable, abundant, and reliable clean energy is key to Oregon's economic future, and the state needs to deploy new energy infrastructure to enable sustained economic growth and to meet rising energy demands; and

WHEREAS, Oregon has adopted ambitious climate goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and transition to a clean energy economy, including targets established under House Bill 2021(2021) and other legislative and executive actions; and

WHEREAS, energy efficiency improvements across all sectors are among the most cost-effective strategies to reduce emissions and lower energy bills while maintaining economic productivity; and

WHEREAS, ensuring access to affordable, abundant, and reliable clean energy requires accelerated investment in electricity infrastructure, including renewable energy, energy storage, and grid modernization; and

WHEREAS, grid resilience is increasingly vital to support public safety in the face of climate-related disruptions, and investments in microgrids, battery storage, and grid hardening have a role to play in building greater resilience in Oregon's energy future; and

WHEREAS, Oregon can help reduce energy development costs and accelerate deployment of clean energy infrastructure needed to grow the economy by streamlining permitting, siting, and interconnection processes for clean energy projects; and

WHEREAS, public-private partnerships can mobilize investment, spur innovation, and create jobs that will be key to Oregon's growing clean energy economy; and

WHEREAS, a coordinated, statewide approach to planning and designating transmission corridors is essential to long-term infrastructure development that will support economic growth and ensure clean energy can be delivered efficiently and reliably to consumers.



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NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED:

I. FOSTER THE TRANSITION TO A CLEAN ENERGY ECONOMY

- 1. Prioritize Implementation of the Oregon Energy Strategy Pathways.**
Executive branch agencies listed in Section II.1.a (“Agencies”) are directed to adopt and implement greenhouse gas reduction strategies and align their decisions, activities, and investments as appropriate to advance the five least-cost pathways identified in the Oregon Energy Strategy. As appropriate, agencies will modify or add to current work plans and performance indicators to track and report on implementation activities to achieve the following objectives:
 - a. Advance Energy Efficiency Across All Sectors.** Agencies shall take appropriate actions within existing authorities and budgets to align decisions, activities, and investments to increase cost-effective energy efficiency in new and existing buildings, including providing cost savings through retrofits of building appliances and equipment.
 - b. Support Investment in Clean Electricity Infrastructure.** Agencies shall take appropriate actions within their existing authorities to accelerate investment in and deployment of least-cost and least-risk renewable energy resources, energy storage, demand response, and grid infrastructure in order to maintain and expand access to affordable and reliable clean electricity for Oregon ratepayers.
 - c. Increase Strategic Electrification of Vehicles and Buildings.** Agencies shall take appropriate actions necessary within their existing authorities to align programs, decisions, and investments to advance the state’s interest in increasing cost-effective, strategic electrification of vehicles, buildings, and water heating systems while also supporting affordable and reliable energy for Oregon ratepayers.
 - d. Increase Supply and Use of Low-Carbon Fuels.** DEQ and the EQC shall evaluate the status and projected growth of the clean fuels market and update Oregon Clean Fuels Program rules to strengthen the Low-Carbon Fuels Standard (LCFS) to establish a reduction in carbon intensity of not less than 50% by 2040. DEQ is directed to evaluate the scope and stringency of the LCFS programs in neighboring states in proposing the new targets and

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propose additional rule revisions if needed to better align the Oregon Clean Fuels Program with those neighboring jurisdictions based on that evaluation. DEQ shall establish an agreed upon workplan within three months of this Order that sets forth a timeline for completing the required rulemaking.

- e. **Strengthen Resilience Across all Levels of the Energy System.** The PUC shall exercise its existing authority to evaluate and value grid resiliency benefits in electric utility resource planning processes. The PUC shall establish transparent criteria or processes for appropriately valuing the enhanced resiliency benefits from utility investments at all levels of the energy system, such as microgrids, energy storage, flexible loads, virtual power plant resources, and grid hardening, while also avoiding shifting costs from high-income ratepayers to energy burdened ratepayers.
2. **Get Clean Energy Projects Built.** Agencies are directed to develop and implement a coordinated, proactive approach to streamline land use and environmental reviews, siting and permitting, and interconnection processes for clean energy projects, energy storage, and associated transmission and distribution infrastructure, with particular focus on those that contribute to energy affordability and reliability. This includes but is not limited to the following initiatives:
 - a. **Reduce Barriers to Clean Energy Deployment.** The Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), in coordination with the PUC and the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), shall inventory, assess, and analyze barriers to the permitting, construction and interconnection of clean energy projects and associated infrastructure. ODOE will recommend actions to overcome those barriers while balancing opportunities for public participation with the state's interest in accelerating deployment of clean energy infrastructure that benefits Oregon ratepayers. Recommended actions will be brought for discussion by ODOE to the Energy Facility Siting Council. ODOE will report its findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than September 1, 2026.
 - b. **Accelerate Clean Energy Deployment Through Oregon's Land Use Planning Framework.** The Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) shall evaluate opportunities and barriers to clean energy development under Oregon's land use planning goals. DLCD will review existing rules and practices, including best practices from other



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jurisdictions, and recommend actions and rule changes as needed to accelerate deployment of clean energy resources and grid infrastructure needed to deliver reliability and clean energy to Oregon consumers. Recommended actions will be brought for discussion and direction by DLCD to the Land Conservation and Development Commission. DLCD will report its findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than July 1, 2026.

- c. **Streamline Clean Energy Siting.** Agencies identified in Section II.1.b of this Order shall evaluate and recommend actions to update siting and permitting processes to facilitate deployment of renewable energy, energy storage, and grid infrastructure needed to deliver reliable and affordable clean energy to Oregon consumers.
 - i. Agencies shall evaluate existing authorities, rules, and practices to identify opportunities to streamline or increase the efficiency of siting and permitting processes within their jurisdiction for projects that:
 - 1. Benefit Oregon ratepayers and enable clean energy projects to interconnect onto the grid; and/or
 - 2. Involve upgrades to existing grid infrastructure and transmission expansion or co-location of renewable energy resources in existing rights of way.
 - ii. Where opportunities are found to exist, agencies shall recommend actions to:
 - 1. Streamline existing processes;
 - 2. Establish parallel paths that enable required studies, reviews, and approval processes to occur contemporaneously; and/or
 - 3. Facilitate or accelerate interconnections for projects that reduce emissions, improve reliability, and benefit Oregon ratepayers.
 - iii. Agencies shall bring recommended proposed actions for discussion with their Boards or Commissions and will report their findings and recommendations to the Governor no later than September 1, 2026.
- d. **Identify Pathways to Facilitate Development of Clean Energy Infrastructure.** PUC staff, in partnership with ODOE and the Governor's Office, shall convene utilities, key agency leaders, local permitting authorities, and other interested parties to review progress toward achieving HB 2021's clean energy targets and explore opportunities for public-private partnerships



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to facilitate development of clean energy infrastructure that is needed to achieve clean energy targets and will provide benefits to Oregon ratepayers.

- e. **Develop a Framework for Strategic Transmission Siting.** ODOE, in coordination with the PUC and the Governor's Office, shall undertake a process to evaluate and propose a framework to strategically accelerate:
 - i. Identification and designation of transmission corridors, including on public lands (state and federal);
 - ii. Streamlined partial siting and permitting approvals for future projects in those corridors or within existing transmission rights-of-way; and
 - iii. Targeting direct financial support for projects that are determined to benefit the public interest.
 - f. **Deploy Energy Storage.** To support grid reliability and resilience, this Order establishes a goal of deploying 8 gigawatts of energy storage capacity in Oregon by 2045.
3. **Build a Resilient Clean Energy Economy:** Agencies listed in Section II.1.c of this Order shall align programs, decisions, and investments to advance the state's interest in growing a resilient clean energy economy that attracts and supports climate-friendly industries, creates jobs, and aligns with Oregon's climate goals. This includes but is not limited to the following initiatives:
- a. **Develop Public-Private Partnerships.** Agencies shall explore and prioritize opportunities for public-private partnerships to support development and deployment of clean energy technologies that align with Oregon's carbon-free energy and economic development priorities. Agencies will highlight those opportunities for the Governor's Office for review and consideration on a quarterly basis.
 - b. **Evaluate Emerging Clean Energy Technologies.** ODOE, DEQ, Business Oregon, the PUC, the Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI), and the Governor's Office, shall collaborate to identify and assess opportunities for advanced and emerging carbon-free energy technologies to play a role in Oregon's clean energy future; evaluate risks and barriers; and propose cross-agency frameworks to support development and deployment of advanced technologies that increase access to affordable, safe, and reliable clean energy. ODOE will report progress and key findings in its



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Biennial Energy Reports, including the Report that must be submitted to the legislature by December 1, 2026, and in each subsequent iteration of the Report.

II. ACCOUNTABILITY, COORDINATION, AND PROGRESS ON IMPLEMENTATION

1. Executive Branch Agencies Subject to this Order. Progress on the direction and commitments of this Order will take focused and coordinated planning and execution by Oregon's natural resource agencies and their respective Boards or Commissions.

a. The following state agencies are subject to the goals and directives outlined in Section I.1 of this Order:

- i. Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS);
- ii. Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), including the Oregon Climate Action Commission and the Energy Facility Siting Council;
- iii. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ);
- iv. Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD);
- v. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT); and
- vi. Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC).

b. The following state agencies are subject to the goals and directives outlined in Section I.2.c of this Order:

- i. Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), including the Oregon Climate Action Commission and the Energy Facility Siting Council;
- ii. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ);
- iii. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI); and
- iv. Oregon Public Utility Commission.

c. The following state agencies are subject to the goals and directives outlined in Section I.3 of this Order:

- i. Business Oregon;
- ii. Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), including the Oregon Climate Action Commission;
- iii. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ);



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- iv. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI); and
 - v. Oregon Public Utility Commission.
 - d. The following state agencies shall provide information and consultation to assist other agencies with the implementation of this Order as needed:
 - i. Business Oregon;
 - ii. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW);
 - iii. Oregon Department of State Lands;
 - iv. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT);
 - v. Oregon Parks and Recreation Department; and
 - vi. Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD).
2. **Reporting and Accountability.** State agencies must deliver transparent, accurate reporting on public programs, maintain accountability to citizens and stakeholders, and establish clear feedback loops that enable public input and demonstrate responsive government action.
- a. **Agency plans.** Each of the following agencies shall develop (or incorporate into an existing planning process) a biennial plan that includes targets and metrics appropriate to the agency's intersection with this Order with the goal of focusing existing and new resources, programs and incentives to advance the goals and actions in Part I of this Order as applicable:
 - i. Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), including the Oregon Climate Action Commission and the Energy Facility Siting Council;
 - ii. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); and
 - iii. Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC).
 - b. **Public Feedback and Oversight.** Agencies will present their biennial plans to their respective board or commission for discussion, review, and comment at a public meeting where public testimony can be received.
 - c. **Recommendations for Governor's Recommended Budget.** Biennial plans will be developed on a schedule and in a format to inform the development of the Governor's Recommended Budget starting with the 2029-2031 Agency Request Budget biennial cycle. Actions for consideration for the development of the 2027-2029 Governor's Recommended Budget will be expedited as needed.



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- d. Implementation Workplan.** Agencies shall immediately begin developing implementation timelines and pathways to comply with this Order.
- 3. Coordination and Oversight of Implementation.** The Governor's Office will take a leadership role in advancing the efforts associated with this Order. It is the responsibility of each respective agency director to ensure appropriate coordination and implementation contemplated by this Order is integrated into agency programs and initiatives.
- 4. Legislative & Public Engagement.** As requested, agencies shall provide updates and presentations on implementation work to relevant Boards, Commissions, Councils, Local Governments, Federal Agencies, and the Oregon State Legislature.
- 5. Engagement with Oregon's Nine Federally Recognized Sovereign Tribal Governments.** The State, through the Governor's Office and the State Agencies, shall collaborate with Oregon's nine federally recognized sovereign tribal governments to build, sustain, and enhance relationships to find common ground in support of the implementation of this Order.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 18th day of November, 2025.

Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

Tobias Read
SECRETARY OF STATE



November 19, 2025

Farm Stands Rulemaking Concluded

In July 2025, the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) paused a rulemaking on farm stands at the request of Governor Kotek to reflect on questions and concerns about the rulemaking process and content. Since then, the Governor's Office, DLCD and the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) have worked together to reassess next steps and have decided that many of these questions reside in statute, not rule, and may be better suited for legislative action. In light of this decision, DLCD has concluded the rulemaking advisory committee without recommending rule changes.

“We want to thank our rulemaking advisory committee members for sharing their experiences, [Back to Table of Contents](#) and thoughtful perspectives during the many discussions we held during 2025,” DLCD Director Brenda Bateman said in a statement. “The commitment to the issues and passion that was shared during this process is genuine and appreciated, and we trust that Oregonians will continue to share their values and knowledge with the legislature as this conversation unfolds.”

DLCD and ODA remain ready and eager to participate in these conversations as they unfold at the legislature.

Oregon Department of Agriculture Program Reports

Prepared for: State Board of Agriculture

Meeting date: December 3-5, 2025

Food Safety, Animal Health, and Lab Services

Rusty Rock, Division Director, rusty.rock@oda.oregon.gov 503-508-2262

Food Safety General Update

- Food Safety program staff continue to reduce the inspection backlog. Inspections are considered overdue if they are more than 90 days past due. The backlog has dropped from a peak of 4,943 in July 2021 to 1,507.
- During the recent ByHeart Infant Formula recall, the FDA notified ODA of the recall on November 11th and provided us with distribution information on the 12th. ODA inspectors visited 181 retail stores between November 12th and the 20th, to ensure that no recalled products remained on store shelves in Oregon. This was accomplished by the efforts of our Food Safety program and Ag Services staff working together. During the visits, recalled products were found on display shelves in nine stores, and ODA inspectors immediately asked the stores to take them off the shelves.

Retail and Manufactured Foods

- The ongoing uncertainty at the FDA is not expected to affect the safety of the food supply. The Food Safety program maintains a robust regulatory environment overseeing the manufacturing and distribution of food products. The work is not dependent on federal partners. ODA enjoys a cooperative relationship with local county health departments and federal partners at the FDA and USDA. For context, Food Safety staff conducted over 6,300 regulatory inspections in 2024. In comparison, FDA conducted an estimated 100 inspections in Oregon, with a vast majority being duplicated by ODA staff.
- The Food Safety Program filled their vacant NRS4 position, Manufactured Food Specialist, with internal hire Brian Hawkins. With Brian's promotion, Adam Miller has stepped into the role of primary recall coordinator with John Jorgensen training to be backup recall coordinator.
- ODA has started the FDA 2025-26 contract work, which include:
 - 105 Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) inspections,
 - 42 full-scope Preventative Controls (PC) inspections,
 - 8 acidified food inspections, and
 - 10 seafood HACCP inspections.
- The Retail Food Program is in the process of updating the Retail Food Code with an anticipated adoption in 2026.

Shellfish and Crab Program

- A new proposed oyster lease application in South Slough (Coos County) has been approved with certain conditions. The leaseholder has been provided with the comments received by the ODA for the comment period and the findings of fact and conclusions made from the Basis and Scop of Review, the investigation of the ODA, the contents of the application and the public input. The leaseholder must comply with all conditions and obtain all required permits and authorization before a Final Grant Certificate is issued.
- ODA has completed the pre-season crab biotoxin testing. The results from all zones tested were below the limit for domoic acid in viscera.
- The ODA shellfish team completed the shoreline survey for Coos Bay in October 2025. The survey, which covered approximately 200 properties, evaluates the shellfish growing areas for potential pollution sources from properties not on a municipal sewage system.

Dairy Program

- We are expanding our use of inspectors from other ODA programs to assist with dairy sampling. We currently have three (3) Ag Services Inspectors performing dairy sampling, and this expansion will allow us to collect samples in other

areas around the State more efficiently while our staff continues to focus on routine and overdue inspections. The Ag Services inspectors will receive training in raw milk and finished products, water, and coolant sampling. Their competency will get formally signed off, and they will be provided with all necessary equipment to perform their sampling duties effectively. This assignment falls within the agency's scope to leverage Ag Services Inspectors across programs to support one another.

- Oregon has no confirmed cases of H5N1 in cattle.

State Meat Inspection (SMI)

- The SMI program continues to demonstrate significant success in providing education and outreach to local producers.
- H & K Meats, in Jefferson, has joined the SMI program which has the following existing facilities: Buermann Ranch Meats in Lakeview and Lake County Meats, in Burns. In addition, the Meating Place in Hillsboro expanded their processing facility and is operating under the SMI inspection program.
- The SMI program is in the process of recruiting for a Meat Inspector position and will be conducting interviews in early December. Once this new inspector has completed the required training, a second position will be posted to hire an additional Meat Inspector. Both positions are currently limited duration, with the intention of converting them to permanent roles after legislative approval.

Animal Health

- The program continues to see sporadic cases of High Path Avian Influenza (HPAI) in backyard flocks across the state. We have expanded our response capabilities by training Ag Services employees to assist in geographically strategic locations to both speed responses and minimize program costs.
- The United States is currently free of New World Screwworm. The ODA AH program continues to actively prepare for the potential from cases reported in both Central America and Mexico in 2025. Mammals and birds are potential hosts to NWS, including humans. In Oregon, it is possible for outbreaks to occur from an actively infested animal traveling from endemic areas. Outbreaks of any origin may significantly impact the livestock industry, economy, and food supply chain.
- ODA is tracking an outbreak of Equine Herpes Virus (EHV)/Equine Herpes Myeloencephalopathy (EMH) in horses that were at or associated with barrel racing and rodeo-type events in Texas and Oklahoma. Several cases of EHV/EMH have been confirmed in the states associated with these equine events, with numerous reports of additional cases and equine deaths pending investigation. Oregon currently has no confirmed cases, and we are coordinating with the affected states to quarantine horses that have returned to Oregon after being exposed at the Texas and Oklahoma events. In response, we have issued temporary rules to help reduce the risk of spreading EHV/EMH. The rules will strengthen Oregon's ability to prevent the entry and spread of the disease by requiring additional safeguards for horses entering the state or attending high-risk events.
- The AH program is staying busy with [rule making](#) related to the following: Animal Remedies, Pharmaceuticals, and Veterinary Biologicals; adopting 2025 AAFCO publication & enforcement framework for commercial feeds; amending Animal Rescue Entity rules; amending animal health rules to include civil penalty authority; permanent disease controls related to livestock exhibitions; import restrictions for areas infested with New World Screwworm.

Lab Services

- The Lab filled the vacant Quality Assurance Officer (QAO) in October. Anna Hawkins was hired from a private laboratory running similar testing, where she was the QAO. She has hit the ground running, adapting well, and contributing as she learns our specific processes.
- Pre-season crab viscera work is complete! Great coordination with sanitarians and Ag Services staff who collected and processed the crab, getting all zones delivered to laboratory by Nov 12th. Laboratory staff focused on analyses and results, it was all hands-on deck work. Reporting for all zones completed on Friday afternoon, Nov 14th.
- Cannabis Reference Laboratory (CRL) worked with a third-party proficiency (PT) vendor to analyze PT samples the vendor prepared in our laboratory. The PT samples were then distributed to the private cannabis labs for their required analyses. In the past the processing of the PT samples and analyses was done at a local cannabis lab. OLCC and ORELAP wanted the CRL to be part of this work to remove any conflicts, perceived or real, related to a private lab

participating in this PT sample preparation as all other private cannabis labs in the state analyzed these same PT samples to meet ORELAP (Oregon Environmental Laboratory Accreditation Program) requirements.

- The ODA lab is awaiting a site visit from FDA NSSP Lab Evaluation Officers (LEO) for final approval of the Vibrio parahaemolyticus method. The site visit has been delayed due to the recent Federal Government shutdown.
- The Pesticide group continues to work through a seasonal backlog. The backlog develops when higher priority cases are received pushing existing cases to the rear of the queue. Many cases were received as priority, some of them large (number of samples per case, ie. 77 or number of AI (active ingredients) requested, ie 16 per sample). In September, 210 samples were reported representing 1082 tests. There was a time when that was half a year's worth of work.

Agriculture Services Division

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The Agriculture Services Division was established to bring ODA's field service programs together at the urging of industry across the state. This structure supports greater collaboration among existing programs, improving efficiency and customer service, and creates positions that can work across program and division lines. The following programs are part of Agriculture Services Division: Certification, Livestock Identification, Plant Health, Produce Safety, Seed Regulatory, Shipping Point Inspection, Smoke Management, the Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, and Weights and Measures.

- **Shipping Point Inspection**
 - 2025 crop was early as predicted with an above average volume of most commodities.
 - Shipping is at a consistent level across most commodities.
- **Field Burning/Smoke Management**
 - The 2025 Field Burning Season began July 7 and was completed on August 27. Twenty six growers registered 12,464 acres. This is an increase from 2024 (11,800 acres) but less than the 15,000 acres allowable in the program. For the season, 10,532 total acres burned, 1,932 baled. We open burned 8,739 acres, and prep burned 1,793 acres, in a total of 15 burn days. We had 25 complaints, and 7 hours of impacts (3 light, 4 moderate).
- **Livestock Identification Program**
 - Senate Bill 1019 (2025) directs the ODA to increase brand inspection fees. The program filed temporary rules in July (www.oda.direct/rulemaking) to increase the per-head fee for cattle to \$1.75. Brand registration renewals have been sent out for 2026 using the new fee schedule.
- **Seed Regulatory Program**
 - The program is currently investigating multiple claims under the Slow Pay No Pay Law. Slow Pay No Pay refers to a set of statutes that were implemented to prevent "slow payment" or "non-payment" to grass seed growers by seed dealers for their crops. It puts in place a set of minimum contract standards, deadlines for seed payments, and a process for the department to investigate claims and make determinations about payment.
 - The program issued 11 Notices of Payment demand to one seed company who had paid growers less than they were owed for 2024 crop tall fescue. Contested case hearings were scheduled for early December. The company ended up paying growers the outstanding amounts and withdrew their contested claim.
- **Weights and Measures/Motor Fuel Quality**
 - The program continues to test devices and conduct inspections of approximately 65,000 weighing and measuring devices licensed for commercial service in Oregon.

Natural Resource Division

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The following updates are organized by operating process in our process management system and cover all Natural Resource Division (NRD) programs. In addition to the updates below, we continue to be in various stages of recruitment for positions across the division. We have also been able to fill several open recruitments and are continuing the process of onboarding new staff.

- **Fostering collaboration**

- *Pesticides Program:*

- During the Winter of 2025, the program continues, to plan inter-agency meetings to help with across agency communication, coordination, and to help increase awareness around pesticide regulations. As an example, in December the program plans to meet with representatives of Department of Early Learning and Care (DELC), Oregon Department of Education (ODE) and Oregon State University (OSU) to discuss school IPM law. In November the program met with a representative of FAA to discuss coordination and communication around usage of drones for pesticide applications. Also, in the winter the program plans to meet with Oregon OSHA to help plan for an inter-agency meeting in 2026 to discuss emerging issues and challenges relating to pesticide regulations and to promote coordination and communication between agencies. Plus in January the program plans to participate and present at EPA Region 10 Directors meeting.
- On October 15th and 16th, the ODA Pesticides Program participated in a Worker Protection Standard Train the Trainer (TtT) workshop offered in both English and Spanish, offered in partnership with Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA), Oregon State University (OSU), Oregon Hood River Soil & Water Conservation District, and support from the Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers Association. Pesticide handlers and agricultural workers who work on agricultural establishments must receive WPS training before they begin working, and annually thereafter. Certified applicators and people who have gone through an EPA-approved (TtT) course meet the requirements to provide the necessary training. The workshop delivered on Oct. 15-16 used WSDA's EPA-approved curriculum and material. The goal is for ODA and OSU staff to learn to use and adopt the WSDA materials to offer more training opportunities in different parts of Oregon. WSDA has historically offered trainings in Hood River due to the shared workforce, but there is need to make the training available other parts of Oregon. On June 17th and 18th, ODA and OSU attended as regular participants to first become familiarized with the material, then in October, ODA and OSU partnered to deliver the training. Going forward, ODA and OSU plan to offer the training independently.

- *Ag Water Quality Program (AgWQ):*

- Strategic Plan – The Ag Water Quality Program Strategic Plan and 2025-2026 fiscal year operating plan is finalized. The Strategic Plan will guide the development of Annual Operating Plan's for the years 2025 to 2029. It defines priority work, staffing resources and needs, and milestones for 2025 (year 1), 2027 (year 3), and 2029 (year 5) for the WQ Program's 10 Initiatives. Each of the WQ Program's Initiatives and milestones align with ODA's Strategic Goals of Organizational Excellence, Modernization, and Customer-Focused Service. The Strategic Plan provided a framework for completion of the Water Quality Program's 2025-2026 FYOP. The FYOP lays out all priority work for this year.
- Digitized Reporting – The AgWQ HUB for development of the 2025-2027 biennium for SWCD Scopes of Work and reporting of work is live. Staff are inputting data for the last three biennia. This will allow for automated reporting for biennial reports and TMDL Implementation Plan reports. The HUB is live for SWCDs to do their bi-annual scope of work reporting.
- Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Implementation Plans – Water Quality program staff are coordinating with DEQ for the Powder River, Willamette Basin, Coos/Coquille area, Umpqua, Rogue, and John Day basins for upcoming TMDL processes. Water Quality Program staff presented the draft Powder Basin Implementation Plan to the Local Advisory Committees and SWCD Boards on October 29, 2025, and the final draft is ready for submission to DEQ. Water Quality Program Staff are conducting public outreach for the Willamette TMDL Implementation Plan with initial meetings on November 21 and December 11, 2025.
- Partner Coordination – The Water Quality Program team had an in-person field day with Oregon DEQs Nonpoint and Source water protection staff. This included review of the ODA/DEQ Memorandum of Agreement, remote assessment methodologies, working with SWCDs, and a shared field visit to calibrate expectations for how ODA completes compliance investigations.
- Soil and Water Conservation District program – AgWQ and SWCD staff continue to work with SWCDs to ensure Boards and staff have necessary trainings and ensure tasks within the scopes of work are completed.

- **Permits, Registrations, and Notifications**

- *Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO):*

- The CAFO Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) general permit #01-2015 expired and was administratively extended on September 30, 2025. There are 146 CAFO operations currently registered to this permit.

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- The CAFO National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) general permit #01-2016 expired and was administratively extended on February 28, 2021. There are 331 CAFO operations currently registered to this general permit and three CAFO operations with NPDES individual permits.
- The CAFO team worked with DEQ to draft the new CAFO NPDES general permit and it was posted for public comment on November 13 with a public hearing scheduled for December 16, 2025. The permit draft and fact sheet are available in the Public Notices section of the CAFO webpage at <https://oda.direct/CAFO>. Major changes from the previous version of the permit include:
 - New and updated definitions
 - Added Senate Bill 85 requirements:
 - Water supply plan
 - Pre-population inspection
 - Preliminary consultation
 - Neighbor notice
 - Individual permit for new large CAFOs in ground water management areas (GWMAs)
 - Updated permit designations table with more size categories
 - Removal of references to elective permit coverage status
 - Expansion of public notice thresholds for small and medium CAFOs
 - Updated transfer requirements
 - Specific land application prohibitions
 - Construction requirements in GWMAs
 - Irrigation management requirements
 - Transition of language from animal waste management to nutrient management
 - Additional nutrient management plan requirements
 - Increased monitoring and recordkeeping requirements
 - Updated citations and an appendix of resources
 - E-reporting requirements

Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance (ADCM):

- Two new notices were submitted for the ADCM program in 2025. In addition, one site visit was completed for the review of work on a previously submitted notice.

Pesticides Program:

- On November 4, 2025, an amendment to Oregon administrative rules increasing pesticides fees became final. The new fee is \$400 per product for registration year 2026. Each pesticide product must be registered annually with the ODA Pesticides Program before it can be sold or distributed within the state. Previously, the fee was \$360 per year. In 2023 the fee changed from \$320 to \$360 and in 2016 the fee changed from \$160 to \$360.

● **Providing Compliance and Technical Assistance**

Ag Water Quality Program:

- March 20, 2025, April 23, 2025, May 22, 2025, June 26, 2025, and July 24, 2025, August 18, 2025, September 30, 2025, and October 16, 2025, a rules advisory committee met for development of rules for irrigated ag in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. Information was presented to the Board of Agriculture on September 5, 2025. The draft rules were filed with the Secretary of State and public hearings will be held on December 15th and 16th.
- In September 2024 DEQ, OWRD, OHA, and ODA worked to develop a nitrate reduction plan to address nitrate pollution in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA). This plan has specific short to long term actions that prioritize clean drinking water and mitigation of additional nitrate pollution to groundwater. A quarterly report of progress related to implementation of the Nitrate Reduction Plan was completed in October of 2025. A copy of the nitrate reduction plan can be found here <https://www.oregon.gov/deq/wq/documents/gwp-oregonnitratereductionplan-2024.pdf>. The agencies are in the process of writing an annual report which is expected to be completed and made public by the end of January 2026.
- The Ag Water Quality Program works with the SWCDs to provide technical assistance to landowners. Each SWCD (45) has a Scope of Work that outlines work that they will do to help implement the Ag Water Quality Program as a Local

Management Agency. Quarterly, Ag Water Quality Program staff review a quarterly report from the SWCDs showing the work that was completed as the Local Management Agency for the Ag Water Quality Program. The Soil and Water Conservation Commission met on October 23, 2025.

- Since 2014, the Ag Water Quality Program has initiated 52 Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA). Through the SIA process, over 1,750,000 acres and over 8,000 stream miles have been evaluated. The Ag Water Quality Program has reached out to over 8,000 landowners to inform them of the Ag Water Quality Program, Water Quality Rules, and work with the landowners to address any water quality concerns that were observed during evaluations in the SIAs. As part of the Willamette Mercury TMDL the WQ Program has developed a different form of a SIA that is called focused ag solutions. For these areas, there will be 4 years of education and outreach with compliance work afterwards. There are focused ag solutions (FAS) areas starting in 2024 (Polk – Salt Creek), 2025 (Yamhill), and 2025 (Washington). The Salt Creek FAS remote evaluation was completed. Open houses for the Umatilla – Camas Creek SIA was completed on April 10, 2025, for the N. Illinois Valley on June 2, 2025, and the Hay Creek on September 3, 2025. The remote and field evaluations for Middle Jefferson and Middle Muddy SIAs were completed in the fall of 2025.

Pesticide Program:

- Children are more sensitive than adults to the potential toxic effects of pesticides. To protect our children, Oregon law requires extra precautions and restrictions when pesticides are used on a school campus. In recent years, non-compliance rates have been high in our school Integrated Pest Management (IPM) focused inspections, when compared to other types of inspections that we conduct. To help address the non-compliance the Pesticides Program has had an increased emphasis on compliance assistance and increasing partnerships. During Fall of 2025 the program sent out an advisory to ODA's school IPM list serve to both remind schools of the existing law, plus highlight some new changes in the law. The new changes in the law are in HB 2684 (2025 Legislative Session):

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2025R1/Measures/Overview/HB2684>

The advisory was also posted on ODA's school IPM webpage and available at:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/pesticides/Documents/2025/Pesticide-Advisory-School-IPM.pdf> (Spanish:

<https://www.oregon.gov/oda/pesticides/Documents/2025/Pesticide-Advisory-School-IPM-SPA.pdf>).

In December, ODA investigative/enforcement staff also plans to present on the school IPM law at the final 2025 OSU School IPM Coordinator Training in Jefferson, Oregon. The team was also able to attend and present at the prior ten trainings that happened from March to August of 2025 around the state. In addition, the Team continues to work on a special project, as time allows, creating "school IPM law modules" (basically short ~5-10 minutes, narrated PowerPoints focused on the law requirements). Due to workload in other areas the project had to be temporarily paused earlier in 2025, but the team is back working on the project and is hoping to continue production of an additional two modules that they are hoping to have published in the Winter. These modules are posted on YouTube for school IPM coordinators and other school staff. The goal is to provide short, recorded free trainings so they will be able to access them all year round (e.g., refresher or say new staff start/onboarding). The Team is also working to have the videos available in Spanish. Four modules have been published to date in both English and Spanish. The modules may be viewed at: <https://oda.fyi/IPMSchoolsPlaylist>

- Pesticides program staff continue to answer technical assistance questions from the public on licensing requirements, label interpretations, school IPM law, and other pesticide related questions via phone and email. During the Fall and Winter months, the program has and is planning on conducting a number of in-person presentations. More specifically between July through November 15, of 2025, staff conducted seventeen presentations to around 1,110 people. Common topics that were presented on in the quarter included the ODA Updates, ODA Lessons Learned/ Case Studies, school IPM and utilizing drones for pesticide applications.
- For more information of recent Pesticides Program newsletters, bulletins and advisories see: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/pesticides/pages/pesticides-current-issues.aspx>

- **Conducting Inspections, Investigations & Enforcement**
Pesticides Program

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- The Pesticides Enforcement Program continues to follow-up on misuse complaints to investigate possible violations of the state's Pesticide Control Act. The number of complaints typically slightly decreases in the Fall and the program shifts to conducting more compliance monitoring inspections. The program also received nine separate complaints relating to concerns of possible drift onto a vineyard in the summer of 2025. These complaint cases are still open and active, and no conclusions have been made, but the program will be looking at the details of these cases in the winter to look for outreach opportunities. Compliance monitoring activities include marketplace inspections of retailers and distributors (ensuring products are registered for sale or distribution in Oregon, labeled properly, and not being offered for sale in leaking/broken packages), record inspections of pesticide applicators and pesticide dealers (e.g. ensuring complete records, products used properly, and correct licensing for activity), and school IPM inspections to ensure compliance with Oregon's school IPM law. The program's Citizen Liaison continues to regularly fulfill public records requests, plus helps citizens answer questions about the investigation process and assists them in locating resources that may be outside of the scope of the Pesticide Enforcement Program.

Ag Water Quality Program

- The Ag Water Quality Program conducts investigations based on complaints, agency notification, and observations of concerns to address potential violations of the Agricultural Water Quality Rules. From January 1, 2025, to November 18, 2025, there have been 57 investigations opened; 10 of these were either ODA observation or ODA SIA, 23 were public written complaint, and 23 were referral from other agencies. This included 102 compliance actions (22 in compliance, 15 fix-it letters, 50 water quality advisories, 12 notices of noncompliance, and 2 settlement agreement).

Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO):

- The CAFO Program conducts multiple types of inspections of permitted and non-permitted animal operations. Most of the inspections conducted are routine inspections of permitted livestock operations. Inspections are used to assess the operation's compliance with permit conditions and state water quality laws. Routine inspections are conducted on a 10-month rotational schedule. From January 1 to October 31, 2025, the CAFO Program conducted 533 site inspections of both permitted CAFOs and non-permitted animal operations and issued 18 notices of noncompliance (11 for administrative activities).

- **Providing Customer Support and Resolving Inquiries**

Pesticides Program:

- The Pesticides Program continues to work on increasing the number of outreach materials and application forms available in Spanish and is also undergoing an internal review of existing materials to help prioritize timely reviews and translations into the future since the team has increased in the number of bilingual staff within the program during the past year. Another recent publication includes outreach on the licensing requirements when drones are utilized: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Documents/Publications/PesticidesPARC/Drones-Pesticide-Licensing.pdf> was also recently translated into Spanish: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Documents/Publications/PesticidesPARC/Drones-Pesticide-Licensing-SPA.pdf>

- **PESTICIDE BILINGUAL EXAMS AND STUDY MATERIALS**

The ODA Pesticides Licensing and Certification Program manages 27 pesticide applicator exams, 23 study manuals, and 29 other study resources. Two of these exams are offered in Spanish: the Private Applicator and Laws and Safety exams. Due to the large number of exams and materials to oversee, the team has been working to make targeted improvements to the exams and study materials with the highest demand and need. Over the past couple of years, the Program has developed a statistical approach to identify problematic exam questions to improve quality and address accessibility concerns.

Paper-Based Exams

The Program is currently in discussions with its exam contractor and conducting internal planning to offer paper-based exams on a trial basis, due to the additional resource demands. The initial rollout will focus on the Private Applicator License Exam (English and Spanish), with an evaluation of demand, pass rates, and travel patterns to determine future expansion, if needed.

To implement paper-based exams, the Program must address several operational needs:

- Update security protocols for exam storage and handling;

- Acquire equipment to scan and grade exams;
- Identify and contract with proctors willing to administer paper exams;
- Update the online booking system to include paper-based exam options; and
- Develop a system to reintegrate paper exam data into the current databases for continued trend analyses.

Spanish Language Exams and Study Materials

Becoming a certified Private Applicator in Oregon allows an individual to:

- Use restricted use pesticides (RUPs) on agricultural land, including farmland, ranches, forestland, nurseries, and orchards owned by the individual or their employer;
- Supervise co-workers or employees using RUPs;
- Provide required Worker Protection Standard (WPS) training to agricultural workers and pesticide handlers.

RUPs are not available for general public use due to their potential to cause unreasonable adverse effects on the environment and human health. These products are classified as RUPs by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

One of the Program's goals is to ensure that licensed applicators understand their responsibilities, state regulatory requirements, and how to minimize risks to themselves, others, and the environment. With this in mind, the Program has been updating exams and study materials to balance competency standards, accessibility, and staffing resources. The Spanish-language Private Applicator Exam has been a particular focus due to historically low pass rates. While awaiting a national manual and its translation (see below), the Program has completed the following for both Spanish-language Private Applicator and Laws and Safety exams:

- Conducted statistical analyses to eliminate or revise poorly performing questions;
- Ensured English and Spanish versions of the exams are equivalent in content and difficulty;
- Reviewed study materials for alignment with exam content and consistent terminology;
- Native Spanish speaking staff have reviewed the exams for appropriateness and accuracy.

The Pesticide Educational Resources Collaborative (PERC), with a five-year cooperative agreement between the EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs and the University of California, Davis, in collaboration with Oregon State University, has been developing national pesticide education resources. These include materials for worker protection and applicator exams, which are freely available for non-profit use.

During its last funding cycle, PERC worked to update the National Pesticide Applicator Certification Core Manual (3rd Edition) and create a corresponding exam question bank. The plan included translating both into Spanish. However, EPA funding cuts allowed completion of only the English versions. The Spanish translation and question bank are currently on hold due to a \$50,000 funding shortfall.

As a result, the Program has focused its resources on targeted improvements to exams and study materials, including completing a translation of the Oregon Addendum to the Core Manual, which is used as study material for both the Spanish-language Private Applicator and Laws and Safety exams.

Other Accessibility Assessments

Exam Time - All test-takers are allowed up to three hours to complete an exam. Most finish within two hours.

Because testing centers offer multiple types of exams, they default to two-hour scheduling. If needed, proctors can extend time up to three hours, depending on availability. The Program is analyzing data to identify exams that routinely require more than two hours and will work with the contractor to adjust scheduling, where possible.

Testing Center Distribution - The Program is analyzing average travel distances from registrants' addresses to testing centers. The longest travel distances are typically to centers near state borders or airports, where out-of-state applicators travel to take Oregon exams. Currently, Oregon exams are not available in other states, except at the exam contractor's headquarters in Phoenix, AZ.

Testing Availability & Wait Times - The Program is working with its contractor to obtain data on wait times between booking and exam dates. This will help identify locations where additional testing availability is needed and allow the Program to be more targeted in the locations we seek to find more testing availability for our test-takers.

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- Both the AgWQ and CAFO programs continue to receive and respond to inquiries from the Environmental Protection Agency and the media regarding work completed in support of the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA). The multi-agency team that developed the LUBGWMA Nitrate Reduction Plan continues to provide quarterly reports to EPA and the LUBGMWA advisory committee on progress. The AgWQ program is working in collaboration with the local Umatilla and Morrow Soil and Water Conservation Districts to ensure consistent tracking and reporting of actions completed in support of the 2020 LUBGWMA Action Plan.

Natural Resources Division Administrative Team

The NRD admin team provides centralized administrative and operational support for the division, serving ~72 staff across multiple regulatory field-based programs.

Key activities:

- Began large-scale digitization of programs historical and active files to create a more accessible, centralized database for field inspectors, office and remote staff, in alignment with Oregon Records Retention and Archiving requirements to ensure adherence to legal and regulatory compliance.
- Established standardized travel request and booking processes to improve consistency and turnaround time within the division by gathering and incorporating feedback from field staff and program managers.
- Streamlined document translation processes and internal review of workflows to reduce delays and improve accuracy.
- Developed and rolled out updated SOPs for administrative processes across the division.
- Conducted staff training sessions and presentations introducing new workflows and tools.

The Administrative Team is strengthening operational efficiency and field accessibility through digitization, standardized workflows, and staff training. These efforts are reducing barriers, improving staff service delivery, and creating a more consistent support system for Natural Resources Division staff.

Plant Protection & Conservation Division

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HEMP

- **Rule Amendment Package:** With stakeholder input, the ODA updated existing rules for clarity and to add rules aimed at improving the safety of operations for hemp handlers. The amendments were filed on November 21st and the public hearing will be held on December 16th. Written public comment period closes on Dec. 30th and rules will be adopted on January 12, 2026. Visit the [ODA Rulemaking](#) webpage for more information.
- **New Hire:** In September, the Hemp Program hired a new Inspector & Case Reviewer, Larry Brown. Larry previously worked at OLCC as an Marijuana Inspector for several years and as a liquor inspector prior to that. Larry now serves as a half-time inspector for Central Oregon and half-time case presenter. He joins Inspector & Case Presenter Shannon Lane to split the case load of case presentations across all regions.

IPPM

- **Staff Changes:** IPPM program manager, Cody Holthouse, steps down from his role at ODA on December 12th. For three years Cody provided excellent leadership and partnership executing state response efforts to emerald ash borer and Japanese beetle. IPPM is a dynamic and challenging program, but Cody led with grace and dedication to both his staff and the agency mission. We at ODA thank him for his commitment and leaving IPPM stronger.
- **Vine mealybug:** After three years the project concluded in June 2025. VMB remains a quarantine pest in Oregon. ODA has notified those property owners who will be released of quarantine requirements, which is

all properties with 3 sequential years of negative trapping data. Properties that have not received notification will remain under quarantine unless they are able to trap into the future and prove pest free status.

- **Japanese beetle:** Funding for the JB Program was not included in the agencies 2025-27 budget. ODA concluded the 2025 season in October. ODA trapped 1,919 Japanese beetles across 21 counties. ODA documented a 65% decrease in total JB detected from the number of beetles trapped in 2024. However, most of the catches (~78%) were isolated to one backyard/residential farm located within the Cedar Mill neighborhood of Portland. ODA treated ~950 acres in 2025. In the absence of funding, there will be no statewide trapping or treatment of infested sites in 2026.
- **Mediterranean Oak Borer:** ODA completed its second and final year of statewide trapping efforts. High density trapping around Salem, Portland, Wilsonville, and Woodburn concluded in October and confirmed well-established populations of MOB, with more recent movement of the pest into rural communities east of Oregon City, west out to Newberg, and West Salem. Detection traps in other regions of central and southwest Oregon indicate that the pest is not yet located south of Salem. You may view [2025 trapping finds online here](#).
- **Updates to State approved invertebrate species list:** ODA completed an extensive update to this state maintained list, which dictates what species are allowed to be moved into Oregon as biological control agents, pets, etc. You may view Notice of Proposed Rulemaking [here](#). A public hearing will be held on December 17th and the last day to submit written comment is December 30th. Visit the [ODA Rulemaking](#) webpage for more information.
- The IPPM program **biological control program** was able to release more than 60,000 parasitoid wasps during the summer season of 2025. These wasps help control for Brown Marmorated Stink Bug, Spotted Wing Drosophila, and Emerald Ash Borer. These released species are hoped to establish within the landscape, providing pest suppression for years to come.

NATIVE PLANT

- **Strategic Plan** development is in its final stages.
- Native Seed Strategy implementation continues, with a request for proposals for contractors for the **Native Seed Amplification project**.
- Previously “extinct” plant rediscovered in southwest Oregon
- **2025 Native Plant Symposium** to be held December, 9th.
- Developing resources to allow sister agencies to enforce and educate permittees on ODA rules and statutes on behalf of ODA during their permitting process.

NOXIOUS WEEDS

- **State Weed Board:** Met in October in Baker City. Board members voted to add three new species to the state weed list (pending rule amendment). Meeting highlighted cooperator projects focused on annual grasses and the state palmer amaranth response.
- **Palmer amaranth:** Listed in 2024 and new infested fields were confirmed near Ontario. This pigweed species is resistant to commercial herbicides and poses a significant threat to field crop production. This is a high priority project for ODA in 2026.
- Released “Decision Tree” to inform annual grass management
- Developing Regional Conservation Program Partnership (RCPP) in E. Oregon

○

○ **NURSERY**

- **Japanese beetle:** With the loss of Japanese beetle funding, the ODA is pivoting management strategies. The nursery program is building a compliance based program for the nursery industry to maintain market access of nursery stock to uninfested states in the west. Key markets are in Utah, Nevada and Idaho. The ODA is still early in the stages of building the JB Nursery Compliance Program.
- **New Hires:** The program hired an Online and Retail Store Compliance inspection (NRS1). This is a 1-year limited duration position funded by USDA APHIS PPQ. The position will target online sales of nursery stock working to educate retailers on Oregon regulatory requirements for compliant nursery stock sales.
- **Export shipping season re-cap:** 619 phytosanitary certificates were issued from July through September 2025; an increase from the 552 certificates issued last year over the same period.
- **Christmas tree** shipping season continues: 662 phytosanitary certificates were issued from September to date. Of these, 486 shipments were to Mexico. Compared to the 2024 Christmas tree season, the ODA issued 805 certificates with 670 shipments to Mexico.

Oregon Invasive Species Council

- The OISC budget committee met to develop a draft budget to guide OISC expenditures in 2026.
- The 2024 OISC Annual Report is available online [here](#).
- Their next meeting will be held December 2nd. Meeting agenda is available [here](#).

Agricultural Economic and Trade Development – updated 11/21/2025

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○ **Farm to School Activities**

- The Northwest Rocky Mountain Regional Food Business Center provided 68 scholarships (\$115,000) to small and mid-scale farms and food businesses in Oregon to receive specialized technical assistance to grow and expand their businesses. Technical assistance providers including Business Impact NW, Oregon Agricultural Trust, The Farmers' Office, Food Finance Initiative and many others. The Oregon Department of Agriculture and The Oregon State University Food Innovation Center are launching a new initiative to develop school food products for the Oregon Farm to School Program. This program will begin in January 2026.

To be eligible for technical consultation for food product development businesses must have established wholesale market accounts, have capacity to expand production of new or existing products for school meals, and be using some Oregon-sourced ingredients (or plan to) in product(s). Businesses must also be able to provide a cost share for services and participate in the cohort.

- 43,000 students across Oregon celebrated The Oregon Crunch-At-Once on October 23rd by biting into an Oregon product. The Oregon Crunch-At-Once is a synchronized moment when students across Oregon bite into locally grown apples, carrots, or other crunchy produce all at the same time. ODA will run an ad campaign to promote the event across the state.
- **Local, National and International Activities**
 - Managed Inbound Trade Mission from Japan (Oct. 5-7). For this trade mission five buyers, primarily in the retail food and beverage sector, traveled to Oregon to meet with suppliers and visit facilities. The timing was great in that they were able to visit a hazelnut farm during harvest. One of the buyers indicated they his companies is

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planning to purchase hazelnuts from Oregon this year. (This is a big deal, as Japan has usually sourced hazelnuts from Turkey.)

- Managed the agriculture portion of the Oregon Trade Mission to Korea and Japan (Oct. 24-31, 2025) led by Governor Kotek. The ag delegation led by Director Charpillot Hanson included one staff person (reduced staff travel by 50%) US Forage Export Council, NW Horticulture Council, OSU Food Innovation Center, and 3 businesses in berry, seafood and nursery sectors. This trade mission was the result of 7 months of planning within ODA and with other state agencies/organizations. .
- Supported the agricultural portion of the Oregon China Council's trade mission to China (Oct. 28 – Nov. 12, 2025) with introductions, advice, stats and opportunity to have ag organizations showcase their products at the CIIE (China International Import Expo) in Shanghai. Grass seed and craft cider were represented on this trade mission.
- Expecting to complete second group of companies participating in the WUSATA Ingredient Key Attributes & Applications Research by Dec. 3rd. This project managed by ODA staff and contracted with the OSU Food Innovation Center, runs throughout this year. It helps companies marketing food & beverage ingredients to potential buyers in SE Asia. However, many companies have found it valuable for marketing their ingredients in the US market as well. With the wrap up of group two, 10 companies will have had up to two ingredients go the FIC's culinary research. OSU and ODA are pushing to fit the 5 companies signed up for Group 3 into the project by the end of the year.
- Managed WUSATA project and mentored another state in creating an Ingredient Seminar in Las Vegas during the IBIE (International Baking Industry Expo) when WUSATA would be bringing 3 inbound trade missions to the show. In addition, invited another delegation from Korea to join the presentation. This project was contracted with the OSU FIC and leveraged the ingredient research being done. The Ingredient Seminar presented 11 ingredients to an audience of over 30 international buyers and influences.
- Managed WUSATA November Outbound Trade Missions to Korea and Taiwan. These missions focused on food and beverage products for retail and food service markets. Both missions included opportunities to meet with buyers, market briefings and retail tours.
- Managed WUSATA Western Canada Specialty Food project September 23-25 in British Columbia. This project focuses on introducing dairy producers to the market, enabling them to showcase their products to consumers, retail/wholesale buyers, brokers, and importers.
- Managed WUSATA EU and United Kingdom US Seafood Masterclass November 10-14. This mission provided opportunities for one-on-one meetings between buyers and processors/suppliers as well as a Masterclass showcasing the versatility of West Coast seafood species.
- **Grant Programs**
 - Ag Housing Grant Program -- The Oregon Agricultural Workforce Housing Program is in final stages of the grant. We are collecting final reports and issuing the remain balances of grants to the grantees by the close of the calendar year. Reports are due to the program by December 1, 2025.

In total we award \$5 million to 110 different grants to agriculturalists unique locations across the state. A final summary of the program will be compiled in the new year.

- Organic Cost Share Reimbursement Program -- National funding for OCCSP was provided in the "One Big Beautiful Bill" at a level of \$8 million annually through 2031. USDA is currently working on opening the program and the ODA does not have an opening date but anticipates one soon. Please check back throughout the winter or click on the link below to be signed up for emails about program updates. Subscribe: <https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/ORODA/subscriber/new>
- Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (RFSI) Grant Program -- All 8 Infrastructure Projects have been approved by USDA. All Infrastructure Projects have received their first disbursement - \$1,203,623.41 in total funds disbursed. Construction Prep has started for all Infrastructure Projects.

Of the 17 Equipment Only Projects, 7 have officially been closed out, 4 are awaiting future site-visits, and the remaining 6 are waiting for their final equipment to arrive and been installed. In total, 11 Amendments were approved by USDA for the Equipment Only Projects.

- Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) -- The 2025 SCBGP was approved by the USDA and grant program are actively doing grant work. Summaries of the grants funded can be found at our website <https://oda.direct/scbgp>

The 2026 grant application period will begin on December 1, 2025 and run through January 30, 2026. Please visit our website above for instructions on how to apply.

- **Commodity Commission Oversight Program**

- Commission Administration:
 - Hazelnut: the Hazelnut Commission's new administrator is Christine Roth. Christine joined the Hazelnut office in September. Christine has a deep background in agriculture and commission work.
 - Dairy: the Dairy Council has approved a new partnership agreement with Dairy West. The new partnership will reduce Dairy Council staff to one person, the administrator Anne Goetze. Some current staff will be offered positions with Dairy West. As you will see in the communications to the dairy community, [letter to community](#), the goal of this new partnership is to leverage Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Utah's funds to increase marketing efforts, while reducing costs. ODA oversight worked closely with Dairy Council staff and the Department of Justice, to craft a contract that would ensure the Dairy Council continues to protect the Oregon dairy community. The annual contract will be for approx. \$2.1 million this next year, with the total Dairy West's budget being \$30 million. The annual dollar amounts will be based on production for each state.
- Commission Recruiting: after the last round of recruiting and appointments in early September, we are still looking to fill positions on the Albacore, Hemp, Processed Vegetable and Trawl commissions.
- Round-Up Training: In October, the oversight program held a training for commission staff and commissioners. 10 staff and 2 commissioners attended. They received updates from ODA & OSU leadership, an in-person training on Oregon public meetings law, from the Oregon Ethics Commission. They also received a presentation on ODA's agricultural economic and trade development team's efforts and resources.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 3B: *Updates from ODA's Economic Development & Trade Team*

I. Introduction

ODA's Deputy Director Lindsay Eng will updated the Board on recent work of ODA's Agriculture Marketing, Economic Development, and Trade Team over the last year. Program highlights included:

- Commodity Commission work across 22 different commodity commissions
- Involvement with international trade development efforts
- Farm to School program updates
- A look ahead to Regional Food & Ag Business Centers
- Current and upcoming grant opportunities

Strengthening Oregon's Economy through Food & Agriculture

*State Board of Agriculture Meeting
December 4, 2025
Hood River*



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

“ *Protect. Promote. Prosper.* ”

We safeguard Oregon's agriculture, natural resources, working lands, economies, and communities through assistance, compliance, and market support.

