

Appendix A: Investment Area Descriptions

The program and project descriptions shared in this appendix are compiled by each agency. They provide details about each program and project and relevant updates since the [2025 Annual Fund Report](#), and [2024 Annual Fund Report](#).

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Oregon Department of Agriculture | P1: Invasive Annual Grasses

Budget and Funding

Table A1. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Other Funds Leveraged (Federal/State/Private)	Other Funds Issued
2024	\$396,000	\$0	NRCS: Up to \$1,760,000 over 5 years	-
2025	-	\$26,387	-	\$438,403
2026	-	\$34,360	\$89,436	-
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$396,000</i>	<i>\$60,747</i>	<i>Up to \$1,849,436 over 5 years</i>	<i>\$438,403</i>

Table A2. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	\$44,000	0.4	10%
2025	\$44,000	-	-
2026	\$44,000	-	-

Admin and Personnel costs and N&WL Funds Issued will total \$396,000 at project end.

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

High-functioning rangelands are a crucial component of carbon storage and sequestration across Oregon and this project's primary focus will be on preserving and protecting intact or high value perennial bunchgrass habitat and rangeland. This project is facilitated by a partnership with U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and will implement an Invasive Annual Grass (IAG) Management Strategy (i.e., Defend and Grow the Core) that will support numerous state policies for Natural Climate Solutions outlined in Oregon House Bill 3409 and the conservation practices outlined in the Institute for Natural Resources' Natural and Working Lands Report. This project engages partners at the state, federal, tribal and local levels to support control efforts and management of invasive annual grasses, noxious weeds and juniper encroachment to preserve, protect and restore rangelands and forests and prevent conversion to ecosystems dominated by invasive annual grasses.

The focus of this project is to provide technical assistance to landowners and land managers that supports coordination, collaboration, and outreach efforts to identify priority treatment areas and high value partnerships for invasive grass management. These efforts help prioritize projects that align with the goals and objectives identified by the Global Warming Commission, HB3409, the USDA Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative, USDA Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, Western Weed Action Plan, Oregon SageCon Partnership, and others aimed at protecting rangeland and forests from numerous threats like invasive annual grasses, fire and climate change.

By immediately leveraging over \$1.76 million in federal funds, ODA will provide technical assistance and subject matter expertise to landowners, land managers and Tribal partners who seek to adopt practices that prevent conversion of rangelands to annual dominated ecosystems, reduce wildfire risk and restore deep-rooted perennial grasses. Acting as liaison to federal partners, ODA will provide further technical assistance by connecting landowners and land managers to the appropriate existing and emerging funding opportunities that support adoption of natural climate solutions and other conservation practices.

The protection and restoration of these landscapes will protect and improve their resilience to catastrophic wildfire, protect and improve drought resilience, and increase the climate resilience of wildlife habitat. This project will also expand existing program efforts for the prevention and control of priority state-listed noxious weed species that threaten perennial bunchgrass communities, shrublands, and savanna habitats in the areas identified by the defend and grow the core strategy. ODA staff will identify, develop, and coordinate the implementation of on-the-ground projects among partners, as well as monitor their effectiveness to improve future outcomes. ODA may also subaward funds as grants for the implementation of on-the-ground work that addresses state priorities. This project complements the work proposed by other agencies and demonstrates that ODA's priorities are in sync with partners statewide. This request of \$360,000 will support 0.4 FTE over five years by leveraging \$1.76 million from USDA-NRCS to support another 1.6 FTE.

Implementation Update

ODA was not able to fill the second rangeland health specialist position due to renewed uncertainty of NRCS funding. A second specialist is still part of the overall workplan goals and ODA continues to have conversations with federal partners while seeking alternative funding sources to support additional capacity.

In 2026, project activities have maintained focus on technical assistance and consultation with local working groups' land managers and private landowners. To date in 2026, ODA staff have made 18 field visits and completed seven consultations for IAG related work in 10 counties. Activities have included project site condition evaluations and inventories of plant communities, GIS analysis, treatment recommendations, identification of potential funding streams that align with project goals or habitat types and assistance with development of regional strategic action plans for invasive annual grass management. The Rangeland Health Specialist participated in meetings with Sage Grouse Local Implementation Teams and Cooperative Weed Management Areas as they work to develop their social, technical and economic capacity to design and implement treatment projects. ODA also organized and hosted a webinar between area managers and scientists, the Envu herbicide company and commercial carbon market brokers that explored the means and potential of carbon market values in rangeland conservation.

ODA implemented field trials in Northeast Oregon, in partnership with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla, private landowners, and the Eastern Oregon Ag Research Station (Union) to evaluate the effects of invasive annual grass herbicide treatments on First Foods and culturally significant plant species. Information gathered is analyzing results across four sites from low elevation "poor condition" sites in Umatilla to higher elevation sites with better perennial plants communities at higher elevations in Wallowa County. While results analysis is ongoing, and preliminary observations are variable between sites and species, initial observations suggest that invasive annual grasses are greatly reduced, and most

native species are surviving well. Some of the First Food species are thriving, producing more blossoms and biomass than those in untreated areas. Data will be collected for at least one more year and partners are working to fund monitoring for five or more years since treatment results take that long to “mature.” Results will inform strategies for larger scale treatments to ensure that First Foods and culturally significant plant species are protected or enhanced.