Mission statement



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Enabling Statute ORS 561 (partial)

State Department of Agriculture

561.020 Responsibility of department as to inspectional, regulatory and development work.

- The State Department of Agriculture shall have full responsibility and authority for all the inspectional, regulatory and market development work provided for under the provisions of all statutes which the department is empowered and directed to enforce.
- The department shall encourage and work toward long-range planning to develop and promote the agricultural resources of Oregon that they may contribute as greatly as possible to the future economy of the state.

Enabling Statute ORS 576 (partial)

Agricultural Marketing Generally

576.013 Purpose of market development and commodity development services; powers of department; limitations.

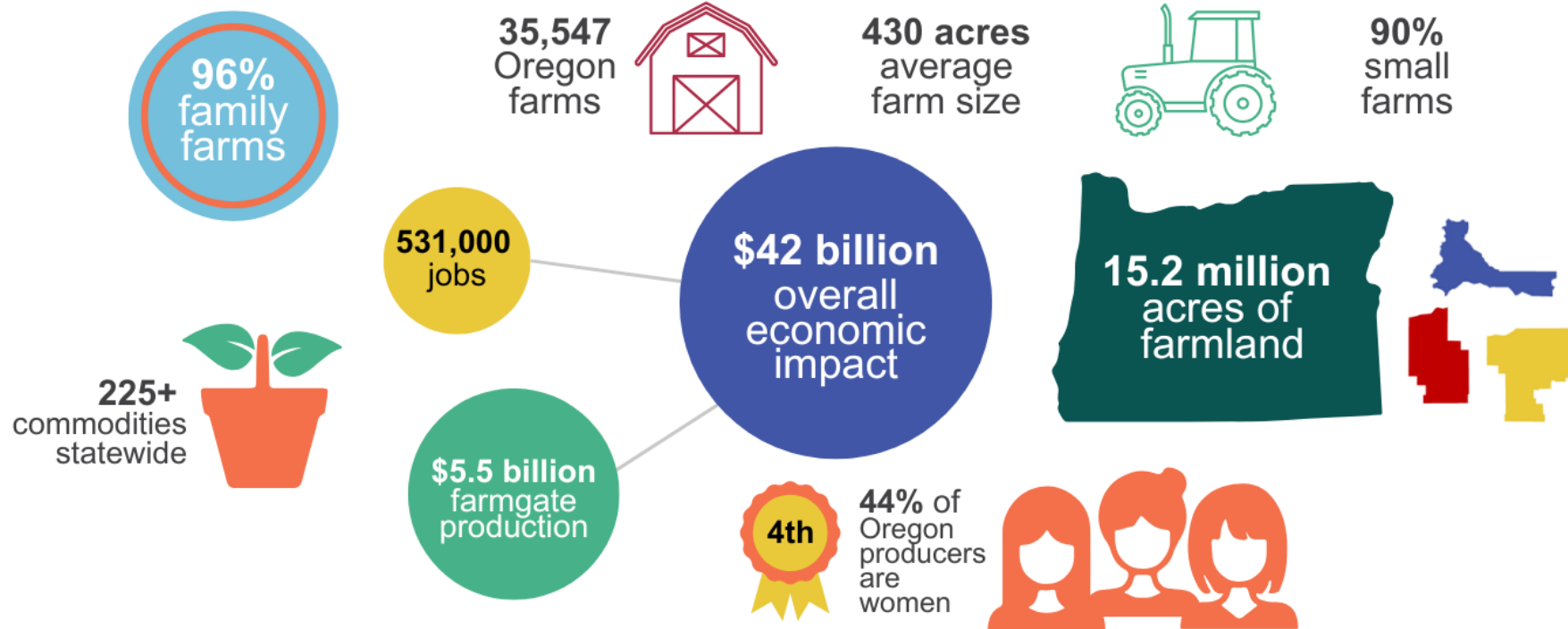
- To assist in the establishment and development of new markets and to maintain or expand existing domestic and foreign markets for farm and food commodities produced or processed in this state.
- To assist in the development and improvement of farm and food commodities and their values and uses.



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Oregon Agriculture

Resilient Economic Driver



www.oda.direct/agstats



**OREGON
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Economic and Trade Development Activities

- Trade Shows
- Inbound/Outbound Trade Missions
- Farm to School Program
- Government Relations
- Market Access (tariff and non-tariff trade barriers)
- Export Assistance
- Machinery & Equipment Certification



Farm to School Program

- Connects Oregon farmers, ranchers, seafood harvesters, and food processors with school cafeterias, early childcare centers, and summer meal sites.
- Enables more Oregon agricultural products to be served in the lunch line.
- Helps to connect youth to food production through school gardens, field trips to farms and ranches, and grower visits to the classroom.



Media and Digital Promotions

Fresh From Oregon



Fresh From Oregon: Beef

This segment is sponsored by Regence BlueCross BlueShield of Oregon



Farm to School program injects fresh, local flavor into school meals across Oregon

To date, the program has invested more than \$40 million to help nearly 600 farmers and agricultural businesses sell food to more than 300 schools.



Third-generation Oregon dairy farmer focuses on sustainability

Dairy is the state's fourth top producing commodity, according to the Oregon Dairy Council.



Oregon watermelon farms busy over the summer season

Watermelons are a popular summer time fruit in Oregon. Barn Frog Farm picks about eight tons of watermelons during a four-month stretch.



Oregon's nursery industry is the leading agriculture commodity in the state

This segment is sponsored by the Oregon Department of Agriculture



'Supporting your local economy': Oregon farmers offer fresh produce at the Portland Farmers Market

About 200 vendors are spread across the Portland Farmers Market's five locations.

Oregon Commodity Commissions

- Oregon's 22 commodity commissions operate with oversight from the ODA Commodity Commission Oversight Program.
- The ODA Director appoints all commissioners, reviews and authorizes each commission's budget annually.
- Funded by growers and harvesters, commodity commissions set policy and direction and make decisions about commodity-specific research, education, and generic marketing promotion projects.

2025 Program Highlights



**OREGON
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Managed 16 WUSATA (MAP/RAPP) funded projects including trade shows, inbound/outbound trade missions, ingredient product development, and promotions in Oregon, Canada, EU, Japan, Mexico, S. Korea, SE Asia, and Taiwan

Launched effort to assist food/beverage ingredient companies in marketing their products to more international foodservice and food processors

Assisted with an emergency USDA Section 32 purchase of \$16 million of pink shrimp

Supported market access efforts to open the South Korean market for PNW frozen raspberries and blackberries and other significant non-tariff trade barriers for NW cherries, straw and potatoes

Hosted an Oregon pavilion in A Taste of the States (ATOTS) showcase at the National Restaurant Association Show in Chicago.

Inspected and certified machinery & equipment assets at 48 Oregon food processors valued at \$104,200,600 for tax exemption certification as part of the Machinery & Equipment Certification Program

2025 Program Highlights



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Supported farm to school procurement sales reported at \$3,082,349 for farmers, ranchers, seafood harvesters and food processors

Assisted 20 farm and food businesses participate in the Farm to School Showcase at the Oregon School Nutrition Association annual food show and conference.

Completed Co-packing in Oregon and the PNW Outreach & Research as part of the Oregon Food & Beverage Roadmap

Partnered with Regence Blue Cross and Oregon Taste to create the Fresh From Oregon media campaign

Recruited for and filled approximately 70 commodity commissioner positions

ODA Grant Programs related to Economic Development

Farm to School Equipment Grants – Amy Gilroy, Farm to School Program Manager

- In 2023-2025 biennium, 12 grants were awarded in the total amount of \$499,766
- Funding for the 2025-27 biennium is pending.

Specialty Crop Block Grants (SCBGP) – Gabrielle Ugalde, Grant Coordinator

- In 2025, 13 grants were awarded in the total amount of \$2,056,150
- 2026 grant application cycle opens December 1, 2025, through January 30, 2026.

RFSI – Infrastructure and Equipment Grants – Andrew Rice, Grant Coordinator

- In 2025, 8 Infrastructure grants were awarded and 17 Equipment only grants were awarded in the total amount of \$3,941,752
- One-time funding. No additional funds are available.

Agricultural Workforce Housing Grants – Sunny Summers and Gabrielle Ugalde, Grant Coordinators

- In 2025, 110 grants were awarded in the total amount of \$5,000,000
- One-time funding. No additional funds are available.

What's next....

Regional Food & Agriculture Business Centers



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**



Historical roots of Food Processing in Oregon

- Indigenous People
- Oregon Trail
- Cheese Making
- Canning Seafood and Specialty Crops
- Maraschino cherries
- Food Processors in Oregon

OREGON FOOD & BEVERAGE MAKER'S ROADMAP

Planning and understanding how to successfully connect to resources throughout the state of Oregon



Explore Topics

Learn more about... 

Oregon Food & Beverage Maker's Roadmap

Plan and understand how to connect to resources throughout the state of Oregon.

- PNW Co-packer Locator
- Food & Beverage Start-up Journey and Resources
- Co-Packing in Oregon and the PNW Outreach & Research Report
- <https://oregon.gov/odaroadmap>



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Regional Food and Agriculture Business Centers

- Regionally Anchored
- Business Support Focus Areas
- Role of the ODA
- Value Proposition
- Timeline





Why?

- Economic Drivers
- Unique Regions
- Decentralization
- Food State



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

Phase 1 Partnerships and Pilot Centers (2025- 26)

- Bottom-Up Initiative
- Identify pilot Centers
- Investment Strategies
- Identify strategic value proposition by region

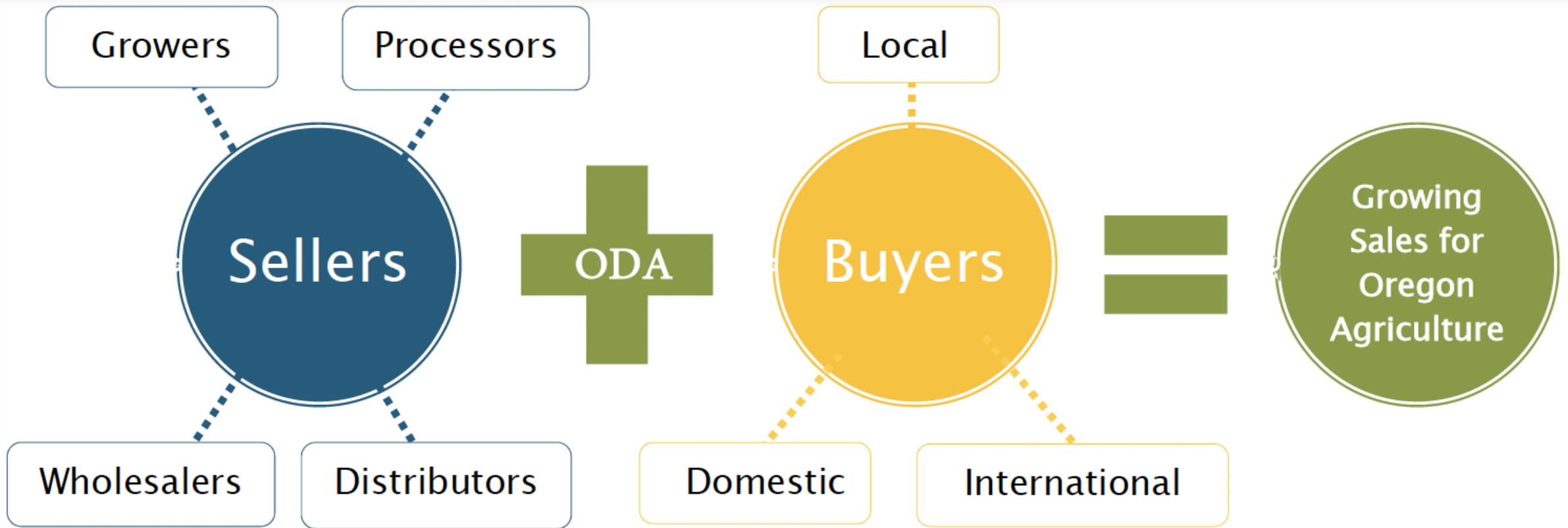


Phase 2

Expanding the Network (2027-28)

- Partner with Business Oregon and other agencies for statewide expansion of Centers
- Possible future integration with Oregon's Regional Innovation Hubs, focusing on food science, processing, and ag-tech development
- Strategic state investments
- Increase business success rates
- Build resilience across rural and urban communities





ODA Program Teams

Agriculture Economic and Trade Development

Email: Ag.Market@oda.oregon.gov

- Annette Amundson
- Jim Cupples
- Erick Garman
- Amy Gilroy
- Karla Valness
- Theresa Yoshioka

Commodity Commission Oversight

Email: commissions@oda.oregon.gov

- Eric Morris
- Annette Amundson



Thank You

Lindsay Eng

Oregon Department of Agriculture

lindsay.eng@oda.oregon.gov



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 3C: *ODA's Budget and Legislative Updates*

I. Introduction

The Board will receive an update from agency staff on this quarter's budget and legislative progress. Presenters will include:

- Lindsay Eng, ODA Deputy Director
- Jonathan Sandau, ODA Deputy Director
- Adam Crawford, ODA COO

Attachments include:

- Memo and details submitted to the State Legislature outlining ODA's proposed budget reduction options, as requested by the Legislature
- Updates on ODA's progress on the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan



Memo

Date:	November 3, 2025
To:	The Honorable Senator Kate Lieber, Co-Chair The Honorable Representative Tawna Sanchez, Co-Chair Interim Joint Committee on Ways and Means
From:	Lisa Charpillouz Hanson, Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture
Subject:	Reduction Cover Letter

MISSION AND REDUCTION STRATEGY

The mission of the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) is to **Protect. Promote. Prosper.** In responding to statewide budget challenges, this mission is our compass, guiding every decision we make on behalf of the people of Oregon.

This is a complex challenge. ODA's programs are deeply interconnected, meaning any reduction sends ripples through our agency, our partners, and the communities we serve. Therefore, our strategy is designed to protect our core operations, the foundational duties the people of Oregon have entrusted to us. While these choices are difficult and will limit our ability to tackle new or expanding responsibilities, they are essential to sustaining our capacity to perform our most critical functions and fulfilling our role as part of the solution for Oregon.

REDUCTION OPTIONS:

All proposed reductions are one-time, except where noted.

Reductions

We have designed these General Fund options to be as strategic and minimally disruptive as possible. First, we honor all existing contracts; no proposed reductions affect funds already committed. Second, to support our partners at the Department of Environmental Quality, the reduction to the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership is phased over time to allow for a smooth transition. Finally, many of these options, particularly the Special Payment reductions, are scalable, providing crucial flexibility.

To achieve the Lottery Funds target, we propose a one-time fund shift. This can be temporarily covered by the Nursery Program's revenues, which are sufficient to bear this shift without compromising its essential services.

The options presented for Other Funds are intended to realign dedicated fee revenue with the specific responsibilities for which it is statutorily authorized. Over time, these funds have borne costs previously funded by the General Fund and have been used to support new programs without adequate resources. This has created unsustainable financial pressure on the programs these fees were originally meant to support.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture remains committed to working with the Legislative Fiscal Office, DAS Chief Financial Office, and the Governor's Office to identify solutions that maintain core services while balancing statewide fiscal constraints.

Cc: Amanda Beitel, Legislative Fiscal Officer
Kate Nass, Chief Financial Officer
Katie Bannikov, Legislative Fiscal Office Analyst
Sione Filimoehala, Chief Financial Office Analyst

2025-27 Biennium							
2025-27 LAB	46,292,447	10,014,286	99,288,854		23,782,039	-	179,377,626

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
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Target (1%)	462,924	100,143	992,889	
Target (2.5%)	1,157,311	250,357	2,482,221	
Target (5%)	2,314,622	500,714	4,964,443	
Difference	1	(0)	(0)	

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Target (2.5%)	1,157,311	250,357	2,482,221
Target (5%)	2,314,622	500,714	4,964,443
Difference	1	(0)	(0)

Agency Name - ODA 2025-27 Biennium															
Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status
		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
603	Animal Health	19-21	1/1/2024	SB 1019	Egg Production Standards							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal FIS. This bill established new standards for the production and sale of eggs and egg products, which became effective on January 1, 2024. This long lead time required the ODA's Food Safety and Animal Health programs to engage in extensive rulemaking, stakeholder outreach, and development of a new inspection and enforcement framework to ensure compliance by the 2024 deadline.
603	Natural Resources Division	19-21	8/9/2019	HB 2437	Ag Channel Maintenance	251,043						\$ 251,043	1	0.88	Ongoing. This bill established a new framework for agricultural channel maintenance, requiring ODA to participate in the development of rules and guidance for landowners, impacting the Natural Resources Program Area.
603	Natural Resources Division	19-21	9/29/2019	SB 445	Oregon Invasive Species Council Reporting							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal FIS. This bill required the Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC), which is administratively housed within the ODA, to provide biennial reports to the legislature. This created a recurring administrative and policy development workload for ODA staff supporting the council.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	19-21	1/1/2020	SB 883	Animal Rescue Entity (AREs)	316,133		114,168				\$ 430,301	2	1.50	Ongoing. This bill established the modern regulatory framework for Animal Rescue Entities, placing significant licensing, inspection, and enforcement responsibilities on the ODA's Animal Health Program. GF all one-time. 1 NRS 3 Perm, and .5 FTE LD.
603	Natural Resources Division	19-21	7/15/2019	SB 885	Canola District Extension							\$ -			Ongoing. No Fiscal. This bill extended the Willamette Valley Protected District for canola production until 2023, continuing the ODA's complex and often contentious role in mediating the conflict between the specialty seed industry and canola growers. This issue would be revisited in subsequent sessions.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	19-21	1/1/2021	HB 4206	State Meat Inspection	237,648		115,000				\$ 352,648	3	0.75	Ongoing. This was foundational legislation, granting the ODA the authority to establish a state meat inspection program equivalent to the federal program. This single bill set in motion the creation of a major new ODA program, which would be built out through subsequent grant funding bills (e.g., HB 2785 in 2021, HB 3410 in 2023) and statutory clarifications.
603	Natural Resources Division	19-21	7/7/2020	SB 1602	Private Forest Accord							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal FIS for ODA. This bill initiated changes related to the Private Forest Accord and the Pesticide Analytical and Response Center (PARC). The PFA agreement, finalized in October 2021, led to further legislative action in 2022 and impacted how pesticide use is regulated and monitored in forested areas, involving ODA's Pesticides and Water Quality programs and TMDLs.

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		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
603	Natural Resources Division	21-23	1/1/2022	HB 2031	Pesticide Enforcement Authority							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal Fiscal. This bill was a critical, federally-mandated update to the ODA's enforcement powers. It expanded the agency's authority to impose civil and criminal penalties for violations of not just state law, but also state rules related to restricted-use pesticides. This change was necessary to align Oregon's pesticide certification plan with new EPA regulations and significantly strengthened the Pesticides Program's regulatory toolkit.
603	Market Access	21-23	9/25/2021	HB 2284	Hemp Commission							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal Fiscal. This bill established a new commodity commission for the hemp industry. As with Oregon's 23 other commodity commissions, this placed administrative and oversight duties on the ODA. The ODA Director is responsible for appointing commissioners and providing guidance and stewardship as the new commission is formed and begins its work of promotion, research, and education funded by producer assessments.
603	Natural Resources Division	21-23	9/25/2021	HB 2344	Disposable Wipes Labeling							\$ -			Completed. No fiscal. This bill required specific "do not flush" labeling on premoistened nonwoven disposable wipes. While primarily a consumer protection and wastewater infrastructure issue, it intersects with the ODA's Pesticides Program, which is responsible for reviewing the labels of any wipes that are registered as pesticides (e.g., disinfecting wipes) to ensure compliance with all state and federal labeling laws.
603	Natural Resources Division	21-23	1/1/2022	HB 2409	Pesticide Application in Planned Communities							\$ -			Ongoing. No Fiscal. This legislation prohibited homeowners associations (HOAs) from requiring the application of pesticides on an owner's property except for ecological or public health reasons. For the ODA's Pesticides Program, this created a new regulatory context for licensed pesticide applicators, who must now navigate these restrictions when providing services in planned communities.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	21-23	9/25/2021	HB 2785	State Meat Inspection Grants (Round 1)	2,000,000						\$ 2,000,000			Completed. This bill appropriated the first round of grant funding to help build and upgrade meat processing infrastructure around the state. It positioned the ODA as a administrator of economic development funds, tasked with developing a grant process to alleviate the processing bottlenecks faced by small-scale livestock producers. GF all one-time

Agency Name - ODA 2025-27 Biennium															
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		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
603	Natural Resources Division	21-23	7/19/2021	HB 3000	Cannibis Regulation Overhaul							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal Fiscal. Key provisions required the ODA to conduct criminal record checks for hemp license applicants, enhancing program security. It also strengthened multi-agency enforcement efforts against illegal cannabis cultivation, formalizing the ODA's partnership with the OLCC and law enforcement. Most importantly, it directed the ODA to undertake extensive rulemaking to align Oregon's state hemp plan with USDA requirements, a process that was both technically complex and resource-intensive, and was the driving force behind the 21-23 budget's Pkg. 395.
603	Natural Resources Division	21-23	1/1/2022	HB 3185	Agricultural Ditch Maintenance							\$ -			Ongoing,. Minimal Fiscal. This bill made further changes to the agricultural channel maintenance laws, requiring continued engagement from the ODA's Natural Resources Program Area in providing technical guidance and regulatory oversight.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	21-23	1/1/2022	SB 103	Animal Emergency Plan Transfer							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal FIS. This bill represented a major shift in statewide emergency management responsibility. It transferred the duty for preparing and maintaining the state's written animal emergency operations plan from the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) to the ODA, with an operative date of July 1, 2022. This made the ODA the lead state agency for animal care, evacuation, and sheltering during major disasters, a significant new responsibility for the Animal Health Program and the State Veterinarian.
603	Admin	21-23	12/14/2021	SB 892	Drought Relief Package							\$ -			Completed. Passed in tandem with SB 5561, this policy bill helped structure the drought relief effort, including the creation of an agricultural forgivable disaster loan program administered by the ODA. Together, these bills equipped the ODA with the financial tools to respond to the widespread economic damage caused by the drought.
603	Admin	21-23	12/14/2021	SB 5561	Ag Disaster Relief	44,000,000	1,000,000		40,000,000			\$ 85,000,000	15	8.51	Completed. \$40M in GF to OF limitation for Oregon Agricultural Disaster Relief Fund. \$5M (\$4M GF, \$1M LF) for Grasshopper and cricket outbreaks. Positions one-time.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	21-23	4/15/2022	HB 4074	Rebuttal Testing of Cannabis							\$ -			Ongoing. No fiscal. Directed the ODA to require that any rebuttal testing of cannabis (to determine if it is legal hemp or illegal marijuana) be performed by ODA staff in an ODA-operated laboratory. This was a direct precursor to the formal establishment of the Cannabis Reference Laboratory in 2023.

Agency Name - ODA 2025-27 Biennium															
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Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status
		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
603	Natural Resources Division	21-23	3/7/2022	SB 1564	County Commissions and Denials of Hemp Grower Licenses							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal FIS. Authorized county commissions to request that the ODA deny new grower licenses in their jurisdiction under certain emergency conditions, adding a new layer of local government coordination to the ODA's licensing process. authorized county commissions to request that the ODA deny new grower licenses in their jurisdiction under certain emergency conditions, adding a new layer of local government coordination to the ODA's licensing process.
603	Natural Resources Division	21-23	6/3/2022	HB 4062	New Pesticide Applicator License							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal FIS. This bill established a new "noncommercial pesticide applicator" license and a "noncommercial pesticide trainee" certificate. This required the ODA's Pesticides Program to engage in rulemaking to define the scope of these new license types and to develop new training curricula, examination materials, and certification procedures.
603	Admin	21-23	6/3/2022	HB 4077	Environmental Justice Council							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal fiscal. This legislation codified the former Environmental Justice Task Force into the permanent Environmental Justice Council (EJC) and mandated the development of a statewide environmental justice mapping tool. As a primary natural resource agency, the ODA is required to engage with the EJC and consider the mapping tool in its rulemaking and policy development. This has resulted in a significant, ongoing, and largely unfunded time commitment from senior ODA staff from multiple programs, who must participate in council meetings, technical workgroups, and policy discussions.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	21-23	3/2/2022	HB 4128	Zoonotic Disease Reporting							\$ -			Completed. Minimal FIS. This bill directed the Legislative Policy and Research Office (LPRO) to prepare a comprehensive report on Oregon's framework for responding to zoonotic diseases. The mandate required extensive consultation with the ODA's State Veterinarian and Animal Health program staff, consuming significant time and resources to provide the necessary data and expert analysis for the report.
603	Animal Health	21-23	4/4/2022	HB 5202	Budget Rebalance Bill - Animal Rescue Entities	180,000						\$ 180,000	2	1.06	Sec 253 allotted one-time GF funding for AREs. 2 LD positions were one-time
603	Admin	23-25	3/29/2023	HB 2001	Ag Housing Grants	5,524,762						\$ 5,524,762	1	0.88	Ongoing. This omnibus housing bill included a provision directing the ODA to provide grants to improve existing agricultural workforce housing. This tasked the ODA with administering a new grant program focused on improving health and safety conditions for farmworkers, expanding the agency's role in addressing social and infrastructure issues within the agricultural sector. Positions and GF one-time but \$1.25M in GF carried forward for 25-27 to pay out remainder of grants. .

Agency Name - ODA 2025-27 Biennium															
Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23															
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		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
603	Natural Resources Division	23-25	8/4/2023	HB 2010	Place-based Planning	269,762						\$ 269,762	1	0.88	Ongoing. Place-based planning position and GF ongoing.
603	Market Access	23-25	1/1/2024	HB 2509	Livestock Brand Transfer							\$ -			Completed. No Fiscal. This bill simplified and clarified the process for transferring a recorded livestock brand after the owner's death, including allowing transfer through a will's residuary clause or via a small estate affidavit. This required the ODA's Brands Program to update its procedures, forms, and guidance for livestock producers.
603	Natural Resources Division	23-25	5/3/2023	HB 2687	Tribal Pesticide Applicator License							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal FIS. This bill established a new public pesticide applicator license specifically for tribal governments, requiring the ODA's Pesticides Program to develop rules and processes for this new license category.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	23-25	1/1/2024	HB 2689	Small-Scale Rabbit Processing Exemption							\$ -			Completed. Minimal FIS. This legislation created a new licensing exemption for producers who slaughter and process no more than 1,000 rabbits per year on their own farm. This required the ODA's Food Safety and State Meat Inspection programs to develop rules and guidance to define the sanitary and operational standards for this newly exempt category, ensuring food safety while supporting small-scale producers.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	23-25	9/24/2023	HB 2931	Cannabis Reference Lab			2,281,689				\$ 2,281,689	3	2.64	Ongoing. This bill formally directed the ODA, in consultation with the OHA and OLCC, to establish a cannabis reference laboratory. This was a major new operational mandate, solidifying the ODA's role as the state's primary authority on cannabis testing methodology and regulatory science. The significant fiscal and staffing impacts were addressed through the 2023-25 budget (Pkg. 110 and Pkg. 230). 3 positions permanently funded by OLCC fees.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	23-25	7/31/2023	HB 3410	State Meat Inspection Grants (Round 2)	9,000,000						\$ 9,000,000			Completed. This bill provided a second round of one-time GF funding for meat processing infrastructure grants, continuing the program established by HB 2785 (2021) and further cementing the ODA's role in administering these crucial economic development funds.
603	Natural Resources Division	23-25	8/4/2023	SB 5506	Omnibus Budget Bill	1,312,000						\$ 1,312,000			Completed. This end-of-session budget reconciliation bill contained funding for numerous state programs. For the ODA, it included funding related to invasive species, such as the Vine Mealybug and the Noxious Weed Lead (NWL) program overseen by the OISC, and wolf funding.

Agency Name - ODA 2025-27 Biennium															
Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status
		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	23-25	1/1/2024	SB 643	Cottage Food (Homemade Foods)							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal FIS. This bill significantly modified the state's "cottage food" law, expanding the types of homemade foods that can be sold, increasing the annual sales cap to \$50,000, and allowing for online and consignment sales. This required the ODA's Food Safety program to update its rules and guidance for this growing sector of the food economy.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	23-25	1/1/2024	SB 479	Meat Donation Rules							\$ -			Completed. Minimal FIS. This bill directed the ODA to adopt rules allowing the donation of meat from custom-exempt slaughter and processing facilities to charitable organizations. This required the ODA's Food Safety and Meat Inspection programs to develop a new regulatory framework to ensure the safety of donated meat that has not undergone continuous, carcass-by-carcass inspection.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	23-25	9/24/2023	SB 507	Farm Direct Marketing							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal FIS. This bill further expanded Oregon's farm-direct marketing laws, increasing the types of products farmers can sell directly to consumers and raising sales limits, requiring updates to ODA Food Safety guidance.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	23-25	5/8/2023	SB 545	Reusable Containers							\$ -			Completed. Minimal FIS. This bill directed the ODA and the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) to adopt rules allowing consumers to bring their own reusable containers to food establishments for refills. ODA conducted this through a proactive and significant rulemaking effort prior to session, within the ODA's Food Safety Program to develop sanitary standards and procedures that would protect public health while enabling waste reduction.
603	Food Safety/Animal Health	23-25	1/1/2024	SB 57	Brucellosis Vaccination Requirement Removal							\$ -			Completed. No Fiscal. This bill removed the long-standing statutory requirement for mandatory brucellosis vaccination of female beef cattle. This was a policy shift that required the ODA's Animal Health Program to amend state import rules, disease surveillance protocols, and guidance for veterinarians and producers.
603	Natural Resources Division	23-25	1/1/2024	SB 775	SWCD Election Eligibility							\$ -			Ongoing. No Fiscal. This bill changed the eligibility requirements for individuals to serve as zone directors on the boards of Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in more populous counties. As the agency with oversight responsibility for SWCDs, the ODA had to update its election guidance and procedures to reflect this change.
603	Natural Resources Division	23-25	7/18/2023	SB 789	Canola Extension							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal FIS. This bill provided a one-year extension to the Willamette Valley Protected District for canola, continuing the ODA's regulatory role while a workgroup was formed to seek a longer-term solution.

Agency Name - ODA 2025-27 Biennium															
Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23															
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status
		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
603	Natural Resources Division	23-25	7/27/2023	SB 85	CAFO Overhaul	562,012						\$ 562,012	2	1.76	Ongoing. This was one of the most significant pieces of agricultural legislation in the 2023 session. It substantially overhauled the regulatory framework for large Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs). It mandated a new pre-application approval process, required new and expanding large CAFOs to submit a detailed water supply plan, and created a new "Nutrient Application Permit" for certain off-site applications of manure. All of these new requirements fall under the administration and enforcement of the ODA's CAFO program, dramatically increasing its regulatory workload and complexity. GF and positions ongoing
603	Natural Resources Division	23-25	6/6/2024	HB 4102	Natural and Working Lands							\$ -			No Fiscal. This bill established the Natural and Working Lands Fund in the State Treasury, with moneys to be continuously appropriated to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) for transfer to several sub-funds. One of these is the Agriculture Natural Climate Solutions Fund (ORS 561.157). This positions the ODA to be a key partner in administering or advising on the use of these funds for projects that enhance carbon sequestration on agricultural lands, formally integrating the agency into the state's climate mitigation strategy. Funded in SB 5701
603	Natural Resources Division	23-25	4/4/2024	HB 4059	Canola Sunset Extension							\$ -			Ongoing. No Fiscal. This bill extended the sunset date for the restrictions on canola production in the Willamette Valley Protected District to January 2, 2028. This provided a medium-term resolution to the ongoing conflict, keeping the ODA's existing regulatory structure in place for the district for several more years.
603	Natural Resources Division	23-25	3/20/2024	HB 4121	Industrial Hemp Production Map							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal FIS. This omnibus cannabis bill included a key provision directing the OLCC, in consultation with the ODA, to create and maintain a map showing the locations of all licensed marijuana and industrial hemp production sites. This mapping requirement is intended to improve regulatory oversight and enforcement, and it requires significant data sharing and technical coordination between the two agencies.
604	Natural Resources Division	23-25	4/17/2024	SB 5701	Budget Reconciliation	2,250,000		1,228,928		4,500,000		\$ 7,978,928	2	1.26	Ongoing. Section 48 increase Federal Funds limitation by \$4.5M to implement the Resilient Food System Infrastructure grants. Section 133 Other Funds funding from Natural and Working Lands Fund \$978,928. Section 407 funded \$1.25M in grasshopper mitigation efforts. Section 441 increased the General Fund appropriation and Other Funds allocation for natural resources programs by \$250,000 to deposit into the account for invasive species outreach and education, Sections 443–444 appropriated \$750,000 (General Fund) to the department’s natural resources programs for activities to mitigate invasive species impacts.

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1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion			Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status
		Biennium	Effective Date	Authorization											
603	Market Access	25-27	6/26/2025	SB 1019	Livestock Program Modernization			1,455,000				\$ 1,455,000			Ongoing. This bill modernizes the ODA's Brands Program by increasing fees for brand registration and renewal, as well as for livestock identification inspection services. It also allows for third-party and self-inspection in some cases. The fee increases are critical for the fiscal sustainability of this entirely fee-funded program.
603	Natural Resources Division	25-27	1/1/2026	SB 1154	Groundwater Area of Concern Interagency Team							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal fiscal. This bill modifies the state's framework for managing groundwater contamination. It directs the Governor to appoint a lead agency for an interagency team whenever a groundwater area of concern is declared by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ). Given the ODA's central role in administering the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, the agency will be a mandatory and critical member of these teams, representing a significant new coordination and potential regulatory responsibility.
603	Natural Resources Division	25-27	7/17/2025	HB 2169	Water Reuse Team							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal fiscal. This bill directs the DEQ to establish an interagency water reuse team to encourage and expand water reuse in Oregon. The ODA is explicitly named as a required participant on this team. This is a mandate that will require the dedication of ODA staff time and technical expertise to inter-agency policy development.
603	Natural Resources Division	25-27	9/28/2025	SB 360	Pesticide Licensing Exemption							\$ -			Ongoing. Minimal fiscal. This bill modernizes pesticide application laws by creating a narrow exemption from licensing requirements for certain employees using low-risk, battery-powered devices. This will require the ODA's Pesticides Program to develop standards and training materials for this newly exempt category to ensure safe application practices.
603	Market Access	25-27	1/1/2026	SB 777	Wolf Compensation Program Changes							\$ -			This bill modifies the Wolf Depredation Compensation and Financial Assistance Grant Program, which is administered by the ODA. It changes the methodology used to award grants, aiming to balance compensation for confirmed livestock losses with funding for proactive, non-lethal conflict prevention measures.
603	Admin	25-27	8/7/2025	HB 5006	Wolf Compensation/OneODA IT Project Funding (bonding)	4,250,000		6,185,000				\$ 10,435,000	2	1.76	\$1M (GF) of one-time Wolf Compensation Funding, \$6.1M OF for OneODA (bonding), \$3.25M (GF) for OneODA. Both positions are one-time.
	Admin	25-27	7/1/2025	SB 5502	Ag Worker Housing Grants	1,250,000						\$ 1,250,000			Ongoing to be complete in the 25-27 biennium. Remaing funding from original \$5M in grants to be paid upon completion of the Ag Worker Housing Grants.
		25-27	7/1/2025	SB 5502	State Meat Inspection	847,076		802,626				\$ 1,649,702	2	2.00	
												\$ -			
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Agency Name - ODA 2025-27 Biennium															
Detail of Programs in the 2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget that have been established or expanded since 2021-23															
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Agency	SCR	Program Establishment / Expansion		Authorization	Program Description	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Implementation Status
		Biennium	Effective Date												
												\$ -			
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												\$ -			
				TOTAL		72,250,436	1,000,000	12,182,411	40,000,000	4,500,000	-	\$ 129,932,847	36	23.88	

Instructions

- Column (5) - Authorization should identify the source of the new program or program expansion, which could include enabling legislation, approved policy option package, or administrative establishment.
- Column (6) - Program description should include a summary of the program and the expansion (if applicable), including any partner state agencies.
- Column (16) - Current status of program implementation should be summarized, including any future budget requests anticipated upon full program implementation.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 4: *Oregon Department of Energy – Energy Strategy Updates*

I. Introduction

Janine Benner, Director of the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), and Jessica Reichers, Technology and Policy Manager for ODOE, will provide an overview of the Oregon Department of Energy's Energy Strategy.

II. Background

The Oregon Department of Energy developed the Oregon Energy Strategy, which identifies five least-cost pathways to achieve the state's energy objectives. The strategy considers benefits and challenges of different pathways, presents policy recommendations, and reflects input from Oregonians who informed the Strategy.

Developing the Oregon Energy Strategy followed a process that combines data gathering, technical analysis, and policy discussions anchored in engagement with Oregonians with diverse backgrounds and perspectives from across the state. Following public comment on the draft report, the Oregon Energy Strategy was presented to the Governor and Legislature on November 17, 2025.

Governor Kotek's Executive Order on Reducing Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Advancing Oregon's Clean Energy Future (EO 25-29) directs key state agencies to align investment and regulatory activities with the five least-cost pathways outlined in ODOE's Energy Strategy.

As directed by [HB 3630](#), the strategy outlines potential actions to meet the state's energy policy objectives, including reliability, affordability, and greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.

Why Develop an Energy Strategy?

Oregon policymakers have enacted recent and decades-old laws, programs, and regulations to support a shift to cleaner, more sustainable sources of energy. Together, Oregon's energy policies are transforming the energy system toward clean energy to power our homes, transportation systems, businesses, and industry. Yet until now, Oregon has not had a clear vision for how the various pieces come together. In 2022, the Oregon Department of Energy published its [Biennial Energy Report](#) and in it identified the need for a state energy strategy that can take an economywide look at available resources, technologies, and energy needs, and develop a shared vision for the state.

Legislative Direction: HB 3630 (2023) directed the Oregon Department of Energy to develop a state energy strategy and submit a final report to the Governor and Legislature that:

1. summarizes the state energy strategy and pathways to achieving Oregon's energy policy objectives;
2. describes ODOE's engagement process and how perspectives informed the energy strategy; and
3. recommends legislation or changes to policy necessary to implement the state energy strategy.

HB 3630 does not define Oregon's "energy policy objectives." After consultation with other state agencies, experts, and interested parties, ODOE determined that key clean energy policy drivers include statutory and regulatory directives like HB 2021, the Climate Protection Program, and Executive Order 20-04. Through these and other policies and programs, the legislature and executive branch are helping transition Oregon to a cleaner energy future.

While the energy strategy does not list or serve to interpret the nuances of Oregon's many energy policies, the modeling and public engagement considered statutory targets and goals and aimed to support consistency and compliance with existing law. ODOE considered affordability and reliability as essential energy policy objectives, and the Energy Strategy looks not at *whether* Oregon can meet its objectives but *how* it can do so while maintaining an affordable, reliable system.

The Energy Strategy comes at a pivotal moment and transition in the energy sector. Many rapid changes have occurred in the last 5 years – including during the development of the Energy Strategy. These include rising electric loads, increasing energy bills and energy cost burdens, and an increase in extreme weather events that impact Oregonians. Until recently, unprecedented opportunities, bolstered by new policies and federal support, had been driving historic levels of investment in clean energy technologies including renewable energy, electric vehicles, and energy efficiency. Over the last nine months, there has been a stark reversal of federal policy as clean energy, energy efficiency, and even basic infrastructure projects have seen tax credits and funding eliminated or reduced.

The Energy Strategy evaluates these trends in the context of Oregon's energy policy objectives and recommends five pathways to guide Oregon.

Five Pathways to Guide Oregon

The following pathways are the result of two years of technical analysis and policy discussions. They have been optimized to advance a least-cost economy-wide trajectory for Oregon while supporting reliability and affordability in the clean energy transition. They are the starting point to identify how to

reduce costs while maximizing benefits, and to pursue affordability, considering burdens and benefits to environmental justice communities. They serve as guiding strategies for policy discussions and decisions.



1. Energy Efficiency. Advance energy efficiency across buildings, industry, and transportation sectors, including by expanding access to and appeal of multimodal transportation options, to deliver the benefits of a more efficient energy system.



2. Clean Electricity. Secure reliable, affordable, and clean electricity by expanding the electricity system and incorporating load flexibility.



3. Electrification. Increase electrification of end uses across transportation, buildings, and industry, while safeguarding reliability, promoting affordability, and maximizing opportunities to use load flexibility as a resource.



4. Low-Carbon Fuels. Advance the use of low-carbon fuels in the hardest-to-electrify end uses and to maintain a reliable electric grid.



5. Resilience. Strengthen resilience across all levels of the energy system, including utilities, communities, and customers, enhancing Oregon's ability to adapt to climate change and mitigate other risks.

These five pathways represent a portfolio of solutions that must be advanced together. They are interconnected and mutually reinforcing, building on each other and interacting in complex ways.

The first pathway, **energy efficiency**, is essential to reduce energy demand as much as possible, trimming the size of the overall energy demand that must be served by clean energy sources. Energy efficiency is a least-cost resource that can lower energy bills for consumers while supporting reliability. The second pathway, **clean electricity**, is expected to power a growing share of our energy system. As electricity demand increases and many end-uses electrify, the modeling conducted for the energy strategy found that the electricity system must grow significantly. This elevates the need to build and upgrade transmission, generation, and distribution infrastructure. The third pathway, **electrification**, involves adoption of electric technologies to replace fossil fuels in many end uses over the next 25 years, including transportation and space heating in buildings. It is also a powerful energy efficiency measure because many electric technologies are much more energy efficient than their fossil fuel counterparts. The fourth pathway, **low-carbon fuels**, is essential in areas where in the near or longer term, electrification is not feasible and to support reliable electricity. Finally, it is important to consider **resilience** across all these areas, ensuring that as measures are undertaken to mitigate climate change, opportunities to strengthen resilience are captured.

Key Modeling Takeaways

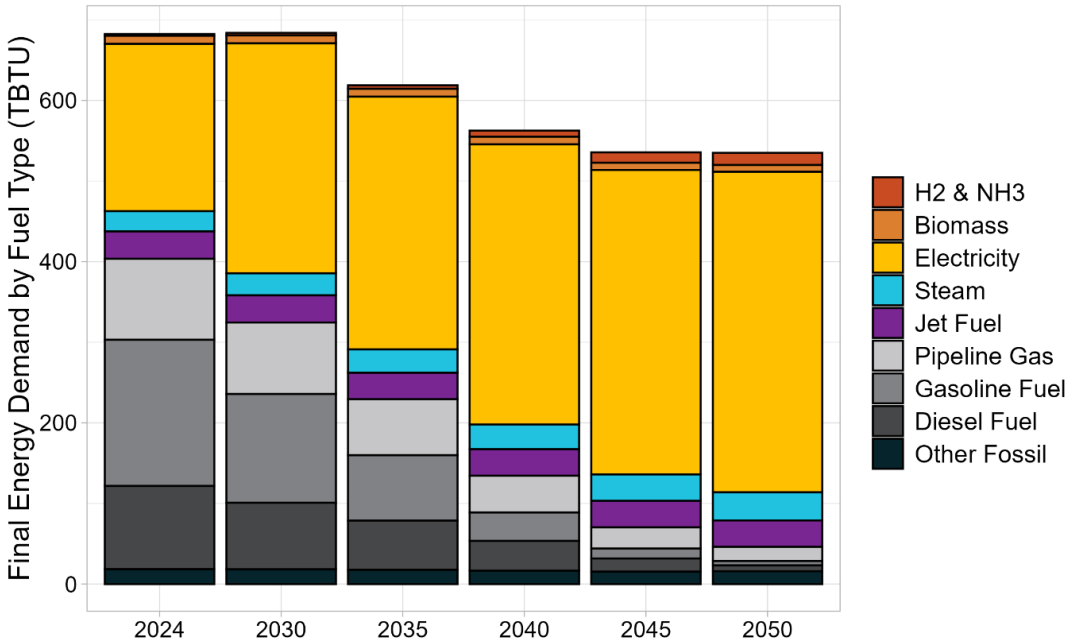
The energy strategy looks at expected trends, and at the elements of a least-cost pathway to meeting Oregon's energy policy objectives. To inform the energy strategy, the Oregon Department of Energy contracted with the Clean Energy Transition Institute and Evolved Energy Research to undertake a modeling exercise that considers different approaches to meeting Oregon's energy policy objectives for the period 2024 to 2050. That exercise informed policy discussions, and ultimately the five pathways.

Much of the agency’s engagement around the modeling focused on selecting the best available data for [modeling inputs and assumptions](#) to create a Reference Scenario that would serve as a point of comparison for other alternative scenarios. Unlike studies that model emissions levels associated with different scenarios, the energy strategy Reference Scenario was structured to help understand what a least-cost pathway to achieving Oregon’s goals might look like. It incorporates high levels of demand-side energy efficiency measures and electrification of end-uses, based on an evaluation of the least-cost actions identified in numerous other energy transition studies.

The results of the modeling showed that energy efficiency and electrification can help reduce the amount of energy needed to fuel the economy and can significantly reduce Oregon’s overall demand for energy while its population and economy grow. In 2050, energy demand was 22 percent lower than in 2024 due to high levels of energy efficiency and electrification, particularly in the transportation sector. This is represented by the descending columns in Figure 1.

Another key takeaway from the modeling is that electricity loads increase significantly, doubling by 2050. In the very near term, tech/data center loads are the greatest driver of growing electricity demand; after 2030, electric vehicles drive electricity demand growth, followed by demand growth across the commercial, industrial, and agricultural sectors. Electrification is therefore an important driver of growth in *electricity* demand, while at the same time reducing overall *energy* demand.

Figure 1: Energy Demand by Fuel Type in Oregon, 2024 Actuals and Modeled Future



The modeling also looked at alternative scenarios and sensitivities, each of which changed one key aspect of the Reference Scenario and held everything else constant.¹ This helped to isolate the impact of the change and draw out lessons learned.

Scenarios and sensitivities explored what would happen if there were lower levels of energy efficiency and/or slower rates of electrification to test the hypothesis that these were key elements for ensuring Oregon’s energy transition follows a least-cost pathway. This hypothesis was correct. Scenarios that delayed action on energy efficiency and building electrification, transportation electrification, and

¹ Alternative scenarios were defined earlier in the process, while sensitivities were added to test additional questions that emerged toward the end of the modeling process as scenario results began to emerge. There were six alternative scenarios and four sensitivities that we modeled. The results of the energy pathways analysis [are available online](#).

demand response led to higher overall costs to the economy, as did scenarios that included less in-state generation and more imported renewable resources or constrained transmission compared to the Reference Scenario. Another scenario showed increased costs if the power system cannot rely on a combination of fossil and low-carbon gas for reliability.

This exercise also resulted in a deeper understanding of interactions across the transportation, buildings, industrial, and electricity sectors in Oregon. It provided valuable insights into the direction the state must take to achieve its energy policy objectives.

The Cost of Inaction

Through most of the Oregon Department of Energy's 50 years of public service, Oregon's energy system has been in transition – from the 1970s oil crises to the challenges we face today as we've developed the Oregon Energy Strategy. Energy costs have been rising for many consumers, increasing energy burdens and contributing to record disconnection rates. Even expanded consumer protections and programs have struggled to keep pace with growing need. High levels of growth in electricity demand threaten to outpace construction of resources to meet that demand. And federal funding cuts and policy changes in critical areas, including support for energy resource development, energy efficiency, and low-income assistance programs, threaten to further raise costs for Oregonians. This makes Oregon's goals of reliable, affordable, clean energy more important than ever. It also emphasizes how vital the direction set by Oregon policies – and bolstered by this energy strategy – is for affordability and economic growth in our state.

There are many drivers of rising energy costs today. In recent years, higher wholesale power costs, wildfire risk reduction and insurance costs, the cost of maintenance and upgrades to aging infrastructure compounded by inflation, and responses to severe weather events have been primary contributors. Global events, like the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia's war against Ukraine, periods of high inflation, and political unrest have caused large fluctuations in fuel prices that affect transportation, heating, and electricity costs. Oregon's decarbonization policies and goals have not been the primary driver of recent price increases, though over time they will require significant investment.

The scale of expected demand growth in the electricity sector is historic. But it is not the only sector where investments are expected to occur. Many of the measures identified in the energy strategy, including energy efficiency and electrification, require investment. In many cases, these are investments that were going to happen anyway. Cars, furnaces, and boilers will eventually need to be replaced, and the modeling did not assume any accelerated replacement of these items. Rather, the Energy Strategy helped identify low-carbon replacement options that generated the least overall energy system costs across the economy and complied with Oregon policies like HB 2021, the Climate Protection Program, and Advanced Clean Cars II.

Across the energy sector, the question posed in the energy strategy – and the choice facing Oregon – is not whether to invest in our energy system; it is *how* to direct and resource that investment to maximize benefits to Oregonians, minimize harms, avoid disproportionate impacts to environmental justice and energy burdened communities, and advance key priorities like energy affordability, public health, and economic development. This was a key question asked in the technical and modeling analysis, and discussed in working groups to identify policy gaps and solutions.

A key backdrop to this discussion is the growing cost of climate change in Oregon. Even as energy costs are rising, climate change is driving additional costs for Oregon households, businesses, industries, and government. Responding to, recovering from, and adapting to extreme heat waves, widespread drought conditions, severe wildfires, flooding, coastal erosion, and other extreme weather events are

increasingly hitting Oregonians' bottom lines. Events like the 2018 wildfire season, 2020 Labor Day fires, and the 2021 Pacific Northwest heatwave cost Oregonians hundreds of lives and billions of dollars. In the coming decades, it is estimated that the average Oregonian could lose about \$12,000 in income each year from the effects of greenhouse gas emissions.

Climate change is also affecting the electricity sector. Changing precipitation patterns and drought are affecting the timing and availability of hydropower electricity, which provides some of the most affordable energy for Oregonians. These factors, along with rising temperatures, are also exacerbating stress on fish, further increasing costs to mitigate those effects. Wildfires are threatening homes and businesses. Wildfire risk is also a growing source of utility costs due to infrastructure and maintenance investments necessary to mitigate the risk of igniting wildfires, rising insurance costs, infrastructure rebuilds after damaging fires, and growing liability risk. The increasing frequency and duration of extreme summer and winter weather is further straining electricity systems, creating extreme prices during peak events. Hotter summers are driving higher air conditioning demand, and analysts project the confluence of severe winter weather and lower hydropower availability in drought years could create capacity shortfalls in the near future.

Unless global emissions decline considerably, these impacts will happen at a faster pace and intensify over time, committing Oregonians and the rest of the world to increasingly higher costs from climate inaction. Costs will continue to accrue the longer it takes to reduce emissions. While Oregon cannot reduce global emissions alone, it is in a position to lead as a state, and as part of a region driving solutions that reduce emissions and provide economic opportunities associated with the energy transition. Oregon's energy production and use account for over 80 percent of the state's greenhouse gas emissions, making it one of the focal points for mitigating climate change and meeting statewide greenhouse gas reduction goals.

Many of the measures identified in the energy strategy can deliver benefits on top of mitigating climate change. Energy efficiency can shrink the overall size of the "energy pie," reducing investments that would otherwise be needed across the energy system, and alleviating impacts of development on land and water. [Complementary analysis](#), conducted for the energy strategy to explore air quality, affordability, and employment effects of meeting Oregon's energy policy objectives, provides additional insights. The analysis finds [air quality and public health](#) benefits across the state resulting from decarbonization measures, including electrification of cars and trucks and reduced fossil fuel combustion in power plants. The [jobs study](#) finds significant opportunities for employment growth across much of the energy sector. The [Energy Wallet](#) illustrates the potential cost savings to many households of purchasing an electric vehicle or electric heat pump. Finally, many of the measures that are part of a least-cost pathway, such as weatherization, distributed resources, and heat pumps for cooling can strengthen resilience to the effects of climate change.