ODA has been involved in a tech-transfer project with the Nature Conservancy and Oregon State University designed to lay out the management strategies, key questions, and potential tools that help prevent IAG invasion into good condition rangelands; or that maintain and/or improve rangeland plant community conditions; or how to contain seeds from, or re-vegetate land dominated by IAGs. It will soon be available on the ODA Noxious Weed Webpage.

Rangeland Summit: ODA partnered with Wallowa Resources, OSU Extension, and the Nature Conservancy to organize and implement the second annual NE Oregon Rangeland Summit. Over 100 people attended the summit which convened producers, land managers, researchers, and partners on working lands. Sessions highlighted tools like virtual fencing, real-world approaches to water management and drought resilience, and the importance of supporting the next generation of rangeland stewards. Grounded in both science and producer experience, the summit highlighted collaboration, innovation, and practical solutions to sustain resilient rangelands across Northeast Oregon.

Drone Application Workshop: ODA also partnered with the Envu company to organize and implement a drone pattern testing workshop. The workshop provided drone applicators with essential information for effective application of rangeland herbicides to control invasive annual grasses in the Pacific Northwest. The FAA and three states presented on current regulations and safety. A professional pattern testing service was on site and evaluated drone calibration, swath width and pattern testing. Over 30 people attended and certification credits were issued by Oregon, Washington, and Idaho with attendees also from Canada and California.

ODA staff worked to develop a treatment option framework to help NRCS staff implement private land IAG herbicide treatments that would not harm any Oregon state listed plants species. The framework used known distributions and plant ecology to identify hazards and opportunities for treatments and directed staff to know site specific information available from biodiversity entities. Further, ODA staff has been providing information and experience to U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management staff who are working to move through National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Consultation processes that would allow them to use IAG herbicides at scales that could have significant impact on rangeland health and fuels management. ODA staff presented information about IAG’s and rangelands at six meetings reaching over 200 attendees.

Next Steps

Fundraise for an NRS-3 level Rangeland Health Specialist, with an anticipated onboarding date of January 2027. This onboarding date was pushed back from the previous target of May 2026 due to the uncertainty of federal funding.

With more than a full year of partner engagement, ODA staff will focus on developing the 20-year goals and 10-year action plans in 2026 through coordination of multiple regional working groups. These plans will guide this work into the future in a way that empowers landowners, addresses gaps in understanding and ensures outcomes that create resiliency across the rangelands of Oregon while

maintaining productivity for range-based agriculture and protecting or enhancing wildlife habitats. Further effort will be put into leveraging additional federal funds to benefit private landowners by enrolling them in NRCS conservation programs.

The 20/10 plans will also be informed by spatial analysis using existing and emerging datasets that will prioritize key geographies and habitats based on current ecological state, probability of successful restoration, available funding mechanisms (e.g., RCPP) and opportunity to capitalize on existing partnerships or momentum in those areas.

Needs and Opportunities

State Funding Source: ODA's Rangeland Health Program will largely focus on promoting the proper and effective management of Invasive Annual Grasses to help protect, improve and restore rangeland ecological functions. While some funding is available for this work, it is temporary and insufficient for the scope of work at hand. A state allocated fund for on the ground projects that protect and promote healthy rangelands would be very useful in providing the catalyst for communities to plan and implement rangeland health work in ecologically important geographies. This is especially true since federal funds are most recently focusing on natural resource production and fuels management in Wildland Urban Interfaces where rangelands often do not exist or are already compromised to a great degree.

Federal Partnerships: The Rangeland Health Program should work closely with federal partners to prioritize important cores of healthy rangelands and to take advantage of federal partnerships and funding opportunities.

Rangelands Advisory Board: A critical need for this work to be effective is the creation of an interdisciplinary and interjurisdictional Oregon Rangelands Advisory Board that will maintain focus on healthy rangelands across the state over time. The first task of this group would be to produce a 20-year plan with 10-year objectives for healthy rangeland in Oregon.

Research: Research into effective restoration techniques and plant materials that preserve and protect our native rangelands and their ecological functions is of high importance.

Pre- and Post-Fire Planning: The promotion of pre-fire planning that helps prevent large wildfires and helps protect cores of healthy rangelands across Oregon's rangelands is essential to the success of this project. This work needs to proceed in cooperation with the Rural Fire Protection Districts, Oregon Department of Forestry's work with private land fire protection, the State Fire Marshall's office, etc. Similarly, the ability for the state to provide post fire response funds for rangelands is especially important since grasslands are very vulnerable to IAG invasion post fire and the proper treatments post fire can protect rangelands from the IAG invasion.

Monitoring & Mapping: Broad implementation of the Oregon Rangeland Monitoring Project. Revise current ecostate maps to function better in the non-sagebrush steppe of Oregon by working with Sustainable Northwest, Oregon State University, The Nature Conservancy, Harney County and the Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

By using this investment to leverage federal funds, it will allow ODA to create capacity with two FTE over five years. ODA is well positioned and well partnered for this work as the state authority on state-listed

noxious weeds and threatened and endangered plants. The agency has the technical expertise and the infrastructure to support this project and the need for ODA to serve in this role has been identified through numerous planning and consultation efforts, but the agency has lacked the capacity to do so in a meaningful way.

Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Information

The Commission's investment of \$360,000 has been leveraged to secure over \$1.76M of federal funds via the cooperative agreement with NRCS with funds derived from various federal mechanisms including BIL, IRA, Farm Bill and others. Long-term federal funding leverage may exceed \$20 million over five years with ODA acting as a liaison between the NRCS, project managers, and landowners to access existing funding opportunities provided through the USDA Working Lands for Wildlife Initiative, the USDA Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative, and others while ODA will also contribute to additional efforts to secure federal funds from opportunities like the America the Beautiful Challenge.

2026 Update: ODA provided match to a successful application to the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF) Conservation Partners Program that was funded for \$777,702 dollars. The project, submitted by ODFW, includes funding for two new Farm Bill biologists who will work with local producers and partners to increase native seed availability for habitat restoration and post-wildfire recovery.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

Including forested rangelands and prairie ecosystems, nearly half of Oregon is covered by rangeland. All this land is ancestral Tribal land and nearly every modern-day Tribal land holding is impacted by invasive annual grass and noxious weeds, extreme wildfires driven by climate change and degraded habitats. This work prioritizes inclusion of tribal partners and considers tribal priorities such as first foods, culturally significant species and priority habitats. To make meaningful progress toward restoration and long-term conservation of Oregon's rangelands, it is essential to engage and partner with Oregon Tribes.

2026 Update: ODA has continued to work with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla on test plots to evaluate the effects of invasive annual grass treatments on First Foods and culturally significant plant species. Information gathered here will inform strategies for larger scale treatments to ensure that First Foods and culturally significant plant species are protected. ODA has notified other Tribal officials of the project and the agency's desire to incorporate Tribal priorities and perspectives into its planning efforts moving forward.

Nearly all the work related to this project occurs in geographies that have been identified as underserved and/or disproportionately impacted by climate change, drought, and water quality.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Table A3. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Acres treated/restored	None to report	TBD- (fall is treatment window)	26 acres
Acres protected	None to report	TBD- longer term measurable	1500+ acres
Funds Leveraged	\$113,589	\$317,000	\$777,702
10-Year Action Plan	None to report	In progress	In Progress
Assistance Provided	None to report	50+ landowners/managers	119 Landowners and managers

Oregon Department of Agriculture | P2: Oregon Native Seed Strategy

Budget and Funding

Table A5. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Other Funds Leveraged (Federal/State/Private)	Other Funds Issued
2024	\$582,928	\$235,663	-	-
2025	-	\$260,027	\$3,200,000	-
2026	-	34,310	\$167,436	-
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$582,928</i>	<i>\$530,000</i>	<i>\$3,367,436</i>	<i>-</i>

Table A6. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	\$212,097	0.25	10%
2025	\$317,903	0.50	-

Admin and Personnel costs and N&WL Funds Issued total \$582,928.

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

The Oregon Native Seed Strategy protects, conserves and improves the resiliency of rangelands in Oregon from the effects of climate change. High-functioning rangelands are a crucial component of carbon sequestration across Oregon. Implementation of the Strategy supports numerous priorities of HB 3409 and State Policies for Natural Climate Solutions and practices outlined in the Institute for Natural Resources' Natural Working Lands Report for rangeland and forest sectors, including: reducing wildfire risks, prevention of conversion to annual-dominated systems, restoration of deep-rooted perennial grasses impacted by invasive species and increased climate resilience of wildlife habitat.

As myriad agencies, landowners and land managers prioritize and implement rangeland conservation and restoration projects, there is a defined need for ecologically appropriate native seedstock that is not currently met. Natural & Working Lands Funds are supporting Tribal participation in the ODA-led Oregon Native Seed Collective (ONSC) working group and have provided \$125,000 dollars of financial assistance for Tribal farmers, Tribal nurseries and Tribal native plant programs. ODA partnered with agencies, landowners and land managers to source and collect target species identified by the ONSC with priority given to restoration workhorse species as well as historically underutilized specialist species.

ODA is leveraging existing partnerships to facilitate the development of a farmer's cooperative that supports growers and processors of native seed crops. The cooperative will jointly seek further federal funding opportunities such as the USDA's Specialty Crop Block Grant Program, Value-Added Producer Grant Program, and others. With existing program staff and through agreements with partners, ODA is collecting, cleaning and banking priority native species. A portion of collected seeds will be redistributed to seed growers, free of charge, to help minimize risk to farmers and encourage participation in the cooperative while also bringing native seed to the supply chain.

Together, project activities are ensuring that landowners, land managers and tribal partners have access to the tools, technical expertise and financial resources required to meet their native seed needs as they endeavor to protect and restore Oregon rangelands. With access to technical assistance, markets, and native seed, landowners, land managers, and Tribal communities are empowered to adopt practices that prevent conversion to invasive annual plant dominated systems, restore deep-rooted perennial grasses, and reduce wildfire risk.

Approximately 20 percent of this investment is supporting seasonal staff at ODA with a focus on seed collection. The remaining 80 percent is supporting Tribal financial assistance and incentives, technical assistance to landowners and managers, and on-the-ground work by project partners. This project complements the work proposed by other agencies and demonstrates that ODA's priorities are in sync with partners statewide.