The technical analysis and engagement also identified challenges that will need to be considered in implementing the energy strategy. For example, the jobs study found displacement in jobs at fueling stations and in vehicle maintenance. While job growth in other sectors significantly outpaced this displacement, the results signal a need to address potential job losses and create options for displaced workers. The energy wallet found that some households may see increased energy costs when switching to an electric heat pump, indicating that support may be needed to help overcome cost barriers to heat pump technology adoption. Just as policies are needed to drive uptake of clean energy technologies and deliver their benefits, policies will also be important to address costs and to ensure that those costs do not disproportionately impact environmental justice and energy burdened communities.

The costs of climate change and our current energy system are not borne equally. An intentional approach is needed to ensure that historic and current inequities are not perpetuated as we advance

along the five pathways, and that low-income and marginalized groups have access to the benefits of the energy transition. In developing the energy strategy, the Oregon Department of Energy convened an environmental justice and equity working group to help understand the challenges facing different communities and to identify policy gaps and opportunities. This engagement informed the technical analysis and policy recommendations. It led to the development of the equity and justice framework, and to specific legislative and policy actions that aim to advance meaningful engagement and equitable and just outcomes.

The pathways, policies, and actions in the Energy Strategy come at a time when, in the very near term, there are competing priorities for limited funding. State and local governments play an important role in funding and supporting the policies and programs needed to meet our energy challenges intentionally and equitably. This has become significantly harder in the last nine months as the federal government has cut, rescinded, defunded, or dismantled programs that provided critical assistance for many Americans. This includes reductions in energy assistance programs that are lifelines for low-income and rural Oregonians, especially those living in areas of the state that experience colder winters and hotter summers.

At the same time, Oregon has tremendous opportunities. Access to reliable, affordable, and clean energy can promote economic growth across sectors. Through activities such as the buildout of new electricity resources, development of energy efficient technologies, and expanded use of low-carbon fuels, the transition to clean energy offers potential for bringing new business opportunities and jobs to Oregon. For example, Oregon is a leader in research and development, including two projects testing cutting-edge electricity generation technologies: the Mazama Energy Enhanced Geothermal Systems demonstration project and PacWave test facility off Oregon's coast. Oregon also has deep experience with energy efficiency and distributed energy programs, such as those implemented by the Energy Trust of Oregon, consumer-owned utilities, and state agencies that provide a strong foundation to lower bills and increase the competitiveness of Oregon industries.

It is important to prioritize funding where it can advance the strongest near-term needs, including affordability and reliability, as outlined in the section on Implementing the Energy Strategy. And over time, as more funds become available, it will be important to continue to shape equitable policies and programs to deliver benefits of a clean, affordable, reliable energy system to homes and businesses. The energy strategy serves to guide that vision, advancing Oregon's clean energy policies, and providing a foundation for increased cooperation across government agencies, utilities, businesses, non-profit organizations, and Oregonians.

Input and Engagement

Oregon's Energy Strategy has been informed by a robust public engagement process. This included information sharing and comments about technical modeling from May 2024 – December 2024 ([Phase 1](#)), followed by engagement to inform development of the policy recommendations from February 2025 – May 2025 (Phase 2), and a written comment period on the Draft Report from August 2025 – September 2025. Through these phases, ODOE sought and incorporated input regarding the data and assumptions of the energy strategy; perspectives on policy priorities, challenges, and opportunities from a diverse range of interests and backgrounds; and comments from members of the [Advisory Group](#), [Inter-Agency Steering Group](#), [Working Groups](#), and the [public](#). ODOE has published comprehensive summaries of the input received during [Phase 1 technical modeling](#), [Phase 2 policy discussions](#), and written comments of the strategy development, reflecting input on the technical modeling, policy discussions, and draft Energy Strategy report. Copies of public comments and recordings from public meetings are available on [ODOE's website](#).

The robust engagement of partners and the public throughout both phases of the strategy's development significantly contributed to its shape and content. Public engagement informed the design and focus of the technical analyses. Conversations with interested parties supported policy discussions, including evaluation of current progress, barriers, and options to advancing Oregon's energy policy objectives. Dialogue and feedback helped define priorities in the Equity and Justice Framework. Partner and public input considered the merits of proposed legislative and policy actions and contributed to the recommendations and organization of this report.

ODOE heard throughout the strategy's development that partner perspectives should be considered critically and that dissenting voices be visible in the report. ODOE is committed to presenting an evenhanded, realistic view of the direction Oregon needs to follow to meet its energy policy objectives, and has incorporated information about barriers and challenges to the section on [Pathways and Policies](#) in the main report – heard during Phase 2 discussions. The [written comment summary](#) is a compilation of Phase 2 discussions and written comments, structured to match the organization of the August draft of the energy strategy to facilitate review of what ODOE heard concerning each report section. This approach highlights where and how the Energy Strategy reflects partner input and where partners and members of the public expressed dissenting opinions.

Nine Federally Recognized Tribes: Feedback and Themes

Through the engagement process, ODOE reached out to the nine federally recognized Tribes through formal government-to-government letters, staff-to-staff discussion, individual in-person or virtual meetings with Tribal leaders and staff, and presentations through the [Legislative Commission on Indian Services](#) and cluster groups. ODOE heard concerns about how existing energy systems overlook tribal sovereignty, cultural knowledge, and priorities, as well as support for incentive programs that can help tribal members shift to clean energy and energy efficient opportunities.

In the report, ODOE is not including any specific priorities of Tribes or a level of detail that would run counter to our government-to-government process. Rather, staff synthesized feedback and reflected what was heard through these conversations so it could be internalized and applied in the development of the Oregon Energy Strategy. As policymakers consider policies and actions to move Oregon forward on the five pathways in the Oregon Energy Strategy, the themes below should be considered and incorporated into the design of programs and regulations.

- Energy Independence & Sovereignty
- Affordable Energy Options
- Access to Decision Making
- Stabilization of Funding Cycles
- Consultation, Cultural, and Natural Resources Values

Equity and Justice Framework

To create equitable strategies for accomplishing our state's climate and energy goals, it is important to recognize there are disparities in how Oregonians experience benefits from or are burdened by our energy system. For example, Oregonians who are energy burdened spend a greater proportion of their annual household income on home energy costs. Factors including age and income can affect vulnerability to climate impacts. Of the 116 confirmed deaths from the 2021 heat dome, the majority of people were older than 60, living alone, and without access to air conditioning in their homes. The 2020 Labor Day fires destroyed or damaged 4,000 homes. These wildfires devastated Talent and Phoenix in particular, destroying more than 1,700 mobile or manufactured homes and the financial security of community members, many of whom still do not have permanent replacement housing five years later.

As part of the Oregon Energy Strategy, the Equity and Justice Framework serves to guide decision-making processes and deliver improved outcomes by reducing burdens and expanding access to benefits. This includes reducing the disproportionate costs of energy burden, negative health effects from energy-related pollution, and impacts of infrastructure development on natural and working lands, rivers, lakes, and coastal waters. It also serves to improve resilience against extreme weather, broaden access to technologies that improve resilience, health, and safety, and ensure access to workforce training and jobs.

The Equity and Justice Framework presents six key approaches for decisionmakers to consider that advance [meaningful involvement](#) and equity when crafting and implementing energy policy. These were developed in consultation with [an Environmental Justice and Equity Working Group](#). They build on existing efforts and identify needs to ensure meaningful participation and outcomes for [environmental justice communities](#).

- Provide equitable access to decision-making processes.
- Ensure equitable access to infrastructure development processes.
- Invest in long-term incentive programs for environmental justice communities.
- Promote holistic workforce development in environmental justice communities.
- Develop partnerships and resources in environmental justice communities.
- Consider the effects of energy policies on natural and working lands, cultural resources, and the broader environment.

Five Pathways and Policies

The Energy Strategy recommendations are structured as **pathways → policies → actions**.

- **Pathways** define direction that Oregon needs to pursue to meet our energy policy objectives and are meant to guide decisions over time.
- **Policies** build on the pathways and provide more detail to inform near-term actions and decisions over time.
- **Actions** are near-term legislative and policy recommendations that focus on the next four years, addressing existing barriers and needs while delivering progress on the pathways and policies.

Following the technical analysis/modeling and public engagement, ODOE has put forth five pathways representing the direction Oregon needs to go to meet its energy policy objectives – including an energy transition that will deliver clean, reliable, and affordable energy to all Oregonians. While the pathways work together to define high-level direction for the state, more specificity is required to set a framework for action. Policies serve to advance the five pathways by providing more detailed direction for Oregon. Similar to pathways, the policies are meant to provide a long-term framework for the development of near-term actions.

The pathways and policies are listed below; the [full report](#) elaborates on both, including why and how the policies will advance the pathways.



1. Energy Efficiency. Advance [energy efficiency](#) across buildings, industry, and transportation sectors, including expanding access to and appeal of [multimodal](#) transportation options, to deliver the benefits of a more efficient energy system.

ENERGY EFFICIENCY POLICIES

- 1a. Deliver energy efficiency and conservation improvements in existing and new residential and small commercial buildings to align with state decarbonization goals. Prioritize programs to serve low- and moderate- income and energy burdened households.
- 1b. Evaluate, promote, and allocate funding to opportunities to improve energy efficiency in large commercial and industrial sectors.
- 1c. Prioritize policies and increase support for programs that expand access to multimodal transportation options – including public transit, biking, and walking infrastructure – and promote development patterns that make it easier and more appealing for people to live, work, and access services without relying on a personal vehicle.



2. Clean Electricity. Secure reliable, affordable, and clean electricity by expanding the electricity system and incorporating load flexibility.

CLEAN ELECTRICITY POLICIES

- 2a. Facilitate energy infrastructure enhancement and expansion while avoiding, minimizing, and mitigating negative impacts on energy burden, natural and working lands, Tribal cultural resources, and communities.
- 2b. Enable consumers to support grid needs by shifting the timing of electricity consumption for distributed flexible loads like EVs or water heaters and larger commercial and industrial loads.
- 2c. Consult and engage with Tribes to understand their concerns around energy development and to identify opportunities where state policies, funding, and programs can support Tribal priorities while minimizing the effects of development on environmental and cultural resources.
- 2d. Collaborate with the Bonneville Power Administration, neighboring states and other regional entities to address Oregon's needs as part of a regional grid.



3. Electrification. Increase electrification of end uses across transportation, buildings, and industry, while safeguarding reliability, promoting affordability, and maximizing opportunities to use load flexibility as a resource.

ELECTRIFICATION POLICIES

- 3a. Advance and expand efforts to electrify transportation, with a focus on removing barriers to ensure the state meets its zero-emission vehicle goals.
- 3b. Facilitate and accelerate the interconnection of EV charging infrastructure and related distribution system upgrades to enable faster deployment, lower costs and complexity, and improve grid readiness.

3c. Promote strategic electrification across the residential, commercial, and industrial sectors to align policies and investment to deliver affordable, reliable, and clean energy.



4. Low-Carbon Fuels. Advance the use of low-carbon fuels in the hardest-to-electrify end uses and to maintain a reliable electric grid.

LOW-CARBON FUELS POLICIES

4a. Foster development and expansion of low-carbon fuels and fuel infrastructure in Oregon to serve the hardest-to-electrify sectors in Oregon as a strategic resource, while mitigating environmental and community impacts.

4b. Support low-carbon fuel adoption in the hardest-to-electrify sectors including aviation, rail, marine transport, long-haul trucking, agricultural and off-road equipment, high-heat industrial processes and resources that support electric system reliability.

4c. Support a managed fuels transition that minimizes stranded assets as end-uses electrify, identifies opportunities to leverage existing infrastructure and expertise to support clean fuel alternatives, and encourages technological innovation to advance new opportunities.



5. Resilience. Strengthen [resilience](#) across all levels of the energy system, including utilities, communities, and customers, enhancing Oregon's ability to adapt to climate change and mitigate other risks.

RESILIENCE POLICIES

5a. Evaluate cross-fuel interdependencies and vulnerabilities to better ensure long-term reliability of the electric grid. This specifically includes strengthening coordination of electricity and natural gas system planning and exploring other cross-fuel areas requiring strategic coordination.

5b. Fund resilience measures across the energy system, including at utility scale and in homes, businesses, and communities through a combination of ratepayer and taxpayer dollars, particularly where climate adaptation measures can also help advance climate mitigation.

5c. Maintain emergency response capabilities, including the adaptability and readiness of vehicles, supply of fuels, and fuel storage needs during the energy transition.

Implementing the Oregon Energy Strategy

The Energy Strategy includes 42 near-term actions that build on existing policy frameworks, serve to overcome barriers, and lay a foundation for continued progress over time. These actions will require partnership among many organizations and individuals within Oregon to accomplish. Each action advances one or more pathways and policies, and requires application of one or more approaches from the equity and justice framework.

After the Oregon Energy Strategy is published, ODOE will work with partner agencies, the Governor's office, and other interested parties to plan for how to advance these actions and determine next steps. In some cases, this will involve agencies advancing actions that are within their authority and resources. In others, implementation may require legislation to support agency resources or to create new programs, policies, or authorities. Recent developments have made certain actions more urgent. While ODOE considers each of the 42 actions important, the energy strategy includes a smaller set of actions that would contribute to addressing near term, immediate challenges such as reliability and affordability.

Actions Focused on Electricity System Reliability and Resilience

Electricity system reliability and resilience are increasingly urgent as load growth threatens to outpace construction of new resources and severe weather increasingly strains the electricity system. The power system has already come close to having insufficient resources in recent years. Events that disrupt reliability cause widespread economic harm, adverse health effects, the loss of human life, and disproportionately impact people of color, low-income households, and people who are medically vulnerable. The actions here focus on advancing reliability now and accelerating resource development in the next 5-10 years.

- The Oregon Public Utility Commission, in coordination with the Department of Energy, should commission an expert review of balanced wildfire utility liability solutions that enable both utility accountability and ongoing customer cost containment, reliability, and decarbonization investments.

Increasingly frequent and intense wildfires have affected many Oregonians and represent a growing risk for households and businesses. They further threaten utilities' ability to finance and build utility-scale electricity infrastructure, which raises reliability and cost concerns for ratepayers. It is important to consider policy options to mitigate these impacts.

- Review and share key findings with the Legislature regarding near-term transmission needs and opportunities, and identify opportunities for the state to support transmission. ODOE would lead this work and build on it to inform the role that a state transmission entity may play in enabling investment.

The pace of transmission expansion along existing and new corridors is creating a critical bottleneck to meeting reliability, affordability, and clean energy goals. This action would consider ways to advance siting and investment, and identify changes to policy that might be needed.

- Prioritize measures in energy efficiency incentive programs that relieve pressure on the power system. In the near term, maintain – and where possible accelerate – building weatherization, replacement of less efficient electric heating with efficient electric heat pumps, rooftop solar and storage, and expand demand flexibility.

Oregon has utility and state programs supporting energy efficiency and demand response. This action serves to double-down on these efforts as the fastest way to secure system reliability. Progress on this action will also save money for many energy consumers.

- Expand the Oregon Department of Energy's statewide energy infrastructure resilience programs, including increasing funding for and amending the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program to support projects that improve energy resilience.

If current trends continue, it is likely that some communities will lose power at some point in the next four years due to extreme weather, causing events like downed power lines and public safety

power shutoffs. Rural and coastal communities in particular face more frequent and longer duration outages. Oregon must remain focused on resilience to protect communities throughout the state.

- Facilitate the sharing of data and joint planning to enhance energy resilience and reliability. The Oregon Department of Energy should identify relevant actions that support the Oregon Energy Security Plan.

One of the keys to energy reliability is ensuring coordination between electricity and gas systems around extreme weather events. As the 2024 ice storm illustrated, coordination in this area must be a priority.

Actions Focused on Protecting Affordability and Access to Clean Technologies

Record disconnections and the loss of federal support for heating assistance and basic needs are deepening an affordability crisis, which disproportionately affects environmental justice communities. Energy efficiency measures can reduce costs for consumers, increase their resilience, and deliver benefits to the electric grid. It is essential to prioritize programs that provide the needed upgrades and technologies to improve health and affordability for Oregon's most vulnerable residents.

- Establish and identify a source of funding for a revolving loan fund to provide a stable source of low-cost and no-cost loans to support the energy transition and resilience.

The energy transition will require significant investment in new technologies and infrastructure. A revolving loan fund can provide a stable and growing pool of money to support the adoption of clean energy technologies that reduce energy demand, such as electric vehicles and heat pumps, particularly for low- and moderate-income households. It can complement areas where direct funding support continues to be needed.

- Prioritize existing incentive programs offering essential energy efficiency and weatherization improvements, particularly those focused on low- and moderate- income households.

Continue utility ratepayer-funded programs and restore or expand state programs that provide essential support for household energy efficiency, weatherization, emergency appliance replacement, and installation of high efficiency equipment and appliances.

- Earmark flexible funding for deferred maintenance measures necessary to enable low- and moderate- income homes to install efficiency and weatherization technologies and measures.

The need to address deferred maintenance measures, such as a new roof or replacing rotting walls, is often a prerequisite to weatherization or other energy efficiency improvements. There is a lack of funding for these kinds of upgrades, including in owner-occupied and rental housing, creating a barrier to new technologies. Supporting these measures is essential to ensuring equitable access to health- and bill- saving energy efficiency measures.

- Update energy efficiency and demand response programs to promote strategic electrification.

This action is essential to provide access to efficient electric technologies, particularly among low- and moderate- income households, while helping to reduce household bills and support reliability.

Actions That Can Be Advanced with Minimal Additional State Budget Allocation

The state budget is facing an immediate multi-million dollar funding gap, which is expected to worsen as the state loses billions of dollars in federal funding. This gap is the result of changes in federal policy, which have been evolving throughout the development of the energy strategy. The following is a subset of actions for which undertaking first steps would have minimal budget impact, and that are likely to advance Oregon's energy policy objectives over time. They aim to ensure that as Oregon invests in its

energy future, it supports clean, affordable, reliable solutions that improve public health and generate economic opportunities.

- Review Oregon’s transportation funding mechanisms, recommend strategies for alignment with the state’s energy and climate policy priorities, and identify new revenue sources – particularly to support the deployment of ZEVs and ZEV infrastructure – through a Climate Aligned Transportation Funding Task Force.

The Task Force is essential to enabling Oregon’s transportation system to meet the demands of the 21st century, including addressing climate change. The state must maintain reliable funding for system maintenance and operations while increasing investments in transportation electrification and multimodal infrastructure. The Task Force will evaluate these dual priorities and offer recommendations for legislative or administrative measures that align transportation funding with climate goals and expand resources for climate-focused investments.

- Expand local governments’ authority to generate and direct transportation revenues toward climate-aligned transportation infrastructure that meets local needs and priorities.

Many local governments are constrained by limited authority to raise and direct transportation revenue for transportation infrastructure. Expanding authority gives communities the flexibility to meet the scale and urgency of climate and equity-driven transportation challenges. With greater autonomy, localities could accelerate investments in multimodal, zero-emission, and equity-focused transportation infrastructure and target resources toward local priorities.

- Align the Oregon Economic Development Strategy and the Oregon Energy Strategy through collaboration between Business Oregon and the Oregon Department of Energy to foster decarbonization and economic growth through consideration of industrial symbiosis, clean energy innovation, emerging technologies, and incentives.

Oregon will only achieve its energy policy objectives if they are paired with a focus on economic development and quality jobs and careers. This action would strengthen cooperation between the Oregon Department of Energy and Business Oregon to grow our economy and build on opportunities that new, clean technologies, and innovation offer.

- Require investor-owned utilities to publish and maintain interactive, feeder-level Hosting Capacity Maps (HCMs) showing available capacity for EV charging infrastructure, building electrification, distributed generation, and battery storage.

Consistent, accessible, and regularly updated information on distribution grid capacity is essential for accelerating the deployment of clean energy technologies, particularly EV charging stations. This action supports informed planning and strategic investment decisions and builds on existing efforts to establish uniform standards and processes for IOUs to regularly publish feeder-level data on grid hosting capacity. Any process developed should identify the minimum essential information to advance clean energy and electrification projects, carefully balancing the level and frequency of data with potential impacts on ratepayers.

While these actions represent immediate next steps in implementing the energy strategy, ODOE recommends advancing all 42 actions over the next four years. All actions represent important priorities to realize Oregon’s energy policy objectives. As these immediate next steps are considered, it will be necessary for policy makers to use the Equity and Justice Framework as a guide to ensure meaningful engagement and equitable outcomes. The Oregon Department of Energy will work to advance actions that are within its authority and resources. It will further work and collaborate with Tribes, other state

agencies, Legislators, the Governor’s Office, and public partners to support development of details on how to take actions forward.

Full List of Legislative and Policy Actions

Cross-cutting Actions

1. Impose registration and reporting requirements upon all new large electric loads to inform greenhouse gas emissions analyses, and evaluate whether policy changes are needed to bring emissions in line with state policies. This would require an action from the Environmental Quality Commission.
2. Establish and identify a source of funding for a revolving loan fund to provide a stable source of low-cost and no-cost loans to support the energy transition and resilience.
3. Establish a Tribal Energy Block Grant Program to support Tribal energy priorities, cultural values, and community needs through alignment with their own energy planning processes or the Oregon Energy Strategy.
4. Develop a state-wide definition of energy burden that combines household and transportation costs to help inform Oregon’s energy transition.
5. Conduct a biennial survey on energy affordability and report on trends to inform state policymaking.
6. Facilitate the sharing of data and joint planning to enhance energy resilience and reliability. The Oregon Department of Energy should identify actions that support the Oregon Energy Security Plan.
7. Identify gaps in current and estimated occupation-level employment to meet Oregon’s future energy needs. ODOE should recommend actions to support and expand workforce development efforts that complement existing efforts.
8. Advocate for federal policies that support advancement of state energy objectives.
9. Increase coordination between state agencies and community-based organizations, utilities, Energy Trust of Oregon, and other partners to advance consumer education and facilitate delivery of energy related services.
10. Align the Oregon Economic Development Strategy and the Oregon Energy Strategy through collaboration between Business Oregon and the Oregon Department of Energy to foster decarbonization and economic growth through consideration of industrial symbiosis, clean energy innovation, emerging technologies, and incentives.
11. Increase resources, funding, and staff levels at agencies as needed, and as funding becomes available, to implement actions necessary to advance Oregon’s energy policy objectives.
12. Develop a community benefits framework at the Oregon Department of Energy that can be used as appropriate across the agency to address outreach and engagement, workforce needs, prioritizing environmental justice communities, and equitable practices.

Transportation

1. Review Oregon’s transportation funding mechanisms, recommend strategies for alignment with the state’s energy and climate policy priorities, and identify new revenue sources – particularly to support the deployment of ZEVs and ZEV infrastructure – through a Climate Aligned Transportation Funding Task Force.
2. Implement a Road Usage Charge program for all light-duty passenger vehicles to stabilize transportation funding and support accelerated adoption of zero emission vehicles.

3. Increase statewide support for public and active transportation in Oregon by expanding the statewide payroll tax to fund transit and boosting investments in Safe Routes to School and Great Streets at levels that reflect the scale of community needs.
4. Expand local governments' authority to generate and direct transportation revenues toward climate-aligned transportation infrastructure that meets local needs and priorities.
5. Require investor-owned utilities to publish and maintain interactive, feeder-level Hosting Capacity Maps (HCMs) showing available capacity for EV charging infrastructure, building electrification, distributed generation, and battery storage.
6. Establish a statewide incentive program for both standard and cargo e-bikes, with enhanced incentives and prioritization for income-qualifying Oregonians to ensure equitable access to clean, affordable transportation options.
7. Establish a statewide technical assistance program to support public and private fleets in planning and executing a successful transition to zero-emission vehicles (ZEVs).
8. Develop a MHD ZEV Roadmap to guide and accelerate the deployment of medium- and heavy-duty zero emission vehicles across the state. The Roadmap should provide actionable insights to inform state policy and investment, support fleet decision-making, and ensure alignment with climate, air quality, and equity goals.
9. Amend DEQ's Clean Fuels Program to extend Advance Crediting eligibility to high-mileage private fleet operators whose vehicles operate predominantly in Oregon.
10. Develop regulations and minimum standards for public heavy-duty hydrogen refueling infrastructure in Oregon. A working group could address key elements such as technical specifications, safety protocols, fuel quality standards, consumer protection measures, and streamlined permitting processes to ensure that stations are safe, reliable, and accessible. The working group should also establish targets for the carbon intensity of hydrogen supplied at fueling stations and recommend inclusive processes for community engagement in station siting decisions to align with Oregon's climate and equity goals.

Buildings

1. Prioritize existing incentive programs offering essential energy efficiency and weatherization improvements, particularly those focused on low- and moderate- income households.
2. Earmark flexible funding for deferred maintenance measures necessary to enable low- and moderate- income homes to install efficiency and weatherization technologies and measures.
3. Allow higher administrative costs for energy programs that serve or benefit Environmental Justice Communities, to better manage cost shortfalls experienced by programs and projects that benefit the overall system.
4. Prioritize measures in energy efficiency incentive programs that relieve pressure on the power system. In the near term, maintain – and where possible accelerate – building weatherization, replacement of less efficient electric heating with efficient electric heat pumps, rooftop solar and storage, and expand demand flexibility.
5. Advance strategic electrification in buildings in conjunction with other measures that support state decarbonization and resilience goals reliably, affordably, and equitably. Develop a building decarbonization roadmap, led by the Oregon Department of Energy, with recommendations to advance strategic electrification and other decarbonization measures, and as necessary, to provide data and analysis on building decarbonization to inform policies and programs.
6. Update energy efficiency and demand response programs to promote strategic electrification.
7. Continue to update the Oregon Residential Specialty Code and Oregon Energy Efficiency Specialty Code as outlined in HB 3409. Continue progress on energy efficiency and decarbonization requirements for new buildings that complement other actions in this document

and include consideration of lower carbon materials and quantification of global warming potential values to realize embodied carbon savings in new construction and existing buildings. The Reach Code should reflect goals for economy wide decarbonization

Electricity

1. Expand the Oregon Department of Energy's statewide energy infrastructure resilience programs, including increasing funding for and amending the Community Renewable Energy Grant Program to support projects that improve energy resilience.
2. The Oregon Public Utility Commission, in coordination with the Department of Energy, should commission an expert review of balanced wildfire utility liability solutions that enable both utility accountability and ongoing customer cost containment, reliability, and decarbonization investments.
3. Review and share key findings with the Legislature regarding near-term transmission needs and opportunities, and identify opportunities for the state to support transmission. ODOE would lead this work and build on it to inform the role that a state transmission entity may play in enabling investment.
4. Update and enhance the Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment Tool, with a goal of providing a robust database of lands that may be suitable for various types of electricity infrastructure projects.
5. Conduct a study on barriers preventing construction and interconnection of permitted projects and recommend actions to overcome barriers.
6. Report on developments in emerging technologies, including long-duration storage options, enhanced geothermal, floating offshore wind, marine energy, and advanced nuclear options, to identify the role they can play in meeting the state's electricity needs; also explore opportunities for pilot programs in the near-term.
7. Study government incentives for local electricity generation investments and identify opportunities for the state to better advance infrastructure needs, economic development and energy justice objectives.
8. Investigate opportunities to modify utility business models and ratemaking practices to enhance marketplace competition and thereby lower costs in utility planning and resource procurements.

Industry

1. Identify and evaluate short and long term decarbonization options for large industrial entities in Oregon.
2. Fund an industrial modernization revolving loan fund to bolster adoption of energy efficiency improvements, electrification of thermal processes, industrial symbiosis, smart manufacturing, and application of low-carbon fuels where electrification is not feasible for large industrial entities.

Low-carbon Fuels

1. Expand access to low-carbon fuels, including assessing opportunities for in-state production, identifying strategies for regional coordination, and establishing safeguards to protect communities and natural resources, through coordination between the Oregon Department of Energy, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and Business Oregon.
2. Support strategic planning and investment by Oregon businesses through a low-carbon fuels deployment roadmap, led by the Oregon Department of Energy, and informed by existing studies, data, analysis, and public partner information and guidance.

3. Research and forecast fuel needs for emergency preparedness to ensure these needs are met as technologies evolve throughout the energy transition. ODOE would work in collaboration with Tribes and public partners across the state.

The energy strategy can be found in its entirety at

<https://energystrategy.oregon.gov>

or

<https://www.oregon.gov/energy/Data-and-Reports/Pages/Energy-Strategy.aspx>

The Oregon Department of Energy welcomes comments, questions, and requests for presentations or webinars on the energy strategy: <https://odoe.powerappsportals.us/en-US/energy-strategy/>

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 5: *General Public Comment Period*

I. Introduction

The Board of Agriculture will hear Public Comments on varying topics.
Prior to the meeting, the Board received the following written comments:

Name	Organization	Topic	Date Received
Isabela Mackey	N/A	Pesticide Licensing Accessibility	11/25/2025

As of the date of this memo, the Board has received the following requests for Public Comment during this portion of the meeting:

Name	Organization	Topic	Date Received
Kris Schaedel, Conservation Program Manager	Hood River SWCD	Testing and Licensing	11/19/2025
Lesley Tamura	Tamura Orchards Inc./Columbia Gorge Fruit Grower's	Pesticide Licensing	11/21/2025

BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov (Board Coordinator)

Honorable Oregon Board Members and Chair,

My name is Isabela Mackey. I have worked, among other places, for the National Pesticide Information Center at Oregon State University and for U.S. Department of Agriculture, where my encounters with pesticide users demonstrated the need for appropriate training on the safe use of pesticides, across specialty crops and settings. This was the reason that made me start developing presentation materials offer safety trainings to pesticide applicators.

I have taught Pesticide-Safety courses for over 20 years. Many of these courses in Community Colleges; others in private nurseries, vineyards, forest-managing companies and ranches. I offered my classes in English as well as in Spanish languages for agricultural and government workers. When I design or update my courses, I follow the Oregon Department of Agriculture Private-Applicator and Laws and Safety Study Guides, and I refer attendees to the Study Materials list published in ODA's website for further study and consultation.

My intent in teaching is to inform pesticide applicators of the risks involved in their work and best practices to remain safe wherever they apply pesticides. My task is also to support the efforts of agriculture workers who seek to obtain a pesticide-applicator license from the Oregon Department of Agriculture.

Some of my Spanish-speaking students return to take my classes: some, courageously, to prepare again and go through the complicated task to register, take the test and tray to obtain a pesticide-applicator license. Others return to obtain re-certification credits to maintain their licenses. I am so pleased when they share with the class that they passed the test and obtained their applicator licenses! Unfortunately, this does not happen often... There are many obstacles in their way to be successful obtaining pesticide-applicators licenses. This is the reason of my letter to you. As you probably know: a large percent of Oregon's agricultural workers are from Latin America, with most coming from Mexico. Many are from Indigenous communities and their primary language may be Indigenous, often speaking only rudimentary Spanish.

As a regulatory agency, ODA has also the responsibility to provide, or leverage efforts from other institutions, so that pesticide-applicator workers receive pertinent trainings, effective study materials and tests that allows them to succeed in the endeavor of becoming licensed pesticide applicators. Why does the ODA private applicator test has such a low successful rate? (First-time takers who speak English about 50%, and in the single digit percent for Spanish-speaker takers) Here are a few reasons, as I see:

a) Proper Basic Manual for Applicators in Oregon – The ODA study guide refers Spanish-speaking applicators to the Washington State Extension Service manual, the only currently available in Spanish!

b) The process to register for the test is cumbersome – Third party's (Metro Institute's) website lists sites that are not actively or have not offering testing for years! Some testing sites are more than 50 miles distance from work operations.

c) Third-party in charge to register for test taking – is in Arizona. They are not familiar with the ODA's tests or license categories, and their website is hard to navigate to determine type of test to which register given the applicator specialty.

d) Test format – there should be an option to take it in printed format (paper and scantron) in addition to computers.

e) Time allowed for test and relevance of the questions – i.e., questions about type of pumps is not relevant!

f) Vocabulary used in Spanish tests – as stated before, agricultural workers in Oregon are mostly from Latin America, we do not use or understand Spanish from Spain! (i.e., the names of some crops)

ODA's task as a regulatory agency is incomplete and defective if they do not hear what are the obstacles for hard-working applicators and act to bridge the applicator's efforts to be compliant and obtaining their own license.

Please, consider to meet with pesticide-safety educators and their organizers to brainstorm strategies to make the license process more accessible for all!

Sincerely,
Isabela Mackey
M.S. Plant Pathology
Belamack7@gmail.com

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 6: *OSU College of Agriculture Dean Updates*

I. Introduction

Dean Staci Simonich of Oregon State University will provide the Board with an update on Oregon State University's College of Agriculture.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 7A: *Central Oregon Protected District (COPD) rulemaking for rapeseed/Brassica crops*

I. Introduction

The Board will hear a presentation about rulemaking activities being undertaken by the Department for rules associated with Central Oregon Protected District for rapeseed/*Brassica* crops.

Sunny Summers, Senior Policy Advisor for ODA, will provide a history of the rules for the COPD, share prospective rule updates, and give a timeline for proposed rule update activities.

II. Background

Brassica seed crops (like broccoli, kale, cabbage, etc.) and oilseed Brassica crops (rapeseed/canola) interact in ways that may pose risks of cross-pollination, volunteer seed, pest/disease buildup, and market contamination.

The current Central Oregon Protected District, established under OAR 603-052-0884, regulates the production of rapeseed and other Brassica crops. As agricultural practices and markets have changed over time, there is interest in updating the boundaries of this district to better reflect current production needs and crop diversification opportunities for growers.

Oregon has four Brassica control districts in total: the Willamette Valley Protected District (WVPD), the Central Oregon Protected District (COPD), the Northeastern Oregon Protected District, and a 3-mile-wide strip along the Oregon-Idaho border in Malheur County. Of these, the Willamette Valley Protected District (WVPD) has received the most attention due to ongoing challenges with crop coexistence.

Please note: The WVPD is established by the Legislature in statute; the others were established by ODA in rule.

Proponents of rapeseed emphasize its value as a rotational crop for grass seed and wheat as well as its potential to be a lower-water-use option—especially important in

places like Central Oregon. At the same time, specialty seed producers raise concerns about cross-pollination, risks to genetic purity, and pollinator management issues.

Despite significant efforts—research studies, legislative hearings, and advisory committee discussions—ODA and its partners have struggled to find a workable statewide solution for Brassica coexistence. Much of this work has centered on the WVPD, with the hope that successful strategies there could be adapted elsewhere in the state.

III. Next Steps

In an effort to better align with current agricultural needs in Central Oregon, ODA is considering repealing the existing protected district and creating a new control area specific to Jefferson County. This change is intended to:

- Improve clarity and enforceability of crop restrictions and planting requirements.
- Protect the integrity and marketability of important specialty seed crops.
- Reduce regulatory burden in areas where restrictions are possibly no longer needed or desired.

The proposal for a new control area is intended to include updated definitions, boundary descriptions, and requirements tailored to the local needs. ODA is committed to transparency and collaboration throughout this process and welcomes input from growers, industry partners, and the public.

The entire memo detailing the plan for repealing the Central Oregon Protected District and establishing a new protected district is included here and is also available on ODA's rulemaking webpage at:

https://www.oregon.gov/oda/agriculture/Documents/Rulemaking/memo_rulemaking_website_Plan_COPD.pdf

IV. Board Involvement

The Board of Agriculture may be engaged with future rule making activities and may hear comments from the public as ODA works with producers in the Central Oregon Protected District on potential rule reform.

Central Oregon Protected District

Sunny Summers, Senior Policy Advisor



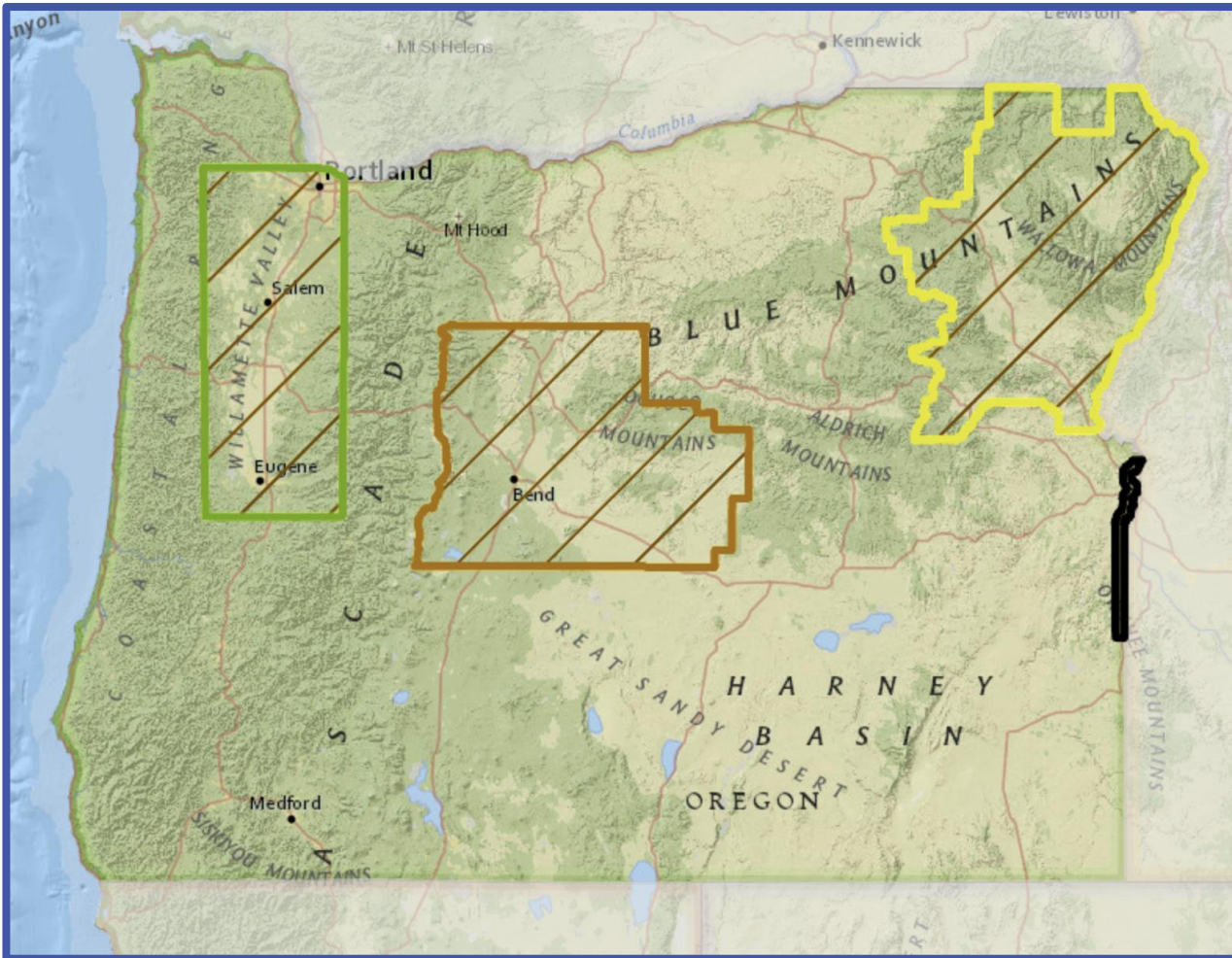
**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

General Control Area Authority – ORS 570.415



- Control areas to prevent, remove, or keep out certain plants, plant products, trees, insects, or other pests.
- Must be used fairly and reasonably, based on:
 - How urgent the situation is,
 - The level of risk to what we are trying to protect, and
 - The immediate and long-term impacts on the land and landowners in the area.
- Cannot create control areas in a way that is unreasonable, unfair, or arbitrary.

Brassica Control Areas



- ✓ Willamette Valley Protected District created by Oregon Legislature
- ✓ Other protected districts created by ODA under general control area authority

Statewide *Brassicaceae* Rules

All seed for planting must be certified black leg free or be treated

Same field may not be used for more than 2 years in a 5-year period

All planting, harvesting, and transportation equipment shall be cleaned to prevent accidental spread of plant material from the field

Unbagged loads of seed stock being transported must be in bins/containers lined and covered in a way to prevent seed loss

Any volunteer or uncontrolled plants in/around a producer's field must not be allowed to flower

Requests to Repeal the COPD and Rulemaking in 2026

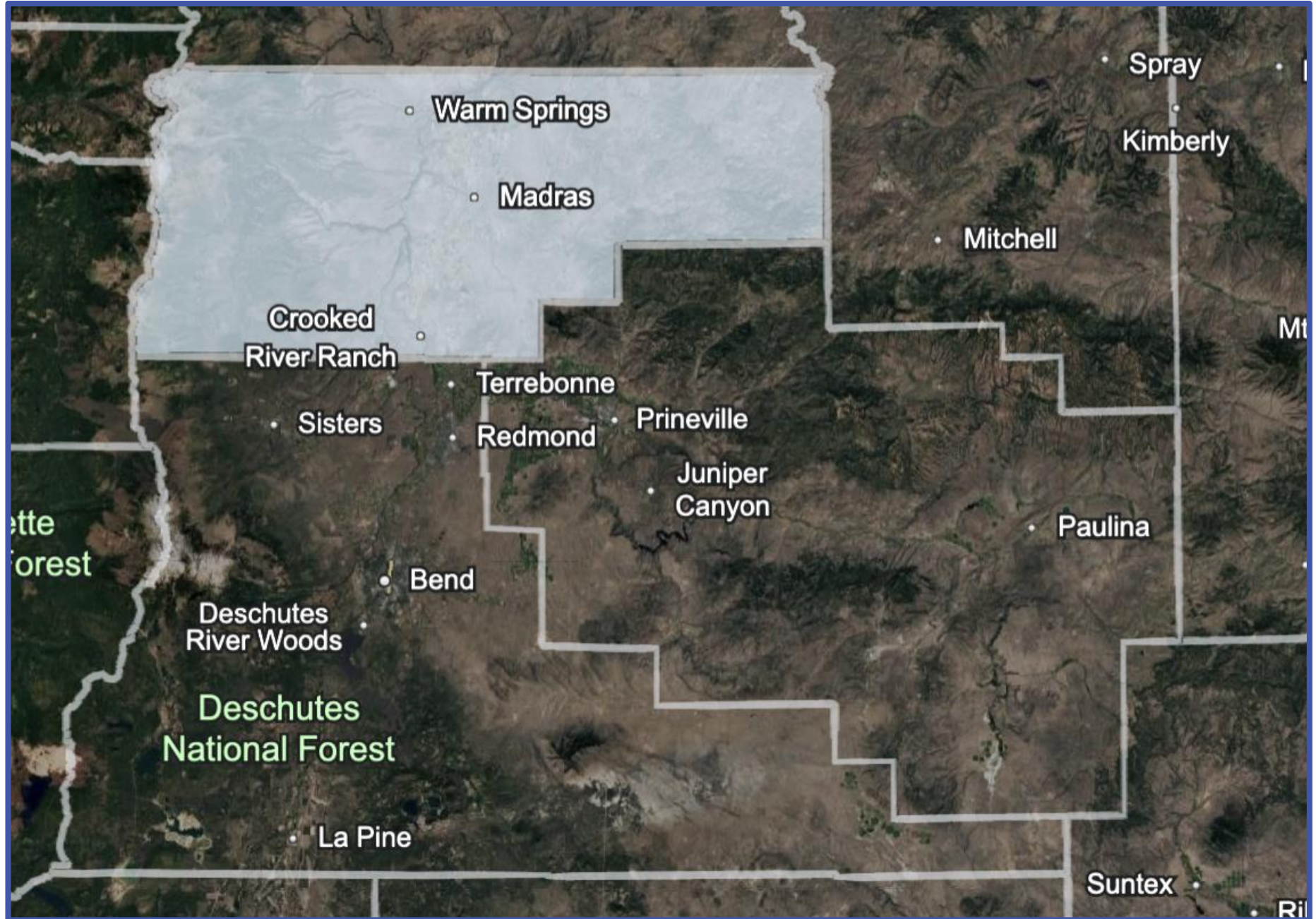


Current Brassica COPD Rules



- Crook, Deschutes & Jefferson Counties
- Forage and cover-crop brassicas may be grown as long as they do not flower
- Rapeseed (canola) is prohibited unless the following are met:
 - ✓ Grown under a research permit
 - ✓ Conducted under an accredited university
 - ✓ All rapeseed production rules are followed
 - ✓ 3-mile isolation distance is maintained
 - ✓ Planting location is reported to the appropriate OSU Extension office at least 10 days before planting
 - ✓ All statewide Brassicaceae rules are met

Central OR Protected District



Rapeseed Production Authority – ORS 570.450



- **Control areas for production of rapeseed to:**
 - **define boundaries;**
 - **identifying permitted species and varieties of rapeseed; and**
 - **enforcing control area orders**

Rulemaking in 2026

- **Petitions in 2023 and 2024 to ODA to repeal COPD**
- **Initiated rulemaking in 2024 but held off due to discussions in Fall 2024 for the WVPD**
- **Develop new language to establish a revised control area using Rapeseed Production Authority, including defined boundaries and regulatory requirements**

Timeline



- **November 2025 -January 2026**
 - Draft proposed rule changes
- **March – May 2026**
 - Public hearings, rule finalization
- **Rules in place in time for fall planting in 2026**



The End.

Thank you!

Sunny Summers - Senior Policy Advisor

503.400.4196

sunny.summers@oda.oregon.gov

<https://oda.direct/canola>

<https://oda.direct/rulemaking>



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 7B&C: *Public Comment for Central Oregon Protected Districts and General Public Comment*

I. Introduction

The Board will hear public comment. First, the Board will hear any public comment associated with the Central Oregon Protected Districts for rapeseed/Brassica crops. Then, the Board will hear General Public comment. Prior to the meeting, the Board received the following public comment requests:

None

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 8: *Updates from the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Council (CRITFC)*

I. Introduction

Elaine Harvey, Watershed Manager for the Columbia River Intertribal Fish Council (CRITFC), will provide the Board with an overview of the Council, their current work, and projects in and around Hood River, OR.

II. CRITFC Background

The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and the Nez Perce Tribe have unique cultural practices, dialects, homelands, and histories. Nonetheless, the tribes share a common vision of the significance of salmon.

Together, the four tribes formed the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in 1977, charging it with the mission of “ensuring a unified voice in the overall management of the fishery resources.” Its staff includes:

- Legal experts
- Biologists
- Hydrologists
- Enforcement officers
- Public information specialists

Together, the staff supports fisheries management, fishery science, fisheries enforcement, policy development, outreach, watershed restoration, and the four tribe’s natural resources programs.

III. Tribal Energy Vision

In 2022, CRITFC revised its energy-related recommendations intended to protect the tribes’ treaty-secured fish, wildlife, cultural and other resources. That vision identified four critical issues facing the Pacific Northwest:

- Columbia Basin salmon & steelhead populations are near extinction
- Climate crisis is already underway

- Renewable resources will play a larger role in meeting the region's electricity needs
- Improper integration and siting of renewable resources can worsen conditions for Columbia River salmon and other tribal resources

The executive summary of the Tribal Energy Vision is included for reference.

The full Tribal Energy Vision is available on CRITFC's website at:

<https://critfc.org/energy-vision/>

IV. Food Distribution and Salmon Sales

Since its establishment, CRTIFC has expanded its focus areas. Now, they help coordinate and support food banks and food box distribution to the four tribes and support indigenous fishers market and sell their catch.

V. Presentation

Elaine Harvey, CRITFC's Watershed Program Manager, will provide the Board of Agriculture with an overview of the Tribal Energy Vision and present on ways that CRITFC supports tribal fishermen and tribal communities.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 9A: *Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA) Rulemaking Updates*

I. Introduction

The Board will hear updates on the rulemaking process to implement the Agricultural Water Quality Program provisions associated with the Lower Umatilla Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) Nitrate Reduction Plan. This rulemaking is a key step in the efforts to reduce nitrate contamination in groundwater, which will help protect groundwater quality and the health of people who live in and rely on ground waters within the LUBGWMA.

II. Background

In September of 2025 at the Board Meeting in Klamath Falls, the Board was provided with background about the interagency Nitrate Reduction Plan for the LUBGWMA. ODA, the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), and the Water Resources Department (OWRD) worked together to develop a nitrate reduction strategy. They published a plan in September of 2024 – https://lubgwma.oreg/nitrate_reduction_plan/

ODA has held two Rules Advisory Committee meetings since the September 2025 Board Meeting. The proposed rules are open for public comment until **December 22, 2025, at 5:00 p.m.** (see <https://oda.direct/rulemaking>). Public hearings are scheduled for:

- **December 15, 2025** – at the SAGE Center in Boardman, OR (in-person and virtual options)
- **December 16, 2025** – virtual only

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 9B: *Public Comment for Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA) Rules*

I. Introduction

The Board will hear public comment about the rules published for the Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA).

As of the date of this memo, the following individuals have signed up to provide **verbal public comment** before the Board:

Commentor	Organization	Topic	Date Received
Dani Lightle	Oregonians for Food and Shelter	LUBGWMA	11/25/2025
Ryan Krabill	Oregon Farm Bureau	LUBGWMA	11/25/2025

As of the date of this memo, the following **written comments** have been received:

Commentor	Organization	Topic	Date Received
Dani Lightle	Oregonians for Food and Shelter	LUBGWMA	11/25/2025
Megan Chuinard	Oregon Seed Council	LUBGWMA	11/25/2025
Ryan Krabill	Oregon Farm Bureau	LUBGWMA	11/25/2025

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John Enright
KWS Seeds
George Gough
Bayer U.S. - Crop Science
Greg Harris
Threemile Canyon Farms
Amanda Hoey
Oregon Wheat Growers League
Bill Hoyt
Oregon Cattlemen's Association
John Jayne
Cascade Timber Consulting
Jill LeVake
Corteva Agriscience
Elin Miller
Umpqua Vineyards
J.P. Mischkot
Glass Tree Care & Spray
Colleen Nihen
Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industries
David Phipps
OR Golf Course Superintendents
Annette Price
Pacific Power
Jerry Risk
Roseburg Forest Products
Ben Sacher
Syngenta
Chris Sexton
Lone Rock Timber Management Co
Alec Shebiel
Umatilla Electric Cooperative
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Jake Thiemens
Manulife Investment Management
Larry Treleven
Oregon Pest Control Association
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Laura Wilkeson
Hampton Lumber
Chuck Wolsborn
Gresham Golf Course

OREGONIANS FOR FOOD & SHELTER

1320 Capitol Street NE • Suite B-50 • Salem, Oregon 97301

ofsonline.org; 503-370-8092

A non-profit coalition to promote the efficient production of quality food and fiber while protecting human health, personal property and the environment, through the integrated, responsible use of pest management products, soil nutrients and biotechnology.

November 25, 2025

Dear Board of Agriculture Members,

Thank you for the second opportunity to provide input on our concerns about the LUBGWMA rulemaking. OFS is a non-profit coalition of over 700 operations and organizations from agriculture, forestry, and other industries that rely on pesticides, fertilizers, and biotechnology to produce food and fiber. Our membership includes Oregon's top commodity groups and timber-related trade organizations, as well as many national trade organizations. One of our primary organizational goals is to advocate for science-based pesticide, fertilizer, and biotechnology regulation.

Serving on the Rulemaking Advisory Committee (RAC) for the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area has given me the opportunity to engage directly in the development of these draft rules. I greatly appreciate the effort that has gone into this process to date, and the receptiveness of the ODA staff to suggestions, concerns, and revisions. Since August, ODA has made changes that addressed several concerns, including mis-matched timing between deadlines and typical practices in the LUB, sampling requirements that would stretch laboratory processing capacity, and expanding options for evaluating Annual Nitrogen Plans.