Implementation Update

In 2025, The Understory Initiative, working with the Institute for Applied Ecology (IAE), advanced native seed production across Oregon. In the Rogue and Umpqua valleys, they expanded farmer co-op capacity by onboarding three new growers in the Umpqua Basin, increased active or planned production from three to ten priority species, established new seed production fields, and delivered key infrastructure including a regional seed cleaning and storage facility in the Umpqua and greenhouse construction and seed processing equipment in the Rogue. In the Willamette Valley, they recruited five growers toward forming a new co-op, prioritized ten prairie and oak-associated species, collected and stored foundation seed, distributed it to growers to establish production fields, upgraded seed-drying facilities, and sustained Tribal engagement with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde. On the Oregon Coast and in the Great Basin, work centered on early-stage scoping, partnership development through the Coastal Native Seed Partnership, species prioritization, and technical assistance to assess readiness for future pilot production. Across all regions, the project standardized seed inventory and tracking systems, expanded shared equipment libraries, leveraged volunteer-supported seed cleaning, and further developed the Oregon Restoration Growers Guild (ORGG) as a centralized online platform for grower coordination and training. Tribal engagement, species prioritization, and infrastructure improvements were woven throughout, reflecting a focus on building durable systems and stabilizing grower participation rather than rapid expansion.

As of February 2026, four of the five Tribal grant projects (\$25,000 each) have concluded. Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde purchased seed cleaning and separation equipment to improve the efficiency and output of native seed production at their nursery, supporting traditional foods grown for the community and species used in streamside restoration. Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation equipped their native plant nursery with seed processing and storage gear to expand seed bank capacity for propagating First Foods and native plants for restoration and riparian projects. Coquille Indian Tribe used the funds for wildfire rehabilitation of forestlands burned in the 2023 Anvil Fire, reforesting fire lines and masticated fuel breaks with conifers and donated red alder, and growing roughly 16,000 Douglas-fir, grand fir, and incense cedar seedlings for 2026 out-planting to restore fiber supplies, wildlife habitat, stream shade, and cultural gathering opportunities. Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians advanced their Camas Prairie Restoration at the Siletz Tel-tvm' property by purchasing seed-harvesting, processing, fire-safety, and nursery/storage equipment and collecting over 20 pounds of camas seed and 30 pounds of bulbs — engaging more than 50 participants across 150 hours in cultural harvest camps and applying cultural fire — making this their largest year of camas restoration yet. Confederated Tribes

of Warm Springs is constructing a greenhouse to grow culturally significant plants for restoration projects, wildfire recovery, and seed propagation, and has extended their project timeline into 2027.

In 2025 and continuing into 2026, ODA has been engaged in seed collection and banking with a focus on key species, habitats and geographies that are vulnerable to the effects of climate change. In 2025, ODA staff employed two seasonal staff who collected seed from 25 at-risk plant species across 13 Oregon counties. Natural and Working Lands funding was leveraged to secure complementary funding from Center for Plant Conservation, maximizing the impact of these at-risk species collections.

In 2026 — with additional funding from accrued interest from ODA’s allocation — ODA has further invested in native seed production in central Oregon, contracting the OSU East Cascades Native Plant Hub (ECNPH) to bridge a critical gap in the native seed supply chain. ECNPH will use small 1/10-acre to 1/2-acre plots to amplify wild collected native seed to sufficient seed volumes for large-scale commercial growers to establish production fields of tens of acres. ECNPH began contracted seed collection and production in early 2026.

Next Steps

ODA will continue to work with The Understory Initiative during the execution of their current contract, which concludes in 2026. Members of the Oregon Native Seed Collective continue to seek financial support for further implementation of the Oregon Native Seed Strategy, and ODA will continue to provide technical assistance and support to these efforts.

Needs and Opportunities

The success of Oregon’s Natural & Working Lands Fund investment in native seed development has created significant momentum for expanding implementation of the Oregon Native Seed Strategy. With \$3.2 million in federal funds already leveraged and demonstrated success in tribal engagement, technical assistance delivery, and grower network development, additional opportunities exist to scale these efforts statewide and create sustainable market infrastructure.

Critical needs and opportunities include:

- *Statewide Strategy Integration and Institutional Adoption:* The Oregon Native Seed Strategy presents opportunities for systemic integration into existing agency operations and planning processes without requiring dedicated funding. State agencies can modify existing procurement policies to prioritize ecologically appropriate native seed, incorporate Strategy principles into standard restoration protocols, and integrate native seed requirements into environmental permitting processes. Critical integration opportunities include embedding Strategy principles into wildfire response protocols and emergency rehabilitation standards, ensuring that post-fire restoration efforts utilize ecologically appropriate native seed rather than non-native alternatives, when available. Additionally, updating grazing lease requirements and land use planning guidelines to include native seed restoration components would create systematic incentives for landowners to participate in habitat restoration while supporting the native seed market. This integration transforms the Strategy from guidance document to operational practice across institutional partners.
- *Expansion of Regional Seed Hubs and Grower Networks:* Building on the Central Oregon seed hub (based in Deschutes County), additional investment is needed to fully develop Eastern Oregon’s

production capacity and establish new hubs in underserved ecoregions. Current grower networks require expanded technical assistance, expansion of equipment libraries, and infrastructure development to meet projected restoration demands across Oregon's 62 million acres of rangeland and forestland. Significant expansion is needed to recruit new growers, develop specialty crop production for historically underutilized species, and provide risk mitigation programs that encourage farmers to diversify into native seed production. This would increase the geographic distribution of production capacity and the diversity of species available commercially.

- *Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity (IDIQ) Program Development*: Following the Bureau of Land Management model, Oregon needs a state-level IDIQ contract system to provide predictable markets for native seed producers while ensuring reliable supply for restoration projects. This program would create sustainable funding mechanisms through seed sales revenue, supporting long-term market stability and encouraging private sector investment in native seed production.
- *Enhanced Tribal Capacity Building*: Expanding the successful \$125,000 tribal grant program to support additional Tribes and increase funding levels for infrastructure development, staff capacity, and culturally significant species production. This investment directly supports tribal sovereignty while advancing statewide restoration goals.
- *Research and Development Infrastructure*: Investment in seed storage facilities, processing equipment, genetic diversity research, and development of production protocols for priority species that are currently unavailable commercially is greatly needed. This infrastructure would bridge the divide between wild collection and commercial production for Oregon's most critical restoration species.

These investments would leverage existing partnerships and infrastructure while creating the market conditions necessary for a self-sustaining native seed industry that supports Oregon's climate adaptation and ecosystem restoration objectives.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

ODA is well positioned and well partnered to implement this project as the drafting agency of the Oregon Native Seed Strategy and leader of the Oregon Native Seed Collective. ODA has an active working group with relevant partners who meet monthly to draft the Strategy, and therefore, many partners are invested in project implementation. Further, ODA already has agreements in place to facilitate the Strategy's implementation such as an agreement with the Rae Selling Seed Bank at Portland State University, among others.

Description of Current Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Leveraged or Anticipated

This project has already helped leverage over \$3 million in federal funds. The published Oregon Native Seed Strategy will provide the framework for myriad projects by ODA and members of the Oregon Native Seed Collective over the next 20 years, creating an opportunity to leverage this investment repeatedly over that time. Finally, a driving force behind the development of the native seed cooperative is to better position farmers to compete for existing and emerging funding opportunities, providing innumerable opportunities to indirectly leverage this investment into the future.

2026 Update: ODA provided match to a successful application to the NFWF Conservation Partners Program that was funded for \$777,702 dollars. The project, submitted by ODFW, includes funding for

two new Farm Bill biologists who will work with local producers and partners to increase native seed availability for habitat restoration and post-wildfire recovery.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

This project removes barriers for Tribes, environmental justice communities, landowners, and land managers to engage in natural climate solutions and provides access to funding to support natural climate solutions. This investment provided an initial \$100,000 in financial assistance to Oregon Tribes, Tribal nurseries and Tribal native plant programs. \$25,000 of accrued interest was added to the available funds in this category at the end of 2024, for a total of \$125,000. Tribal representation in the ONSC ensures that tribal values and culturally significant plants and habitats are incorporated and prioritized into statewide planning efforts. As such, this proposal should be prioritized as set forth in Section 56 of HB 3409.

2026 Update: In 2025, The Understory Initiative reported Tribal engagement and technical assistance across all regions. The Understory Initiative continues ongoing coordination with the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde in the Willamette Valley, which supported inclusion of culturally significant species priorities and alignment of seed production with Tribal restoration and nursery needs. Representatives from CTGR, CTWS, CTCLUSI, CTSI, and CTUIR continue to be active participants in the Oregon Native Seed Collective, coordinated by ODA.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Table A7. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Species conserved	6	20+ (ongoing)	5+ (ongoing)
Oregon Tribes supported	TBD – In progress	7 (see narrative for details)	7
Technical assistance provided	TBD – In progress	5 Tribes received grants, 8 native seed/plant growers received technical assistance	Multiple Tribes and growers received TA. (Awaiting final report from contracted partner)
Policies supported	TBD – In progress	TBD – In progress	Oregon SWAP, EO 25-26, HB 3409, others
Funds leveraged	TBD – Up to \$2 million anticipated	\$3.2M	\$805,702

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife | P3: Floodplain Reforestation on North Santiam River

Budget and Funding

Table A8. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Other Funds Leveraged (Federal/State/Private)	Other Funds Issued
2024	\$412,500	-	\$1,600,000 secured by Tribe (Federal, State, Private)	\$100,530 federal
2025	-	\$218,482	-	\$132,188 federal
2026	-	\$53,206	-	-
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$412,500</i>	<i>\$271,688</i>	<i>\$1,600,000</i>	<i>\$232,718</i>

Table A9. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	-	-	-
2025	\$218,482	0	-
2026	\$53,206	0	-
2027	\$140,812	0	-

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

The Floodplain Reforestation on the North Santiam River project will reestablish 30 acres of floodplain forest within the 462-acre Chahalpam Wildlife Area by planting agricultural fields with native riparian hardwood trees and shrubs in high densities to achieve canopy cover in five to seven years utilizing the Rapid Riparian Revegetation (R3) method. This project requires no additional positions and will cost \$412,500.

The Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde successfully re-acquired the 462-acre Chahalpam property through ODFW's Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). Although WWMP funds habitat acquisitions and provides some funding for operations and maintenance from Bonneville Power Administration, it does not provide restoration funding to achieve desired future conditions. Natural & Working Lands Funds are covering project management, plant materials, and contractual costs for planting and three years of plant establishment.

This project will increase net carbon sequestration and restore floodplain function through reestablishing floodplain forest on 30 acres. The restoration of ecological function of historic habitat will increase the complexity necessary for fish and wildlife and improve habitat conditions for 18 terrestrial and aquatic species, including ESA-listed spring Chinook salmon and winter steelhead, state sensitive and culturally important Pacific lamprey, and several Oregon Conservation Strategy species including Northwestern pond turtle, Northern red legged frog and willow flycatcher.