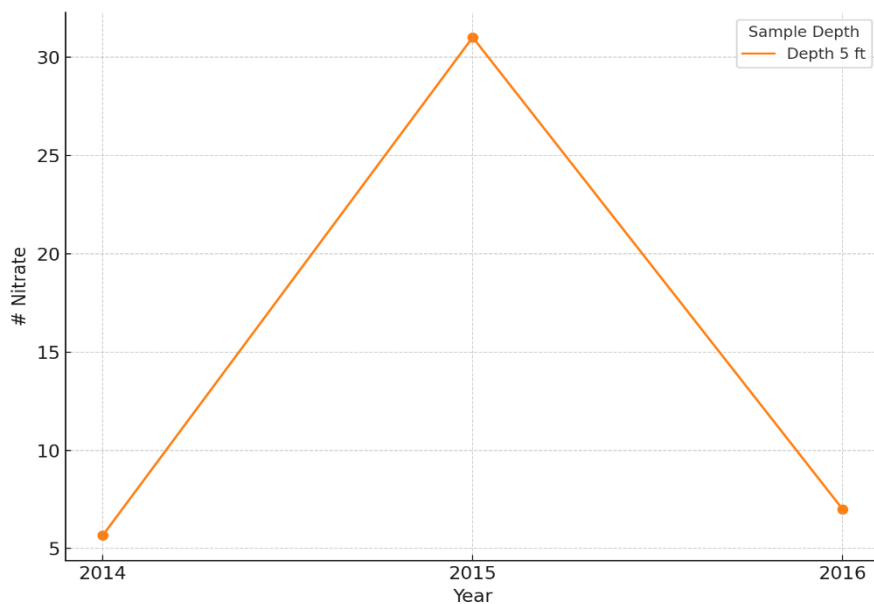
Despite these changes, I continue to have significant concerns; not about the goal of the rulemaking, which is important and widely supported, but about whether the rule evaluation metrics chosen will be effective and scientifically sound. Unless addressed, these issues could undermine the credibility of the program.

Program Evaluation and Metrics of Success, Sections 603-095-5070 and 603-95-5075

Our concerns about the LUBGWMA rule evaluation and metrics for success remain largely unaddressed from comments submitted in August. ODA's reliance on deep soil nitrate measurements, collected every 5 years, is unlikely to produce a dataset that can be analyzed by a scientifically acceptable method. Problems with this approach include:



- **High variability:** Residual nitrate levels fluctuate wildly within fields, based the crop that is being produced, and whether the field is single cropped or double cropped during that growing season¹. While deep soil nitrate levels are undoubtedly affected by fertilization and irrigation practices, they are also strongly influenced by conditions producers cannot control, such as drought, heavy rainfall, or crop failure. **Even low test results can be misleading.** Over-irrigation could lead to low deep nitrate numbers in cases where the nitrate has leached deeper than the sampling depth. It is impossible to draw conclusions from even low numbers, particularly when they are stripped of agronomic and climatic context.
- **Local data show how challenging deep soil nitrate data are to understand.** An ODA funded study in the LUBGWMA from 2014 to 2016 provides data from a single field, managed with high level irrigation and fertilizer best management practices, and rotated between grain, onions and carrots². Deep soil nitrate results are shown in the below figure. Across the three years, deep soil nitrate bounced between values of less than 10 to over 30 pounds of nitrogen. The study authors were unable to explain why nitrate levels in year two were so much greater than the other years, despite extensive data collection on a variety of factors. ***These fluctuations are one reason why California's panel of experts recommended against using residual soil nitrate as a programmatic metric (see next point).***



¹Mendoza (2017). Lower Yakima Valley Deep Soil Sampling Summary Analysis. In Lower Yakima Valley Groundwater Management Program Volume II Appendices, published June 2019.

²GSI Water Solutions Inc (2017). Lower Umatilla Basin (LUB) Soil Moisture Monitoring Project. Prepared for the ODA Fertilizer Research Program.



- **Lack of Precedent:** No other state nitrate management program uses residual soil nitrate as a regulatory metric. In fact, California’s expert panel of agronomists, soil scientists, and hydrogeologists explicitly recommended against it in their Irrigated Lands Program. As they stated in their final report, “The Panel does not include residual nitrogen in its reporting recommendations because it is difficult to quantify and is subject to potentially large short-term fluctuations.”³
- **Expert Opposition:** Oregon State University extension publications recommend post-harvest soil nitrate tests as valuable grower tool for improving their management practices, but explicitly warn against using post-harvest soil nitrate tests as a regulatory tool: “Note that the postharvest test is not intended to predict groundwater nitrate concentrations. Recent studies by Washington Department of Ecology have demonstrated that the postharvest soil nitrate test is only a rough indicator of the risk of nitrate leaching.”⁴ Soil nitrate tests can be a valuable grower tool, but are not appropriate as a regulatory metric.
- **Unnecessary risks to producers in the region:** In a region that is prone to litigation over nitrate issues, maintaining anonymity with post-harvest soil nitrate results is an important consideration for encouraging compliance. Other states have mitigated confidentiality concerns by utilizing a 3rd party to compile and aggregate data that is ultimately submitted to the state.

Other states have implemented regulatory programs on irrigated agriculture, and while soil testing is routinely included as a component of these programs, it is not used to evaluate program success. Anchoring the program’s success to residual soil nitrate trends has no basis in science and burdens growers with the costs of collecting samples that carry little meaning out of the context of the production details.

Evaluation of Annual Nitrogen Plans (ANP), Section 603-095-5055

This section of the rules proposes methods for evaluating whether a producer has “followed” their Annual Nitrogen Plan. We appreciate the addition of a fourth option (A/R ratio) since earlier rule drafts. However, the following concern remains:

- **Required crop coefficients not developed for Oregon:** Two of the four available evaluation methods: Applied – Removed (A-R) and Applied/Removed (A/R ratio) rely on a crop coefficient to convert harvested yield to pounds of nitrogen removed. However, regionally developed crop coefficients **are not available for crops grown in the LUB**, and until these coefficients have been established by Oregon State University or another research organization, these two methods cannot be utilized. Funding should be prioritized for research into crop coefficient development so that producers subject to this rule are able to utilize the full range of Annual Nitrogen Plan evaluation options.

³ITRC (2014). Conclusions of the Agricultural Expert Panel: Recommendations to the State Water Resources Control Board pertaining to the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

⁴Sullivan et al (2021). Postharvest Soil Nitrate Testing for Manured Grass and Silage Corn (West of the Cascades). Oregon State Extension Publication EM-8832.



The goals of the LUBGWMA rulemaking are important and broadly shared. However, the reliance on residual soil nitrate as a success metric is especially problematic, risking credibility of the entire program. A regulatory framework that reflects sound science and on-the-ground realities will be effective in achieving the shared goal of protecting groundwater quality while sustaining the LUB's agricultural economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dani Lightle".

Dani Lightle, PhD

Policy and Stewardship Director
Oregonians for Food & Shelter
dani@ofsonline.org

A banner featuring a farm scene with a blue silo, hay bales, and a red tractor in the background. A green silhouette of Oregon is centered, containing the text "OREGON FARM BUREAU". To the left of the silhouette is the text "LOCALLY GROWN" and to the right is "EST. 1932 GROWING STRONG".

LOCALLY GROWN

EST.

**OREGON
FARM
BUREAU**

1932

GROWING STRONG

November 25, 2025

Oregon Department of Agriculture
Board of Agriculture
635 Capitol Street NE
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area Rulemaking

Dear Members of the Board of Agriculture,

The Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is Oregon's largest general agriculture organization, representing nearly 6,500 farm and ranch families across the state. Our members live and work in every corner of Oregon, including in the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA), where agriculture has long been the backbone of local communities. Farms in the Basin supply food, fiber, and seed to national and international markets, support thousands of jobs, and sustain rural economies in Umatilla and Morrow counties. Because of the importance of agriculture to this region and the essential need for safe drinking water, OFB supports the underlying goal of this rulemaking and appreciates the Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) efforts to develop new rules aimed at reducing nitrate loading to groundwater. We also appreciate the opportunity to provide the Board with some of our thoughts on the ongoing LUBGWMA rulemaking process.

OFB members share the goal of protecting groundwater. Farmers in the LUBGWMA have already made significant investments in modern irrigation systems, precision nutrient management, soil health practices, and water conservation technologies. Many have worked constructively with ODA through the RAC, and we recognize that the Department has made improvements in the drafting process.

However, as currently drafted, several elements of the rule blur the line between a regulatory program and a research project. A workable regulatory framework must rely on scientifically validated, consistent, and interpretable metrics. Yet the proposed rules incorporate tools and evaluation mechanisms that remain experimental, untested at

[Back to Table of Contents](#)

regulatory scale, or unsupported by Oregon-specific research. This conflation threatens the credibility and effectiveness of the program and could unintentionally create narratives about producer behavior that are misleading or unfair.

One of the clearest examples is the proposed reliance on deep residual soil nitrate testing—a requirement that growers take 60-inch post-harvest soil samples on 10 percent of their irrigated fields every five years. This metric is intended to serve as a key indicator of program success. Yet no other state uses deep soil nitrate as a regulatory benchmark. California’s expert panel explicitly recommended against its use, because deep soil nitrate fluctuates dramatically and is influenced by numerous factors outside a producer’s control. Oregon State University echoes this concern, noting that post-harvest soil nitrate tests “are not intended to predict groundwater nitrate concentrations” and are at best a rough indicator of leaching potential.

Local studies reinforce this point. An ODA-funded project monitoring a single well-managed field found deep nitrate levels swinging from under 10 pounds to over 30 pounds across three years—even under high-quality irrigation and nutrient management practices—and researchers could not fully explain the variation. These fluctuations demonstrate why deep soil nitrate is not a reliable or scientifically defensible regulatory tool. It is a research instrument—not a compliance metric.

The draft rules also assume that the mere presence of post-harvest soil nitrogen indicates poor management, when in reality many agronomic factors can leave residual nitrogen in the soil without any misapplication by growers. For example, potato vines break down rapidly after harvest and naturally release nitrogen; unexpected rainfall or drought can distort soil nitrate levels; and over-irrigation can actually flush nitrate below the sampling depth, creating the misleading impression of “low” nitrate even where leaching risk remains. In this context, drawing conclusions from deep soil sampling risks producing narratives that are incomplete, inaccurate, or divorced from real-world agricultural practice.

A related concern is that several of the rule’s evaluation methods depend on crop nitrogen-removal coefficients that do not yet exist for most crops grown in the Basin. Until Oregon-specific coefficients are developed—likely requiring new research at OSU—growers cannot use two of the four evaluation options for their Annual Nitrogen Plans. This again illustrates the rule’s reliance on tools that have not reached regulatory maturity.

These scientific and technical shortcomings also interact with serious privacy and public-perception risks. The rules currently require that deep soil nitrate results be submitted directly to the Department, where they will become public records. In a region with ongoing litigation and intense public scrutiny, raw nitrate data—stripped of agronomic context—could easily be taken out of context, misinterpreted, or weaponized against producers who have done nothing wrong. Other states with similar nitrate challenges have successfully

protected farmers by using third-party aggregation or anonymization. OFB urges ODA to follow those models rather than exposing producers to unnecessary and unproductive risk.

Beyond scientific and privacy concerns, the rules introduce significant administrative costs at a time when the regional farm economy is already strained. Soil sampling, laboratory fees, deep coring equipment, and extensive recordkeeping are not trivial expenses. ODA itself estimates lab costs of \$7–\$10 per sample—before considering labor, equipment, and the increased sampling frequency for large irrigated operations. Many farms will need specialized tools to pull 5-foot cores. Local laboratory capacity may be insufficient to meet the compressed timelines required under the rule, further complicating compliance. These costs are not merely operational, and they compound economic pressures already facing agriculture. Regulations meant to protect groundwater should not unintentionally undermine the economic viability of the very operations they seek to support, especially in communities already facing economic stress.

In light of these challenges, OFB believes it is essential that the final rules be grounded in established science and proven best practices, rather than experimental metrics that create uncertainty and invite misinterpretation. Farmers in the LUBGWMA want to be part of the solution—and already are—but to succeed, the regulatory framework must rely on tools that are accurate, reliable, and reflective of real-world agricultural systems.

OFB will respectfully urge ODA to refine the proposed rules by removing or replacing scientifically unsupported evaluation metrics, protecting producer privacy, ensuring that compliance obligations are economically realistic, and anchoring the rule in the best available science and practical management practices. A rulemaking built on sound science, credible tools, and workable implementation will protect groundwater, build trust, and strengthen the long-term resilience of agriculture in the Lower Umatilla Basin.

OFB appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Board of Agriculture and remains committed to working collaboratively with ODA to ensure that the final rule achieves its intended outcomes while sustaining the farms, families, and communities of the LUBGWMA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ryan J. Krabill', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Ryan J. Krabill
Oregon Farm Bureau



November 25, 2025

State Board of Agriculture
635 Capitol St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

Delivered via electronic mail to BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov

On behalf of the Oregon Seed Council, thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Lower Umatilla Basin Ground Water Management Area (LUBGWMA) Rulemaking.

The Oregon Seed Council (OSC) is a trade organization that brings together seed farmers, marketers, brokers, researchers, and others involved in the Oregon seed industry from when the seed is planted to when the seed ultimately makes it to the hands of consumers. Through our membership, OSC represents approximately 1,300 grass, legume, and specialty seed growers in Oregon, and our industry drives employment in many rural areas of the state, employing an estimated 10,000 Oregonians.

I am writing to express OSC's concerns regarding the Oregon Department of Agriculture proposed rules for the LUBGWMA:

Evaluation of Annual Nitrogen Plans

In the proposed rules, the four methods for determining if a nitrogen plan was followed, have been improved from previous drafts.

However, we are concerned that the proposed rules assume that presence of post-harvest nitrogen is an indicator of poor fertilizer management. Presence of nitrogen is not inherently linked to bad practices.

In addition, half of the proposed methods of determining use of a plan do not have the data available to use the methods. This would require Oregon State University or another research agency to generate nitrogen coefficient data for each crop grown in the LUB before the methods could be used.

Finally, the rules focus on usage of "total nitrogen applied" rather than "plant available nitrogen" in calculation of nitrogen applied to the field. Not all applied nitrogen is available to the plant, and similarly, not all applied nitrogen is subject to leaching.

Program Evaluation and Metrics of Rule Success

We are concerned about how the rules propose elevation and metrics for success. The rule evaluation is to be based on trends in deep soil samples taken every five years on 10 percent of the fields from "large" operations within the LUBGWMA. However, the rules do not take into account that residual soil nitrate levels are influenced by many factors outside of producer control. Regional drought, high rainfall years, temperature, or crop failure are all examples of factors not taken into account that are outside of a producer's control.



Further, residual soil nitrate levels are highly variable within a field and fluctuate depending on where in the annual rotation cycle a field is in.

No other states with nitrate rules use the deep soil metric for measuring regulatory success. We are concerned about why this was selected as a measure, when even an expert panel in California explicitly recommended against using residual soil nitrate as a reporting metric in the California Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

There is a lack of scientific basis for this method, and the proposed rules indicate that ODA will conduct trend analysis on residual soil nitrate levels. This assertion is concerning due to the aforementioned concerns, and the fact that there are **no peer-reviewed scientific studies** that have performed analysis using this type of data, nor is there any research to suggest samples will have any scientific value.

We also see that while landowners are required to produce these records for data that lacks scientific value, the records will become public record. Results could be taken out of context, and there is no clear scientific basis for interpretation.

Application of Rules

Under the draft rules, there are different requirements made for “large” operations defined as 500 acres or more and “small” operations as 499 acres or less. These numbers are arbitrary. In previous drafts, the rules listed “large” operations as greater than 1,000 acres.

Costs and Fiscal Impact

The proposed rules put undue financial burden on producers. These financial pressures include lab costs for soil analysis (estimated to be between \$7 and \$10/sample by ODA); labor for soil sampling, record-keeping costs; and for some, purchase of additional equipment to pull samples from deeper depths.

Unfortunately, the rules put the burden of data collection on producers and the data sought provides no meaningful purpose and no context to why nutrients are being applied.

Capacity

There is also a limit to how much labs will be able to process, and we are concerned that local agricultural labs will not have capacity to process all required samples within the timeframes required from the proposed rules.

Removal of Water Quality Certification Program and Agreements Section

The draft rules presented to the rulemaking advisory committee described a voluntary agreement between ODA and landowners. The voluntary agreement described management and sampling requirements a landowner could conduct in exchange for regulatory certainty, recognition that landowner practices are protective of water quality, and priority access to technical and financial assistance. We are concerned that this section has been removed from the proposed rules.

While we have listed a number of concerns, paramount is that the measurement for success of these rules is not founded on a scientific basis and the cost and data collection for those measurements is being placed on our producers who are operating on slim-to-sometimes negative margins.



Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Chuinard". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Megan" and last name "Chuinard" clearly distinguishable.

Megan Chuinard
Executive Director
Oregon Seed Council
Megan@MAC-Consulting-LLC.com

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 10: *Recommendation for the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Commission*

I. Introduction

The Board of Agriculture will review three applications submitted for a vacancy on the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Commission (OAHC).

II. Background and OAHC Overview

The State Legislature established the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Program (OAHP) in 2017 to help address farmland fragmentation, conversion to non-farm uses, complex regulations, and succession planning. The program provides voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain or enhance both agriculture and natural resources on Oregon's working lands.

Five members of the OAHC are recommended by the Board of Agriculture. ORS 541.986 specifically states:

(2) (a) Four members shall be persons recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who are actively engaged in farming or ranching. The members must represent diverse types of agricultural commodities and be from geographically diverse areas of this state.

(2)(d) One member shall be a person recommended by the State Board of Agriculture who has expertise in water quality.

The current members serving on the OAHC that were previously recommended by the Board of Agriculture are:

Commissioner	City	Position	Ag Expertise	Term Ends
Doug Krahmer, Chair	St. Paul	Farmer/R ancher	Owner of Berries NW; Marion County SWCD; previously served on OWEB and BOA	2 nd term – ends 2026

James Robert Collins	Mitchell	Farmer/Rancher	Wheeler SWCD; Owner/Operator of Table Mountain Cattle Co.; involved with restoration projects in Wheeler Co.	1 st term – ends 2028
Jan Lee	Sandy	Ag Water Quality	Clackamas SWCD; President of OR Assoc. of Conservation Districts; former legislator and water policy expert; Planning Commissioner	1 st term – ends 2029
John O’Keeffe	Adel	Farmer/Rancher	Livestock producer with experience in ag easements; involved in launching OAHF	1 st term – ends 2029
Laura Masterson	Portland	Farmer/Rancher	East Multnomah SWCD; former OWEB and BOA member; helped launch OAHF	1 st term – ends 2027

OAHF Commissioners may only serve two consecutive 4-year terms.

III. Applicants

The Agricultural Heritage Commission conducted an open recruitment period to fill a farmer/rancher position being vacated by Doug Krahmer.

The Commission received the following applications for the Board of Agriculture’s review and recommendation:

Applicant	City	Position	Ag Expertise
Gary Wade	The Dalles	Farmer/Rancher	See enclosed application
Kenneth W Bentz	Burns	Farmer/Rancher	See enclosed application
John Deck	Junction City	Farmer/Rancher	See enclosed application

Their applications are included for your consideration.

IV. Board Action

The Board of Agriculture will review the application materials and determine which candidate, if any, to recommend for the OAHC vacancy. A recommendation must be provided to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) by December 26, 2025.



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

Applicant Information

Name **Gary Wade**

Affiliation **Co-Owner of Wade & Rufener Orchards Co**

Occupation **Farmer**

☐ Retired

Mailing address **[REDACTED]**

Town/City **The Dalles** State **OR** Zip Code **97058**

Phone Number **[REDACTED]** Cell or Alternate # **[REDACTED]** Fax Number **[REDACTED]**

Email **[REDACTED]**

Applicant Signature **Gary Wade**

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☒ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☐ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I have always had an interest in farming and natural resource planning and restoration. For the last 16 years cherry orcharding has taken most of my available time. However, my son Devon, and wife Marlis are taking over day-to-day operations on the farm allowing me to contribute my knowledge from past natural resource work to help farmers identify productive restoration opportunities in Oregon. I love farming and the challenges it presents, but I also miss opportunities to identify and work on natural resource issues where I can use my past experiences to help others. This position on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission appears the ideal place to accomplish both.

Over a ten year period I worked for a number of Boards and Commissions in Washington and Oregon States on salmon restoration and recovery planning; including Washington Conservation Commission, Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board, Lower Columbia Science Work Group, the Dalles Watershed Council and ODFW's recovery plan for Mid-Columbia steelhead. With these experiences I have learned how Boards work and the importance of collaboration with members and agencies that support them. My work often involved collaboration with local communities, Fish and Wildlife agencies, Fish Enhancement Groups, Counties and with various Tribes. My position with the Washington State Conservation Commission and the Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board involved working with numerous county, state and federal agencies, and local communities to identify and develop strategies for salmon and steelhead habitat restoration.

As a completely new commercial orchardist in 2009, I had to immerse myself in research to determine the best cherry varieties and rootstocks to plant, irrigation systems, harvest methods, equipment needs, facilities, pest and pesticides, diseases, and who to work with on these issues. My wife grew up on a dairy farm in the lower Columbia and we operated a small farm in Ridgefield Washinton for 17 years, but this did not prepare us for the knowledge we would have to accrue to be successful commercial orchardists. Luckily our part of the Columbia Gorge has incredible farmers and extension agents, field representatives and packing houses that helped every step of the way. I also learned how important it is to participate in collaborative efforts to improve our knowledge as an industry. We now successfully farm 110 acres. Along the way we were always looking for ways to reduce our environmental impacts, and improve our soils, and we enrolled in and completed many projects with the Wasco Soil and Water Conservation District and NRCS to do just that. Our goals have always been to improve our world as we produce fruit for our communities.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

Carpenter and homebuilder from 1979 to 1993

- My wife and I ran our own business' doing hardwood floors, and then later designing and building custom homes.

Huxley College of Environmental Sciences: Bachelor of Science degree in 1997

Washington State Conservation Commission 1998-2001

- I worked with WDFW, Fish Enhancement Groups, Tribes and local communities on mapping fish distribution and habitat limiting factors across four Water Resource Inventory Areas in the lower Columbia. I compiled this information in four 300-400 page documents that were published by Washington State for prioritizing salmon and steelhead restorations efforts in the lower Columbia.

Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board 2001-2005

- I worked as the habitat restoration coordinator for the five-county Lower Columbia Fish Recovery Board. During this time I worked with various groups, communities, tribes, land trusts, and state agencies that were interested in identifying and completing priority habitat restoration projects and then promoting these projects for funding through the Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board (similar to OWEB). I also participated on the Estuary Partnership's Science Work Group identifying and prioritizing restoration projects to fund. Together with the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, I wrote a successful grant to fund a \$1.1 million restoration project on the Grays River in Washington.

NOAA Fisheries 2005-2008

- I worked as a consultation biologist for NOAA Fisheries providing opinions on the biological impact on listed species of projects with a federal nexus. During this time I also worked on assignment with ODFW writing the habitat portion of the John Day River for the Mid-Columbia Steelhead Recovery Plan, and with the Nez Perce tribe on the hatchery portion of the Mid- Columbia plan.

Purchased an older cherry orchard in The Dalles 2008

- The original property our family purchased was 50 acres of mostly very old cherry trees. We built a house, shops and covered loading area in 2009 and 2010, and started replanting cherry trees of newer varieties and rootstocks and redoing the irrigation. Since then, we have purchased an additional 60 acres of orchard ground. WE have improved all these orchards through efficient irrigation systems (drip and micro sprinklers), replanting 60 acres, and improving or soils wherever and whenever possible. We hired a tub grinder to create mulch out of the older trees we removed and we spread mulch every time we replanted. We could have paid \$5 for a permit to burn these trees but felt that wasted a significant resource for our soil and polluted our air. Marlis, my wife, is very proud of the pollinator habitat she has planted along the edges of many of our orchard blocks.

The Dalles Watershed Council

- I served on the watershed council for about 3 years, two of those as co-chair

Little Cherry Disease Working Group 2021-2023

- This group of scientists and orchardists was working on various research projects and ways to decimate information on a significant disease problem throughout Oregon and Washington.

We have worked with Dr. Ashley Thompson, the local OSU extension agent, on several research projects on our properties that involved pests, diseases, soils, and tree growth. We continue to work closely with her and various chemical companies that want to test plant hormones and nutrients.

I am a member of the OSU Extension Advisory Committee as a farm liaison.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

I believe the most pressing issue for all farmers is to receive a sustainable price for their products. Projects and decisions that will benefit our environment, our communities, and our long-term sustainability are expensive and can't be done when our very existence as farmers is threatened. This means we desperately need support from the state and federal government to accomplish what would be best in more perfect world. A perfect example is that we can burn orchards we tear out for almost nothing when using that resource to improve our soils and enhance our air quality is obviously the best for everyone, but very expensive. Climate change will only exacerbate this issue when it is most critical to act responsibly.

Fish and wildlife habitat will also take a backseat when farmers don't have the resources to protect and enhance what still exists. Fresh water availability is a major concern across most of the state and will only become worse with climate change and competition from communities and industry. Many of these problems can be reduced through careful planning, a reprioritization of government expenditures, and with avid community support. Farmers also have to realize that we must make some changes in how we think and operate to keep our farms for the next generations. I want my son to continue to farm. He is willing to take risks to do that, and I hope we can work together to make those risks worthwhile.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name Dr Ashley Thompson
Affiliation (if any) OSU Extension
Mailing Address 400 E Scenic Dr, Columbia Gorge
Community College, Bld #2, Suite 2.278
City/Town The Dalles
State OR
Zip Code 97058
Phone Number 541-296-5494
Alternate #
Fax #
Email ashley.thompson@oregonstate.edu

Reference #2

Name Tim Dahle
Affiliation (if any) Owner Dahle Orchards
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town The Dalles
State OR
Zip Code 97058
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name Chad Wimmers
Affiliation (if any) Mt Adams Fruit Co
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town Hood River
State OR
Zip Code 97031
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by November 1, 2025 in order to be considered for a position.



PROTECTED GROUP STATUS FORM

Committee/Board Member

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



Name

Date

Department/Committee Board Name: **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission**

Federal and State laws require the Board to make its programs, activities, and services available to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and sex. The Board is attempting to monitor the selection of and participation by women, minorities, and people with disabilities on its committees, advisory groups, etc.

The following information will be used for statistical reporting only, and is voluntary. **Information obtained will be kept confidential and will be destroyed as soon as the responses on the form are captured numerically.**

Race/Ethnic Origin:

- ☐ Black
- ☐ Asian or Pacific Islander
- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Hispanic (of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin)
- ☐ White

Mark the following which apply to you:

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Disabled

☐ I prefer not to respond to these questions.



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



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Applicant Information

Name Kenneth W Bentz

Affiliation

Occupation Rancher Ranch Real Estate Broker

☐ Retired

Mailing address [REDACTED]

Town/City Burns

State Oregon

Zip Code 97720

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Cell or Alternate #

Fax Number

Email

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☒ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☐ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

My interest in the commission stems from my personal desire to help in the effort to maintain agricultural land as ag land. Our state continues to lose land to development with a detrimental effect to the ag industry. This is just one small effect, the larger issues include the loss of habitat for all wild life, the degradation of many watersheds, the loss of open space and a number of other negative effects caused by development.

The Heritage Foundation provides an opportunity to save many thousands of acres from removal as part of the working landscape. I have spent my life working with land in production, restoration and management of both the land I own and the thousands of acres that I lease and manage as part of my ranches. As a ranch broker I also work with many buyers and sellers of ranches and farms. I also work with families as they transition from one generation to another with the ownership and management of ranches and farms. I believe that I could be a very effective commissioner because of my experience, connections in the state and my desire to help keep working landscapes functioning.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

Age: 64

Education: BS Business Oregon State, Masters MBA University of Nevada, Reno

Current Public Service: SWCD board member, Committee member for Rules advisory OWRD

Ground Water Advisory Committee Member

Board member for Northwest Rangeland Trust

Work History: Raised of family ranch N of Drewsey, Oregon on Middle Fork of Malheur River

Own 2 ranches and lease one in Harney/Malheur county currently have 900 hd cow/calf operation

Principle Broker in Bentz Warner Ranchland, LLC working only with agriculture land in Oregon and Nevada.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

I watch as Oregon continues to lose agricultural land to development both the farm ground in the Willamette Valley and larger holdings of private, agricultural ground in eastern Oregon that are broken up into smaller smaller pieces and taken out of agricultural use. Fortunately the state of Oregon has land use laws that make this removal more difficult than other states but nonetheless, we continue to lose land as it falls out of agricultural use. This loss of these working landscapes is not reversible. Once gone, always gone. The driver of this degradation is economic. Occasionally it is caused by financial need but the overwhelming cause is driven by those seeking profit. Both the individual landowner and the developer. This in and of itself is not a bad thing, but we as residents of the state should be able to present an economic alternative that will keep a agriculture on the land.

Future generations of Oregonians will need food, wildlife and open space. It is our responsibility to make to make sure that both of these are available.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name Matt Smith
Affiliation (if any) William Smith Properties
Mailing Address
City/Town Bend
State Oregon
Zip Code
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name Cliff Bentz
Affiliation (if any) US congressman
Mailing Address
City/Town Ontario
State Oregon
Zip Code
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name Mark Owens
Affiliation (if any) State Representative
Mailing Address
City/Town Crane
State Oregon
Zip Code
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by November 1, 2025 in order to be considered for a position.



PROTECTED GROUP STATUS FORM

Committee/Board Member

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



Name

Date

Department/Committee Board Name: **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission**

Federal and State laws require the Board to make its programs, activities, and services available to all persons regardless of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and sex. The Board is attempting to monitor the selection of and participation by women, minorities, and people with disabilities on its committees, advisory groups, etc.

The following information will be used for statistical reporting only, and is voluntary. **Information obtained will be kept confidential and will be destroyed as soon as the responses on the form are captured numerically.**

Race/Ethnic Origin:

☐

Black

☐

Asian or Pacific Islander

☐

American Indian or Alaskan Native

☐

Hispanic (of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin)

☐

White

Mark the following which apply to you:

☐

Female

☐

Male

☐

Disabled

☐

I prefer not to respond to these questions.



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

Applicant Information

Name **John Deck**
 Affiliation **Deck Family Farm**
 Occupation **Farmer**

☐ Retired

Mailing address [REDACTED]
 Town/City **Junction City** State **OR** Zip Code **97448**
 Phone Number [REDACTED] Cell or Alternate # [REDACTED] Fax Number [REDACTED]
 Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature 

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☒ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☐ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I am applying to be a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission since I care deeply both about our natural environment as well as building vibrant farm economies. As co-owner of Deck Family Farm we not only care for 600 acres of owned and leased land, we work alongside family, guide the next generation of students in our internship program, and are currently working actively to build a succession plan, bringing in farm employees and preserving our land for the next generation.

I align with the Commission's mission by tying conservation outcomes with producer viability. I care about 1) conserving ecological features on the land, 2) keeping vibrant farming economies alive, 3) helping farmers steward the land, 4) and preserving the legacy of land stewardship alive for future generations.

Some of the experience I bring to the table:

Conservation Management: I have spearheaded multiple conservation projects on our farm in Junction City, Oregon, working with the Natural Resource Conservation Service, OWEB, as well as a watershed council, to protect 3 different creeks on our farm as well as implement farm stewardship practices.

Producer Perspective: I have built our farm business with my wife over the last 20 years attending farm business classes at Lane Community College, at EcoTrust Ag of the Middle Accelerator program, and in private business advising sessions working on financial resilience as well as succession planning.

Background Knowledge: I received a master's in environmental planning at UC Berkeley in 1993. My thesis was on land protection strategies for endangered plants in the Sierra Nevada.

Governance: I currently sit on the board of the Long Tom Watershed Council as Vice-chair and have gained experience working on non-profit governance over the last 3 years. In addition, I continue to build relationships that drive our family business and work with employees, business partners, students, and family to steer our business.

As a commissioner, I will prepare for each meeting and do my best to offer my experience in an impartial manner regarding both agricultural production and conservation questions. I truly believe that conservation works best when done in partnership with land managers and especially farmers and ranchers.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

Working-lands operator. Owner-operator of a diversified livestock farm in the Willamette Valley (Deck Family Farm). I manage pasture-based beef, pork, poultry, and dairy enterprises sold through CSA, on-farm, and farmers' markets. Responsibilities include grazing plans, riparian stewardship, soil-health monitoring, animal welfare compliance, budgeting/payroll, and direct-to-consumer logistics. Farm revenues of 2.5 million and managing 600+ acres. This day-to-day experience grounds my perspective on the economics of conservation, succession planning, and working-lands viability.

Land use, GIS, and environmental planning. Former GIS Manager (UC Santa Cruz) and GIS Integrator (Metricom) building mapping and decision-support tools for land/resource planning. M.L.A. in Environmental Planning (UC Berkeley). I bring practical experience translating maps, data, and field realities into clear, defensible decisions for diverse stakeholders.

Science, data standards, and collaboration. Two decades at UC Berkeley leading scientific data-integration efforts (biodiversity/genomics). Founder of Biocode LLC (bioinformatics for field & lab sample tracking). Published in peer-reviewed venues and co-led national/international working groups—skills that translate to rigorous review of easements, stewardship plans, and program standards.

Boards and working groups.

- **Board of Directors, Long Tom Watershed Council (2023–present)** — governance, budgeting, and community engagement; experience balancing habitat outcomes with producer needs.
- **Chairs/Co-chairs and Steering roles** across biodiversity and data-standards organizations (e.g., GEOME Steering Committee; Biodiversity Genomics Working Group; GGBN/TDWG collaborations).
- Active member of producer networks (e.g., American Pastured Poultry Producers Association; Willamette Valley grazing groups), giving me a broad view of producer constraints and opportunities.

What I contribute to OAHC.

- A producer's perspective on conservation tools that **work economically** for families and succession.
- **Technical background**—maps, data, and metrics to evaluate conservation values and stewardship outcomes.
- **Bridge-builder** skills across scientists, agencies, and working producers to craft practical, durable solutions that protect Oregon's agricultural heritage while keeping land in production.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

Main issues for the future of Oregon agriculture

1. **Climate volatility.** Longer dry spells, intense rain events, wildfire smoke, and heat waves now occur more frequently. These affect planting windows, stress livestock and increase risk.
2. **Economic uncertainty.** Food benefit programs at risk, National level decision making impacting financial decisions.,
3. **Loss of farmland & fragmentation.** The most productive ground is often the most developable (flat, well-drained, near towns and water). We personally lost **80 acres of leased hay ground near Junction City** to development in the last decade—ground that would otherwise sustain local production.
4. **Succession & land access.** Farmers are getting older, land is more expensive, and there are limited financing tools. What was available to our family 20 years ago is now out of reach for those in the same position now.

Fish, wildlife habitat, and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands

- **Hydrology:** Drought reduces late-season flows; extreme storms drive erosion and nutrient loss. Channelization and poorly sized culverts fragment habitat.
- **Soils:** Low soil organic matter lowers water-holding capacity and resilience.
- **Biodiversity & pests:** Climate change increases pest/disease pressures; invasives outcompete natives during disturbance.
- **Edge pressures from development:** Fewer corridors and buffers, more conflicts near cities.

If appointed, my priorities would be:

1. Protect the **best remaining farmland**
2. Expand **soil-building** practices that deliver both farm viability and habitat.
3. Promote **programs** that are accessible to family-scale operations.
4. Investing in **co-benefit projects** (e.g. riparian restoration) co-designed with producers.
5. Strengthen **succession and land-access pathways** so working lands stay working—while improving wildlife outcomes.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name **Kurt Koehler**
Affiliation (if any) **Long Tom Watershed Council Board Chair**
Mailing Address
City/Town
State
Zip Code
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name **Robert Lehn**
Affiliation (if any) **Grazier's Garden Manager**
Mailing Address
City/Town
State
Zip Code
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name **Penny Feltner**
Affiliation (if any) **Coast Fork Watershed Council / Working Lands Program Manager**
Mailing Address
City/Town
State
Zip Code
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

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PROTECTED GROUP STATUS FORM

Committee/Board Member

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

Name [John Deck](#)Date [Nov 2, 2025](#)Department/Committee Board Name: **Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission**

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- ☐ American Indian or Alaskan Native
- ☐ Hispanic (of Mexican, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Central or South American or other Spanish culture or origin)
- ☐ White

Mark the following which apply to you:

- ☐ Female
- ☐ Male
- ☐ Disabled

☐ I prefer not to respond to these questions.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 10: *Next Steps for the BOA Newsletter*

I. Introduction

The Board of Agriculture will review the purpose, scope, and need for a quarterly newsletter.

II. Background

The Board of Agriculture historically aimed to publish a quarterly newsletter following each quarterly meeting. However, the only statutory requirement for reporting by the Board of Agriculture is a biennial report that details the current state of Oregon's agriculture industry.

ORS 561.372-378 provides the statutory governance of the State Board of Agriculture.

ORS 561.372 – State Board of Agriculture created; member qualifications' terms.

(1) In order that there may be the closest correspondence between State Department of Agriculture policies and programs, the public interests and the resolution of practical agricultural problems of the state, there is created the State Board of Agriculture.

(2) The Director of Agriculture, the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences of Oregon State University and the chairperson of the Soil and Water Conservation Commission shall serve as ex-officio members of the board. The director and the dean shall be nonvoting members. The director shall act as secretary of the board. The dean may appoint a person to represent the dean on the board.

(3) The Governor shall appoint nine members to the board. The members appointed to the board must be residents of Oregon. Not more than five of the members appointed to the board may belong to the same political party. Party affiliations shall be determined by the appropriate entry on official election registration cards.

(4) The term of each member appointed to the board is four years. A member shall continue to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. Before a member's term expires, the Governor shall appoint a successor. If a vacancy occurs, the Governor shall appoint a person to complete the remainder of the unexpired term.

(5) A person who serves two consecutive terms on the board is not eligible for appointment to another term on the board until at least one year after the expiration of the second consecutive term.

(6) The Governor shall appoint two board members who are not actively involved in the production of agricultural commodities to be representatives of the public interests. The Governor shall appoint seven board members who are actively engaged in the production of agricultural commodities. The Governor shall seek to ensure that the appointed board members who produce agricultural commodities reflect the diverse nature of agricultural commodity production within the state.

ORS 561.374 – Compensation and expenses; organization; meetings; quorum

(1) Each member of the State Board of Agriculture may receive compensation and expenses as provided in ORS 292.495, payable from moneys appropriated or otherwise made available to the board.

(2) The board shall select a chairperson from among its voting members.

(3) The board shall meet once during each calendar quarter at a time and place determined by the chairperson. The board may hold additional meetings at times and places determined by the chairperson or the Director of Agriculture, or as requested by five or more members. A majority of the voting board members constitutes a quorum. An act by a majority of a quorum is an official act of the board.

(4) By arrangement with the chairperson, the Director of Agriculture shall review with the board the activities of the State Department of Agriculture and, subject to policy direction by the board, outline the methods, policies and program of work for the department.

ORS 561.376 – Legislative findings; State Board of Agriculture duties

(1) The Legislative Assembly finds and declares that:

(a) Agriculture is an important component of the state economy; and

(b) The sustainability of natural resources in the state greatly affects the well-being of the residents of the state.

(2) The State Board of Agriculture shall advise the State Department of Agriculture regarding the implementation, administration and enforcement of department programs and the development of department policies designed to positively affect the agricultural industry in this state, including but not limited to programs and policies to:

(a) Address the continuing changes and adjustments in agricultural industries.

(b) Foster the natural resources of the state to provide ample opportunities for productive and beneficial agricultural enterprise.

(c) Guide the department in ensuring the viability of the agricultural industry in this state.

ORS 561.378 – State Board of Agriculture report.

The State Board of Agriculture shall report as provided in ORS 192.230-250 on a biennial basis to the Governor and the Legislative Assembly regarding the status of the agricultural industry in this state.

III. Newsletter Stats and Performance

Stats:

Recently, the Board newsletter has been distributed via ODA's GovDelivery platform. The subscription list for Board of Agriculture updates contains approximately **5,900 subscribers**.

Two newsletters have been distributed in 2025 – one for the Spring and one for the Summer quarterly updates. For those newsletters:

- 35% of recipients opened the newsletter (~2,000 individuals)
- 2-10% of recipients click on links provided in the newsletter (~100-500 individuals)

Other ODA Publications:

The Oregon Department of Agriculture creates the "Ag Quarterly" newsletter that is published every quarter and highlights current ag issues and agency work.

Staff Recommendation:

There is an opportunity to include Board Remarks in the "Ag Quarterly" that reaches a similar audience.

This provides the Board with the opportunity to provide timely updates on current ag issues, streamlines communications development at the Department, and still provides interaction with the Board's targeted audience.

IV. Board Action

The Board of Agriculture will discuss whether to continue its quarterly newsletter or pursue alternative means of messaging in addition to completing its biennial report required by statute.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
From: Board Coordinator
Subject: Agenda Item number 10: *Board Resolution Review*

I. Introduction

The Board of Agriculture will review three Board Resolutions that are up for review in 2026. Those Resolutions are:

- Resolution 029: Columbia River Water for Irrigation Purposes
- Resolution 275: Cougar Management Plan
- Resolution 305: The Native Plant Conservation Program
- Resolution 000: Board of Agriculture Policy and Procedures for Resolutions

II. Staff Recommendations

Resolution 275: Cougar Management Plan

After conferring with OR Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), ODA staff recommend **no changes**. ODFW continues to utilize the standards and practices set forth in their 2017 Cougar Management Plan.

Resolution 029: Columbia River Water for Irrigation Purposes

ODA conferred with the OR Water Resources Department (OWRD). ODA staff recommend **no changes**.

Resolution 305: The Native Plant Conservation Program

ODA staff reviewed the resolution and recommended **no changes**.

Resolution 000: Board of Agriculture Policy and Procedures for Resolutions

ODA staff reviewed the resolution and are recommending that the Board evaluate how best to utilize resolutions and how to streamline annual reviews of resolutions to ensure that resolution reviews are timely and align with Board priorities.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution Procedures

Title: Board of Agriculture Policy and Procedures for Resolutions

Number: 000

Effective Date: 06/15/2023

Workgroup: Allen, Lopez, Orem, Santamaria, Zielinski

Next Review Date: 00/00/2026

Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/15/2023

ODA Staff Contact: Karla Valness

Original Resolution Date: 06/07/2018

Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria

Signature on file, 06/15/2023

General

- This document is intended to provide a clear process for establishment and review of Board resolutions.
- Resolutions are policy statements by the Board of Agriculture.
- All active Board resolutions will be available to the public on ODA's website including an ODA staff point of contact.
- If a Resolution is under review the website will simply state "under Board review," with an ODA staff contact listed. Draft language of Resolutions under review will not be posted as a matter of routine but will be available with Board agendas. Information is provided on how the public may provide comments on resolutions under Board review.
- Inactive Board resolutions are kept in an electronic archive but are not listed on the website and are only available to the public by request to ODA staff, or if the Board decides to re-activate a resolution.
- Resolutions will be reviewed on a routine basis by ODA staff and the Board to determine relevancy and changes if needed.

Resolution Development and Review Process

- Resolutions may be initiated at the request of individual members of the Board, or by ad hoc working groups of Board members who volunteer to address a specific issue, or may be suggested to the Board by ODA staff, or initiated by the Board at the request of an outside party.
- Drafts of Resolutions may be worked on by ad hoc working group members outside of Board meetings without public involvement. Any ad hoc group that is formed must be limited to 5 members or less to avoid creating a quorum.
- If it is known prior to a Board meeting that an active or proposed resolution will be brought to the full Board, it is made available on the website to the public with materials provided to the Board for the meeting.
- At the meeting, the Board will be advised by staff of any controversial issues and/or comments received about a proposed resolution, and the public may provide comments at the meeting on the proposed resolution during public comment periods designated on the agenda.

- If no revisions to the resolution are requested by the Board after discussion and hearing public comment, or if revisions are made and accepted by the Board at the meeting, the resolution may be adopted.
- If the Board requests that more work be done on the resolution, the revised resolution will be posted on the website with the Board meeting agenda including the statement “under Board review” and instructions on how to provide public comment.
- A revised draft of the resolution will be brought to the Board at its next meeting, which the Board may adopt, or send through the revision process again. This process may be repeated until the resolution is adopted.
- Resolutions will not be active until the Board votes on the final text of the resolution.

Summary of Public Involvement in Resolutions

- Resolutions are available to the public through the website.
- Drafts of resolutions under review by the Board are posted on the website with the Board meeting agenda.
- The public may provide verbal and/or written comment on the resolutions under consideration by the Board.
- Members of the public can request the Board to consider creating or modifying a resolution.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Reservation of Columbia River Water for Irrigation Purposes	Number: 029 Effective Date: 06/15/2023
Workgroup A: Allen, Lopez, Orem, Santamaria, Zielinski ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/15/2023 Original Resolution Date: 12/12/1978
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file, 06/15/2023

Background

Oregon law allows for reservations of water for multipurpose storage of water for future economic development uses, including agricultural use. A reservation is an amount of unappropriated water set aside for future use with a priority date. To use reserved water, a prospective user must successfully apply for a permit to store water and receives a priority date determined by the date of the reservation.

After Senate Bill 140 created reservations for future economic development in 1987, the Oregon Department of Agriculture applied for several reservations. Many of these reservations were granted and have been extended. Other proposed reservations were not adopted into basin plans due to other pending processes. The Columbia River proposed reservation was placed on hold pending completion of recovery plans for threatened and endangered Columbia River fish species.

Recovery plans for threatened and endangered fish species have not yet been finalized for the Columbia due to litigation and re-drafting of the plans, so the Columbia River reservations applied for by ODA remain on hold.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Board of Agriculture recommends reservation of water in the Columbia River for irrigation and future agricultural needs.

Summary

Recommends reservation of water in the Columbia River for irrigation and future agricultural needs.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Cougar Management Plan	Number: 275 Effective Date: 06/15/2023
Workgroup: Allen, Lopez, Orem, Santamaria, Zielinski ODA Staff Contact: Isaak Stapleton	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/15/2023 Original Resolution Date: 03/02/2006
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file, 06/15/2023

Background

Due to concerns about threats to people and livestock, bounties were offered for cougar in Oregon as early as 1843 and continued until 1961, when the Legislature discontinued the bounty system. Since then, the Oregon cougar population across all age classes has increased to approximately 6,610 in 2019 according to ODFW monitoring and projection data. As cougar populations have increased, so have concerns related to livestock predation and other game animal populations.

To address these concerns, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) developed and adopted the state's first cougar management plan in 1987. Much of the state's first plan involved gathering more information to better understand population densities, movement patterns, and harvest and damage control take rates. The plan also included strategies to allow the state's cougar population to increase while controlling conflicts with people and livestock.

ODFW has adopted revised cougar management plans in 1993, 2006, and 2017. Over time, the management plans have reflected the state's increasing cougar populations, and have included strategies such as managed hunting, maintenance of deer, elk, and cougar habitat, and removing animals causing damage. The plan's objectives remain maintaining viable and healthy cougar populations in Oregon, reducing conflicts with cougars, and managing cougars in a manner compatible with other game mammal species.

Resolution

Whereas the Oregon State Board of Agriculture recognizes the threat that cougar predation poses to the livestock industry in Oregon.

Be it resolved that the Board of Agriculture supports the Cougar Management Plan as adopted in October 2017 by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Summary

Supports a cougar management plan proposed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife; recognizes that cougar predation poses a threat to the livestock industry in Oregon.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: The Native Plant Conservation Program	Number: 305 Effective Date: 08/17/2023
Workgroup: Allen, Lopez, Orem, Santamaria, Zielinski ODA Staff Contact: Chris Benemann	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 08/17/2023 Original Resolution Date: 06/02/2010
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file

Background

WHEREAS the Native Plant Conservation Program assists state and local government agencies with the management and recovery plans of state protected plant populations found on their land.

WHEREAS the program issues permits for scientific research, the collection of, and for consultation for projects which involve or may impact listed plant species.

WHEREAS the program conducts research to enhance protected plant species recovery efforts through data collection.

WHEREAS the Native Plant Conservation Program maintains the Oregon threatened and endangered plant list through periodic review of listed species and proposing recommendations to list new species based on acquired data

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon Board of Agriculture: recognizes the statutorily mandated responsibilities of the ODA's Native Plant Conservation Program.

The Native Plant Conservation Program is important to Oregon and implements projects specifically related to conservation of threatened and endangered plants, improving watershed health and wildlife habitat, and responds to consultation and permit requests.

Summary

Recognizes the statutorily mandated responsibilities of the Native Plant Conservation Program.

MEMORANDUM

To: State Board of Agriculture
 From: Board Coordinator
 Subject: Agenda Item number 10: *2026 BOA Meeting Dates and Locations*

I. Introduction

The Board of Agriculture will review 2026 Board Meeting dates and locations.
 The September 2026 Board meeting dates coincide with Back to School.

II. Confirmed 2026 Meeting Dates and Locations

The following locations and dates are set for 2026 Board of Ag meetings:

Meeting Dates:	Confirmed Location:	Details:
March 18-20, 2026	Redmond, OR	Hotel: SCP Redmond Location: Deschutes County Fairgrounds Tentative Schedule: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 Start 11:00 AM, Finish 5:00 PM Thursday, March 19, 2026 Start 8:30 AM, Finish 4:00 PM Board attends FFA Partners Dinner at FFA Convention Friday, March 20, 2026 Board attends opening FFA session and volunteers to assist at State FFA convention (judging, staffing ODA booth, etc.) Depart ~1:00 pm
June 3-5, 2026	Madras, OR	Hotel: Inn at Cross Keys Station Meeting location: Inn at Cross Keys Station Schedule still tentative

III. Pending 2026 Meeting Dates and Locations

Meeting Dates:	Proposed Location:	Details:
September 2-4, 2026	Southern Coast	Coincides with Back-to-School – Adjust?

December 2-4, 2026	*Virtual Only now*	Adjust dates given virtual-only platform?
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IV. 2027 Board Meeting Dates and Locations

Meeting Dates:	Proposed Location:	Details:
March 3-5, 2027	Salem, OR	Legislative Session No accommodations confirmed yet
June 2-4, 2027		
September 1-3, 2027		*Adjust for Back-to-School?
December 1-3, 2027		

A list of prior tour dates and locations is included for reference.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Position on Farm Tax Deferral and Urban Growth Boundaries	Number: 155 Effective Date: 06/15/2023
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Johnson, Miller, Svaty ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/15/2023 Original Resolution Date: 12/09/1994
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file, 06/15/2023

Background

Whereas the State Board of Agriculture recognizes that it is not uncommon to find commercial farming operations located inside of many urban growth boundaries throughout Oregon;

Whereas, while awaiting future urbanization, many “vacant” urban lands are rented and leased by farmers and ranchers and put into production;

Whereas farm use special assessment is currently available for all lands in Oregon regardless of zoning designation;

Whereas, lands not zoned for exclusive farm use (EFU) must meet the same requirements as those zoned EFU and meet minimum income requirements established in ORS 308A.056.;

Whereas, unlike EFU lands which qualify automatically when they meet the definition of “farm use,” non-EFU lands may qualify only after justification through application;

Whereas regardless of tax status, all lands located within an urban growth boundary (UGB) are considered to be urban land and must be considered in any evaluation of available “buildable land” before justification of an expansion of any UGB and upon a “change of use,” the subject land is disqualified from farm value assessment;

Whereas, elimination of farm property tax deferrals within Urban Growth Boundaries could place legitimate farming operations on land not yet needed for development at a competitive disadvantage potentially leading to the dissolution of these operations and resulting in premature low-density development in conflict with land use planning goals;

Whereas the location of many important components of Oregon’s agricultural industry are found in and near urban areas and specifically, inside urban growth boundaries.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the State Board of Agriculture supports the Farm Use Special Assessment (Tax Deferral) program remaining available and being maintained within Urban Growth Boundaries.

Be it further resolved that expansion of urban growth boundaries be considered only after desirable urban densities have been reached on lands within existing boundaries.

Summary

Asserts the farm-use tax deferral should be maintained within urban growth boundaries. Expansion of urban growth boundaries should only be considered after urban density has been reached on land within existing boundaries.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: The Supply of Buildable Lands Inside Urban Growth Boundaries	Number: 162 Effective Date: 06/15/2023
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Johnson, Miller, Svaty ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/15/2023 Original Resolution Date: 12/11/1998
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file, 06/15/2023

Background

Whereas Oregon agriculture produces a farm gate value in excess of \$5 billion dollars annually.

Whereas the Willamette Valley produces approximately one-half of Oregon's \$5 billion-dollar market value production.

Whereas Oregon's population growth is projected to increase by nearly 5% by 2023, primarily in the Willamette Valley.