This project will help meet a collective call for restoring riparian habitats in the Willamette Valley by converting agricultural lands back to historic floodplain forest habitat. Contributing to restoring riparian habitats at a landscape level, this project has a larger resource benefit. Locally, Chahalpam is permanently protected by conservation easements and habitat restoration efforts will be secured investments that compound with others over time. Regionally, the site is situated in the Santiam Confluences Conservation Opportunity Area and its restoration contributes to priorities identified by the OCS (ODFW 2016) and the Willamette Synthesis (TNC 2010). This project also contributes to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program as it is located within the Willamette Valley Focus Area for riparian habitats.

Carbon Sequestration and Climate Resiliency: In the face of climate change, this project will contribute to resiliency by re-establishing native forest habitat and understory on 30 acres previously managed as agriculture. Trees and shrubs will capture carbon throughout their lifetime, which will help reduce carbon dioxide in the atmosphere. Replanting the floodplain forest will have additional localized co-benefits of increased water storage in the riparian area and reduced stream temperatures through shading, benefiting aquatic habitat during more frequent, intense, and extended heat events and droughts anticipated in the Willamette Valley under climate change. The replanted floodplain forest will also attenuate high flow events and slowly release water in winter as precipitation patterns shift to rain-dominated-systems.

This project specifically addresses this section of HB 3409: "ODFW shall use moneys allocated from the fund to promote natural climate solutions and mitigate the future impacts of climate change" and, "Relying on existing programs ... to support investments in natural climate solutions on natural and working lands. Ensure the benefits of natural climate solutions are equitably distributed among landowners, Indian tribes, land managers and environmental justice communities." The project also uses the recommended practice of "restore functioning riparian areas."

Historical Context: Since time immemorial, the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde has been the historical caretaker of the Willamette Valley. The native plants and animals are intrinsic resources to the Tribe as they form the foundation to historic traditions and values. The North Santiam River (River) holds significant historical and cultural importance, once being the home of the Santiam band of the Kalapuya. Most noted for their indigenous burning of the Valley, the Kalapuya have deep connections to place along the river and its salmon resources.

The habitats of this River were historically complex and diverse. The open, low gradients fostered multi-channeled, densely braided, and dynamic side-channel, back-channel and off-channel habitats. However, conversion of floodplain forest to agricultural production led to devastating impacts on natural river processes.

Project Site: Along the River, the Tribe successfully re-acquired Chahalpam in 3 phases through ODFW's Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program during 2013-2019. Chahalpam totals 462 acres, contains more than a mile of riverfront, and crosses both banks of the river. The Tribe owns the property, and the Bonneville Power Administration holds three conservation easements, permanently protecting the entire site as fish and wildlife habitat. Chahalpam has three land management plans that identify desired future habitat conditions and describe management actions to achieve those. The site has a Combined Habitat Assessment Protocol (CHAP) analysis that identifies baseline habitat conditions for which

restoration efforts can be measured against. A Floodplain Restoration Alternatives Analysis identifies actions to improve floodplain connectivity, complexity, and function.

Implementation Update

- On-going plant establishment activities (watering, weed suppression, and mowing) have been completed since shrubs and trees were planted in February 2025.
 - August 2025: 32 acres of watering conducted by Tribal staff and equipment
 - September 2025: 32 acres of line/circle spray around each plant and spot spray targeting invasive weeds conducted by J Franco Reforestation.
 - April-May 2026: 32 acres of line/circle spray around each plant and spot spray targeting invasive weeds conducted by J Franco Reforestation.
- Community engagement activities:
 - March 19, 2026-: Site visit conducted with staff from both the North and South Santiam Watershed Councils. Toured overall restoration at the site and compared this project to other planting efforts that have occurred to-date. Future opportunities and collaboration were discussed and there is effort towards an Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) grant application.
 - April 14, 2026: Presentation at the North Santiam Basin Summit in Salem which included this project.
- Storymap of the project completed by ODFW NWL staff (P8): [View the storymap](#).

Next Steps

Conduct one more year of plant establishment activities (watering, weed suppression and mowing) by June 30, 2027.

Needs and Opportunities

- *Plant Establishment Activities*

To date, the Tribe has replanted 185 acres of agricultural land back to native habitat. Of those acres, 145 (78%) are still in the plant establishment phase with activities such as watering and weed suppression scheduled for the next 3-5 years. The activities needed on the 145 acres are not currently funded at this time.
- *Planting Activities*

The Tribe is scheduled to replant the remaining agricultural land at Chahalpam in 2027 totaling 42 acres, as well as a neighboring 7 acres owned by a private landowner. This project is not currently funded, and the Tribe is seeking an OWEB Open Solicitation grant for plant materials, planting, and plant establishment activities.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

Work is being completed by the Tribe, who has a long track record of successful restoration projects as well as a large staff and youth volunteers who can do this restoration work.

Description of Current Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Leveraged or Anticipated

Since re-acquisition, the Tribe has secured \$1.6 million in restoration funds for Chahalpam from multiple sources including federal, state, local, and non-governmental organizations. The Tribe has a proven track record for seeking and receiving funds and implementing those funds on-the-ground for improving habitat conditions. N&WL Funds will contribute to the following projects that are in-progress:

- \$54,848 from the Bureau of Land Management, Secure Rural Schools for plant establishment efforts on 62 acres of re-planted floodplain forest;
- \$396,315 from the Bonneville Power Administration, Anchor Habitats Investments for improving floodplain forest on 19 acres and improving three fish passage issues;
- \$287,984 from the Bonneville Power Administration, Anchor Habitats Investments for replanting 49 acres;
- \$102,785 from the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Invasive Species Program for improving floodplain forest on 40 acres;
- \$195,579 from the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, Tribal Wildlife Grant for re-planting 40 acres of floodplain forest and conducting plant establishment efforts; and
- \$18,059 from Natural Resources Conservation Service, Conservation Stewardship Program to reestablish oak habitat on seven acres.

In the Tribe's experience, "grant funds attract other grant funds," and the N&WL Funds will be used to leverage future restoration dollars on the site. Habitat restoration is a layered process with several actions over a long period of time to achieve desired future conditions, often with multiple co-benefits. Additional federal funds to be sought for continued restoration efforts may include but are not limited to: NRCS: Environmental Quality Incentives Program; U.S. FWS: Tribal Wildlife Grant; BPA: Anchor Habitats Investments; BLM: Secure Rural Schools; BIA: Invasive Species or Endangered Species Programs; NOAA: Coastal Resilience for Underserved Communities or PCSRF; America the Beautiful.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

This project was identified by the Tribe as the highest priority restoration site within their portfolio of WWMP properties. ODFW will pass funds directly to the Tribe for this project.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Table A10. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting.

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Acres treated/restored (by treatment type)	TBD – In progress	32 acres of native forest habitat and understory restored	Plant establishment activities to ensure success of 32 acres of forest and understory habitat restoration
Seeding/planting rates/density (by species)	TBD – In progress	Planting rates: 2417 stems/acre Grass seeding rates: 3 lb/acre	-
Technical assistance provided	TBD – In progress	TBD – In progress	-
Policies supported	TBD – In progress	TBD – In progress	-

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Budget and Funding

Table A11. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Other Funds Leveraged (Amount and Source, such as Federal/State/Local)	Other Funds Issued
2024	\$750,000	\$0	Shared position with NRCS	-
2025	-	\$526,308	\$20K federal; \$241,914 state; shared position with NRCS	\$261,914
2026	-	\$145,817	\$6,000 federal; \$10,000 state; \$20,000 private	\$10,000; \$26,000 planned for FY27
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$750,000</i>	<i>\$672,125</i>	<i>\$297,914</i>	<i>\$271,914</i>

Table A12. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	-	-	-
2025	\$526,308	0	-
2026	\$145,817	0	-
2027	\$77,875	0	-

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

The project will cost \$750,000 and will require no new FTE.

This proposal specifically uses the recommended practice of “prevent conversion to invasive annual plant dominated systems,” and “restore deep rooted perennial grasses to areas impacted by invasive species.” It also addresses this section of HB 3409: “ODFW shall use moneys allocated from the fund to promote natural climate solutions and mitigate the future impacts of climate change” and “Relying on existing programs where possible, securing federal matching funds or other sources of funding to support investments in natural climate solutions on natural and working lands.”

This project will support actions on ODFW’s wildlife area. N&WL Funds will leverage additional conservation action and funding to go toward adjacent private and federal lands. ODFW’s Mid-Columbia Wildlife has a positive working relationship with the BLM in the Lower Deschutes and John Day basins to complete restoration activities such as treating invasive annual grasses and planting native shrubs. N&WL Funds will provide incentive to the BLM to allocate more funding to these actions through collaboration with ODFW.

Similarly, Wasco County NRCS has existing programs in the county to complement these activities on private lands. ODFW shares 1.0 FTE in The Dalles with NRCS who is dedicated to working with private

working lands to secure NRCS funds for conservation and will be able to leverage the N&WL Funds for greater investment from federal partners. NRCS has an Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) Rangeland Enhancement Conservation Implementation Strategy that is currently being prioritized in south Wasco County. Due to ODFW's award of N&WL Funds, the ODFW Conservation Liaison will continue to work with the Wasco NRCS to adjust the priority areas to include the private lands adjacent to or in between the southern and northern parcels of the wildlife area once the south Wasco priority area for rangeland enhancements has been sufficiently funded. Other available USDA programs, such as the FSA Conservation Reserve Program- State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement (CRP-SAFE) program have been adopted by some neighboring private properties through the FY 2025 CRP sign-up. NRCS's Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) will be promoted more for landowners within this focal area, particularly for practices and enhancements that align with the N&WL recommended practices to sequester carbon. All of these programs provide incentives to private landowners to address invasive annual grasses, establish perennial bunchgrass communities, and incorporate rotational grazing through improved prescribed grazing practices.

Project Details

The ODFW Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area, Mid-Columbia Wildlife District, and NRCS Conservation Liaison have implemented a cross-boundary carbon sequestration rangeland restoration project focused on the upper and lower sections of the Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area, as well as the private and federal (Bureau of Land Management (BLM)) lands in between. This area, like many areas across eastern Oregon, has been severely impacted by annual grass invasion, decrease of native perennial bunchgrass communities, and continued loss of valuable native shrub steppe vegetation. Historic grazing practices combined with changes to the historic fire regime and the increase in high severity wildfires have altered the plant communities across the lower Deschutes landscape.