Whereas Oregon cities are required by state law to maintain a 20-year supply of buildable lands within their established urban growth boundaries.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the State Board of Agriculture finds that mandating a 20-year supply of buildable lands inside the urban growth boundaries is incompatible with the conservation of farmland for future generations.

Be it further resolved the Board of Agriculture supports the concept of cities and counties regaining local control by making the 20-year supply of buildable lands inside the urban growth boundary optional.

Summary

Supports local control (by cities and counties) to optional development on 20-year land supplies within urban growth boundaries.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Protection of Oregon Agriculture	Number: 295 Effective Date: 08/17/2023
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Johnson, Miller, Svaty ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 08/17/2023 Original Resolution Date: 02/13/2009
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file

Background

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture is committed to supporting viable operations of agriculture throughout Oregon;

WHEREAS, the establishment of Exclusive Farm Use Zones (EFU) have supported the viable operation of farming in Oregon;

WHEREAS, waivers and exemptions of the land use laws developed to protect agricultural lands will most likely lead to location of large-scale developments, new subdivisions, and other nonfarm uses in and amongst ongoing farm and ranch operations; and

WHEREAS, deliberations regarding designation and treatment of agricultural lands under the statewide land use planning program have included the consideration of actions that could designate or treat differently many lands currently zoned exclusive farm use based on soil quality without accounting for land important to the state's livestock, dairy and winegrape industries;

WHEREAS, the USDA NRCS agricultural capability classification system (Class I-VII) does not always adequately address the special and unique needs of certain high-value crops such as vineyards and orchards and is not designed to provide analysis on the value of range and pasturelands; and

WHEREAS many provisions currently found in state law provide opportunities to re-evaluate land use designations, and "rezone" lands when determined to be appropriate, and

WHEREAS irrigation is key element in maintaining the viability of the state's agricultural industry.

WHEREAS decisions involving urban growth, the development of transportation and other infrastructure can impact the long-term viability of agriculture, and

WHEREAS the state land use system can be complex and difficult to understand in many areas.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to protect viable farming operations in Oregon as a valuable natural and economic resource for our state.

2. Urges that waivers and exemptions to land use regulations not be granted without giving due consideration to need and reasonable alternatives to impacting agricultural lands and operations.
3. Urges that programs dealing with compensation for land use limitations, such as the use of conservation easements supported by the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, purchase of development rights and transfer of development rights, be developed to compliment the state land use program.
4. Supports protection of the state's viable grazing and vineyard lands and urges their continued protection as exclusive farm use lands and consideration as high-value farmland;
5. Urges consideration of other factors in addition to soils capability classification, when determining the value of land for high-value and specialty crops and range and pasture forage production.
6. Urges consideration of the impacts of nonresource related development on adjacent agricultural lands, including the sustainability of existing water rights in, any deliberations related to the definition, inventory, and designation of agricultural lands.
7. Supports the evaluation, through the periodic review process, of the adequacy of county agricultural lands inventories and agricultural land zoning.
8. Supports the development of a state strategic plan that integrates land use, transportation water supply and economic development priorities.

Summary

Reaffirms commitment to protect viable farming operations in Oregon as a valuable natural and economic resource for the state.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Siting of Aggregate Mining Operations in the Willamette Valley	Number: 300 Effective Date: 06/15/2023
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Johnson, Miller, Svaty ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/15/2023 Original Resolution Date: 03/10/2011
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file, 06/15/2023

Background

Whereas 45% of the total value of Oregon’s gross farm and ranch sales is produced in the Willamette Valley;

Whereas 49% of Oregon’s high-value farmland soils and 80% of the state’s prime farmland is located within the Willamette Valley;

Whereas prime farmland soils compose less than three percent of Oregon’s lands;

Whereas aggregate sand and gravel mines are consuming about 350 acres of largely high-value farmland soils a year in the Willamette Valley;

Whereas viable aggregate resources can be and are currently found on lands deemed less valuable to agriculture and other natural resources such as from “hard rock” quarries that are often located on soils less valuable to agriculture and other lands containing poorer quality agricultural soils;

Whereas farming poor soil is not an option for agriculture because agriculture is both land and soil dependent;

Whereas according to Oregon land use law it is only within the Willamette Valley that exceptions are provided to mine Class I and II agricultural lands;

Whereas state law permits reclamation of mining operations on lands zoned for exclusive farm use to either wildlife habitat or agricultural land;

Whereas most typical reclamation of mining operations is to wildlife habitat or “farm use” in the form of open ponds (for irrigation purpose) instead of to useable agricultural ground;

Whereas it is recognized that aggregate resources are important to many aspects of Oregon’s economy.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Does not support, in the Willamette Valley, the use and conversion of Class I, II prime or unique agricultural soils (as defined by the USDA Natural Resources Conversation Service) on lands zoned for exclusive farm use for the mining of aggregate unless it is shown that no reasonable alternative lands exist:

- (a) On land that is identified in an acknowledged comprehensive plans as an exception area or as non-resource land;
 - (b) On resource land that is determine to be irrevocably committed to non-resource uses;
 - (c) In an urban growth boundary; or
 - (d) On resource land or lower capability for agricultural production as classified by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
2. When reasonable alternatives do not exist and Willamette Valley Class I, II prime and unique soils are required for needed aggregate production, the Board supports aggregate mining on agricultural land only upon a determination that the proposed mining and associated operations do not or can be mitigated to not adversely impact other farming operations in the area; and
3. When it is determined that mining operations are appropriate for siting on Willamette Valley Class I, II prime and unique soils, the Board supports requiring the reclamation of the subject lands back to farmland at the same quality as existed prior to mining activities.

Summary

Relates to aggregate mining on Class I & II soils in the Willamette Valley.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Siting of Agri-tourism, Entertainment Activities and associated activities on Agricultural Lands	Number: 310 Effective Date: 08/17/2023
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Johnson, Miller, Svaty ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 08/17/2023 Original Resolution Date: 09/19/2012
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file

Background

Whereas the appropriate siting of commercial activities associated with farm use can be beneficial to operators and help to educate the public about Oregon agriculture;

Whereas there is increasing interest in the development of rural tourism and entertainment activities, many times in relation to agriculture;

Whereas increasingly there are many cases of such activities presenting compatibility issues with farming practices and presenting implications to rural infrastructure and services

Whereas issues have been raised relating to the uneven application of the laws dealing with the siting of agri-tourism, rural entertainment and commercial facilities related to farm use which may provide unfair competitive advantages to like operations;

Whereas "agri-tourism" related land uses are being authorized in the exclusive farm use (EFU) zone by several ways including: farm use (u-picks), room and board facilities, commercial use in conjunction with farm use, home occupations, wineries, restaurant in conjunction with winery, agri-tourism events, farm stands, eastern Oregon guest ranch, cider business, farm brewery and outdoor mass gatherings. Unlike the detailed provisions developed for wineries, most of these land uses are poorly or not defined at all in statute or administrative rule.

Whereas the 2011 Legislature established land use laws dealing with some of these issues including SB 960 [ORS 215.213(11), (12) and (13) and 215.283(4), (5) and (6)] , and HB 3280 [ORS 215.452, 215.213(1)(p) and 215.283(1)(n)] issues remain relating to uneven application, definition and context of specific land uses and the continued use of laws that are set to sunset:

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Supports the use of agricultural lands for activities related to entertainment and tourism and other events only under strictly defined circumstances.
2. When defining circumstances, the Board supports the following considerations:

- a. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be directly related to commercial farm use or processing activities occurring on the subject farm or ranch operation;
 - b. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be incidental and subordinate to the farm use of the subject operation. An activity should be considered to be incidental and subordinate if found to be accessory to, supplement or be adjunct to the farm use (as defined in state statute) of the subject farm operation and if it supports farm use. Such a determination should be made on the basis of standards established that are similar to those enacted by the Legislature in SB 960 (2012) codified in ORS 215.213(4) and 215.283(4) and “defined by the Oregon Court of Appeals in *Friends of Yamhill County v. Yamhill County*, 301 Or App 726 (2020).
 - c. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be compatible or can be made compatible with other area farming and ranch operations. Compatibility evaluation should include all activities and events, including those that are not considered a “land use” under Oregon law. Such an evaluation needs to recognize the diversity of Oregon agriculture and the associated agricultural practices that are or may become common to area farms and ranches. Compatibility should also be based on an analysis of the cumulative impacts that existing and proposed activities could have on area farm and ranch operations.
3. Supports better definition of what comprises certain land uses established by law in the exclusive farm use zone that are currently being used to authorized agri-tourism related activities. Examples include “commercial use in conjunction with farm use,” “home occupation,” “private parks” and “mass gatherings.”
 4. Supports land use standards that assure that any food service related to bonafide, regular and ongoing agri-tourism events compliment and are accessory to the agri-tourism activity and associated farm use.
 5. Urges the department to work with community partners to better define the circumstances when commercial activities are appropriate on agricultural lands. The board recognizes that the development of criteria that best protects agriculture and the general public involves many complicated issues. The board advises a comprehensive evaluation and analysis, including an analysis of the cumulative impacts to agricultural operation, before any proposed actions are taken.
 6. Recommends that the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) consider the development of a detailed definition of what “agri-tourism” entails.
 7. Supports consistent and even application of land use standards relating to agri-tourism to and for all types of agricultural operations, similar to what was enacted by the Legislature in SB 960.
 8. This action repeals and replaces Resolution No. 304.

Summary

Siting of agri-tourism, entertainment activities and associated activities on agricultural lands.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Permitted Uses on Lands Zoned Exclusive Farm Use and on High-Value Farmland	Number: 314 Effective Date: 12/19/2024
Work group B: Boyer, Harper, Kliewer, Miller, Orem ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2024 Date of Last Review/Revision: 12/19/2024 Original Resolution Date: 12/04/2014
Board Chair: Elin Miller	Signature on file

Background

Whereas in 1973 Oregon’s unique land use planning law was enacted to protect farmland by establishing exclusive farm use zones (EFUs);

Whereas since the law was enacted, the number of land uses permitted in EFUs has risen from the original five established by state law to over fifty;

Whereas an increasing number of nonfarm land uses and related activities present compatibility issues with farming practices and have implications for rural infrastructure and services, and such nonfarm uses are being permitted on lands zoned EFU and approved without adequate consideration of compatibility with surrounding farm practices;

Conversion of agricultural lands into nonfarm uses such as aggregate mining, wetlands development, public and private parks, short-term rental housing (STRs), schools, energy generation, and urban infrastructure like sewer and water treatment facilities creates urban expansion pressures and impacts farming viability, irrigation access, and local food systems.;

Whereas litigation is increasingly being used to define otherwise undefined land uses within EFU’s;

Whereas the 2022 Census of Agriculture shows that Oregon lost 4.17% (666,543 acres) of land in farms since 2017, for the first time a higher percentage than every western state except Washington state;

Whereas high-value agricultural soils compose less than 8% of Oregon’s total lands and less than 6% of the lands located outside of urban growth boundaries that are designated for agricultural use under state land use planning goals;

Whereas the total area of irrigated, agricultural land in the state comprises 10.3% of the total land in farms yet accounts for 74.3% of the total market value of agricultural products sold;

Whereas irrigation and the necessary delivery infrastructure is key to maintaining and growing the state’s agricultural industry;

A coordinated statewide policy is essential to balance the preservation of agricultural lands with supporting diversified rural economic and on-farm opportunities;

Whereas the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) has initiated a multi-year effort to review the effectiveness of existing laws designed to protect agricultural lands and implement Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zoning with a focus on improving consistency of application of standards and criteria to land use decisions across the state, reducing unnecessary appeals and identifying any policy improvements needed to achieve the objectives of Statewide Planning Goal 3 and ORS 215.243.

Resolution

Be it resolved, the Oregon State Board of Agriculture supports careful siting of nonfarm uses on high-value agricultural land, ensuring they complement rather than conflict with local farming operations, and that adverse impacts are effectively mitigated;

Be it resolved that the Board recommends that a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of nonfarm development within the exclusive farm use zone on agricultural lands be conducted to include:

1. A reexamination of land uses currently permitted within EFUs determining which land uses should be permitted outright versus those that should be permitted subject to land use review;
2. Developing criteria to evaluate and ensure compatibility of nonfarm land uses, with a focus on minimizing disruptions to agricultural practices and infrastructure.
3. Better define nonfarm land uses, ensuring they align with the overarching goal of preserving agricultural production and supporting the economic viability of Oregon's agriculture.
4. Establishing land use regulations that provide for the recognition of high value agricultural areas, potentially including areas, such as productive rangelands, that currently are not considered to be high-value farmland under Oregon land use law and establishing requirements that provide a greater degree of protection for identified areas.
5. Conduct a comprehensive cumulative impact analysis of nonfarm uses on EFU-zoned lands, focusing on agricultural land conversion, irrigation access, and operational sustainability for surrounding farms and ranches.
6. Include long-term monitoring and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the land use laws established to implement Goal 3, Agricultural Lands.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Working Lands Conservation Easements	Number: 315 Effective Date: 09/12/2024
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Kliewer, Miller, Orem ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2027 Date of Last Review/Revision: 09/12/2024 Original Resolution Date: 04/30/2015
Board Chair: Elin Miller	Signature on file

Background

Whereas, agricultural land is a finite natural resource that is threatened in Oregon by increasing urban expansion and by the cumulative conversion by nonfarm land uses.

Whereas, Oregon’s Statewide Planning Program has provided substantial protection to agricultural lands from development since its establishment in 1973 yet according to Oregon Department of Forestry data, between 1984 and 2009, approximately 147,000 acres of farm and rangeland was converted to nonfarm development. Continued threats to the conversion of agricultural land include expansion of urban growth areas and the cumulative impacts to agricultural lands from nonfarm uses authorized by exclusive farm use zoning.

Whereas, there is increasing interest from farmers, ranchers, land trusts and soil and water conservation districts in the use of working lands easements to *compliment* the statewide planning program to protect working agricultural lands from conversion.

Whereas, there is increasing concern about the succession of farmland to the next generation of farmers and ranchers and working lands easements can provide a tool that can help facilitate effective land succession.

Whereas, the use of working lands easements is voluntary, keeps land in private ownership and on the tax rolls.

Whereas, working lands easements can provide landowners with various financial incentives such as federal and state tax deductions, estate tax benefits and purchase of easement values.

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has established a working lands easement program known as the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) that provides funding to states for acquisition for working lands easements. The ACEP program requires matching funds from a local source.

Whereas, there still is concern expressed by many farmers and ranchers as to who would be the best holder of an easement involving working agricultural lands. Entities with a history of working with farmers and ranchers to maintain viable agricultural operations are preferable in many cases. This has led several soil and water conservation districts to become active in promoting the use of easements either by the district itself or by another agency or nonprofit organization with funding support from the subject district. There is increasing interest in examining the ability of the Department of Agriculture to become an active player in the attainment and holding of agricultural lands easements.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Recognizes that the protection and conservation of active agricultural operations and the land base and associated infrastructure needed to support them is a benefit to Oregon's social, ecological and economic health.
2. Supports a focused use of conservation easements that protect working agricultural lands and complement the Oregon Statewide Planning Program. Easements should protect lands that afford the following assets:
 - a) Are or may become highly productive agricultural lands.
 - b) Are significant to a region's agricultural industry
 - c) Have the ability to conduct long-term viable commercial agricultural operations.
 - d) Are under threat of conversion from agricultural use by urban and/or other nonfarm development.
 - e) As a complement to primary protection of working agricultural lands, help facilitate the protection of other natural resources such as water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and other natural areas.
3. Encourages state government, including the Department of Agriculture, to play a more active role in understanding and protecting agricultural lands through the use of working lands conservation easements.
4. Supports the establishment of a fund in state government that could be utilized to help maintain working agricultural lands through the attainment of conservation easements.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Siting of energy transmission and generation facilities on agricultural land	Number: 318 Effective Date: 06/06/2025
Board members: Allen, Boyer, Dill, Kliewer, Lopez, Maag, Miller, Norris, Orem, Zielinski ODA Staff Contact: Jonathan Sandau	Next Review Date: 00/00/2028 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/06/2025 Original Resolution Date: 06/07/2018
Board Chair: Elin Miller	Signature on file

Background

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture has heard from the agricultural community about concerns related to the location and development of power transmission facilities through agricultural lands, including underground and above ground transmission lines and land intensive generation facilities on highly productive agricultural lands.

WHEREAS, energy produced from renewable sources is an important part of the future for our state and nation.

WHEREAS agriculture is both land and soil dependent, while the siting of energy related facilities does not require soils with a high capability for agricultural production.

WHEREAS, deliberations regarding designation and treatment of agricultural lands under the statewide land use planning program have included consideration of actions that designate or treat differently lands zoned exclusive farm use based solely on soil quality without accounting for other factors that are conducive to the production of high-value agricultural products, including livestock.

WHEREAS numerous applications to develop solar energy generation have been approved or are under review throughout the state on highly productive agricultural lands.

WHEREAS the existing state “exceptions process” provides for the consideration and location of land uses otherwise not permitted when reasons merit

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture has in the past been contacted by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission regarding concerns it has related to the increased development of agricultural lands by solar energy generation facilities. In response to the letter from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission the Board discussed issues related to the siting of solar energy generation facilities on productive farmland and expressed several concerns related to location on productive agricultural lands. The discussion by the Board resulted in a written request to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) asking that LCDC initiate an evaluation of the current administrative rules related the siting of solar facilities on lands zoned exclusive farm use.

WHEREAS the Department of Land Conservation and Development has since developed rules (see [OAR 660-033-0130\(37\) and \(38\)](#)) for solar energy siting on designated agricultural lands. These rules are intended to direct energy development to lands that have limited value to wildlife and farming. For example, in the

Willamette Valley solar panels are allowed up to 12 acres in areas with the best soil for farming. Up to 320 acres of land may be used for solar in areas with poor soils and no water rights. While these rules have had some impact in discouraging placement of large facilities in the Willamette Valley, they have not precluded the serial development of solar facilities. They have also not precluded the placement of solar facilities on productive irrigated cropland in Oregon outside the Willamette Valley.

WHEREAS the Oregon Legislature has directed LCDC to conduct rulemaking to identify suitable lands for utility-scale solar development in Eastern Oregon and adjusted the jurisdiction of the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), increasing the acreage threshold for solar development on high-value farmland from 160 to 240 acres, thereby shifting more decision-making authority to counties.

WHEREAS the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has issued new guidance on solar facility development, emphasizing the need for early consultation to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to wildlife habitat.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture is concerned about the conversion of high-value and productive farmland and the implications to ongoing and future agricultural operations by energy facility development on lands zoned exclusive farm use.

The Board:

1. Recognizes that energy produced from renewable sources is an important part of the future for our state and nation. We support developing renewable energy facilities in locations that avoid the conversion of highly productive farmland and minimize disruption to working farm operations. .
2. Recommends the Land Conservation and Development Commission continue to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of existing administrative rules related to the siting of energy facilities on land zoned exclusive farm use.
3. Supports establishing review criteria to evaluate not only the individual impact of proposed energy development on agricultural lands, but also the cumulative impacts of existing and potential similar nonfarm land use on agricultural operations.
4. Supports the evaluation of the impacts of proposed linear energy transmission facilities on agricultural operations that focuses on individual segments of a linear facility that are comprised of similar agricultural characteristics.
5. Supports better definition of highly productive farmland (instead of “high-value farmland”) based on multiple factors such as soils, crop types, operational characteristics, and developed agricultural infrastructure.
6. Supports land use regulations that afford greater protection for highly productive farmland including, land use requirements that preclude the location of energy facilities on highly productive or less valuable farmland when otherwise reasonable alternatives exist.
7. Supports evaluation and reconsideration of existing land use regulation that promotes serial development of energy facilities to skirt other more stringent review standards.
8. Encourages early and ongoing coordination between counties, DLCD, ODA, ODFW, and agricultural partners to improve the siting process and protect both agricultural production and ecological resources.

Oregon Department of **ENERGY**

Oregon Energy Strategy
December 4, 2025

Janine Benner, Director
Jessica Reichers,
Technology and Policy
Manager





OREGON DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Leading Oregon to a safe, equitable, clean, and sustainable energy future.

Our Mission

The Oregon Department of Energy helps Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. We advance solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition, protect the environment and public health, and responsibly balance energy needs and impacts for current and future generations.

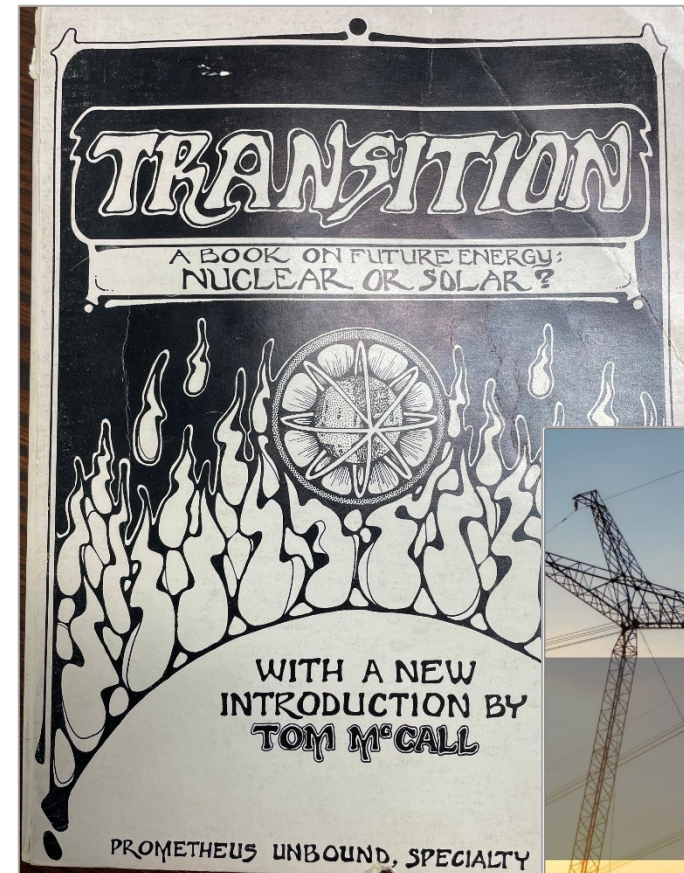
What We Do

On behalf of Oregonians across the state, the Oregon Department of Energy achieves its mission by providing:

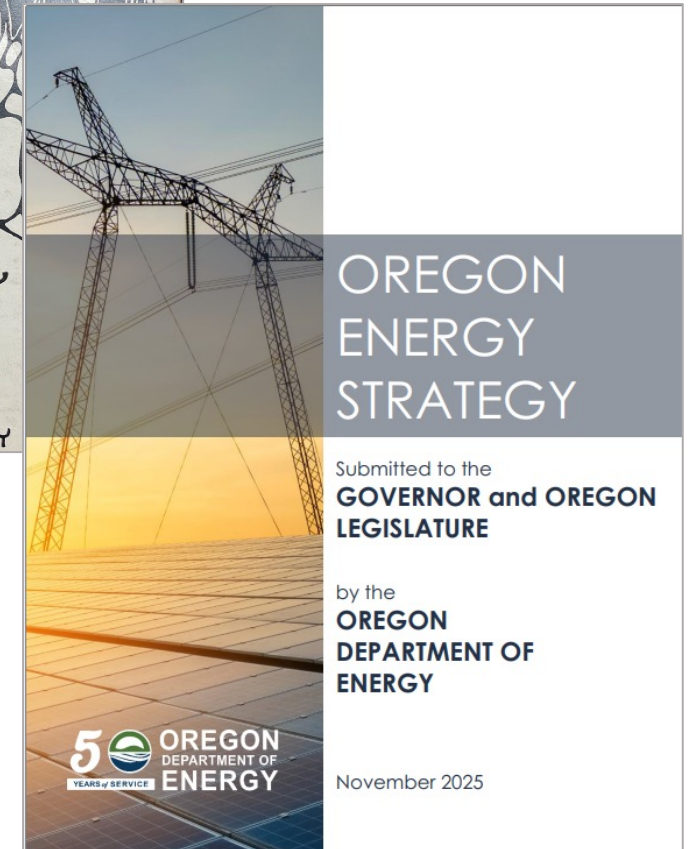
- A Central Repository of Energy Data, Information, and Analysis
- A Venue for Problem-Solving Oregon's Energy Challenges
- Energy Education and Technical Assistance
- Regulation and Oversight
- Energy Programs and Activities

Agenda

- 1.The context
- 2.The strategy
- 3.Implementation



1975



2025

LEGISLATIVE GUIDANCE – HB 3630

Develop a comprehensive, economy-wide, and statewide energy strategy that:

- Identifies pathways to achieve the state's energy policy objectives
- Recommends legislation or changes to policy
- Is developed through robust engagement



Why an Energy Strategy?

- Diverse policy landscape
- Demand growth driving historical investment cycle
- Growing risk from wildfires and extreme weather
- Capturing opportunity of new technologies

An energy strategy can help:

- Align policy development, regulation, investment, and technical assistance
- Identify pathways to meet the state's policy goals, considering different technologies, approaches, and tradeoffs
- Maintain affordability, reliability
- Strengthen the economy
- Prioritize equity
- Maximize benefits and minimize harms

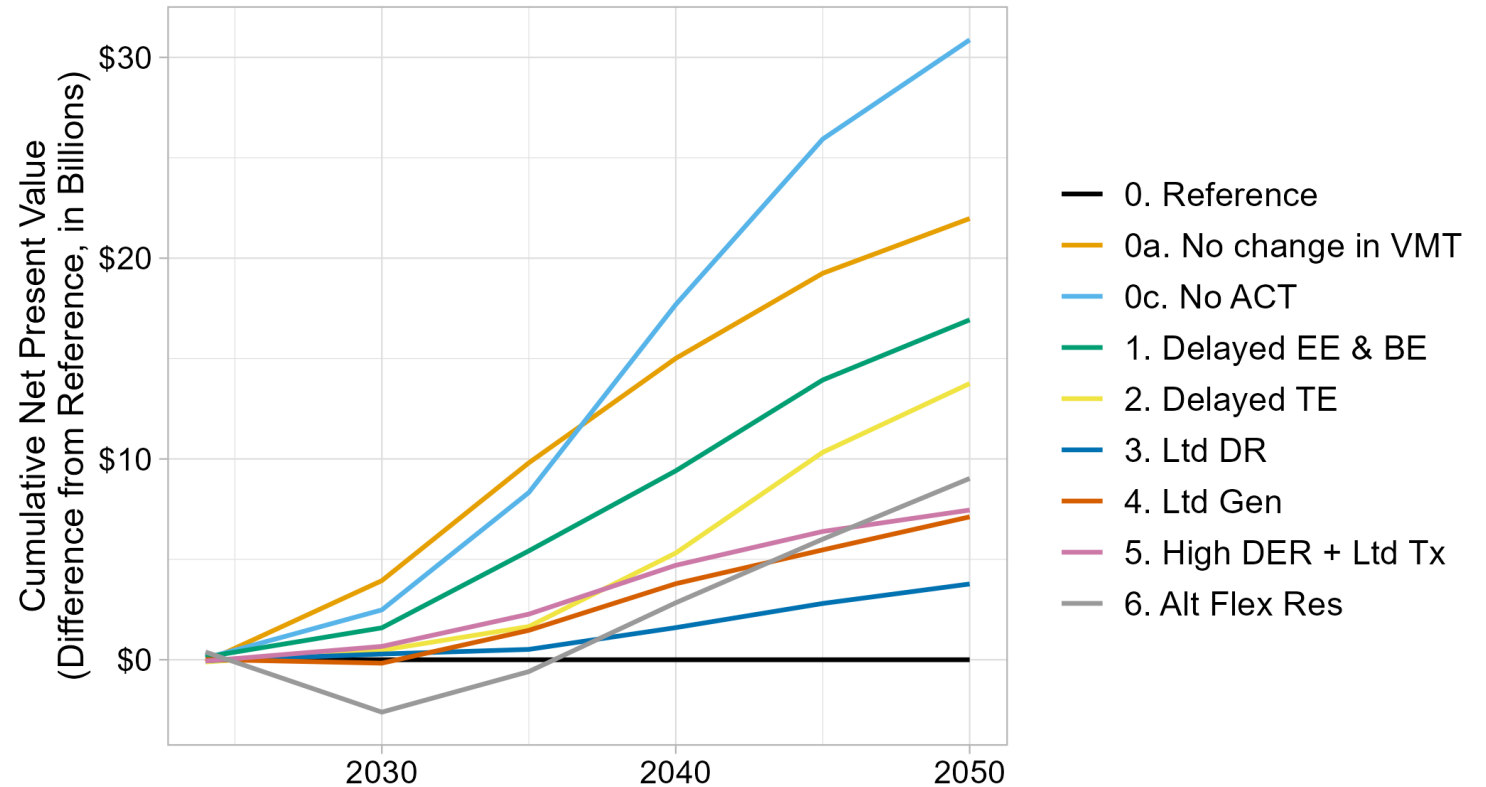
MODELING THE ENERGY SYSTEM

- Economywide model comprising electricity, transportation fuels, and direct use fuels sectors.
- Created a least-cost portfolio of energy resources to achieve objectives and goals.
- Generated scenarios (pathways) based on different assumptions.
- Produced insights into the interactions between sectors and tradeoffs of different pathways.

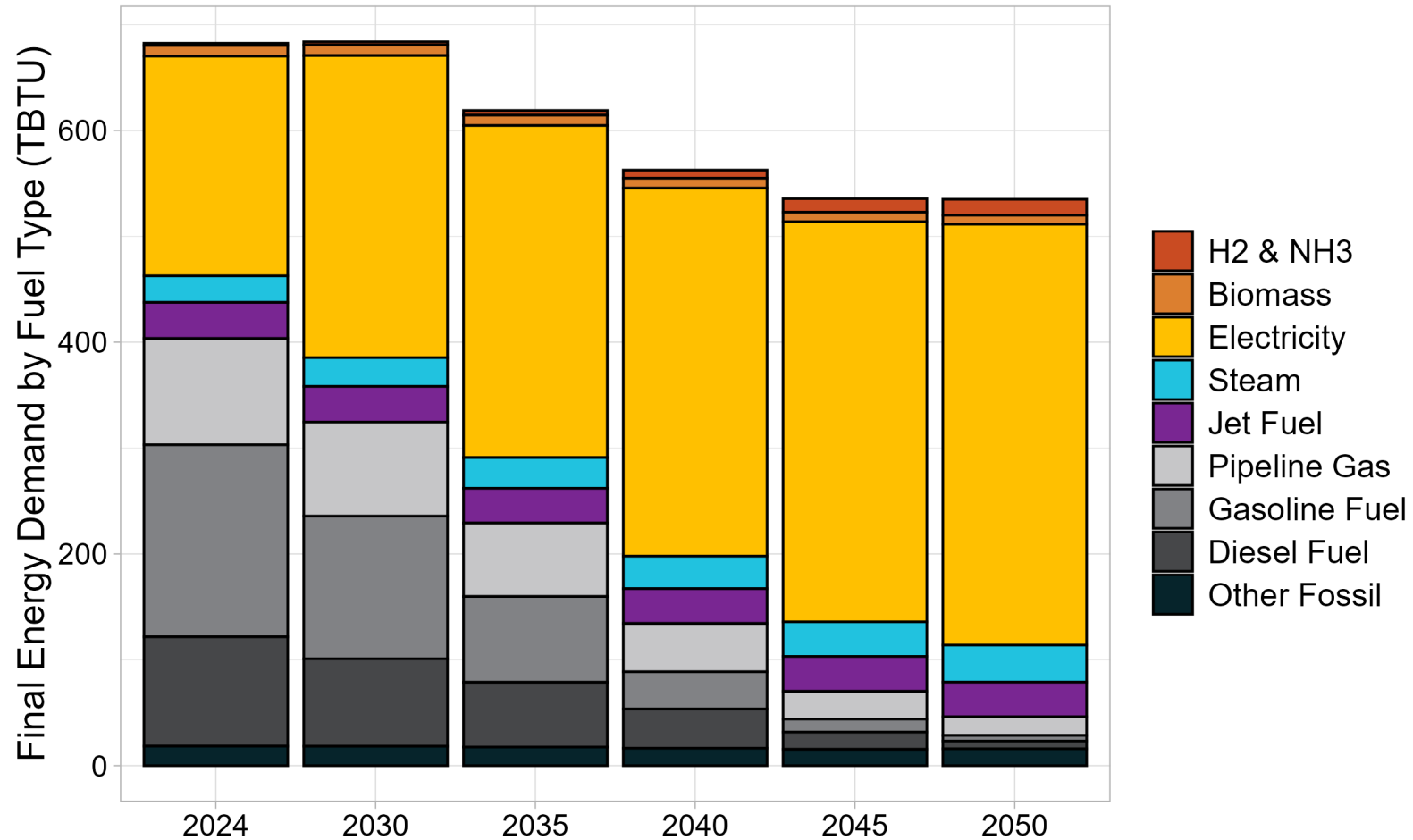


LEAST-COST PATHWAY

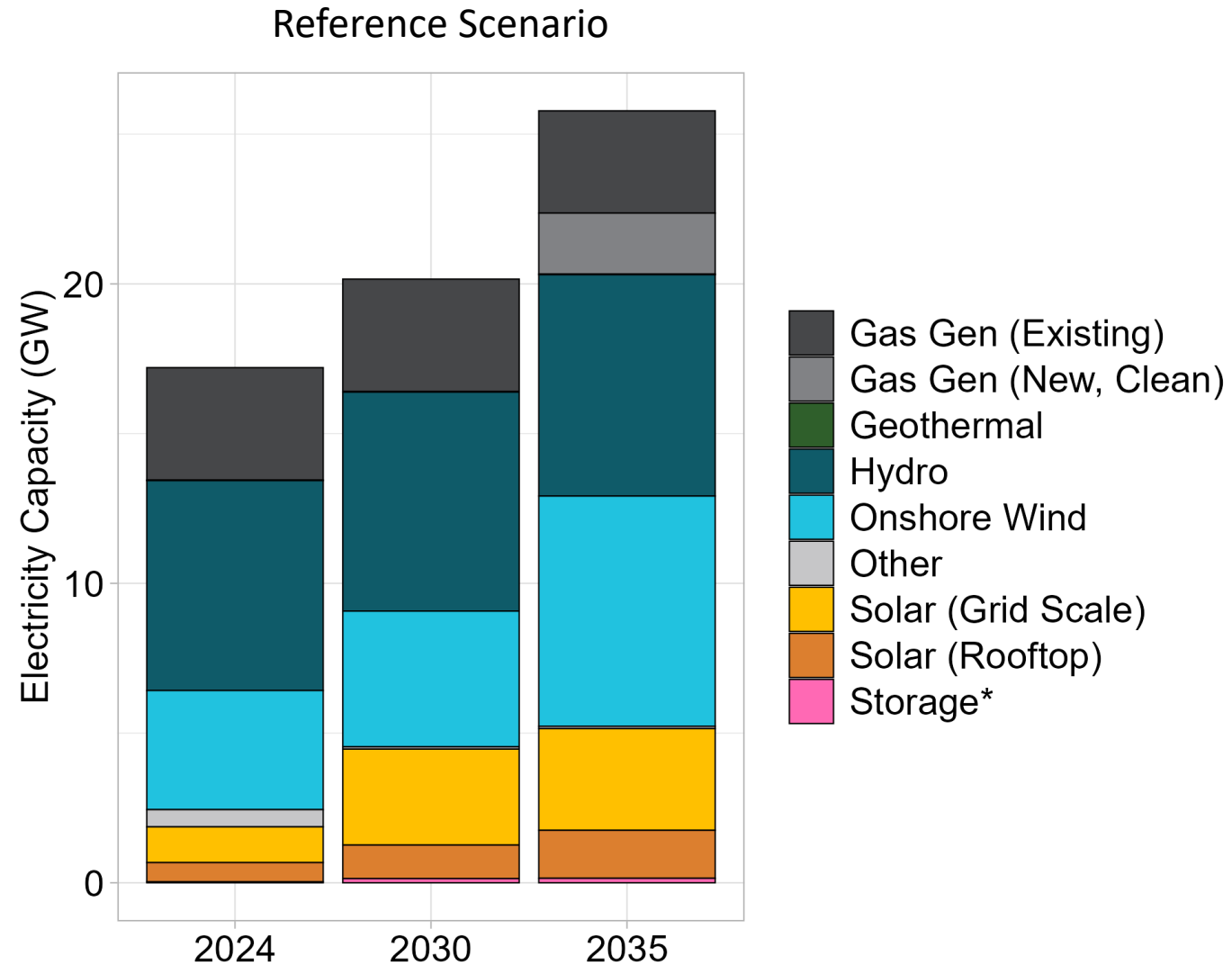
- The Reference Scenario from the model was the least-cost pathway to meet our energy and climate objectives
- Other pathways modeled cost more



ENERGY DEMAND BY FUEL IN OREGON



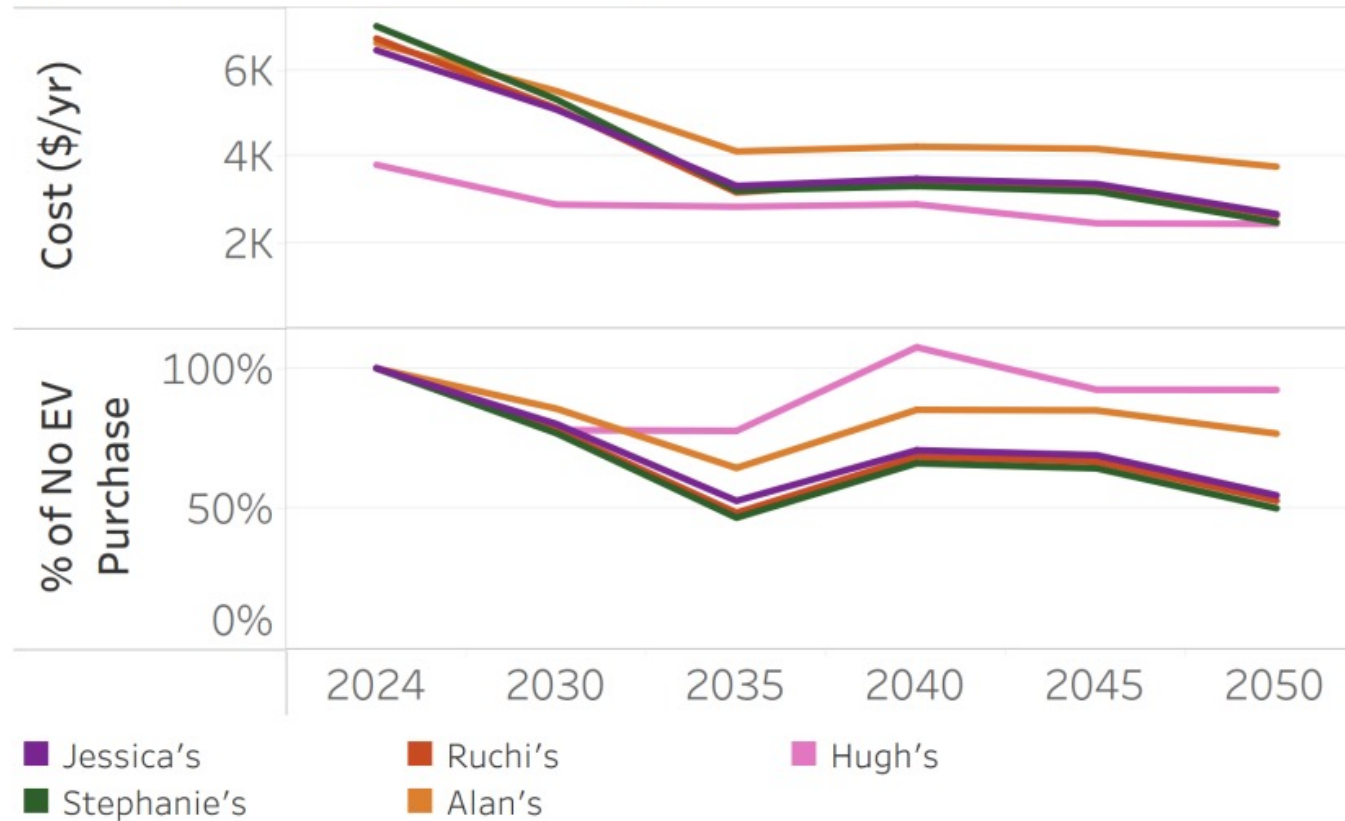
ELECTRIC GENERATION CAPACITY



* Represents less than 1 GW

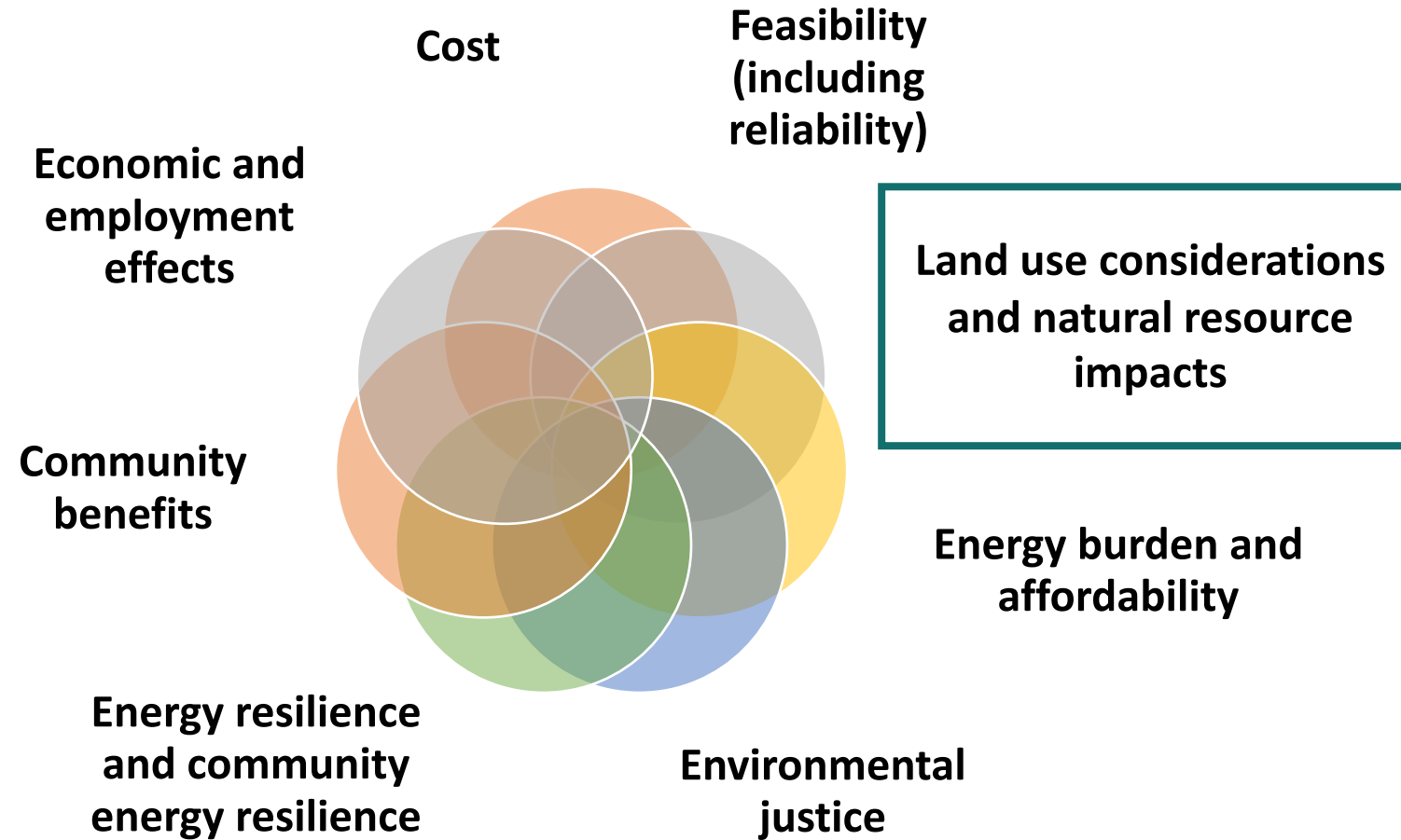
ENERGY WALLET: EV UPTAKE

Savings Across Sample Households
(\$0.20/kWh, \$1.50/therm)



Note: Customers are assumed not to receive an IRA credit. Assumes customers make no heat pump purchase.

KEY CONSIDERATIONS

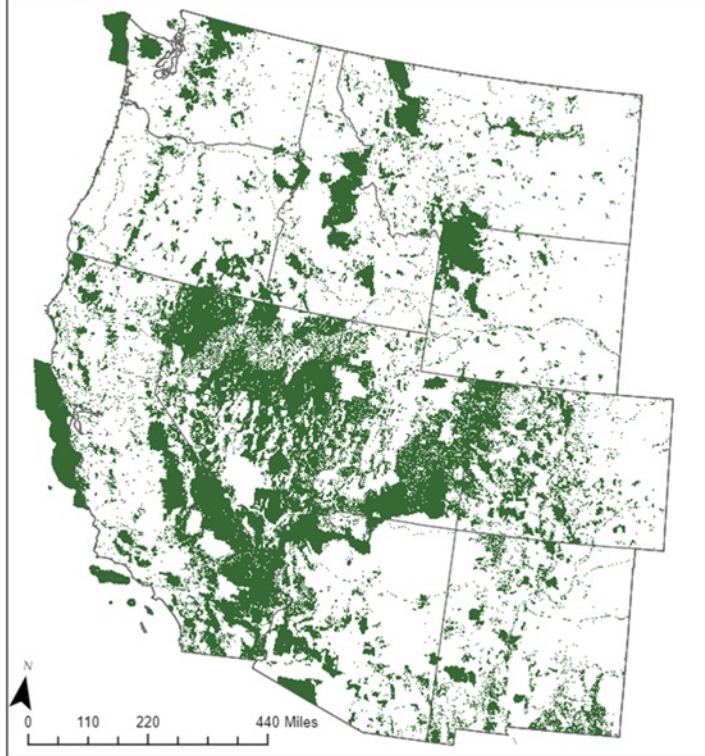


REFERENCE SCENARIO LAND USE ASSUMPTIONS

EXCLUDED FROM MODEL						PARTIALLY EXCLUDED
Urban	Tribal Lands	Wetlands, Water Bodies, Critical Habitats	Protected Conservation Lands, Forests	High-Value Cropland	Pasture & Rangeland	Lower-Value Farmland
Cities, towns, built environments	Excluded to respect sovereignty (unless explicitly consulted)	Wetlands, rivers, lakes, riparian zones, endangered species habitat, wildlife refuges	Parks, preserves, designated conservation zones, ecologically sensitive forests, timberlands	Class I or II agricultural soils (irrigated or non-Irrigated) and land producing specialty crops or perennials outside the Willamette Valley	Excluded (parks, preserves, designated conservation zones)	Excluded or deprioritized to protect food production

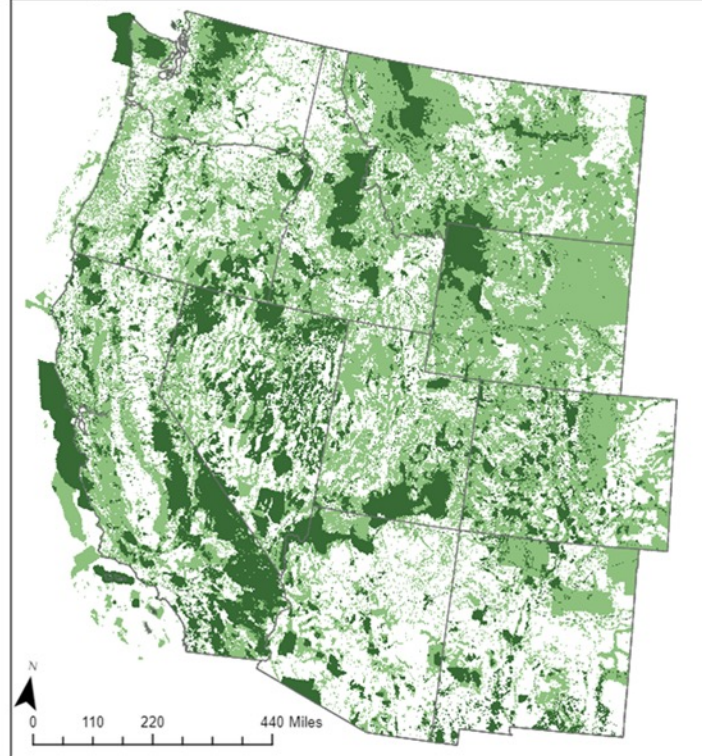
LAND USE CONSIDERATIONS

Siting Level 1



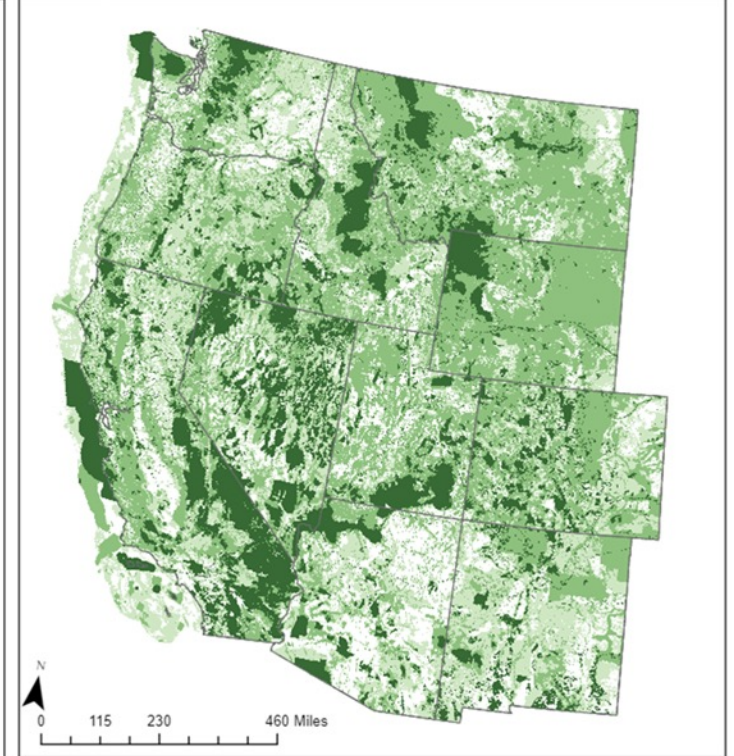
Excludes Category 1

Siting Level 2



Excludes Category 1, 2

Siting Level 3



Excludes Category 1, 2, 3

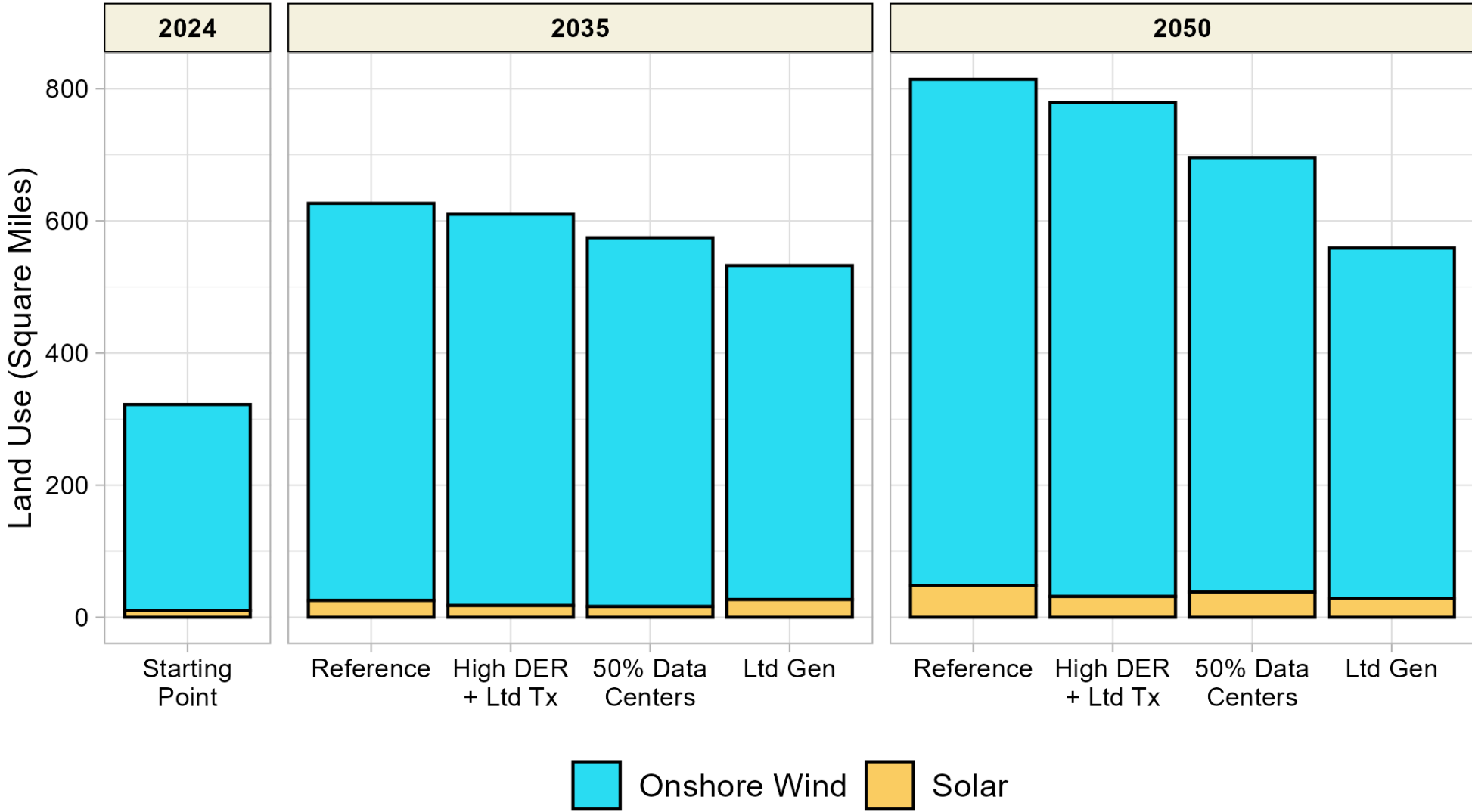
<https://www.nature.org/en-us/what-we-do/our-priorities/tackle-climate-change/climate-change-stories/power-of-place/>

LAND AREA USED FOR WIND AND SOLAR POWER, SELECT SCENARIOS

23,437 sq miles – total farmland in use

46,000 sq miles – total forest area

Reference 2050 – less than 1% of Oregon lands



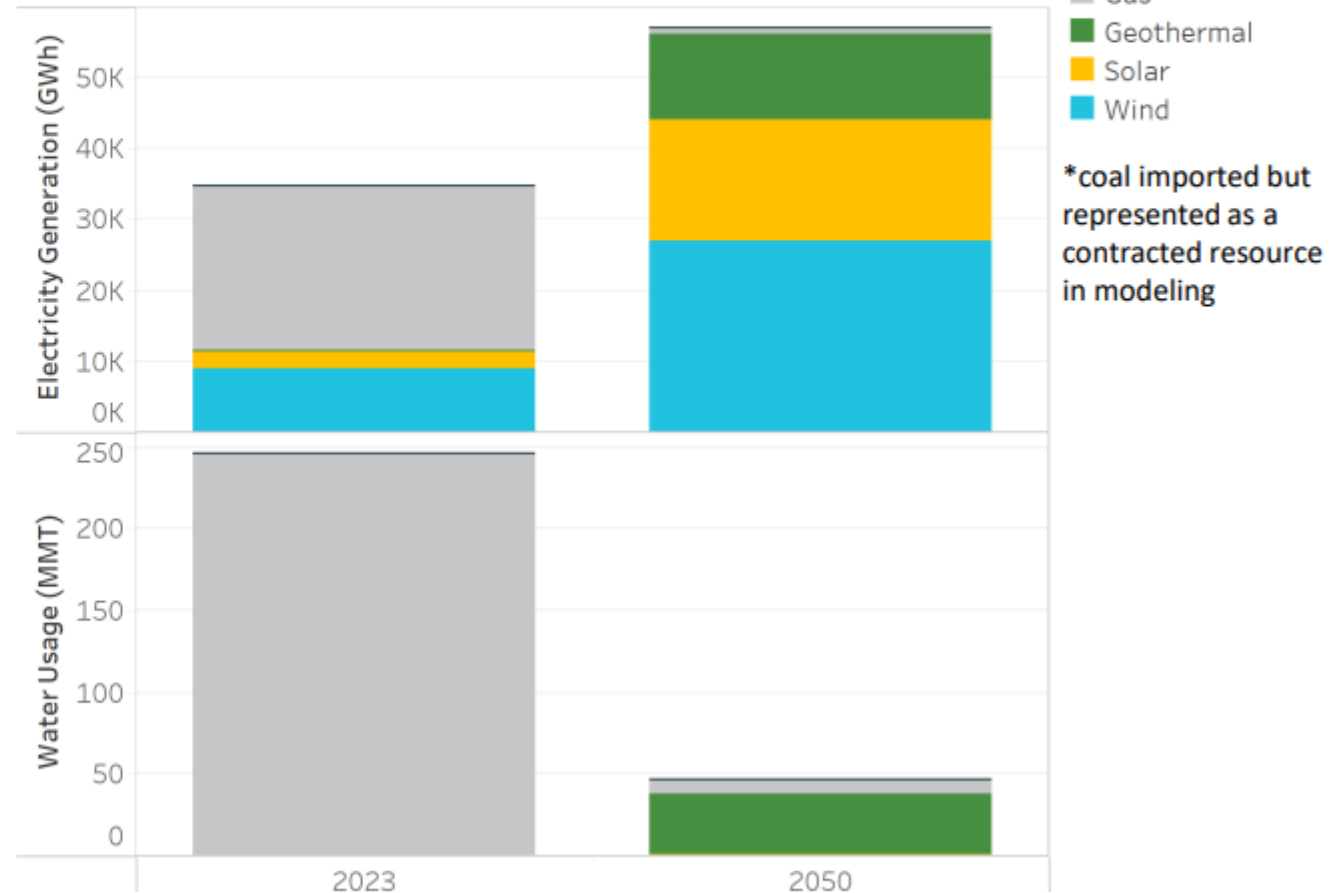
REFERENCE SCENARIO LAND AREA USED FOR WIND AND SOLAR POWER IN 2050



CHANGES IN WATER CONSUMPTION

- Water usage in electricity generation decreases by 81% from 2023 to 2050 as thermal electricity generation is replaced
 - Showing 2023, the most recent available year of historical generation data from EIA, and modeled 2050 numbers
 - Not showing hydro

Water Use by Oregon Electricity Generation



KEY INSIGHTS

1. Growing electricity sector
2. Tech loads
3. Transmission expansion
4. Need for a diversity of resources
5. Electrification and efficiency
6. Low-carbon fuels



Questions on
modeling?

ENGAGEMENT

- Tribal engagement
- Inter-Agency Steering Group
- Advisory Group
- Technical working groups
- Policy working groups
- Webinar info sessions
- Listening sessions
- Written comment periods & open portal



ADVISORY & WORKING GROUPS

Advisory Group

Aaron Orlowski, Eugene Water and Electric Board | Andrea Kriener, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts | Mary Kyle McCurdy, 1000 Friends of Oregon | Andrew Mulkey, 1000 Friends of Oregon | Jimmy Lindsay, Portland General Electric | Bryan Adams, CoEnergy Propane, LLC | Cathy Ehli, Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises | Charity Fain, Community Energy Project | Christine Golightly, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission | Cory Scott, Pacific Power | Diane Brandt and Emily Griffith, Renewable Northwest | Erin Childs, Renewable Hydrogen Alliance | Fred Heutte, NW Energy Coalition | Ivy Quach, Qb Fabrication and Welding | Jeff Hammarlund, Portland State University | Jennifer Bies, Port of Portland | Jennifer Hill-Hart, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board | Joshua Basofin, Climate Solutions | Juan Barraza, Latino Founders | Lauren Link and Laura Tabor, The Nature Conservancy | Mary Moerlins, NW Natural | Elaine Prause, Energy Trust of Oregon | Nate Hill, Amazon Web Services | Patrick Ford Mills, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation | Rakesh Aneja, Daimler | Robert Wallace, Wy'East Resource Conservation And Development | Scott Simms, Public Power Council | Shannon Souza, Sol Coast Consulting and Design | Tim McMahan, Stoel Rives LLP | Tucker Billman, Oregon Rural Electric Cooperative Association

Working Group Members and Technical Support

Kerry Meade, Building Potential | Melissa Sokolowsky, Building Potential | Noemi Ortiz, Cascade Natural Gas | Claire Prihoda, Climate Solutions | Christine Golightly, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission | Shelley Beaulieu, Dragonfly Consulting | Spencer Moersfelder, Energy Trust of Oregon | Adam Shick, Energy Trust of Oregon | Wade Carey, Monmouth Power | David Clement, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance | Laney Ralph, NW Natural | Rebeca Enriquez, NW Natural | Mike Freese, Oregon People's Utility District Association | Jake Wise, Portland General Electric | Sarah Buchwalter, Portland General Electric | Jeff Mitchell, Resource Innovations | Rick Dunn, Resource Innovations | Brennan Gantner, Skip Technology Inc | Patrick Sterns, SunPower/Oregon Solar + Storage Industries Assc'n | Alec Shebiel, Umatilla Electric Cooperative | Robert Wallace, Wy'East Resource Conservation And Development | Ingrid Fish, City of Portland | Pam Neild, City of Portland | Cory Ann Wind, Clean Fuels Alliance | Brett Morgan, Climate Solutions | Michael Graham, Columbia Willamette Clean Cities | Juan Serpa Munoz, Eugene Water & Electric Board | Billy Curtiss, Eugene Water & Electric Board | Marshall McGrady, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48 | Alma Pinto, NW Energy Coalition | Derek Hofbauer, Oregon Transit Association | Jana Jarvis, Oregon Trucking Association | Kate Hawley, Pacific Power | Lewis Lem, Port of Portland | Hannah Morrison, Portland Bureau of Transportation | Greg Alderson, Portland General Electric | Rebecca Smith, Renewable Hydrogen Alliance | Erin Childs, Renewable Hydrogen Alliance | Kyle Whatley, TriMet | Indi Namkoong, Verde | Antonio Machado, Western State Petroleum Alliance | Karl Haapala, Oregon State University Industrial Assessment Center | Matthew Doyle, NW Natural | Eric Wood, Cascade Natural Gas | Nikita Daryanani, Coalition of Communities of Color | Pam Barrow, Food Northwest | Courtney Lee, Amazon | Katherine Krajnak, Prosper Portland | Sam Lehr, Coalition for RNG | Carra Sahler, Green Energy Institute | Lee Archer, Portland General Electric | Susan Hermenet, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance | Nora Apter, Oregon Environmental Council | Will Gehkre, Northwest Energy Coalition | Sharla Moffett, Oregon Business and Industry | Tim Miller, Oregon Business for Climate | Ranfis Villatoro, BlueGreen Alliance | David Van't Hof, Climate Solutions | Bob Jenks, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board | Pat DeLaquil, DecisionWare Group | Mobilizing Climate Action Together | Mitch Wagner, Emerald People's Utility District | Martha Dibblee, Self (former EFSC member) | Jon Moreno-Ramirez, Idaho Power Company | Robert Westerman, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers | Silvia Tanner, Multnomah County Office of Sustainability | Brenda Montanez Barragan, NW Natural | Zachary Sielicky, NW Natural | Annika Roberts,

Northwest Power and Conservation Council | Tim Hemstreet, PacifiCorp | Ormand Hilderbrand, PaTu Wind Farm | Troy Gagliano, Portland General Electric | Emily Griffith, Renewable Northwest | Shannon Souza, Sol Coast Consulting & Design | Blake Weathers, Umatilla Electric Cooperative | Anahi Segovia Rodriguez, Verde | Mary Moerlins, NW Natural | Alyn Spector, Cascade Natural Gas | Tamra Mabbott, Morrow County | Petra Schuetz, Benton County | Nolan Plese, League of Oregon Cities | Mike Totey, Oregon Hunters Association | Andrew Mulkey, 1000 Friends of Oregon | Jack Southworth, Oregon Cattlemen's Association | Kelly Campbell, Columbia Riverkeeper | Ann Vileisis, Kalmiopsis Audubon Society | Amy Berg Pickett, Sunstone Energy | Kelly Howsley-Glover, Wasco County | Keith Johnson, Portland General Electric | Michael Eng, Rancher | Lauren Link, The Nature Conservancy | Lisa Arkin, Beyond Toxics | Nick Caleb, Breach Collective | Greer Klepacki, Community Energy Project | Sarah Wochele, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board | Noah Scott, Euvalcree | Christina Zamora, Klamath and Lake Community Action Services | Alessandra de la Torre, Northwest Energy Coalition | Masha Cole-Tagaeva, Oregon Public Health Institute | Kaleb Lay, Oregon Rural Action | Jess Grady-Benson, Rogue Climate | Hannah Harrod, Rural Organizing Project | John Maddalena, Self Enhancement Inc | John Seng, Spark Northwest | Mark Healy, Tribal Consultant | Ryan Brown, Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance | Ian Casey, NW Natural | Kevin Duell, NW Natural | Hallie Gallinger, PacifiCorp | David Heslam, Earth Advantage | Fred Heutte, NW Energy Coalition | Dirk Larson, The Home Performance Guild of Oregon | Casey McDonald, RDH Building Science Inc | Maddy Salzman, Earth Advantage | Matt Tidwell, Portland General Electric | Elizabeth Torske, Cascade Natural Gas | Forest Tanier-Gesner, PAE | Bret van den Heuvel, Gensco Inc | Mike McArthur, Community Renewable Energy Association | Brent Bishoff, Coos Curry Electric Cooperative | Claire Valentine-Fossum, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board | Marc Patterson, Idaho Power | Lennie Ellis, IBEW | Chris Carpenter, IBEW | Eli Asher, LineVision | John Dietz, McMinnville Power and Light | Jake Stephens, NewSun Energy | Sidney Villanueva, NIPPC | Mike McKenzie, NW Natural | Edward Thurman, NW Natural | Scott Beyer, PacifiCorp | Shaun Foster, Portland General Electric | Gohar Shafiq, Portland General Electric | Diane Brandt, Renewable Northwest | Rory Isbell, Central Oregon Landwatch | Justin DeMello, City of Hillsboro | Joshua Basofin, Climate Solutions | Edison Elizeh, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs | Brian Booth, Eugene Water & Electric Board | Jason Heuser, Eugene Water & Electric Board | Jared Hansen, Idaho Power Company | Nick Carpenter, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Local 659 | Jennifer Joly, Oregon Municipal Electric Utilities Association | Jacob Goodspeed, Portland General Electric | Nancy Bennett, Portland General Electric | Jason Altamirano, Titan Freight Systems | Tom Pardee, Avista | Devin McGreal, Cascade Natural Gas | Bret Stevens, Daimler | Kelly Hoell, Eugene Water & Electric Board | Stu Green, Forth | Jamie Johnson, Green Energy Institute | Logan Telles, League of Oregon Cities | Charlie Tracy, Oregon Trail Electric Cooperative | Cassandra Jackson, Port of Portland | Ryan Perry, Tillamook People's Utility District | Dan Dorran, Umatilla County | Robert Waldher, Umatilla County | John Plaza, SkyNRG | Sam Wade, Coalition for Renewable Natural Gas | Bryan Adams, CoEnergy Propane, LLC | Brittany Park, NW Natural | Bob Kaplan, City of Ashland | Paul Hawkins, City of Portland Bureau of Planning and Sustainability | Charity Fain, Community Energy Project | Nick Cheke, Community Energy Project | Ken Morgan, Gensco Inc | Kellye Dundon, NW Natural | Ryan Tran, Oregon Citizens' Utility Board | Zachary Mulholland, Beyond Toxics | Aide Gutierrez, Euvalcree | Amber Faist, Northwest Native Chamber | Bonneville Power Administration | Pacific Northwest National Laboratory | Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory | Regulatory Assistance Project | Energy Innovation

FEEDBACK AND THEMES FROM TRIBAL ENGAGEMENT

Energy independence and sovereignty. Advance Tribal energy sovereignty and self-determination by investing in Tribal-led energy programs and infrastructure development.

Affordable energy options. Ensure more energy affordability in Tribal communities through targeted, sustainable investments and policy reforms.

Access to decision making. Embed Tribal sovereignty and Tribal voices in decision making processes and practices relating to energy planning, policymaking, regulatory design, and program design.

Stabilization of funding cycles. Secure stable and culturally responsive funding mechanisms, including dedicated Tribal set-asides in state funding programs.

Consultation, cultural, and natural resource values. Ensure consultation is well-defined for each Tribe and consultation requirements are consistent across agencies so that Traditional Ecological Knowledge and resource values are incorporated into decision making about programs, policies and projects.



Questions on
engagement?

THE OREGON ENERGY STRATEGY

Pathways



Policies



Actions



FIVE PATHWAYS TO GUIDE OREGON



1. Energy Efficiency. Advance energy efficiency across buildings, industry, and transportation sectors, including by expanding access to and appeal of multimodal transportation options, to deliver the benefits of a more efficient energy system.



2. Clean Electricity. Secure reliable, affordable, and clean electricity by expanding the electricity system and incorporating load flexibility.



3. Electrification. Increase electrification of end uses across transportation, buildings, and industry, while safeguarding reliability, promoting affordability, and maximizing opportunities to use load flexibility as a resource.



4. Low-Carbon Fuels. Advance the use of low-carbon fuels in the hardest-to-electrify end uses and to maintain a reliable electric grid.



5. Resilience. Strengthen resilience across all levels of the energy system, including utilities, communities, and customers, enhancing Oregon's ability to adapt to climate change and mitigate other risks.

Implementation of each pathway must consider burdens and benefits to environmental justice communities and apply an equity lens to prevent further disproportionate impacts to historically and currently marginalized communities.

BALANCING BENEFITS & RISKS

Example: Facilitate energy infrastructure enhancement and expansion while avoiding, minimizing, mitigating negative impacts

BENEFITS

- Meet growing energy needs
- Enhance electricity reliability
- Economic development
- Improved air quality
- Reduced water consumption for electricity generation
- Lower greenhouse gas emissions

RISKS & BARRIERS

- Affordability concerns with costs of new investments, changes in federal support, and limited capital from utilities or state
- Need to mitigate potential negative impacts on Tribal cultural resources, affected communities, natural and working lands and waters
- Wildfire liability affecting the cost of debt and ability to finance projects
- Required pace of resource upgrades and additions

EQUITY AND JUSTICE FRAMEWORK

Six approaches for decisionmakers to consider that advance meaningful involvement and equity when crafting and implementing energy policy:

1. Provide Equitable Access to Decision-Making Processes
2. Ensure Equitable Access to Infrastructure Development Processes
3. Invest In Long Term Incentive Programs for Environmental Justice Communities
4. Promote Holistic Workforce Development in Environmental Justice Communities
5. Develop Partnerships and Resources in Environmental Justice Communities
6. Consider The Effects of Energy Policies on Natural and Working Lands, Cultural Resources, and the Broader Environment

CLEAN ELECTRICITY POLICIES

- Facilitate **energy infrastructure** enhancement and expansion while avoiding, minimizing, mitigating negative impacts
- Enable consumers to support grid needs by shifting the **timing of electricity consumption**
- Consult and **engage with Tribes** regarding energy development to understand their concerns and identify opportunities to support Tribal priorities while minimizing impacts
- **Collaborate with others in the region** (BPA, states, regional entities) to address Oregon's needs as part of a regional grid

Questions on pathways and policies?



LEGISLATIVE & POLICY ACTIONS

The energy strategy presents 42 near-term actions for consideration by the Governor's office, legislators, and state agencies.

Actions are presented by sector:



Cross-cutting



Transportation



Buildings



Industry



Electricity



Fuels

Some actions will involve agencies advancing actions that are **within their authority and resources**. In others, implementation **may require legislation** to support agency resources or to create new programs, policies, or authorities.



IMPLEMENTING THE ENERGY STRATEGY

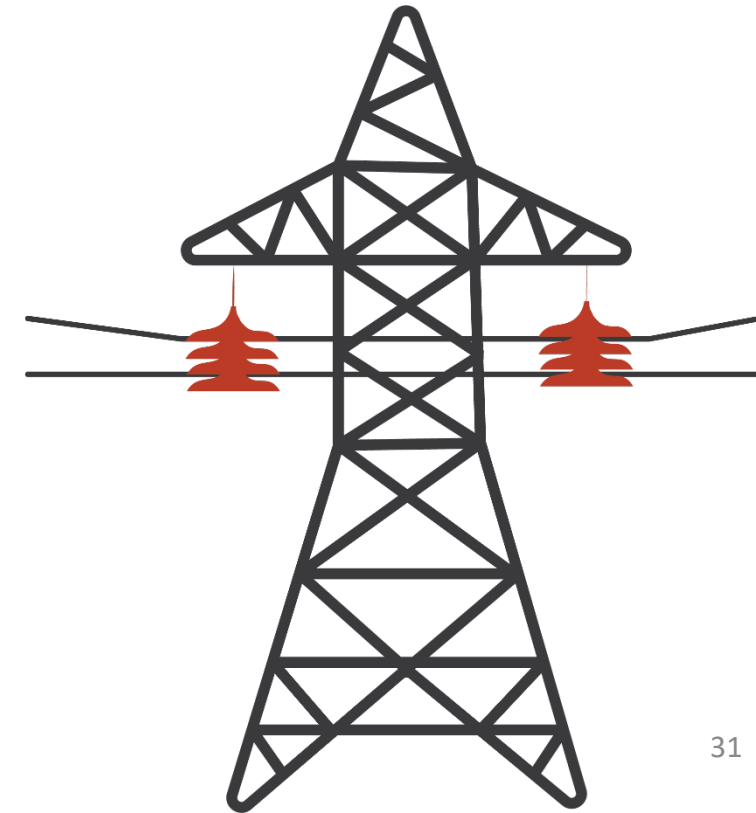
Near-term Priority Areas

- Reliability and resilience
- Affordability and access to clean technologies
- First steps that can be taken with minimal impact on state budget



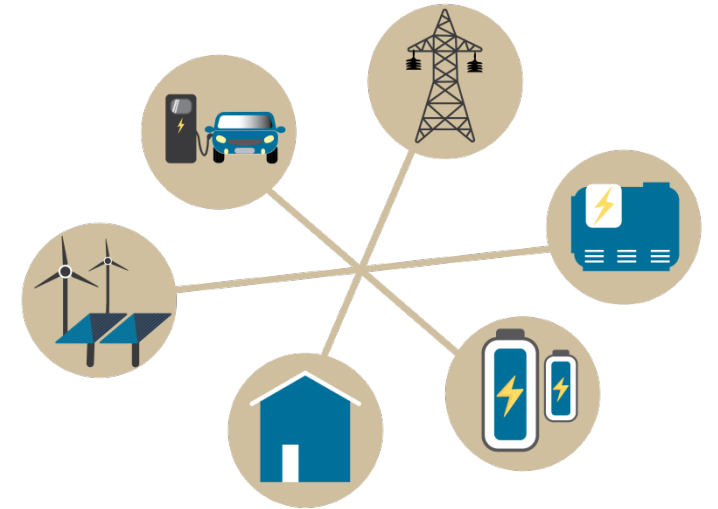
SAMPLE POLICY ACTIONS

- ✓ Expand **energy infrastructure resilience** programs
- ✓ Review of balanced **wildfire utility liability** solutions to enable utility accountability and customer cost containment
- ✓ Review near-term **transmission** needs, identify opportunities for state to support transmission, inform transmission entity.
- ✓ Enhance **Oregon Renewable Energy Siting Assessment Tool** to better understand the availability of land for electricity infrastructure projects
- ✓ Evaluate **incentives** for local electricity generation investments and opportunities



SAMPLE POLICY ACTIONS

- ✓ Establish a **revolving loan fund** to support the energy transition and resilience
- ✓ Align **Oregon Economic Development Strategy** with the Energy Strategy.
- ✓ Develop a **community benefits framework** to address outreach and engagement, workforce needs, prioritizing environmental justice communities, and equitable practices
- ✓ Establish a **statewide technical assistance program** to help fleets transition to zero-emission vehicles
- ✓ Support strategic planning and investment by Oregon businesses through a **low-carbon fuels deployment roadmap**.





Oregon Energy Strategy

A state energy strategy that identifies pathways to achieving the state’s energy policy objectives.

[View the Full Energy Strategy Document](#)

- [About the Oregon Energy Strategy](#)
- [Equity and Justice Framework](#)
- [Five Pathways to Guide Oregon](#)
- [Legislative & Policy Actions](#)
- [Modeling & Data](#)

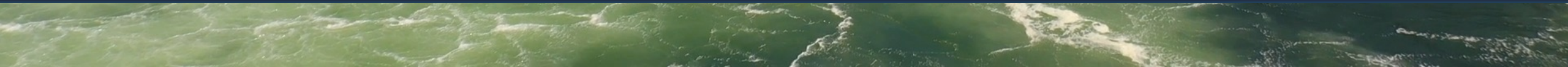




Questions?

<https://energystategy.oregon.gov/>

<https://odoe.powerappsportals.us/en-US/energy-strategy/>



Oregon State Board of Agriculture

December 5, 2025

Staci L. Simonich, Ph.D., M.B.A.

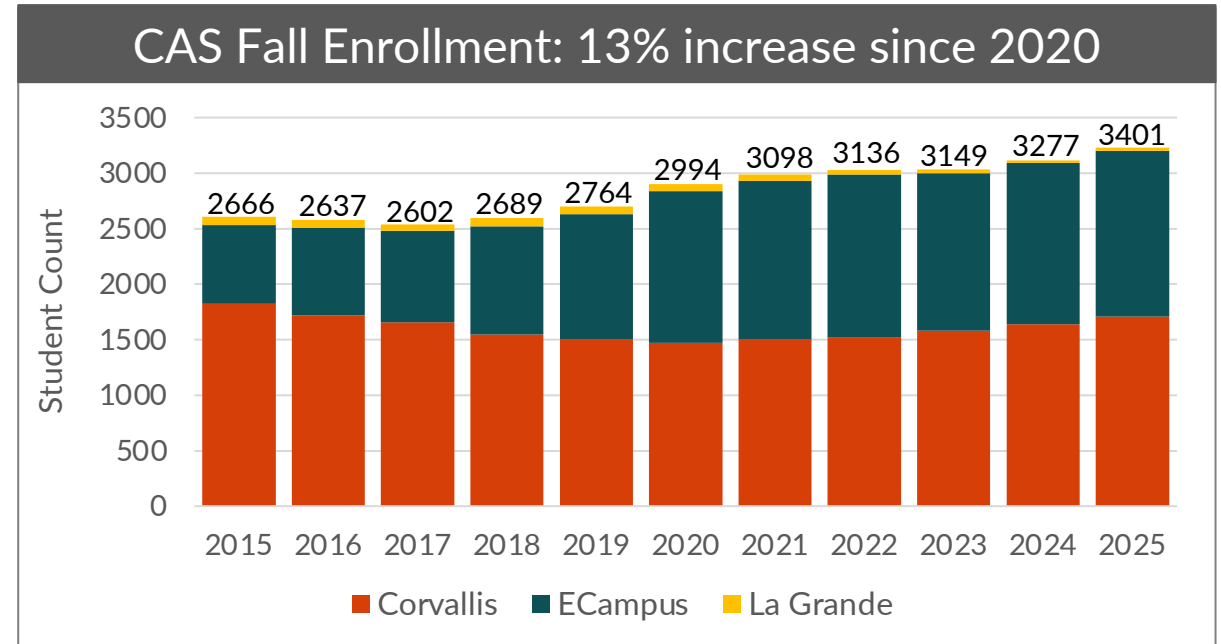
Dean and Reub Long Professor, College of Agricultural Sciences

Director of the Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station

CAS Student Enrollment

Student enrollment has increased steadily

- Corvallis (53%), Ecampus (47%)
- 40% of CAS students are Transfer students
- 30% are First Gen students
- 39% are Pell Eligible students
- 72% of Transfer students are Ecampus students



Withycombe Hall Renovation & Beaver Classic Creamery



Over 1500 people showed up to celebrate the opening

CAS Research FY25

\$85M in research expenditures, up from \$60M in 2020

20% of total OSU Research

**\$64M in research awards FY25 ↓↓↓ from \$110M in FY24
with USDA-NIFA offline Jan – Aug 2025**

- 598 proposals submitted in FY25, up 17% over past five years
- Funding from 126 sources
- 52% of awards from 20 different federal agencies



Aligning CAS with the goals of PWS

The image is a cover for the Oregon State University Strategic Plan 2025-2030. It features a dark blue background on the left with white text. The text reads "COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURAL SCIENCES" at the top, followed by "STRATEGIC PLAN 2025-2030" and "CULTIVATING PROSPERITY" in a large, stylized font. At the bottom left is the Oregon State University logo, which includes a shield with a tree and a plow, and the text "Oregon State University". On the right side, there is a collage of four images: a landscape with mountains and trees, a person in a yellow shirt working with a machine, a person on a horse herding cattle, and a basket of fresh tomatoes.



The College of Agriculture

The College of Agriculture is a leader in providing a high-quality education to students and professionals alike. Our faculty and staff are dedicated to providing the best possible experience for our students and professionals alike. We are proud to be a part of the College of Agriculture and to be a part of the College of Agriculture's mission to provide a high-quality education to students and professionals alike.

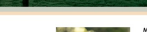
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Vision

As the College's leading organization, we envision a thriving future rooted in agricultural, food, and natural resource sciences. We are committed to providing a high-quality education to students and professionals alike. We are proud to be a part of the College of Agriculture and to be a part of the College of Agriculture's mission to provide a high-quality education to students and professionals alike.

Commitment to Inclusive Excellence

The College is committed to providing a high-quality education to students and professionals alike. We are committed to providing a high-quality education to students and professionals alike. We are proud to be a part of the College of Agriculture and to be a part of the College of Agriculture's mission to provide a high-quality education to students and professionals alike.



Message from the Dean

As the College of Agriculture's leader, we are proud to welcome the College of Agriculture's mission to provide a high-quality education to students and professionals alike. We are committed to providing a high-quality education to students and professionals alike. We are proud to be a part of the College of Agriculture and to be a part of the College of Agriculture's mission to provide a high-quality education to students and professionals alike.

Mission

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View our Strategic Plan for Inclusive Excellence from Items Here

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CAS Strategic Advantages

The College of Agricultural Sciences brings strengths and unique opportunities to support the student's initiative. Our first advantage is:

Global Perspectives and Connections: We are internationally recognized for research, education and outreach programs that support the student's initiative. Our first advantage is:

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Global Perspectives and Connections: We are internationally recognized for research, education and outreach programs that support the student's initiative. Our first advantage is:

3400 Students

40 Degree Programs

280 Faculty

\$900K Scholarships

\$74 MILLION In Total Research Expenditures

Global Perspectives and Connections:

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Strategic Goals, Actions and Tactics

GOAL 1: A UNIVERSITY FOCUSED ON BIG DISCOVERIES THAT DRIVE BIG SOLUTIONS

Action 1: Grow research capacity by 2025/4 four key priority areas

Tactics:

- Develop new and existing research initiatives that advance climate science, food security, and human health.
- Recruit, develop and retain highly skilled leadership.
- Recruit, develop and retain highly skilled leadership.
- Recruit, develop and retain highly skilled leadership.

Action 2: Grow research capacity by 2025/4 four key priority areas

Tactics:

- Recruit, develop and retain highly skilled leadership.
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Strategic Goals, Actions and Tactics

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Potential OSU Statewide reductions

Statewide Public Service Program	2025-27 Legislatively Approved Budget	Approx. 3.6% Reduction (HECC 2.5%)	Approx. 7.1% Reduction (HECC 5%)
Agricultural Experiment Station	\$103.8 M	\$3.8 M	\$7.7 M
OSU Extension Service	\$72.5 M	\$2.6 M	\$5.2 M
Forest Research Laboratory	\$14.8 M	\$600 K	\$1.1 M
Total (rounded)	\$191 M	\$7 M	\$14M

A \$14 million reduction under a 7.1% cut scenario

CAS Funding Shortage and Reductions in State Budgeted Funds

	FY26	FY27
Ag research CSL shortage*	1,171,174	1,218,977
Ag research proposed reduction***	3,532,143	3,646,014
Ag Ext reduction	267,184	TBD
Ag Ext proposed reduction***	1,154,137	1,201,245
Ag Teaching CSL shortage*	1,938,583	TBD
Ag Teaching reduction**	1,484,361	1,929,669
Total	9,547,582	TBD

* Shortage is difference between Oregon Public Universities (OPU) University Base Funding (UBF) 9.54% and actual increase received

** In FY26, CAS E&G budget model applied a reduction to academic unit that ranged from 2.3% to 8.5%, while the Dean's Office took a 10% reduction

*** Proposed SWPS reduction of 7.1% would bring decrease from prior biennium to -0.6% or a shortage compared to CSL of -10.14%



Elaine Harvey
Watershed Department Manager
Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission

Salmon's Journey

Connecting the ocean to the
land, nourishing ecosystems,
and sustaining human
cultures



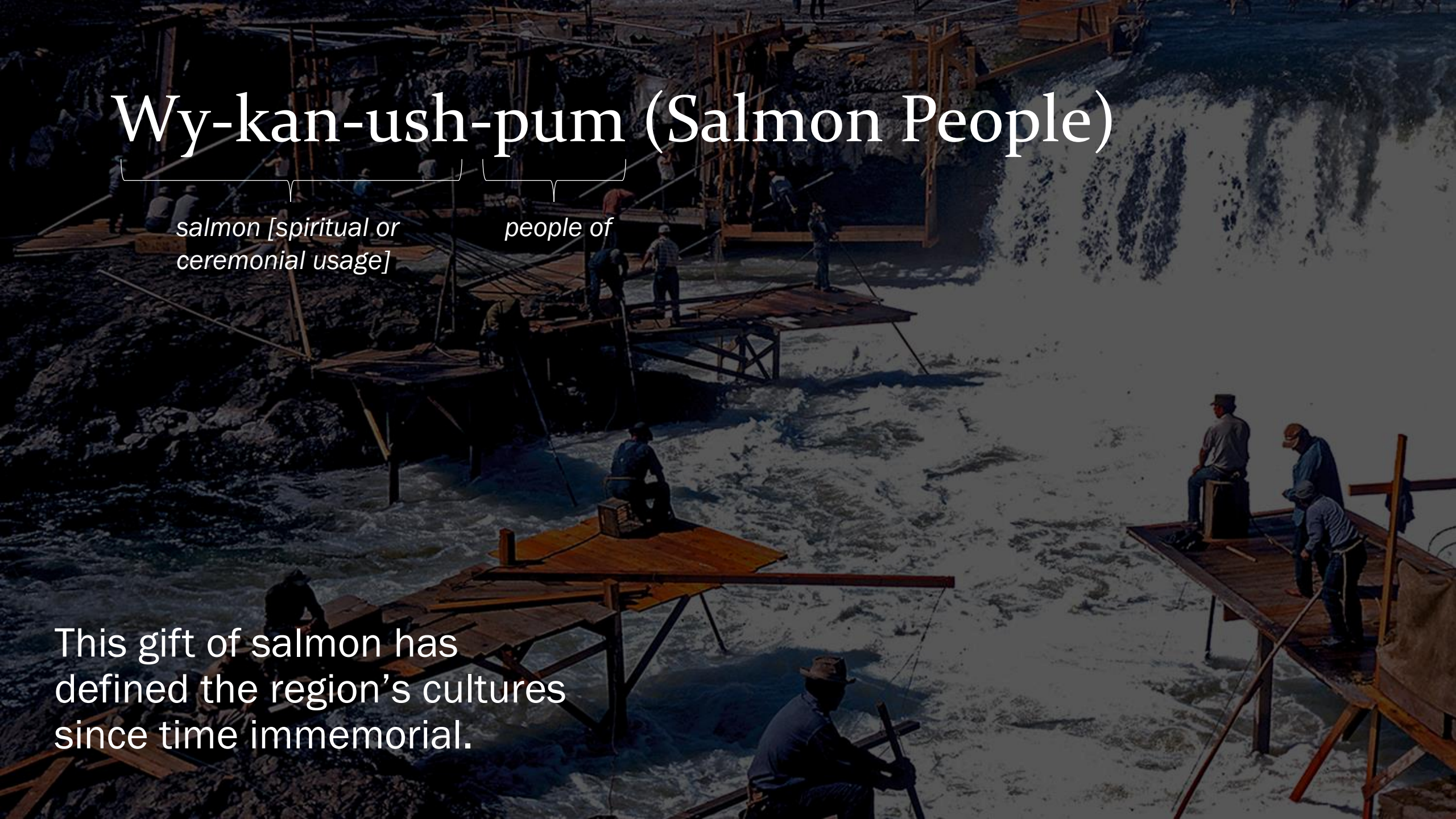
A large number of salmon, likely Chinook, are seen swimming in a river. The fish are silvery with a pinkish-red hue, characteristic of spawning salmon. They are moving upstream, surrounded by lush green vegetation and ferns. The water is dark and turbulent, with many fish jumping and splashing. The scene is captured from a low angle, looking down the river.

Returning Home with the Bounty of the Sea

The ecosystem of the Pacific Northwest is built on the epic effort and sacrifice of salmon.

Animals, plants, and people hundreds of miles from the coast partake in the richness that salmon return from the ocean.

Wy-kan-ush-pum (Salmon People)

A historical photograph of a salmon weir, a structure used for catching salmon. The weir is built with wooden frames and platforms over a river. Several men are visible on the platforms, some standing and some sitting, likely managing the catch. The water is turbulent, creating white rapids. The background shows a steep, rocky bank.

*salmon [spiritual or
ceremonial usage]*

people of

This gift of salmon has
defined the region's cultures
since time immemorial.

Wy-kan-ush-pum (Salmon People)

*salmon [spiritual or
ceremonial usage]*

people of

Historically salmon comprised half of the calories consumed and even today, the tribal fish consumption rate is over 10x the US average.



Wy-kan-ush-pum (Salmon People)

*salmon [spiritual or
ceremonial usage]*

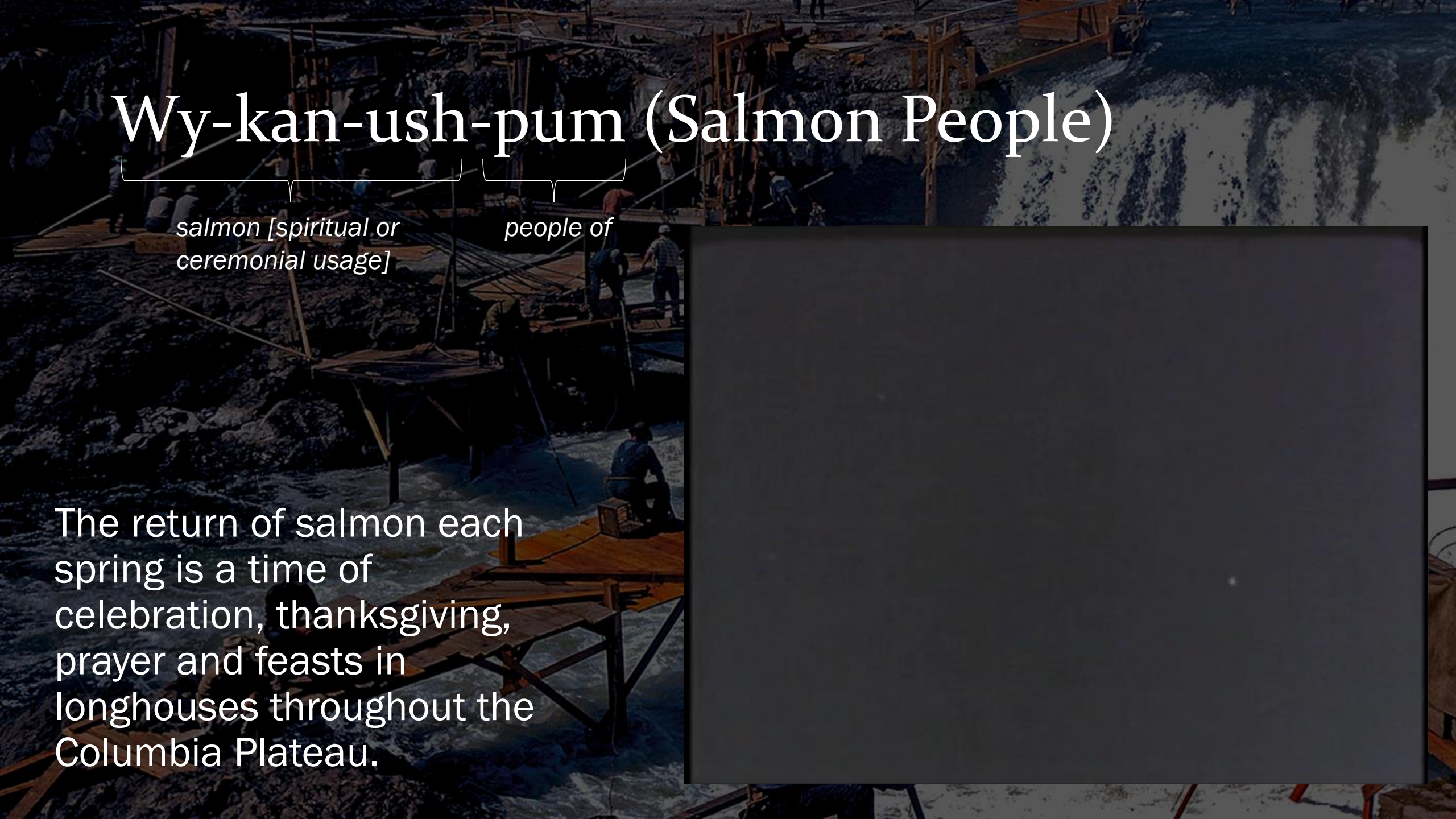
people of

The abundance and efficient drying courtesy of constant Columbia Gorge winds allowed salmon to be a significant trade good that drove the region's economy.



Drying Salmon Underwood Okla

Wy-kan-ush-pum (Salmon People)

The background image shows a historical scene of a salmon weir, a wooden structure built across a river to catch salmon. Several people are visible on the wooden platforms and scaffolding of the weir. The water is turbulent, creating white rapids. A large, solid dark grey rectangle is positioned on the right side of the image, partially obscuring the weir structure.

*salmon [spiritual or
ceremonial usage]*

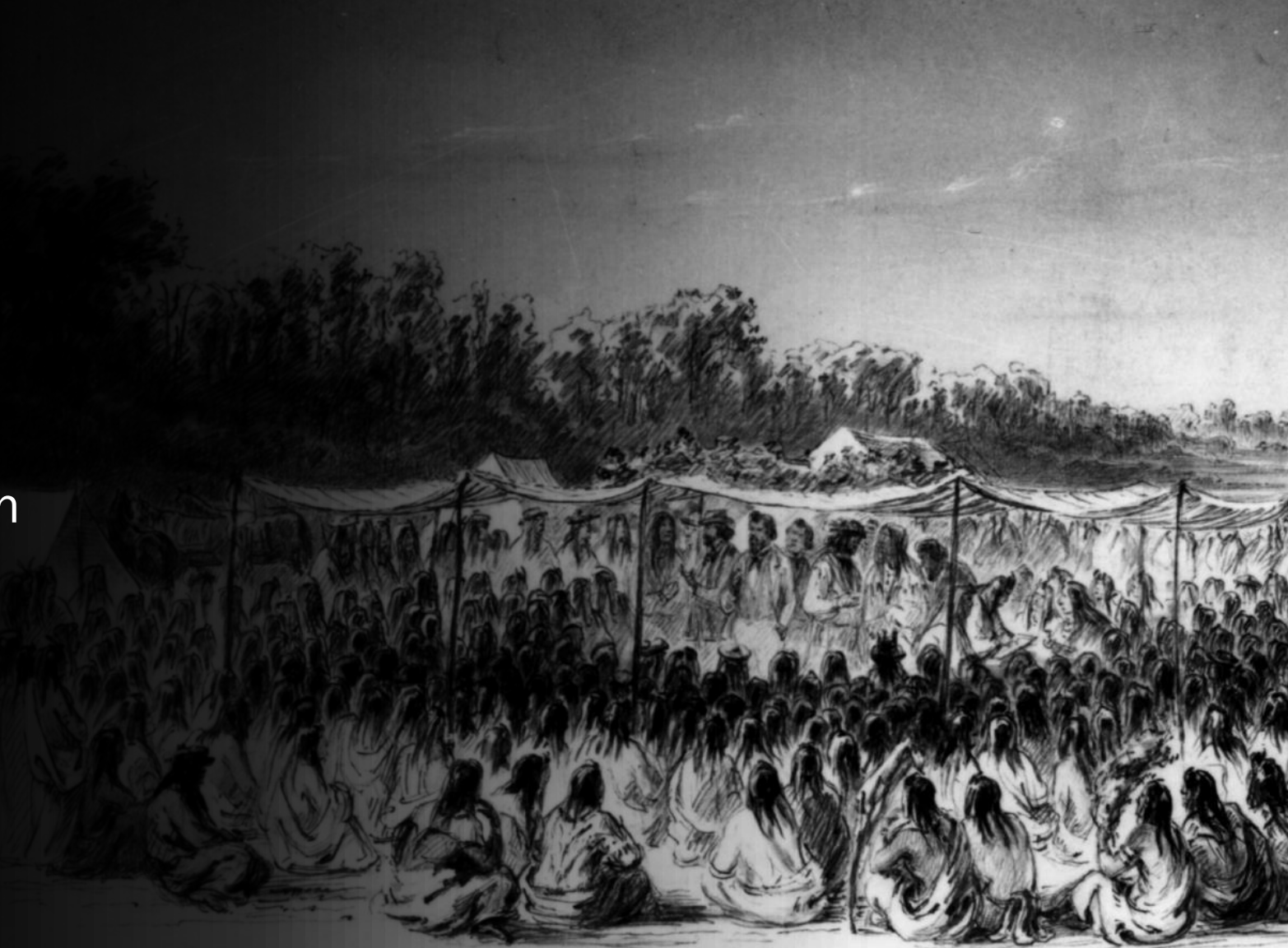
people of

The return of salmon each spring is a time of celebration, thanksgiving, prayer and feasts in longhouses throughout the Columbia Plateau.

Treaties

“...the exclusive right of taking fish in the streams running through and bordering said reservation is hereby secured to said Indians, and at all other usual and accustomed stations in common with citizens of the United States, and of erecting suitable buildings for curing the same.”

—Treaty with the Walla Walla, Cayuse, etc., 1855



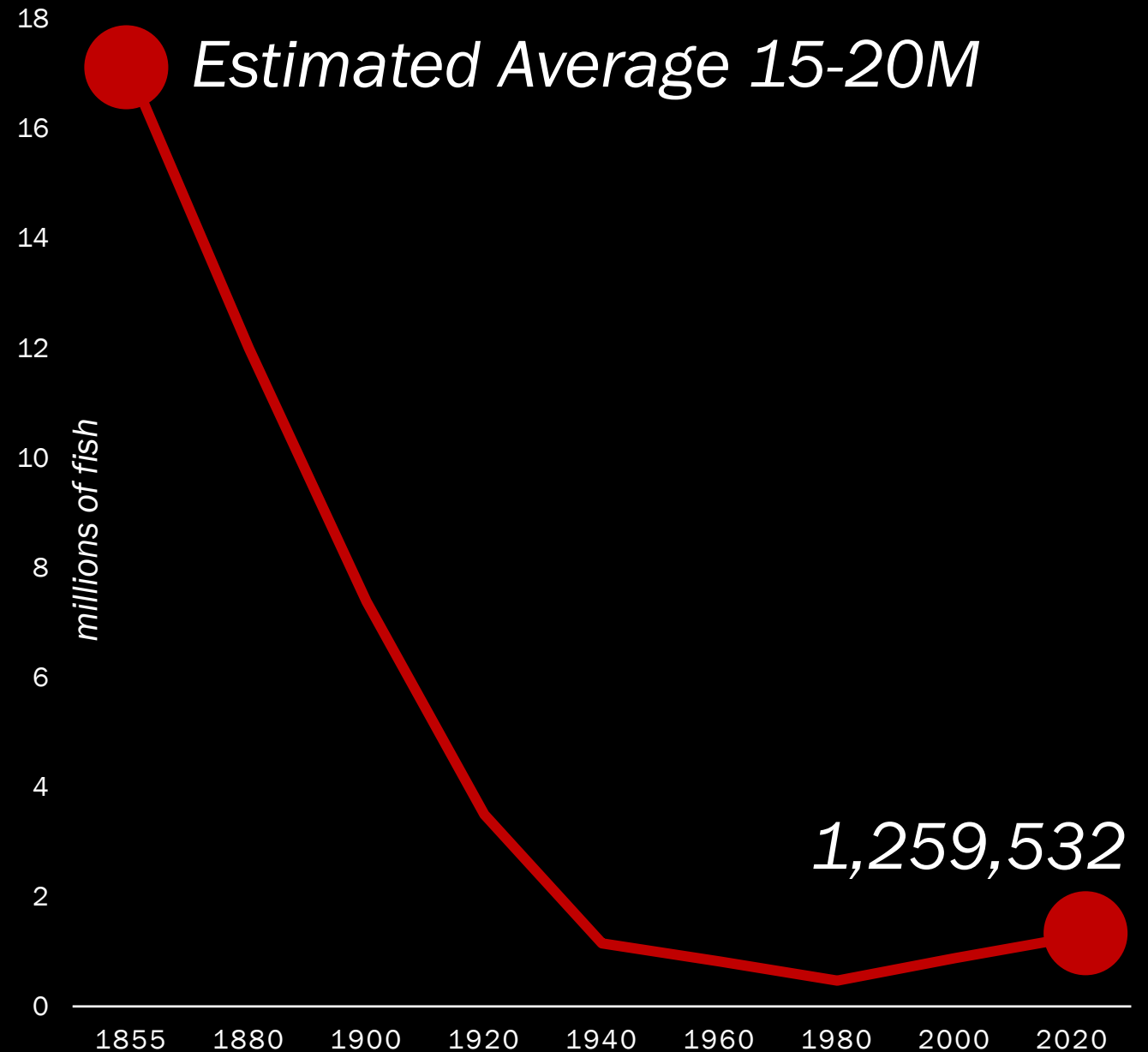
Treaties

The combined area of the four Columbia River treaty fishing tribes' ceded lands covers 25% of the Columbia Basin and is 88% of the basin above Bonneville Dam that is still accessible to salmon.



Salmon Decline

From the signing of the treaties to the present, the numbers of returning salmon have declined by as much as 90 percent, with some runs facing the threat of extinction.



Salmon Decline

Overharvest

The first Columbia Basin commercial salmon cannery opened in 1866.

By 1883, the combined production of 39 Columbia River canneries exceeded 42 million lbs. of salmon annually.



Salmon Decline

Habitat Loss

Clearcutting, in-river timber transport, and placer mining from the 1860s to 1940s decimated stream substrates and increased erosion, negatively impacting salmon spawning, rearing, and migration.



Salmon Decline

Hydropower Development

During the early- to mid-century, 14 Columbia River and 20 Snake River dams were built.

Three of these major dams were built without fish passage, cutting off salmon access to vast areas of the Columbia Basin.

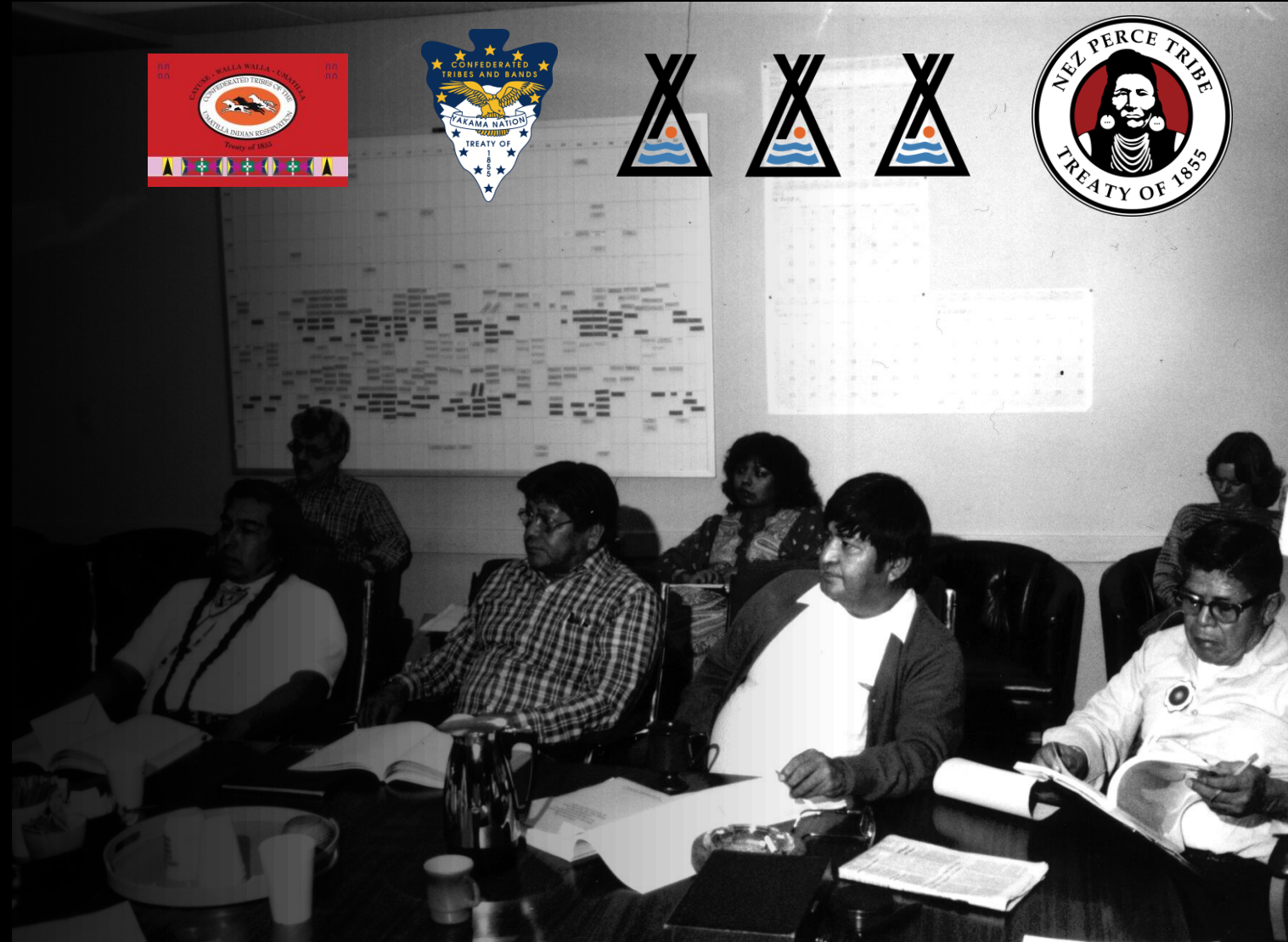


President Franklin D. Roosevelt at the dedication of Bonneville Dam, 1937

Unity of Action

Faced with the prospect of losing salmon, the four Columbia River treaty fishing tribes came together in 1977 to establish the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission in order to coordinate their fisheries management responsibilities and work toward reversing this decline.

Their goal: put fish back in the rivers and restore the watersheds where fish live.



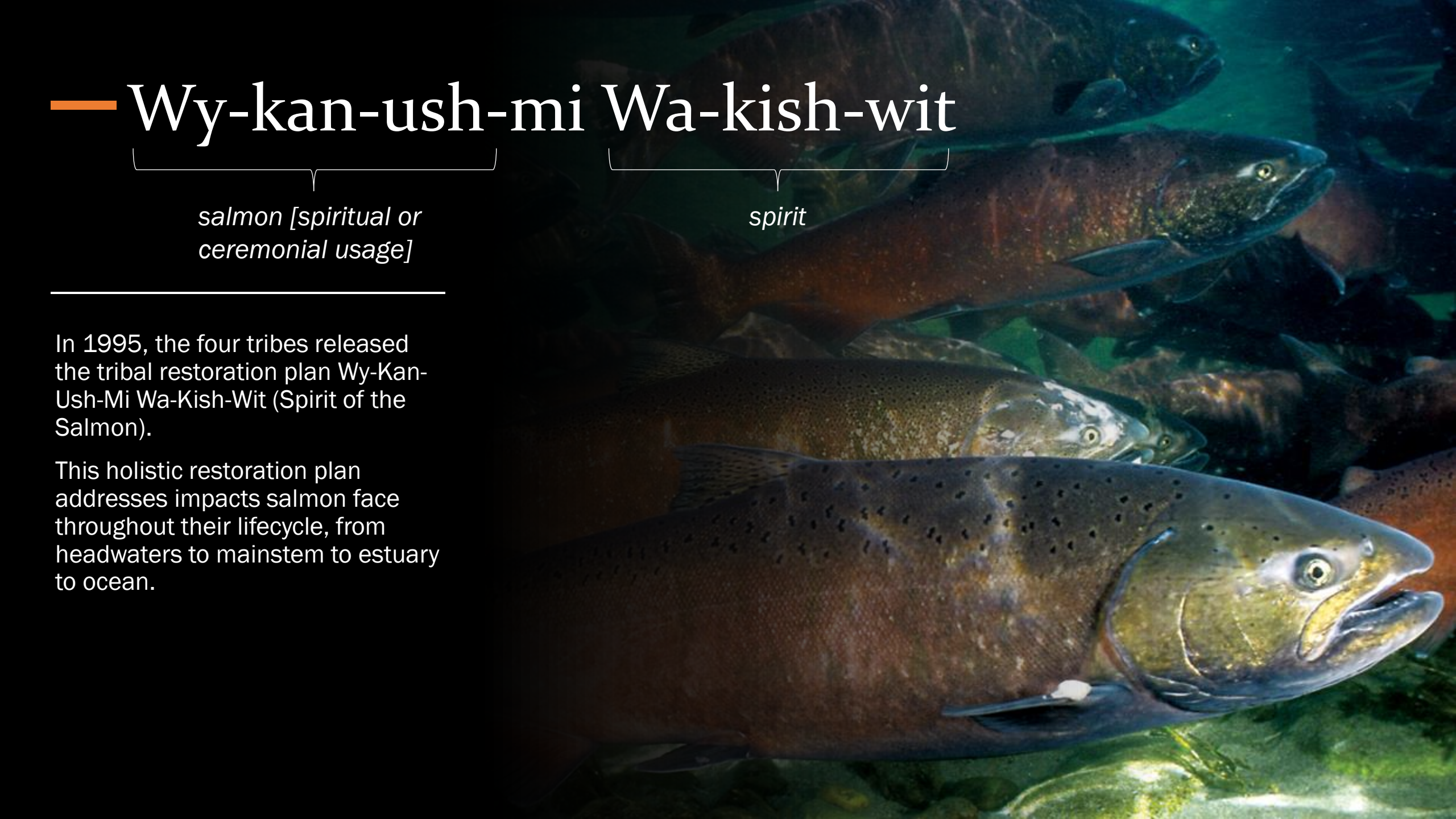
A CRITFC commission meeting in the late 1970s



Unity of Action

CRITFC has grown to operate in locations throughout the Columbia Basin from Hagerman, Idaho all the way to the Pacific Ocean.



The background of the entire slide is a photograph of several salmon swimming underwater. The fish are in various positions, some facing right and some facing left. The water is dark and slightly murky, with some light reflecting off the fish's scales. The salmon have a mix of brown, grey, and white colors, with some showing darker spots. The overall tone is natural and somewhat somber.

— Wy-kan-ush-mi Wa-kish-wit

*salmon [spiritual or
ceremonial usage]*

spirit

In 1995, the four tribes released the tribal restoration plan Wy-Kan-Ush-Mi Wa-Kish-Wit (Spirit of the Salmon).

This holistic restoration plan addresses impacts salmon face throughout their lifecycle, from headwaters to mainstem to estuary to ocean.

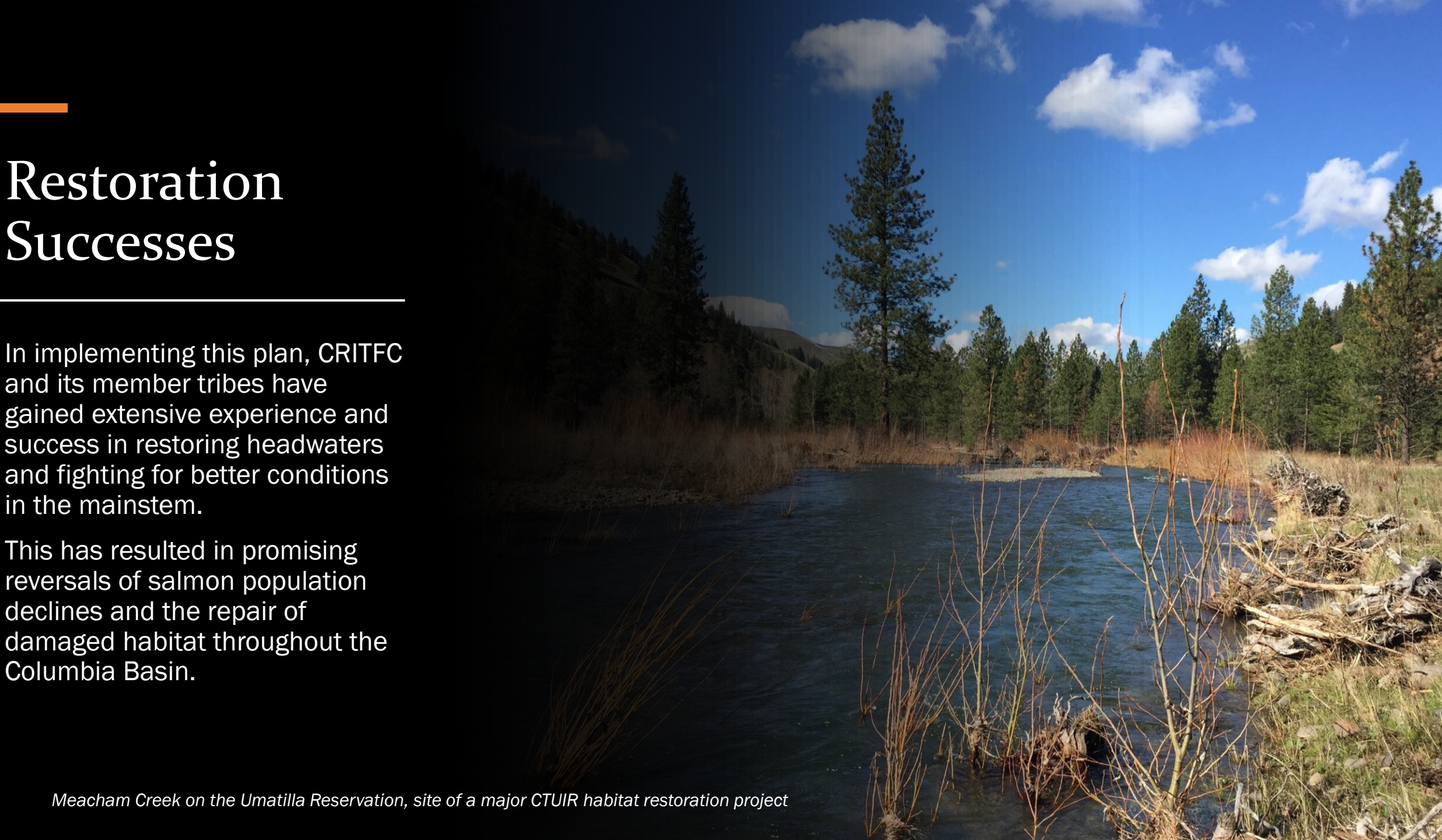


Restoration Successes

In implementing this plan, CRITFC and its member tribes have gained extensive experience and success in restoring headwaters and fighting for better conditions in the mainstem.

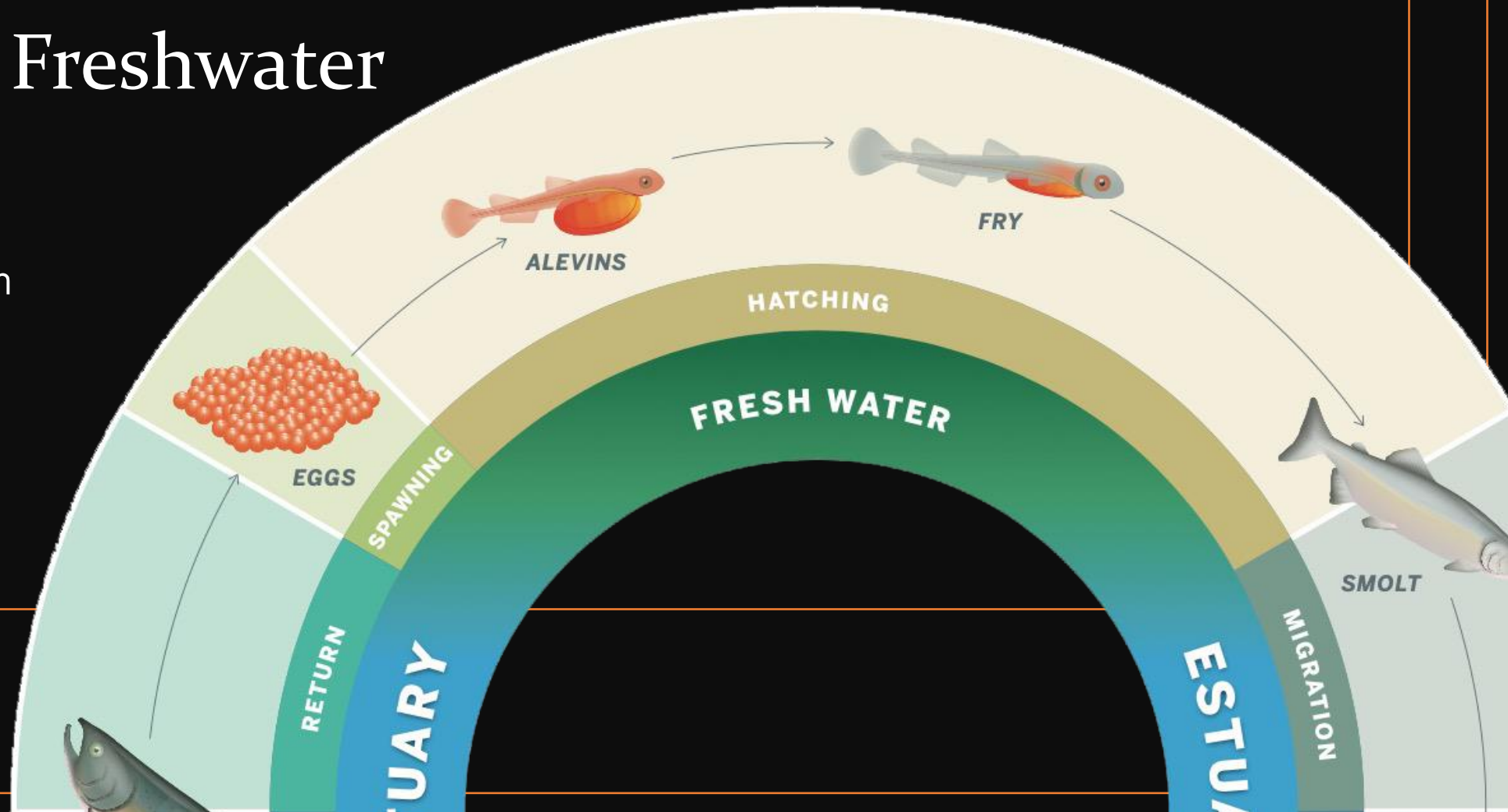
This has resulted in promising reversals of salmon population declines and the repair of damaged habitat throughout the Columbia Basin.

Meacham Creek on the Umatilla Reservation, site of a major CTUIR habitat restoration project



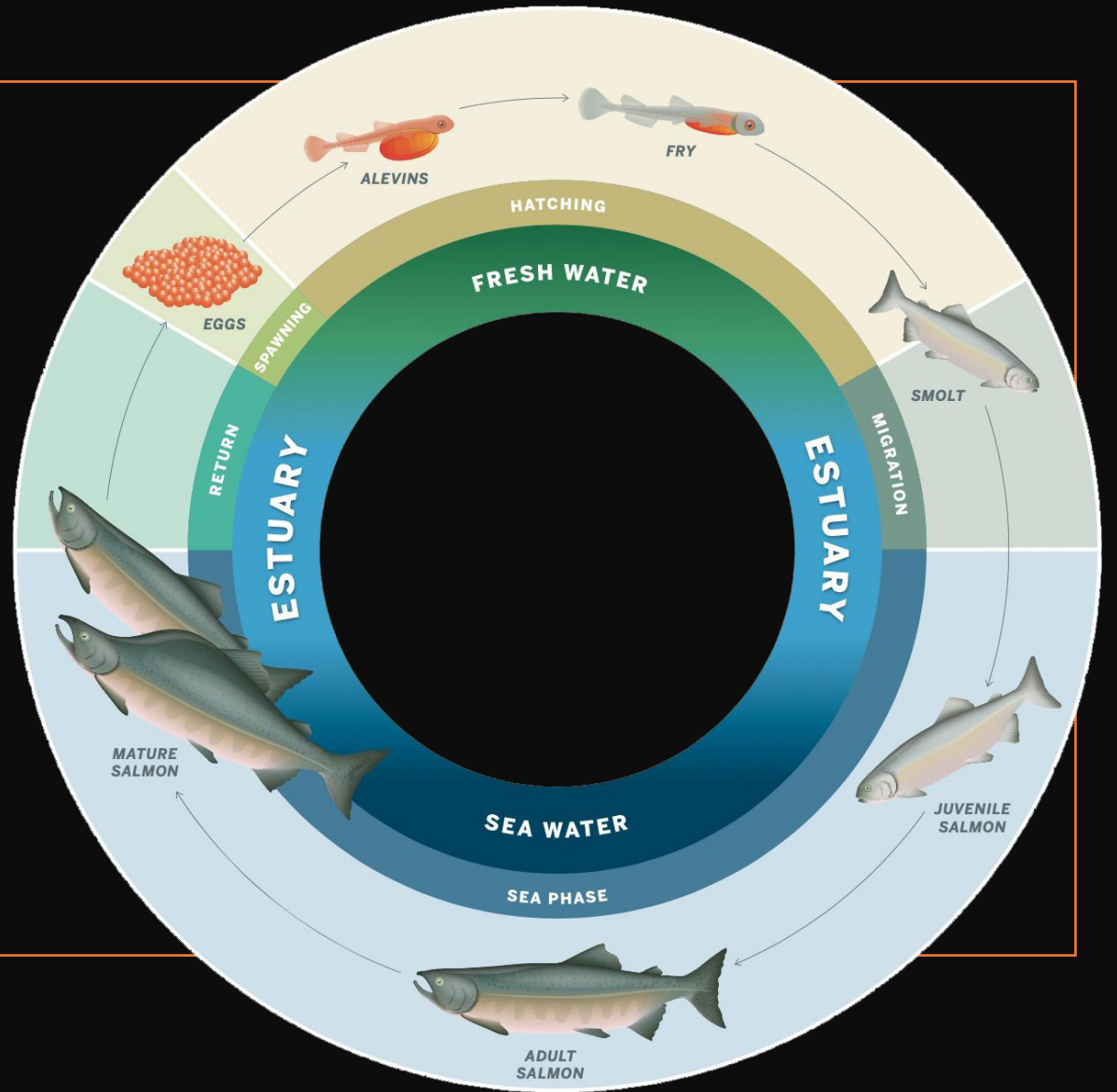
Focus on Freshwater

Most of this work has been in the freshwater portion of the salmon's lifecycle.



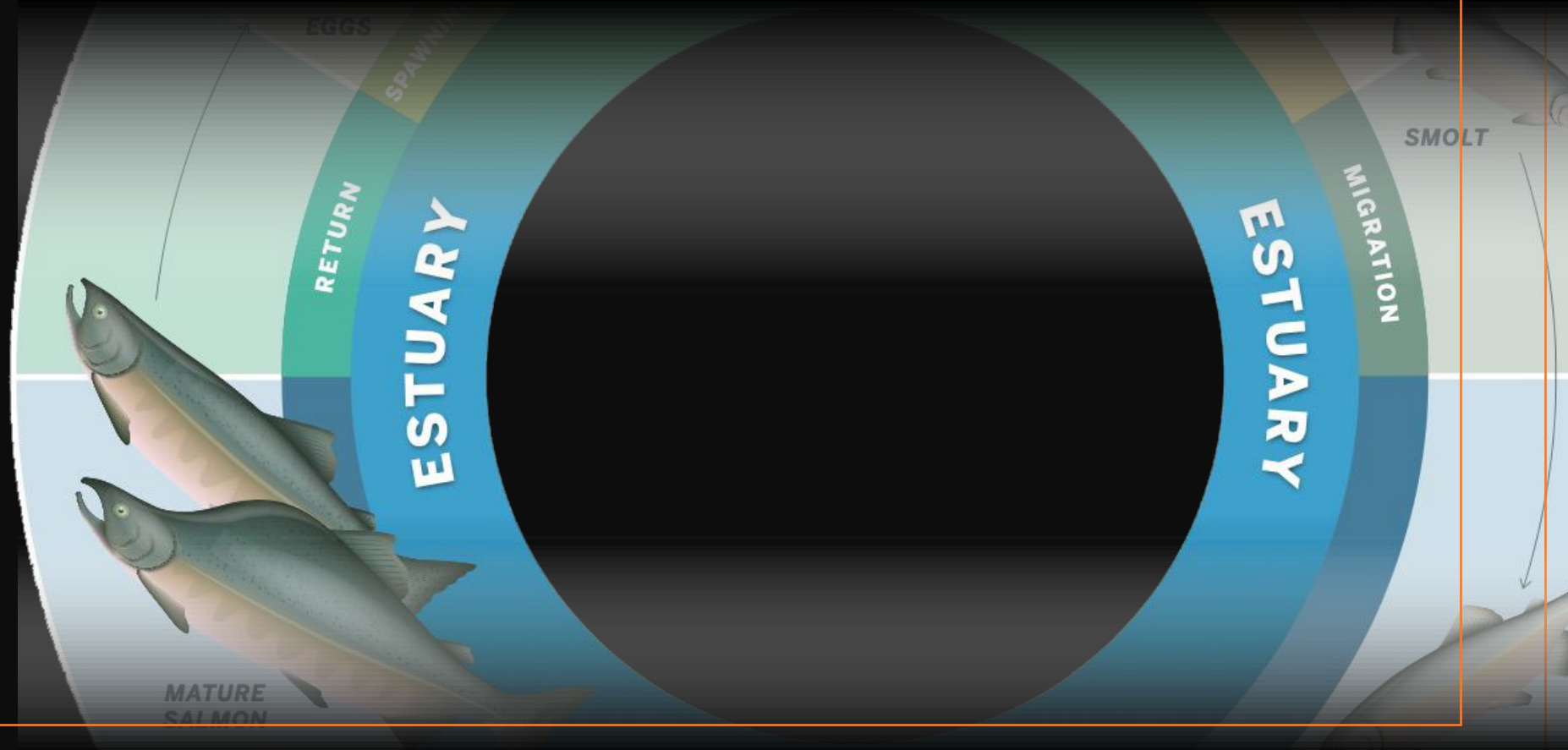
Completing the Circle

However, over the last 30 years of implementation, tribal leaders and professionals have reiterated the importance of addressing the **estuary and ocean connection** that needs to be incorporated into this work.



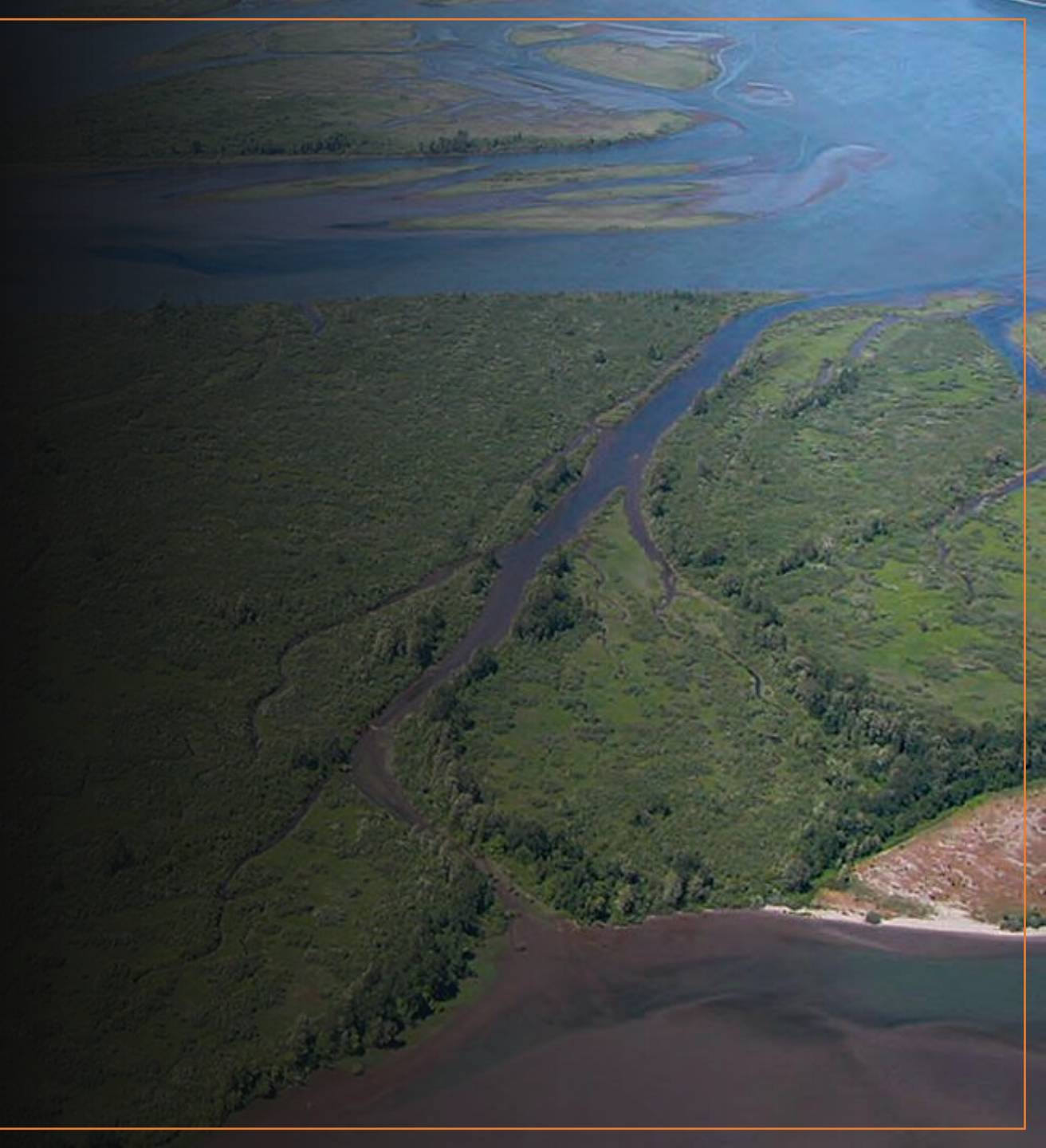
Estuary

This is especially true in the Columbia River estuary, where salmon make the remarkable transition from freshwater to saltwater and back.



Fate of Salmon is Tied to the Estuary

The time salmon spend in the estuary is one of the most important but also fraught segments of their life cycle.



Fate of Salmon is Tied to the Estuary

Tidal wetlands and estuary floodplains provide important habitat for juvenile salmon, which can spend up to five months here as they transition to living in salt water.



Fate of Salmon is Tied to the Estuary

Arthropods washed out of wetlands are a vital food source for migrating juvenile salmon as they prepare for life in the ocean.



Fate of Salmon is Tied to the Estuary

The varied conditions of the estuary facilitate diverse life histories within salmon populations, which support greater resilience.



Fate of Salmon is Tied to the Estuary

The estuary can also be a bottleneck of avian predation.

Human-caused changes like creating habitat for them on dredging islands has made this problem worse by providing habitat where their populations have exploded.



Fate of Salmon is Tied to the Estuary

Climate change is creating deadly impacts in the estuary, too.

Incidents of low oxygen levels (hypoxia) in ocean water will likely increase with climate change. If this low oxygen water enters the estuary during high tide, it may have an impact on out-migrating juvenile salmon.



Die-off of Dungeness crabs on the Oregon Coast in 2022 following a hypoxia event



Furthering Our Understanding of the Estuary

For nearly 30 years, the Coastal Margin Observation and Prediction program has been a nationally renowned ocean and estuary research effort dedicated to further our understanding of the linkages between the Columbia River and the Pacific Ocean.



CMOP
Center for Coastal
Margin Observation
& Prediction



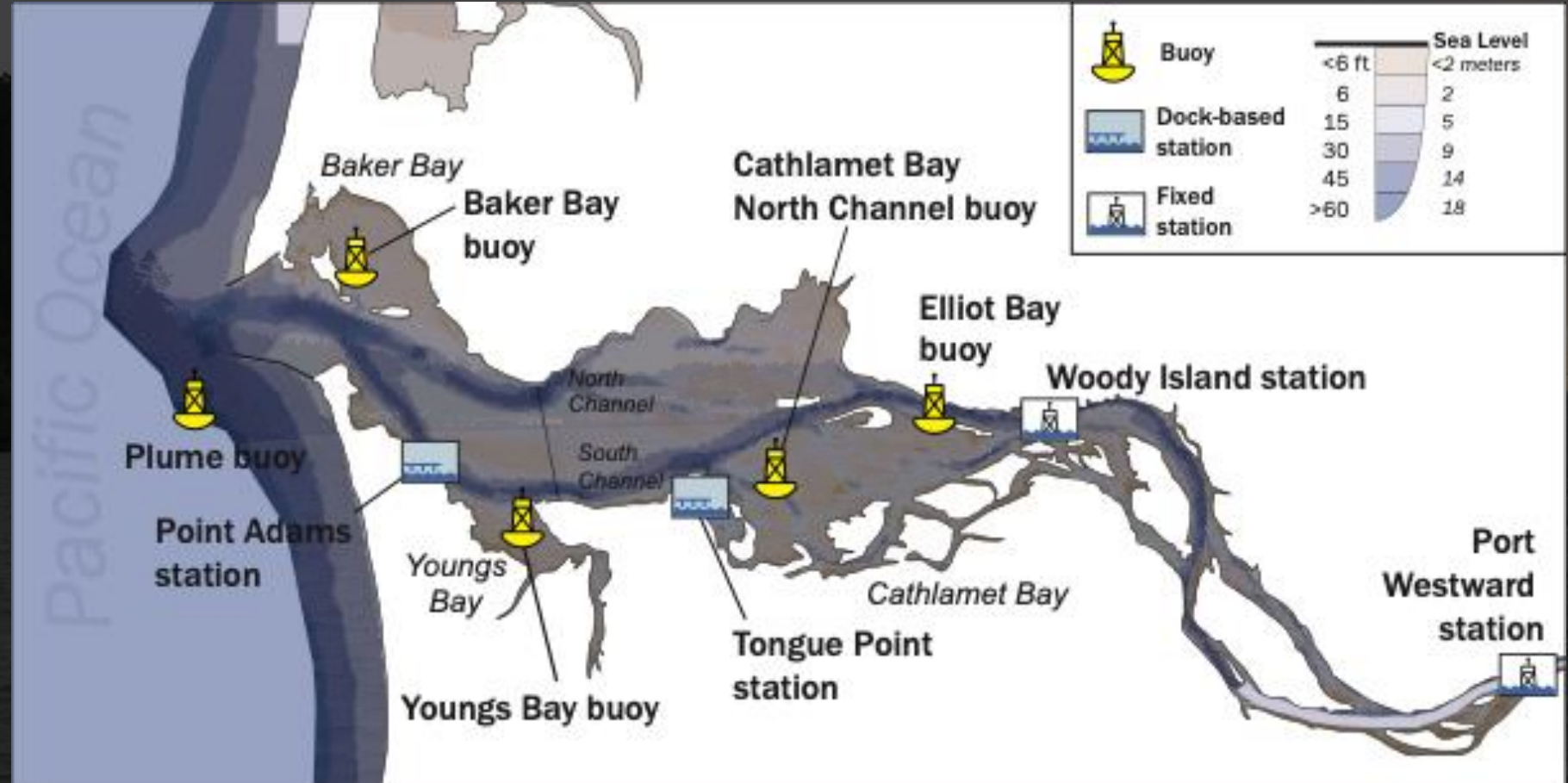
Furthering Our Understanding of the Estuary

CRITFC assumed stewardship of CMOP in 2020 to ensure the continuation of its long-term monitoring work and to provide tribal oversight to its estuary modeling and monitoring efforts.



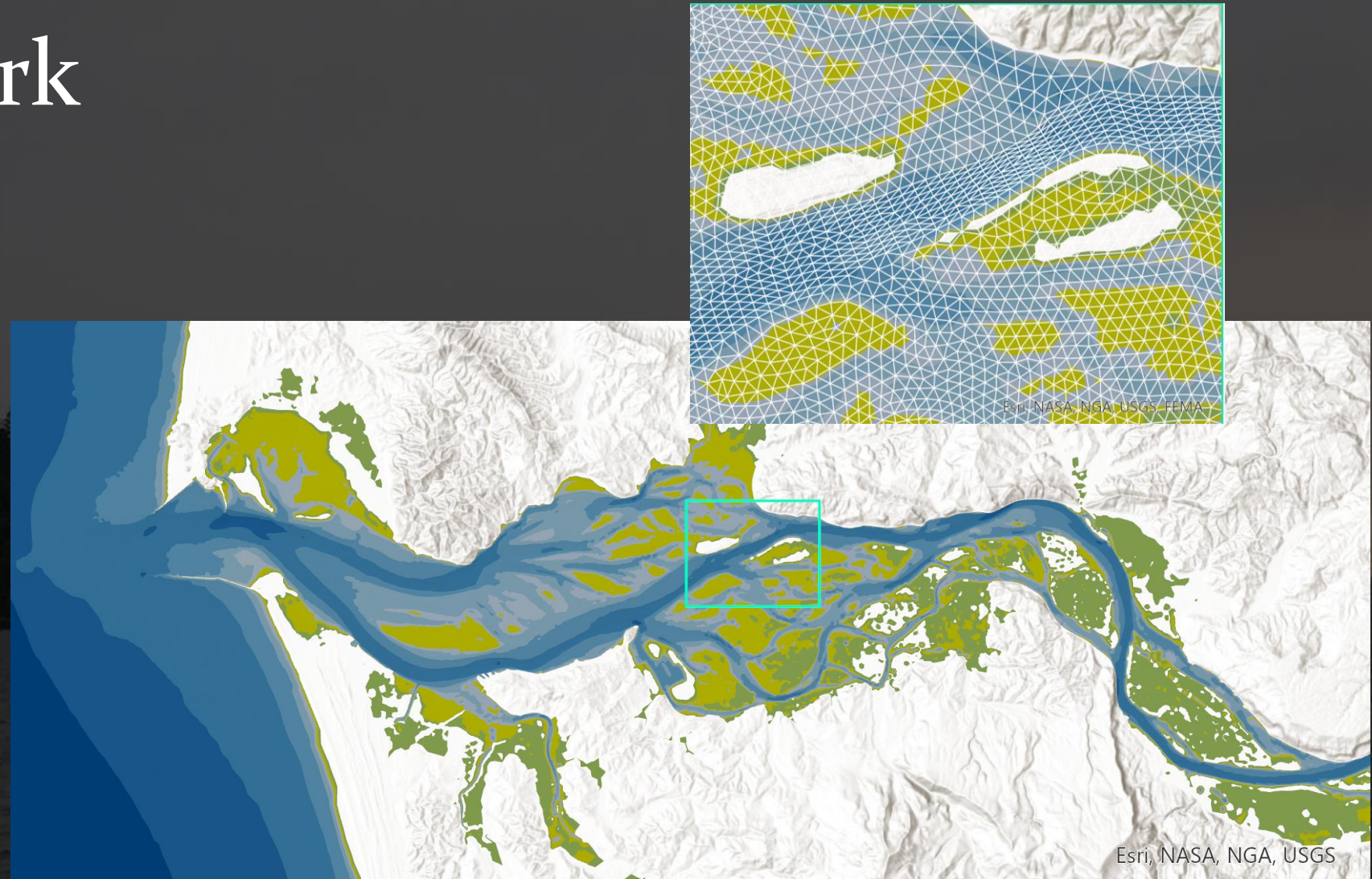
Current Work

Long-term monitoring for potentially harmful changes in estuary and ocean water properties, such as temperature and dissolved oxygen.



Current Work

Predictive modeling
of floodplains and
tidal wetlands in the
face of climate
change





Preparing for Future Changes

Climate change impacts to ocean habitat affect salmon survival.

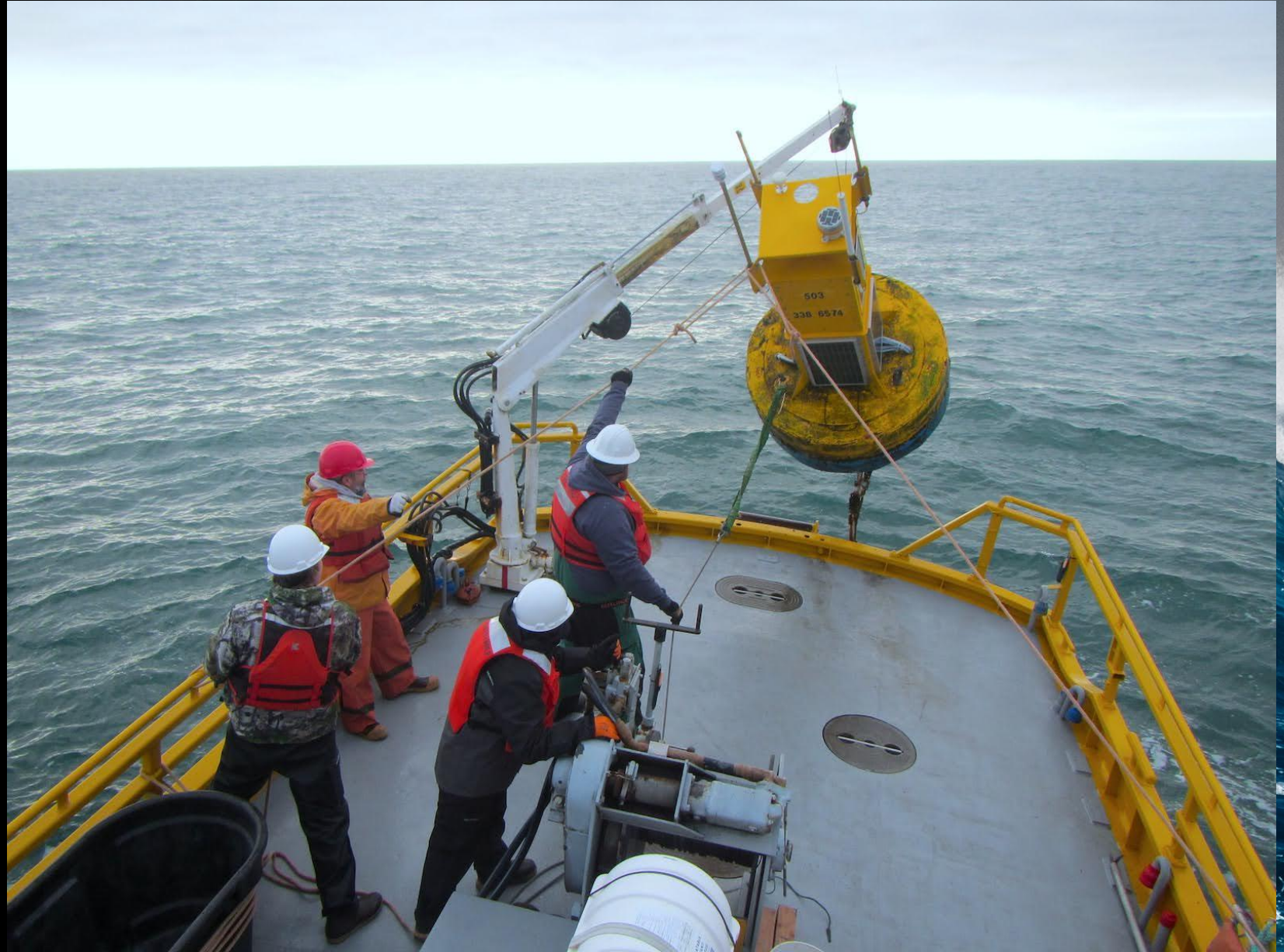
Ocean survival is falling, and is predicted to fall substantially under climate change (Crozier et al, 2021)

While restoration of rivers and streams may be able to offset increasing losses at sea, we must also look at ways to counteract climate impacts at sea.



Preparing for Future Changes

Commitment to gaining a greater understanding of ocean ecology of salmon and developing new ocean indicators of salmon survival.



Preparing for Future Changes

Consider active management of other marine species to benefit salmon (e.g. through increasing other forage fish abundance to decrease avian predation pressure on salmon)

[this is an idea that NOAA/Brian Burke raised in a recent talk to the NPCC].



Using Ocean Tools to Help the Columbia

CMOP's research on ocean/estuary interactions is also benefitting salmon further inland.

The tribes using this research to improve the function of the tributary deltas along the Columbia River mainstem.

White Salmon delta reshaped after Condit dam removal.



Tributary Delta Impacts on Salmon

Like the Columbia River estuary at the Pacific Ocean, the interface between tributaries and the Columbia River mainstem can be both beneficial and dangerous for salmon.



Tributary Delta Impacts on Salmon

Some tributary deltas in the Bonneville pool create cold water refuges for returning adult salmon.



Tributary Delta Impacts on Salmon

Shallows in the deltas created by the slowed river flow have become bottlenecks of birds and fish that prey on out-migrating juveniles



Tributary Delta Impacts on Salmon

Backwaters create hot pools at
some deltas



My Strength is From the Fish

Furthering our understanding of the rich, complex, and dynamic Columbia River estuary system has far-reaching impacts and helps us in the goal of protecting and restoring salmon that nourish the entire region.

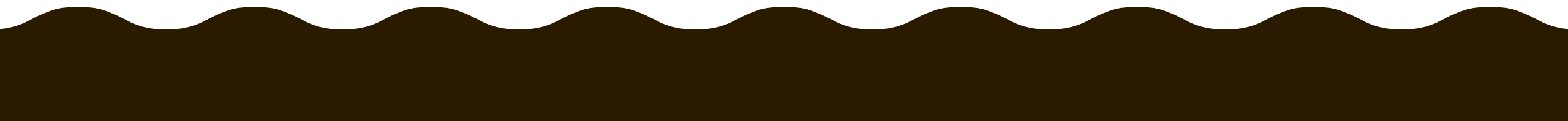


ENERGY VISION FOR THE COLUMBIA RIVER BASIN

**COLUMBIA RIVER INTER-TRIBAL FISH
COMMISSION**

2022





FATE OF SALMON INTERTWINED WITH THE HYDROPOWER SYSTEM

*Oxbow Dam accidental
fish kill, 1958.*

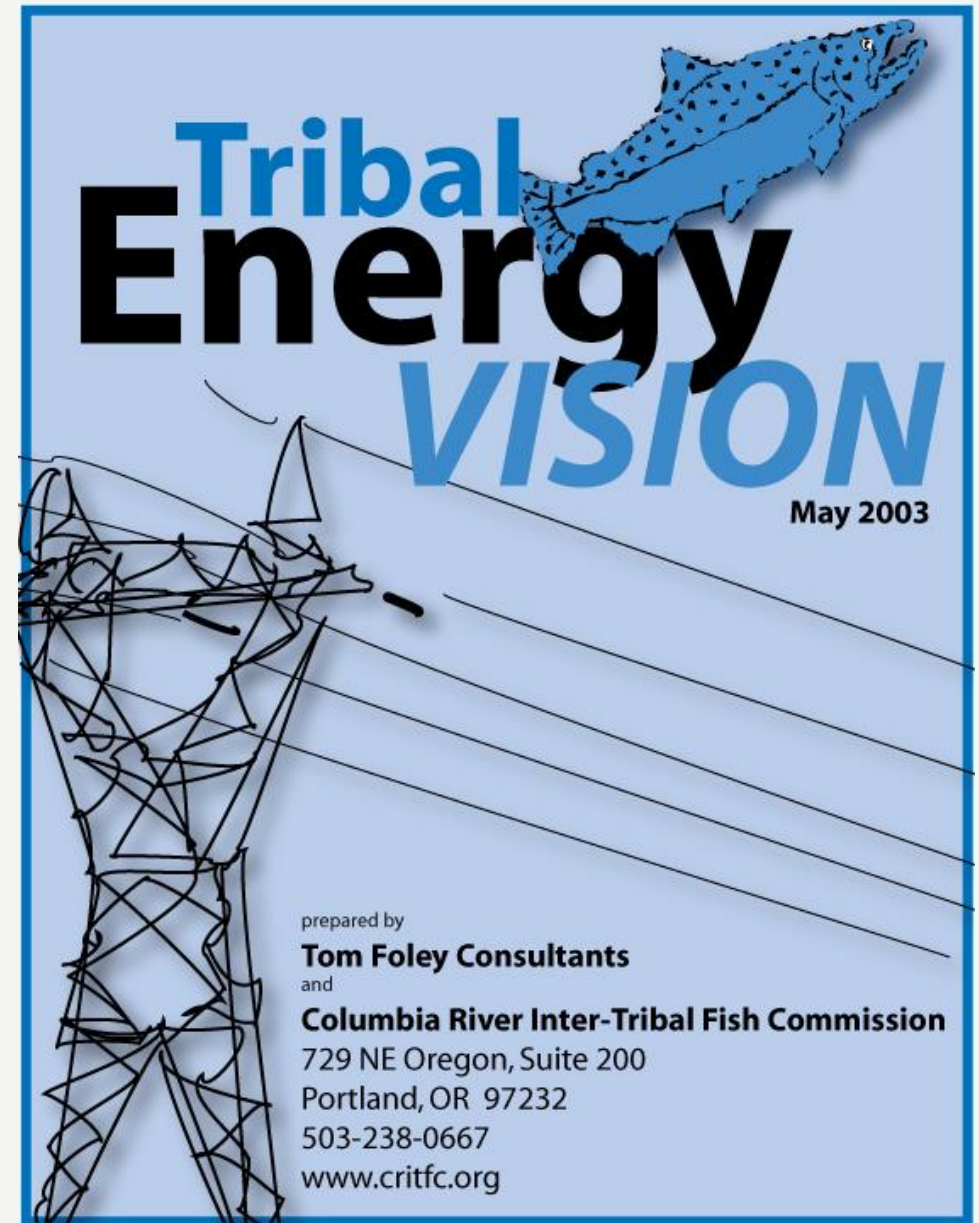


2003 TRIBAL ENERGY VISION

Recommendations to avoid another energy shortage that **damaged fish and wildlife and the economy**.

Prompted by the 2001 NW power shortage that:

- Cost BPA's consumers **\$4B**
- Resulted in BPA **eliminating protection measures** for salmon migrating through the dams
- **Cut funding** for fish and wildlife restoration programs



2013 ENERGY VISION UPDATE

Focused on **reducing hydroelectric dam impacts on salmon** populations and decreasing costs for consumers

- Strategies to **reduce peak demands**, which harm salmon and cost consumers hundreds of millions of dollars to operate expensive resources and expand transmission and distribution systems.
- Identified additional **energy efficiency actions** that could save hundreds of millions of dollars



2022 TRIBAL ENERGY VISION

Focused on addressing four interconnected and critical issues:



**Climate crisis
already
underway**



**Salmon at risk
of extinction.**



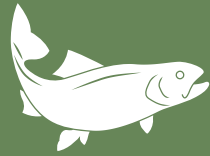
**Push for quick
transition to
carbon-free
energy**



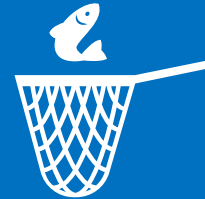
**Bad energy
planning can
make things
worse for
salmon**

VISION

CRITFC and its member tribes envision a future where the Columbia Basin electric power system:



**Supports healthy
and harvestable
fish and wildlife
populations**



**Protects tribal
treaty and
cultural
resources**



**Provides clean,
reliable, and
affordable
electricity**

GOAL 1

Create a **regional energy portfolio** that protects and enhances environmental quality, treaty protected resources, and supports the restoration of Columbia Basin's fish and wildlife to healthy and harvestable population levels.



GOAL 2

Prevent new and reduce ongoing damage to Columbia River Basin resources, including fish, wildlife, water quality, and tribal cultural resources, by recognizing the relationships and interdependencies of natural and built systems including the Northwest's energy system.



GOAL 3

Provide increased **protection for both fish and wildlife and utility customers against unanticipated events**, such as drought, fire and market aberrations while providing an adequate, economical, and reliable electric supply.



GOAL 4

Mitigate climate change impacts to protect Northwest ecosystems by replacing fossil-fuel electric generation and reducing the reliance on fossil-fuels for power, transportation, and other uses.

*New solar array atop the Nez
Perce Tribe's Government
Headquarters*



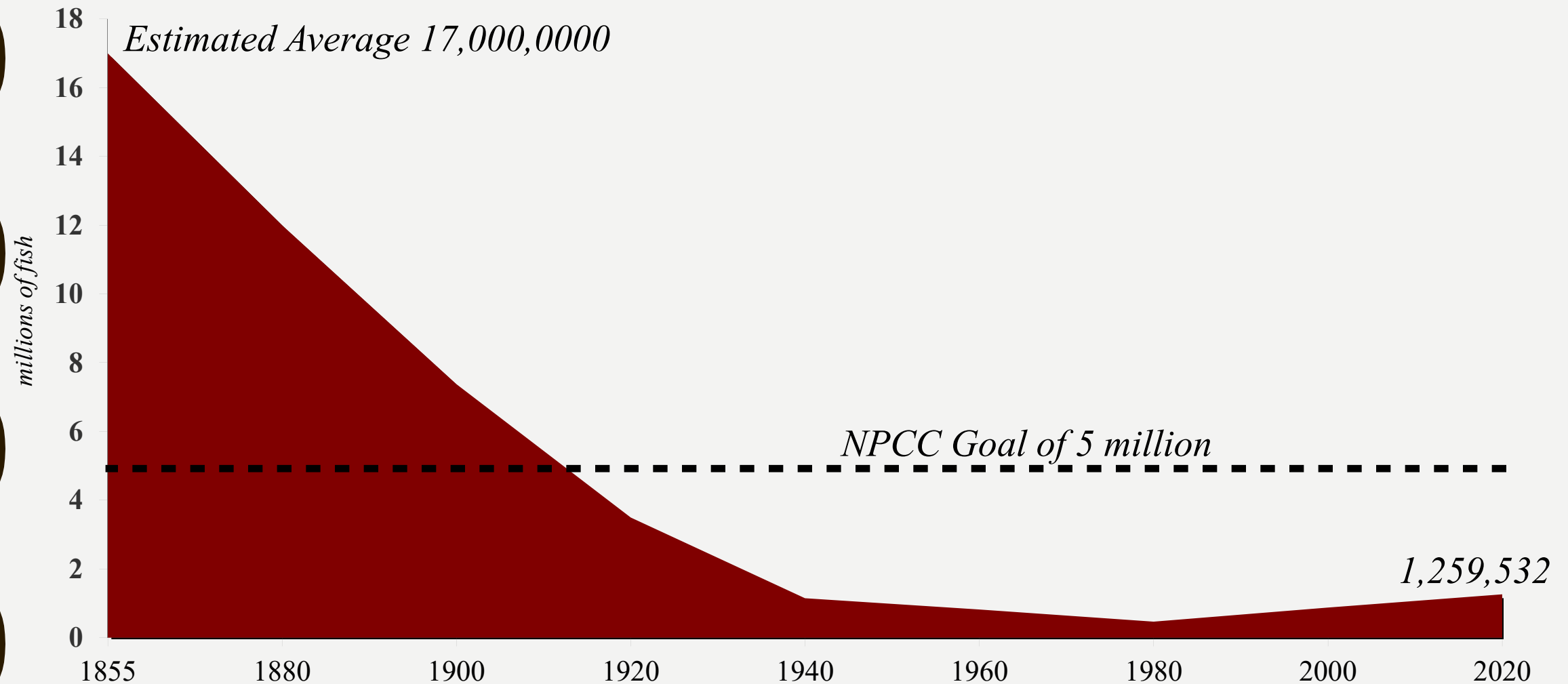
SALMON POPULATIONS CONTINUE TO DECLINE

Energy Vision describes:

- The crisis facing salmon and steelhead populations
- Salmon protections that have been weakened or eliminated
- The need to plan for near-term and long-term changes in the configuration and operation of the dams

SALMON DECLINE

Returning Columbia River salmon (chinook, steelhead, sockeye, coho)



1855: NPCC historical run extrapolation estimate; 1880-1920 data points extrapolated from Columbia R cannery output; 1940-present: dam counts & river mouth estimates

SIGNIFICANT NW ENERGY SYSTEM CHANGES ALREADY IN PROGRESS

Stricter policies and standards

State greenhouse emissions policies and standards and federal programs

Coal phase out

- ▼ 6,000 MW announced by 2028
- ▼ Another 2,700 MW by 2037

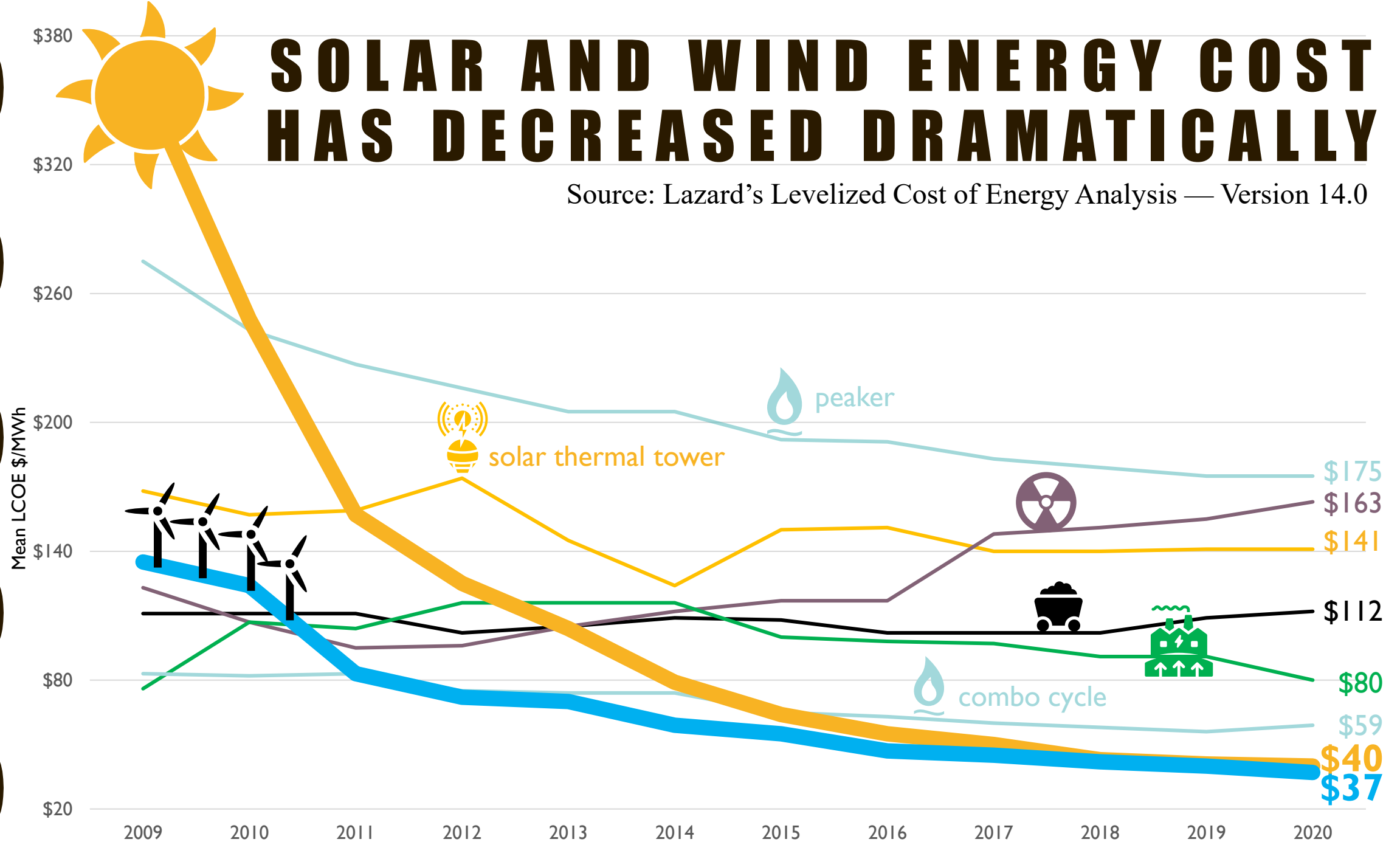
Energy efficiency

-  1,800 MW since 2013
-  > 7,000 MW since 1978
-  Saved consumers \$70 billion

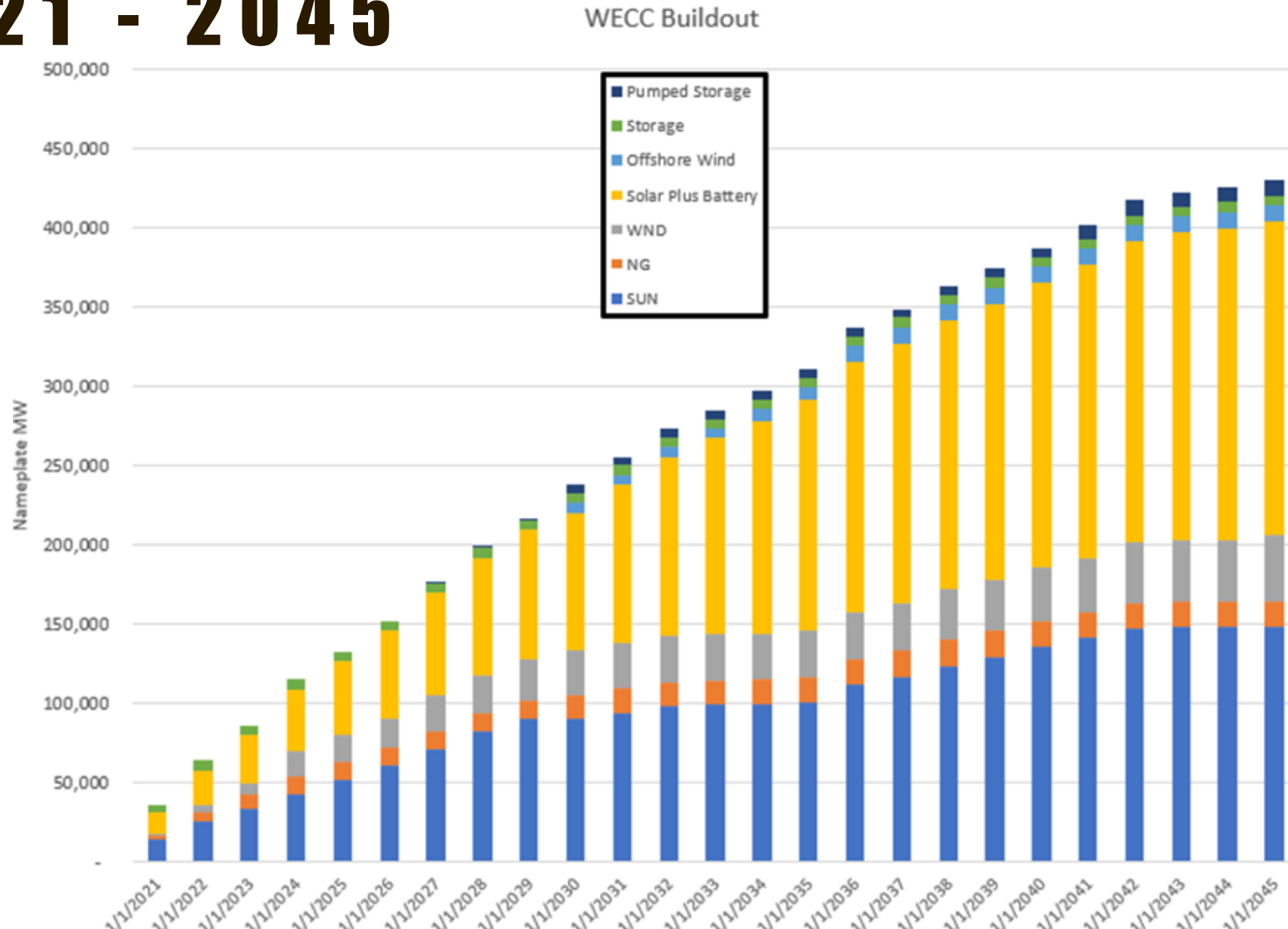
Electricity adequacy issues

SOLAR AND WIND ENERGY COST HAS DECREASED DRAMATICALLY

Source: Lazard's Levelized Cost of Energy Analysis — Version 14.0



UTILITY PLANS FOR RENEWABLES 2021 - 2045



SUMMARY OF 43 ENERGY VISION RECOMMENDATIONS



**Improve River
Configuration
& Operations**



**Amend the
Columbia
River Treaty**



**Reduce Peak
Loads**



**Maximize
Energy
Efficiency**



**Harness
Renewable
Resources**



**Strategically
Site
Renewable
Resources**



**Increase
Resource
Adequacy**



**Minimize
Transmission
& Distribution
System
Costs**



**Address the
Climate Crisis**

RECOMMENDATIONS

ENERGY PRODUCTION OFF THE BACKS OF SALMON



Improve
River
Configuration
& Operations

The region needs to plan for **changes to reduce the damage** to migrating salmon and steelhead caused by the Columbia Basin dams, including breaching the four lower Snake River dams.



Amend the
Columbia
River Treaty

Amend the treaty to include **protections for fish and wildlife** and expand the scope to include win-win opportunities to integrate renewable resources.



Increase
Resource
Adequacy

Avoid electricity shortages which **can reduce protections and funding** for fish and wildlife.

RECOMMENDATIONS SHIFT TO CARBON-FREE ENERGY



Address the
Climate
Crisis

Reduce greenhouse gas pollution and continue to increase energy efficiency to try to avoid the devastating effects we are facing.



Maximize
Energy
Efficiency

Energy efficiency measures have saved consumers over \$70 billion and are positive for fish and wildlife.



Harness
Renewable
Resources

Renewable resources in combination with batteries and electric load management can create an environment that is better for fish and wildlife and other tribal resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

REDUCE PEAK LOADS



Reduce Peak
Loads

Peak Loads Hurt Salmon and Consumers. Peak loads kill salmon. They cause big fluctuations in rivers during salmon migration and damage habitat. They also hurt consumers. They are often served by expensive resources and transmission and distribution lines.

Reduce Peak Demands. Utilities should shift the heating and cooling of buildings and water heating out of peak times.

Pricing Transparency. Utilities and utility commissions should provide clear price signals on the costs of serving peak loads.

Smart Charging. Utilities and automakers should ensure that electric cars charge during off-peak periods.

RECOMMENDATIONS

THE RIGHT ENERGY AT THE RIGHT PLACE



Strategically
Site
Renewable
Resources

Develop a **regional plan for where renewable resources should be developed**, and where they should **not**, and to provide expeditious siting with clear and uniform standards across all political subdivisions.



Minimize
Transmission
& Distribution
System
Costs

Siting renewable resources **near existing transmission lines or close to electricity loads** will reduce costs for consumers and damage to tribal resources.



Harness
Renewable
Resources

Expand on-site solar systems to provide reliability and cost benefits to consumers and reduce the need for new resources and power lines that damage habitat and other tribal resources.

PROCESS TO DEVELOP 2022 ENERGY VISION

**CRITFC staff
worked with staffs
from member
tribes to update
2013 Energy Vision**

**Engaged six energy
experts in
preparing the
Energy Vision**

**Drafts were
reviewed by 28
organizations and
outside experts**

**Ongoing review by
tribal staffs from
June 2021 to
January 2022**

**Periodic briefings
to state energy
planning bodies**

**Adopted by
CRITFC
February 2022**

QUESTIONS?





Overview of Draft Rules



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Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area

- Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area
- Oregon Department of Agriculture Agricultural Water Quality Management Area





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Program structure

Rules that apply to all landowners

- Prohibited acts
- Application rates/restrictions
- Irrigation management
- Animal pasturing

Rules that apply to large irrigated acreages

- Annual nitrogen plan
- Post-harvest summary
- Nitrogen plan evaluation
- Adaptive management measures

Prohibited Acts

Fertilizer may not be applied to agricultural lands in a manner that causes pollution of the groundwater of the state or in a manner that places wastes in a location where they are likely to escape or be carried into groundwater of the state.





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Prohibited Acts

A person may not place fertilizers, fumigants or pesticides via back flow or well casings.

A landowner conducting agricultural activities on agricultural land within the LUBGWMA may not violate the provisions of the rules (OAR 603-095-5000-5070).



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Land Application Rates/Restrictions

- Prior to first application of N, take soil samples to determine how much N you need to apply.
- Document date/location of all N applications, soil moisture at time of application, and agronomic application rate used.
 - *Records retained by landowner for five years.*
- No application to frozen or saturated soils or soils that will become saturated prior to infiltration/incorporation or if the water table is 12 inches or less.
- No application of synthetic N to bare fields unless within 60 days of planting a crop.

Irrigation Water Management

- Base volume of water needed according to specific parameters including soil moisture.
- Control rate and volume to minimize transport of N to groundwater.
- Match irrigation to crop demand.
- All landowners within the LUBGWMA shall manage irrigated agricultural lands to prevent the downward movement of nitrate in the soil by managing irrigation water so that the amount of water applied from the combination of precipitation and irrigation does not exceed the field capacity of the soil beyond the crop root depth.



Animal Pasturing

- Determine appropriate stocking rate and rotate livestock to prevent over-grazing and bare soils.
- Manage manure in heavy use areas.
- If applying N to pasture, test soil first to determine need.
- Irrigation should not exceed field capacity of soil.



Large Irrigated Acreage Program (500 acres or more*)

- Use Annual Nitrogen Plans as an **assessment and management tool** for growers/producers.
- Evaluate actual applied management practices to forecasted practices and determine performance on your plan every year.
- Determine appropriate adaptive management measures for the following year's plan.



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Annual Nitrogen Plan

- Is an assessment tool.
- Is NOT a regulatory tool.
- ODA requires growers to submit proof that they have a plan

BUT

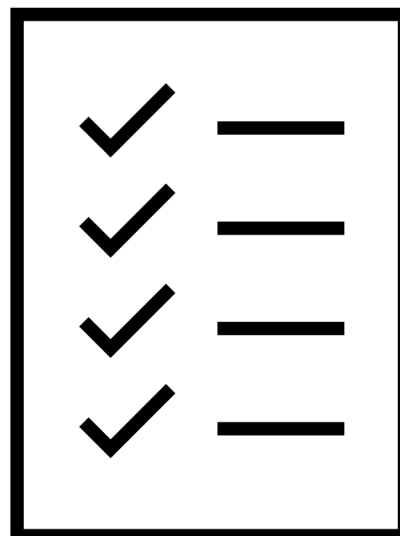
- ODA does NOT enforce against a grower who has not met or followed their annual nitrogen plan.



Plan Contents:

Shall contain but is not limited to:

- Landowner Name
- Crop Year
- Field Identification
- Soil Type (map unit name)
- Soil test N results
- Planned Crop Type
- Estimated Crop Yield
- N Management Measures accounting for N from all sources
- Split fertilizer applications (if applicable)
- Irrigation water management measures



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Post Harvest Summary Records

Evaluation of the Plan: Weighing the decisions

- Landowner Name
- Crop Year
- Field Identification
- Crop Type
- Crop Harvest Yield
- Total N Applied (from all sources)
- Estimated Crop Yield
- N Management Measures accounting for N from all sources
- Irrigation water management measures
- Annual Nitrogen Plan evaluation and any **adaptive management measures** to be installed



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Plan Evaluation Methods:



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A/R Method

The A/R ratio is calculated as the ratio of total nitrogen applied divided by the total nitrogen removed. (A/R = All nitrogen added to a field from any source/ All nitrogen removed from a field in harvested or other materials)

A-R Method

The A - R difference is calculated as the sum total of nitrogen (lbs/acre) added to a field from any source minus the sum total of all nitrogen removed (lbs/acre) from a field. (Nitrogen Applied minus Total Nitrogen Removed = Change in Soil N storage)

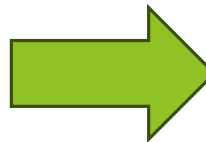
Post-Harvest Nitrate Samples

A landowner may determine post-harvest nitrate levels using soil nitrate levels derived from post-harvest soil samples taken consistent with the soil sampling protocol in OAR 603-095-5065(2)

Estimated Crop Yield

If a landowner has met or exceeded their estimated crop yield this is an indication that a landowner has applied fertilizer at an agronomic application rate and post-harvest soil nitrate concentrations are low. If a landowner has not met or exceeded their estimated crop yield, this may be an indication that a landowner has not applied fertilizer at an agronomic application rate and excess plant available nitrogen remains in the soil at the crop root depth.

Annual Nitrogen Plan Met or Followed?	Required Actions
Yes	(1) No changes to current practices required.
No Year 1	(1) Document reason(s) for not following an annual nitrogen plan in post-harvest summary record. (2) Reevaluate nitrogen plan assumptions for estimated crop yield. (3) Verify actual agronomic application rates and recalibrate application equipment as necessary. (4) Review irrigation water management and determine how to achieve the standard in OAR 603-095-5025(3). (5) Consider planting a fall/winter cover crop.
No Year 2	(1) Continue Required Actions for "No" Year 1.
No Year 3	(1) Continue the Required Actions for "No" Year 1 and 2; and (2) Adjust nitrogen application timing so nutrient availability aligns with peak crop uptake; (3) Stop nitrogen application after peak crop uptake; and (4) Plant a fall/winter cover crop.
No Year 4	(1) Continue the actions in the Required Actions column for "No" Year 1 through Year 3; and (2) Reduce nitrogen application to fields; and (3) Hire a Certified Crop Advisor to develop annual nitrogen plan and agronomic application rates.



Adaptive Management Measures



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No Year 5	(1) Continue the actions for "No" Year 3; and (2) Enhance residual nitrogen removal via cropping; and (3) Reduce nitrogen application.
No Year 6 And 6+	(1) Stop further nitrogen application until you have hired a Certified Crop Advisor to develop an annual nitrogen plan and develop appropriate agronomic application rates for each crop and then apply nitrogen according to the recommendations of the Certified Crop Advisor. (2) To determine progress after taking the measures in (1) above, collect post-harvest soil samples consistent with the protocol in OAR 603-095-5065(2)(a) at the 12 - 24 inch, 24 - 36 inch, 36 - 48 inch, and 48 - 60 inch depth or until refusal or groundwater is reached and analyze for nitrate.



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ODA's Methods for Program evaluation

- **Determining compliance**
 - ✓ auditing of records
 - ✓ inspection of records
 - ✓ on-farm inspections
- **Determining participation**
 - ✓ % of participants based on submitted proof of certifications
- **Determining program effectiveness**
 - ✓ residual soil nitrate levels



Large Irrigated Acres: Program Evaluation Timeline



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- The department shall not conduct an evaluation of the large irrigated acres program for at least three growing seasons subsequent to the effective date of the rules.
 - 3 years for operations over 1000 acres
 - 5 years for operations over 500 acres.
- Landowners will be required to begin to build nitrogen management plans beginning at the effective date of these rules. The three year/five-year period allows landowners to develop a strategy and process for building those plans.

Residual Soil Nitrate Levels



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- Landowners subject to this rule; which include all operations 500 acres or more, shall determine residual soil nitrate levels for 10% of the irrigated fields under their ownership/control.
- Initial residual nitrate soil samples shall be taken within one calendar year following the effective date of these area rules; in the fall: post-harvest.
- Soil sample location will be marked with GPS and every 5 calendar years; a similar sample will be taken in the same fields at the same location.
- Soil sample will consist of composite samples being collected at the 4-5 ft. depth.
- Soil Nitrate levels and Sample location identifiers (field ID) will be recorded by landowners on a worksheet; and that worksheet shall be submitted to ODA by May 1 of each reporting year.

The department shall not conduct an evaluation of residual soil nitrate levels until it has a sufficient data set for a scientifically-acceptable analysis.



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Informational and Public Comment Opportunities

Lower Umatilla Basin
Groundwater Management Area

PUBLIC MEETINGS

In person		Virtual
DEC.	DEC.	DEC.
4	15	16



The Oregon Department of Agriculture will be presenting the draft Agricultural Water Quality rules for agricultural lands located within the boundaries of the LUB GWMA. Join us to learn more about ODA and the proposed rules, including who they will apply to and how agricultural lands can be managed to comply with the rules.

Informational meeting: 5:30-6:30 p.m., Dec. 4 (no public comment will be taken at this meeting) at SAGE Event Center, 101 Olson Road NE, Boardman

Informational meeting followed by public hearing and comment session: 5:30-7 p.m., Dec. 15 in person at SAGE Event Center and virtually at <https://oda.fyi/Dec-15-Mtg>

Public hearing and comment session: 5:30-6:30 p.m., Dec. 16, virtual meeting only, <https://oda.fyi/Dec-16-Mtg>

To learn more about the rulemaking process at ODA, please scan this code with your smartphone to access ODA's website.



Spanish translation services will be available during all meetings

Thank You

Nick D. Sirovatka
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Oregon Department of Agriculture
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Scan this QR code with
your cell phone camera
app to open the ODA
Rulemaking webpage

The cost of regulatory compliance in the Oregon tree fruit industry

Tim Delbridge, Ashley Thompson and Mike McCullough

For decades, Oregon State University Extension and other state Extension services have published guidance on the costs of production for different crop and livestock enterprises. These “enterprise budgets” can be useful as financial benchmarks for producers as they manage production costs on their own farms. They can also provide lenders and others in the supply chain a better understanding of the profitability of agricultural production.

However, crop and livestock budgets rarely include the costs that farms face in complying with local, state and federal regulations, which have increased significantly in recent years for some crops.

Crop and livestock budgets rarely include the costs that farms face in complying with regulations.

This publication analyzes the cost of regulatory compliance on four Oregon tree fruit operations and provides guidance for other farms to effectively plan for and manage costs related to regulations on labor, the environment, and consumer safety. We present in-depth data from two pear producers and two cherry producers, which allows us to highlight differences in labor requirements and production practices across these tree fruit crops.



Regulations add expense to a tree fruit producer's bottom line.

Credit: Alyson Yates

Regulatory requirements related to safety training, pesticide use and reporting, food safety, the H2A guest worker program, excessive heat, air and water quality, workers' compensation, and unemployment insurance have added to production costs in meaningful ways.

Table 1. Acreage and labor force by operation size and crop

Crop	Operation	Approximate acreage	Year-round staff	Seasonal staff	Workers per acre
Cherry	Large	2,500	50	900	0.45
	Small	200	6	110	0.70
Pear	Large	600	35	85	0.22
	Small	50	5	20	0.54

For each crop, we include data from one smaller farm managed by a farm owner with a small number of year-round orchard staff and one larger operation that employs more production staff as well as employees who handle administrative duties (Table 1). Including both large and small farms allows us to explore how compliance costs tend to scale with farm size and the degree to which large farms achieve efficiencies of scale in regulatory compliance.

Compliance costs are separated into cash costs and noncash costs. Cash costs represent employee wages, supplies, and other purchased materials needed to comply with state and federal regulations. Noncash costs include time spent by owners to carry out regulatory tasks that is not directly compensated through payroll expenditure.

Data collection

In the summer and fall of 2024, we identified tree fruit producers that would be willing to participate in lengthy interviews about the actions that they or their employees undertook to comply with state and federal regulations.

We gathered information on farm operations, including the number of employees and their hourly wages, scale of production and typical farm revenues, and asked farm owners about their practices related to farmworker hiring, housing, and training. Farm owners provided information on cash expenses and capital investments related to regulatory compliance.

Prior to the interview, each organization was provided with the same fillable form asking them to document costs associated with compliance categories. We divided regulations into the following categories:

1. **Safety education and training** (for example, Oregon Heat Rule training)
2. **Air quality requirements** (for example, procuring a burn permit)
3. **Water quality requirements** (for example, well water testing)
4. **Pesticide regulation** (for example, filing paperwork and recordkeeping)
5. **Food safety and produce rule** (for example, sanitization of equipment)
6. **Labor health and safety regulations** (for example, water provisioning to comply with the Oregon Heat Rule)
7. **H2A compliance** (for example, H2A application and travel expenses)
8. **Capital investments** required for regulatory compliance (for example, improvements to worker housing to comply with the Oregon Heat Rule)
9. **Other**

Results

Compliance costs are separated into categories to help compare similar costs across farms. Table 2 presents the per-acre cost associated with each category for each of the case-study farms.

The per-acre costs are calculated using the number of acres currently in production and omit fallowed land, farmland used for other crops, and orchard acres that are not yet of productive age. In total, we calculate the cost of regulatory compliance on these farms to range from roughly \$250 per acre to more than \$700 per acre.

The two pear farms have higher compliance costs than cherry farms, driven by higher safety training costs, labor health and safety, and H2A compliance costs.

The total regulatory costs and the costs for individual categories differ significantly from one farm to the next. This is not surprising given the differences in farm size, number of employees, and management practices on different operations. Still, there are a number of trends that we have found during the interviews with these producers and analysis of their self-reported expenses.

Table 2. Per-acre cash and noncash expenses related to regulatory compliance on four case-study tree fruit farms in Oregon

Compliance category	Large cherry	Small cherry	Large pear	Small pear
Safety training	\$27.28	\$49.21	\$102.16	\$107.73
Air quality requirements	\$0.43	\$0.29	\$0.22	\$3.31
Water quality requirements	\$0.74	\$2.20	\$8.82	\$2.42
ODA — pesticide regulation	\$5.43	\$19.23	\$67.28	\$85.80
Food safety — produce rule	\$13.33	\$5.45	\$21.93	\$147.33
Labor health and safety requirements	\$50.35	\$35.85	\$92.96	\$60.43
Capital investment	\$9.45	\$43.40	\$8.93	\$111.95
H2A compliance	\$79.88	\$109.23	\$206.04	\$177.54
Full-time safety and compliance staff	\$64.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other ^a	\$0.00	\$11.10	\$24.39	\$0.25
Total	\$251.02	\$275.97	\$532.72	\$696.75

^aOther includes legal costs, ACA compliance and expenses associated with helping workers fill out hiring packets (for example, I-9s, etc.).

Figure 1 presents the costs for each category averaged across the four farms included in the analysis.

Since tree fruit production is an industry with a high need for hired labor, the compliance categories that relate to employee training and safety show the highest average costs. These include capital investment (which primarily involves employee housing), H2A visa compliance and labor safety trainings.

Environmental regulations related to water and air quality are less burdensome, though compliance with pesticide regulations can lead to significant costs.

Table 3 presents *only the cash expenses* associated with regulatory compliance and omits costs of owner/manager time that are not directly compensated.

When restricting the analysis to cash costs, the values are significantly lower for the two smaller farms, though roughly the same for the large farms. This is because smaller farms are less likely to have paid administrative staff to manage regulatory compliance issues. Rather, the owners of small farms might lead required employee trainings and fill out pesticide application records themselves while not taking an hourly wage.

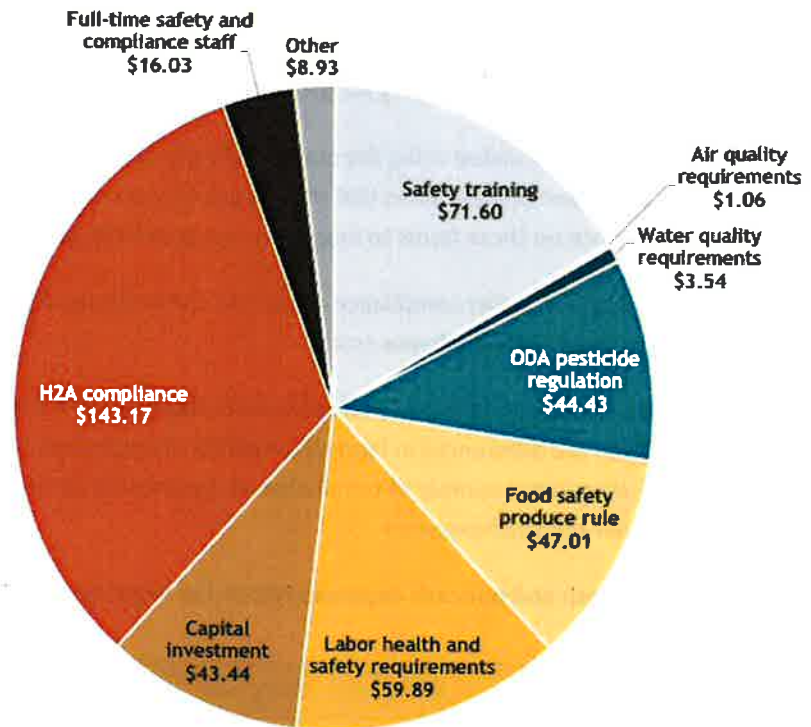


Figure 1. Average per-acre regulatory costs in 2024 for two cherry and two pear producers

Credit: © Oregon State University

Table 3. Cash expenses related to regulatory compliance on four case-study tree fruit farms in Oregon

Compliance category	Large cherry	Small cherry	Large pear	Small pear
Safety training	\$27.12	\$50.02	\$68.59	\$94.08
Air quality requirements	\$0.43	\$0.09	\$0.06	\$0.00
Water quality requirements	\$0.74	\$1.20	\$3.58	\$2.42
ODA — pesticide regulation	\$5.43	\$15.23	\$67.28	\$64.29
Food safety — produce rule	\$13.33	\$4.45	\$11.21	\$39.80
Labor health and safety requirements	\$50.35	\$33.44	\$92.96	\$57.12
Capital investment	\$9.45	\$43.40	\$8.93	\$111.95
H2A compliance	\$78.23	\$57.14	\$202.50	\$144.04
Full-time safety and compliance staff	\$64.13	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Other ^a	\$0.00	\$5.26	\$22.62	\$0.00
Total	\$249.21	\$210.23	\$477.72	\$513.71

^aOther includes legal costs, ACA compliance and expenses associated with helping workers fill out hiring packets (for example, I-9s, etc.).

Conclusions

This analysis leads to five main conclusions.

1. Larger farms tend to have fewer employees per acre, which leads to lower employee overhead costs (for onboarding and training) per acre.

While producers do not normally think of “employees per acre” as a useful management metric, it can help explain the economies of scale that larger farms enjoy with respect to regulatory costs.

Each employee needs onboarding and safety training, which can be a significant expense. If a farm can maintain one worker for the full year instead of hiring temporary pruning staff and harvest season help, it could reduce total regulatory costs. This can be easier to achieve on large farms.

As you can see in Table 1, both the large cherry farm and the large pear farm have many fewer employees per acre than the smaller farms that grow the same crop.

2. Pear growers tend to rely more on workers with H2A visas than cherry growers do, leading to larger H2A compliance costs for pear producers.

Both pear and cherry producers rely on seasonal harvest crews, but cherry producers in Oregon usually have enough domestic workers that they do not need to hire H2A employees to pick fruit. Pear harvest comes later in the summer

when many migratory workers have already returned home, leaving fewer domestic workers available and increasing reliance on H2A harvest crews.

The required expenses and administrative costs for H2A contracts are significant and can result in large overall regulatory costs for pear farms.

Note that we do not consider the impact of the Adverse Effective Wage Rate that serves as a minimum wage for H2A workers. In 2024, the Adverse Effective Wage Rate for Oregon was \$19.25, which was significantly higher than the state minimum wage of \$13.70 per hour and is often higher than the prevailing market wage.

3. Large farms often have compliance officers who handle many of the regulatory requirements facing tree fruit farms. This may be cheaper on a per-acre basis than small farms where owners manage regulatory compliance.

The large tree fruit operations that participated in this study have full-time staffs that help with regulatory compliance, along with other administrative duties. This may be more cost-effective on a per-acre basis than having a farmer-owner handle compliance on a smaller farm. Full-time compliance staff may be able to maintain compliance with fewer hours of work given their specialization and familiarity with the large set of complex regulations.

4. Recordkeeping requirements related to pesticide and food safety can create significant expense for farms, though this is an area in which more efficient record systems have the potential to reduce the burden.

Recordkeeping is an area of regulatory compliance that tends to have high variability in reported time expenditure. Farms vary in their recordkeeping processes, and some may have figured out ways to record information in a time-efficient way.

Moreover, some regulatory requirements tend to be vaguely written or are poorly understood, and some farms might spend more time than needed to maintain satisfactory records.

5. Requirements for capital investment, particularly related to farmworker housing, have the potential to be extremely burdensome. However, these costs are highly variable across farms and depend on the existing housing infrastructure on the farm.

In this article we do not attempt to estimate the cost of compliance with newly released Oregon OSHA farmworker housing regulations that will phase in from January 1, 2026, to January 1, 2028. These are likely to be very costly for some farms depending on the design of their existing housing facilities, even if currently in full compliance with existing law.

However, capital investments undertaken to comply with heat rules represented significant expense for some of these case farms. Costs depended on the existing facilities and economies of scale in installation and maintenance of air conditioning equipment.

Regulatory costs compared to farm income

As with other production costs, it can be useful to think about regulatory costs as a percentage of total farm revenue. This helps compare the cost of compliance over time and across industries.

According to the 2022 OSU Extension Enterprise Budget for sweet cherries, typical cherry revenue is \$10,200 per acre. According to the 2021 Enterprise Budget for bartlett pears, typical pear revenue is approximately \$11,250 per acre. At these per-acre revenue values, the total regulatory compliance costs presented above represent between 2.5% and 2.7% of revenue for cherries and between 4.7% and 6.6% of revenue for pears.

These values are higher than found by researchers for other industries but lower than found in recent research focused on specialty crop production in California.

How can growers make use of this information?

Regulatory costs faced by the agriculture industry have increased in recent years and are likely to continue to escalate. This means that it will be increasingly important that farmers actively manage their expenditures related to regulatory compliance, just like they do for labor, machinery and purchased inputs. Our findings with this study lead to a few suggestions for Oregon farmers:

- Think about how much time and money is being spent on regulatory costs on *your* farm. Are there ways to reduce the time spent? This might mean improving recordkeeping processes so that these required tasks take less time.
- Consider whether individual tasks or even crop enterprises can be adjusted to smooth labor requirements and reduce the number of employees that are onboarded each year. Each additional employee increases overhead costs related to training.
- Consider carefully whether using the H2A program is worth the cost. Make sure you are accounting for the full costs of using the program when doing your cost-benefit analysis of H2A contracts.
- Be wary of “overcompliance,” meaning spending time and money on compliance tasks that are not necessary and do not add value to the business. Regulations are complicated and often difficult to interpret. Talking to other growers about how they satisfy regulations and sharing strategies for efficiently complying with regulations could lead to cost savings on some operations. Participating in compliance trainings, through insurance providers or others, may be worthwhile.

For more information

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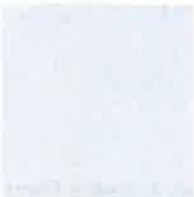
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AG OVERTIME

State-by-State Comparison

	Implementation Timeline	OT Threshold	Exceptions & Exemptions	Tax Credit
California	3 years for "large employers" (26+); 6 years for "small employers" (25 or less)	40 hours / week 8 hours / day		
Washington	4 years	40 hours / week		
Oregon	4 years	40 hours / week *		Temporary tax credit of 15-60% of overtime costs with cap of 55 million. Ends in 2028.
New York	10 years	40 hours / week (eventually)		Permanent tax credit: 118% of overtime costs to account for payroll costs Employers can receive advanced payment of tax credit for overtime hours paid.
Minnesota		48 hours / week	Salaried employees earning at least \$818.06 per week	
Hawaii	3 years	48 hours / week	48 hours for up to 20 weeks per year	
Colorado	3 years	48 hours / week	56 hours for 22 weeks per year for "highly seasonal employers"	
Maryland		60 hours / week		

* Oregon's permanent threshold will be 40 hours as of 2027

HEAT ILLNESS PREVENTION

State-by-State Comparison

All state rules include similar general requirements: access to shade, drinking water access, written emergency medical plan, written heat illness prevention plan, acclimatization plan, employee training and documentation of training, and additional standards for high heat.

	Heat Measurement	Rules Triggered at X° F
Oregon	Heat Index *	80° F
California	Temperature	80° F
Colorado	Temperature	80° F
Washington	Temperature	90° F

* Oregon is the ONLY state with heat rules in effect that uses heat index rather than actual temperature, which means the rules will be triggered sooner.

Additional Requirements for High Heat Practices: Rest Breaks

	90 degrees	95 degrees	100 degrees	105 degrees
Oregon	10 min every 2 hours	20 minutes every hour	30 minutes every hour	40 minutes every hour
Washington	10 minutes every 2 hours	10 minutes every 2 hours	15 minutes every hour	15 minutes every hour
California		10 min every 2 hours	10 min every 2 hours	10 min every 2 hours
Colorado		10 min every 2 hours	10 min every 2 hours	10 min every 2 hours

WILDFIRE SMOKE STANDARD

State-by-State Comparison

Oregon	AQI 101 – 276 - Monitor air quality. - Employee training. 2-way communication. - Voluntary use of facepiece respirators.	AQI 277 – 848 Mandatory use of facepiece respirators.	AQI 849+ Provide respirators (with filters/cartridges that require fit testing and medical evaluations) for all employees.
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California	AQI 151 – 500 - Monitor air quality. - Employee training. 2-way communication. - Voluntary use of facepiece respirators.	AQI 500+ Mandatory use of facepiece respirators.
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Washington	AQI 69+ Employee training.	AQI 72 – 100 Notify employees of conditions; consider voluntary facepiece respirator use.	AQI 101 – 350 Make N95 respirators available for voluntary use.	AQI 351 – 848 Directly distribute N95 facepiece respirators for voluntary use.	AQI 849 – 956 Required use of respiratory protection program (fit testing, medical evaluations).	AQI 957+ Require respirators with an assigned protection factor of 25+.
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A new look at labor costs

By crunching apple growers' financial records, Northwest Horticultural Council hopes to draw attention to critical need for H-2A policy reform.

by Kate Prengaman

It's been a brutal year for apple growers, who received returns below the cost of production on the bumper 2023 crop while paying record-setting labor rates to grow and harvest the 2024 crop.

The result: a cloud of uncertainty about their economic future.

"How do you survive with these labor costs?" asks Scott McDougall, president of McDougall and Sons of Wenatchee, Washington. "This industry is not sustainable unless we start getting some help on the political side with these wage increases."

Over the past 10 years, labor costs per bin of apples have more than doubled for Washington growers using the H-2A program. That's compared to 30 percent inflation across the U.S. economy in the same period.

To show policymakers the squeeze that escalating labor costs put on apple growers, the Northwest Horticultural Council recently commissioned an analysis of growers' actual financial data over the past decade, looking at the labor costs that go into every bin of fruit and the returns growers received per bin. In 2023, labor costs swallowed 99 percent of the surveyed growers' returns per bin, leaving nothing to spare for other inputs, such as chemicals and fuel.

"It's scary. The 2023 crop is a stark reality check" of how unchecked labor cost increases are putting growers out of business, said Mark Powers, president of the NHC, which advocates for Pacific Northwest tree fruit growers on federal policy issues.

Even if apple prices recover, the problem remains.

"Mother Nature provides different crops in different years, but if you look at the (wage and labor) trend lines, they are unsustainable," Powers said.

NHC spent \$100,000 on the analysis, which was conducted with care for the confidentiality of the sensitive business data involved by accounting firm Moss Adams. NHC declined to share the number of participating growers, but surveyed farms had a net return to the orchard of \$100 million in 2022, which is about 5 percent of the state's \$2.07 billion apple crop.

Those farms opened their books so the accounting firm could calculate "an aggregated and anonymized industry representative" net return per bin after packing charges, Powers said. The data is averaged across all apple varieties for crop years 2013 to 2023, along with the wages and benefits paid per bin and the associated H-2A costs, such as housing and transportation, also averaged per bin.

The labor cost to grow a bin of Washington apples rose from \$84 in 2013 to a high of \$191 per bin in 2022, when a short crop meant the fixed labor costs were spread across less fruit. That's a 127 percent increase. For the larger 2023 crop, labor costs were \$162 per bin (up 95 percent from the comparably large crop of 2014), and growers received \$163 per bin (down from \$275 and \$285, the previous two years, respectively).

The data reflect growers' reality, according to NHC trustees who reviewed the findings. In fact, it might be an optimistic view, considering that survey respondents represent larger farms with economies of scale, said Miles Kohl, CEO of Allan Bros. in Naches, Washington.

The result is a first-of-its-kind approach to quantifying "the reality of what our growers are going through," said Kate Tynan, NHC senior vice president. "The data allows us to

show, in black and white, how dire of a situation we are in and how growers can't wait any longer for policymakers to address this issue."

NHC didn't invest in this analysis to tell growers what they already know, but rather to provide "a tool to communicate the scale of the challenge," said Sean Gilbert, president of Gilbert Orchards in Yakima, Washington, and the current chair of NHC's board. "The industry's reliance on the H-2A program means our cost of labor is directly tied to public policy. Anything in the public policy realm needs to be clearly communicated in understandable soundbites or graphs."

Rather than preaching to the choir, the analysis arms the choir with facts, said Brad Newman, president of Cowiche Growers and an NHC board member. Labor costs, driven by the H-2A program and Washington's overtime rules, have pushed growers to the brink.

"Inevitably there are difficult market periods, and we're in one now, but it's remarkably exacerbated by the labor rates," he said. Overtime rules have pushed up labor costs at the cooperative's packing house, too. "Which is passed on to the grower in packing charges, and they are paying significantly more to farm and harvest, and they don't have anyone to pass that on to."

In 2024, the AEWR was set at \$19.75 in California; \$19.25 in Oregon and Washington; \$18.50 in Michigan; \$17.80 in New York; and \$17.20 in Pennsylvania. Meanwhile, of those apple-growing states, only Michigan and Pennsylvania continue to exempt farm work from overtime pay.

The AEWR increases also drive up the wages that smaller growers, who hire locally, must pay to compete for workers, Newman said.

As the name implies, the Adverse Effect Wage Rate was created to meet a statutory obligation to ensure the H-2A program did not adversely affect wages of local workers. Functionally, it's become a floor, as H-2A employers are required to offer the same wages and benefits to any domestic applicants, and that in turn pushes non-H-2A employers to offer even higher wages to keep their workers, Tynan said.

Therein lies the problem: The average from that competitive wage dynamic the previous year becomes the base wage, or floor, for the next season, as determined through the wage surveys that are used to set the AEWR and Washington's prevailing wage. Moreover, the industry's piece-rate pay practices compound the problem of setting a base wage on the previous year's average.

"It's an unsustainable cycle where government-imposed wages are artificially driving up labor costs for the entire industry," Tynan said.

It's something she, and many others, have been trying to draw lawmakers' attention to for years.

Tynan said the new data — showing, rather than telling — has already drawn policymakers' attention to the urgency of the problem. NHC works with other ag labor groups to advocate for both a short-term pause in AEWR increases and long-term solutions in the form of both legislation and administrative action.

The goal is "reasonable AEWR reform," Gilbert said.

"It's not going away, but I do think the policy could be crafted to be fair to workers and sustainable for farmers," he said. "Otherwise, orchards will come out, and that means less jobs for people — and under the current system, I don't see it going any other way." ●

How the wage escalator is carrying apple growers out of business

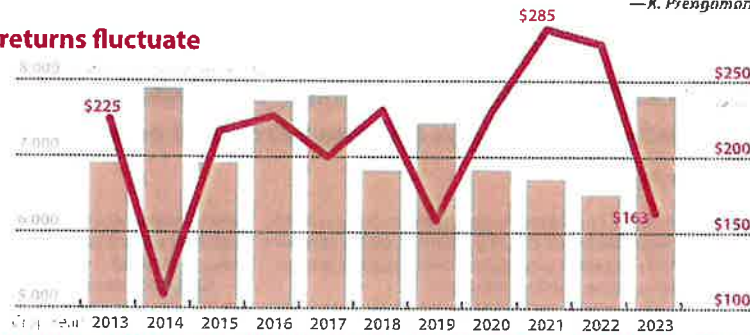
Apple growers' returns fluctuate with supply and demand, but over the past decade, labor costs have consumed an increasing share of growers' returns per bin, squeezing their ability to produce a crop profitably. The industry's reliance on the H-2A temporary agricultural worker program means that the federal policies controlling the program, including how it sets wages, have a direct impact on whether growers can continue to afford the cost of growing apples.

To demonstrate the pressure that labor costs are putting on apple growers, the Northwest Horticultural Council recently commissioned an analysis of Washington apple growers' confidential financial data. While just a small subset of the industry participated, industry officials say it's a representative sample and the data correctly show how labor cost escalations are pushing apple production into unsustainable territory.

—M. Prengaman

Apple growers' returns fluctuate

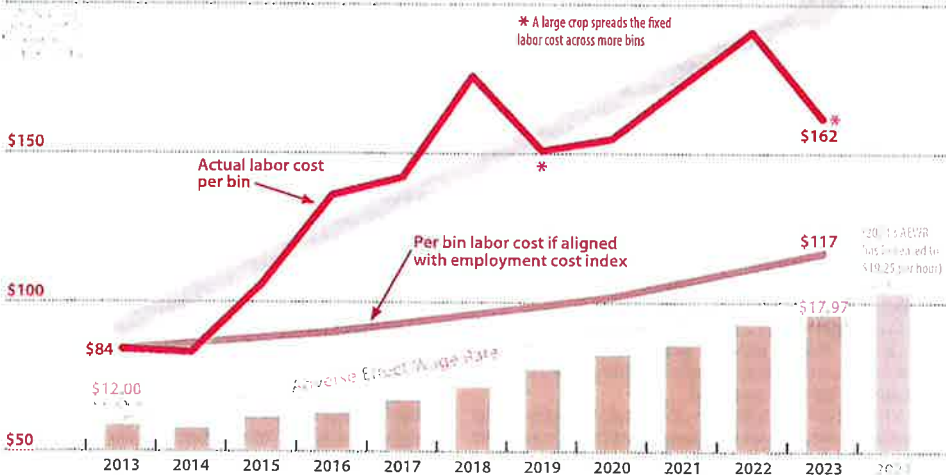
This chart shows the relationship between the size of the U.S. fresh-market apple crop and the average net return per bin, across all varieties, for the Washington growers surveyed.



The labor escalator

This chart shows the labor costs that go into each bin of fruit produced by the surveyed growers; those costs have doubled over the decade shown. The actual cost per bin varies as fixed costs, such as housing and transportation, are spread across fluctuating crop sizes. That trendline can be compared to the trendline estimating the cost per bin if labor rates were aligned with the employment cost index. Underlying the real-world rise in costs per bin is the Adverse Effect Wage Rate, which has risen 60 percent over the past decade in Washington, and other costs mandated by the H-2A program.

\$200

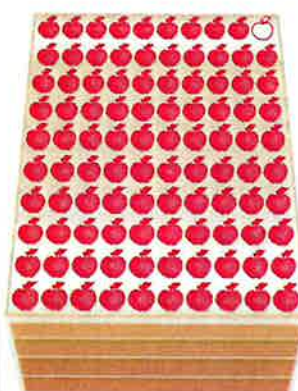
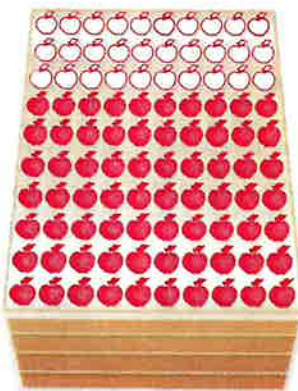
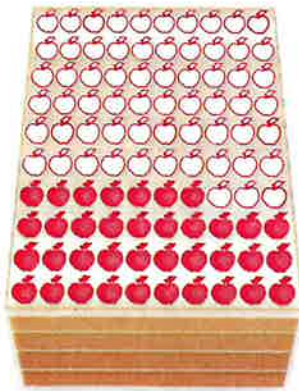


Labor is growers' largest input cost, but it's not the only one

In 2013, as use of the H-2A program began to grow in Washington, growers spent 37% of their returns per bin on labor.

By 2022, labor consumed 70% of grower returns per bin. Considering all the other input costs, including chemicals and fuel, there is little to no margin left to sustain a business.

Price volatility is part of agriculture, but labor costs threaten growers' ability to weather a downturn in the market. For the 2023 crop, labor consumed 99% of grower net returns per bin.



Oregon farmworker housing standards criticized by federal agency

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By Mateusz Perkowski



The U.S. Small Business Administration claims Oregon's farmworker housing requirements, enacted earlier this year, exceed federal regulations and create "substantial compliance burdens" for farmers. (Capital Press file photo)

A federal agency has highlighted Oregon's farmworker housing standards and other policies as examples of state-level practices that "unduly burden" interstate commerce and the economy.

The U.S. Small Business Administration claims the new housing requirements, enacted earlier this year, exceed federal regulations and create "substantial compliance burdens" for farmers.

"Small farms lack the financial resources to absorb compliance costs that can range from hundreds of thousands to over one million dollars per operation, forcing many to consider exiting the agricultural labor housing market entirely," according to SBA.

The Oregon Farm Bureau, which alerted the SBA to its concerns regarding farmworker housing and other state policies, sees the agency's comments as "validation" that Oregon has implemented policies that are "out of the ordinary in a harmful way to Oregon businesses, specifically farmers and ranchers," said Ryan Krabill, the organization's government affairs manager.

"They saw this as an anomaly and it's not an anomaly in a good way," he said.

The state's revised standards increase the amount of housing space per farmworker from 40 square feet to 50 square feet in some circumstances and set additional requirements for storage space, hand-washing stations, electrical outlets, toilets and cooking facilities, among other measures.

SBA's view

The SBA has identified several ways in which the standards may result in "potentially devastating financial impacts" for growers, potentially impacting interstate commerce, including:

- Requirements to expand the amount of space per farmworker may effectively reduce available housing for migrants by 20-50%, thus "constraining labor mobility in what is inherently an interstate agricultural workforce system."
- Small and mid-sized farms that are unable to afford housing upgrades that range from \$400,000 to \$1.5 million per operation could be rendered "unable to compete effectively in interstate markets," thus "altering interstate commerce patterns in agricultural goods."
- If these competitive disadvantages result in a "potential exodus" of family farms, it could disrupt "supply chains throughout the Pacific Northwest" by requiring processors and distributors to find other sources of crops.

The Small Business Administration included its analysis in a letter to the U.S. Department of Justice, which had solicited comments earlier this year about state-level policies that hinder interstate commerce, increase prices or harm markets. Though the SBA devoted a standalone section to Oregon's farmworker housing standards, the agency's 28-page letter also commented on other policies enacted in the state and elsewhere in the U.S.

For example, Oregon was one of several states criticized for enacting tax statutes that allegedly hinder interstate commerce, as well as "extended producer responsibility" laws that make companies financially responsible for packaging materials throughout their "life cycle."

The SBA concluded that these examples “demonstrate how individual states have effectively extended their regulatory authority beyond their borders” in ways that “particularly disadvantage small entities, which may lack the resources to navigate complex compliance requirements across multiple jurisdictions.”

These practices are tough for small businesses to absorb and often result in consumers elsewhere in the country paying higher prices, which may warrant the federal government taking a “conditional funding approach” to encourage more “uniform standards” across state lines, according to SBA.

While the SBA didn’t elaborate on its recommendations for “conditional funding,” the term typically refers to federal agencies making grants or other funding conditional upon a state government adopting certain policies.

The SBA’s letter and the DOJ’s inquiry are also potentially significant because the Trump administration has filed lawsuits against several state governments over policies it believes are hindering interstate commerce, energy production and the national economy.

For example, the federal government has sued California over its housing regulations for egg-laying hens and filed lawsuits against New York, Michigan, Hawaii and Vermont over policies intended to curtail greenhouse gas emissions.

Krabill of the Oregon Farm Bureau said he “would not venture to guess” what actions the federal government may take in response to the SBA’s findings, though the organization would “welcome a conversation” about how to protect farming and ranching, “not only for the next generation, but the next business cycle.”

“It’s not that our crystal ball isn’t working, it’s that we don’t have a crystal ball in regard to these things,” Krabill said. “It’s kind of an open question as to what this means for specific actions.”