This rangeland restoration project has two primary tactics to enhance the quality of grassland and shrub steppe habitats for the numerous wildlife species that occupy this area, all of which are recommended actions through the Oregon Natural and Working Lands proposed practices to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and sequester carbon:

- **Tactic 1: Prevent conversion to invasive annual plant dominated systems.**
 - 1.a. Monitor and treat moderately infested annual grass invaded areas (10-60% cover) with an existing stand of perennial grasses, forbs, and shrubs.
 - 1.b. Establish fuel breaks using existing features such as roads or ridgetops to minimize wildfire impacts.
- **Tactic 2: Restore deep-rooted perennial grasses, forbs, legumes, and shrubs to areas impacted by wildfire and invasive species.**
 - 2.a. Where ground disturbing practices are necessary to restore deep rooted vegetation (drill seeding and shrub planting), conduct archeological surveys prior to beginning work.
 - 2.b. Plant native shrubs, forbs, and grasses (plugs, container, or bareroot) in strategic locations best suited for survival success.
 - 2.c. In areas highly infested with annual grasses (>60% cover), complete herbicide treatment to target annual grasses and re-seed with perennial grasses, forbs, and legumes.

Implementation Update

- Implementation is on-schedule.
- December of 2025: 41,030 shrub plugs were planted by contractors, including 24,618 basin big sagebrush, 12,309 antelope bitterbrush, and 4,103 winterfat.
- Additional archeological surveys along the lower Deschutes River corridor occurred in February 2026 in areas where more shrubs will be planted.
- Contract amended to complete 7,088 additional shrub plantings in fall of 2026 using remaining N&WL Funds (\$34,575) and leveraging an additional \$26,000 (\$6,000 federal, \$20,000 private).
- Planted 1,300 shrubs (blue elderberry, golden current, serviceberry, antelope bitterbrush, woods rose, black hawthorn, chokecherry, mock orange, and hackberry) along lower Deschutes River corridor using federal funds leveraged in FY24. Plantings were completed by ODFW staff and Wasco SWCD staff. Leveraged \$10,000 in federal funding for cage material and mulch matting to improve shrub survival/establishment success.
- Monitoring was completed during early June 2026 to evaluate success of the phase 1 Rejuvra herbicide application.
- Coordinated with Wasco SWCD for additional Rejuvra treatment on approximately 1,000 acres of state, private, and potentially federal (BLM) lands in fall of 2026.
- Co-hosted a N&WL Legislative Tour with the Wasco SWCD and the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts to highlight the work of this project.
- Storymap of the project was completed by ODFW NWL staff (P8). [View the Storymap.](#)

Next Steps

- 7,088 shrubs (4,134 Basin big sagebrush, 1,377 antelope bitterbrush, 1,377 winterfat, 25 each of woods rose, mock orange, serviceberry, and smooth sumac) will be planted in Nov/Dec 2026 (\$6K federal funds and \$20K private funds leveraged to add to N&WL Funds).
- Treat approximately 1,000 acres with Rejuvra for invasive annual grass control via helicopter on the Lower Deschutes Wildlife area, neighboring private lands, and potentially adjacent BLM lands (pending approval) in fall of 2026.
- Annual vegetation monitoring of Rejuvra treatment areas will be completed in May-June 2027. Protocol for surveys follows a modified version of the Oregon Rangeland Monitoring Program protocol.

Needs and Opportunities

- On-going monitoring will occur to assess longevity of Rejuvra treatments and to monitor for other noxious weeds. Areas identified through monitoring as needing supplemental perennial bunchgrasses to promote resilient rangeland may be seeded in the future. Funding to support that effort will be pursued.
- In the exploratory phase of growing native plant materials at the White River Wildlife Area; this may contribute to future seeding or planting needs.
- The Phase 2 Rejuvra treatment has leveraged additional interest in treating acres with funding available through the Wasco SWCD and Sherman SWCD for private lands nearby. This is an exciting opportunity for leveraging cross boundary work to reduce wildfire risk and enhance rangeland health in north-central Oregon.
- Because this project is scalable and contracts are already in place for shrub grow-out and planting operations and aerial herbicide application, it easily allows for more opportunity for

additional plantings or herbicide applications if funding is available. The project team hopes to continue to add to the initial success of this project with additional funding to expand treatments in this area on state, federal, and private lands.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

ODFW's Natural Climate Solutions Biologists (Natural and Working Lands Biologists) (P7 and P9) assist the Mid-Columbia Wildlife District and the Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area staff with project implementation, contracting, and reporting. With this investment on ODFW's lands, ODFW Wildlife District and Wildlife Area staff are focused on partnerships with private landowners in the area and neighboring BLM lands to have a landscape-level impact. The Mid-Columbia Wildlife District staff have led the monitoring efforts for the project.

Description of Current Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Leveraged or Anticipated

These N&WL Funds have leveraged \$26,000 for additional shrub plantings to be implemented in FY27. This project has also spurred conversations among ODFW staff about beginning to produce native plant materials on a small scale for on-going habitat plantings on an annual basis. ODFW White River Wildlife Area is in the beginning stages of setting up foundation seed plots for three native forb species.

The Phase 2 Rejuvra treatment planned for the fall 2026 will be leveraging additional acres to be treated on private lands with funding through Wasco SWCD and Sherman SWCD in the same geography.

The Wasco SWCD hired a Coordinator for a Cooperative Weed Management Area for the Lower Deschutes. This position, and three associated seasonal technicians, helps coordinate and implement weed treatments in the targeted grassland restoration area along the Deschutes River.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

The agricultural communities surrounding the Lower Deschutes Wildlife Area will benefit from technical assistance, project planning, and conservation planning in partnership with ODFW's NRCS Liaison and local ODFW wildlife district staff.

2026 Update: This project is engaging with rural landowners.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Table A13. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting.

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Acres treated/restored (by treatment type)	-	4537 acres treated with annual grass herbicide 5 acres seeded with firebreak mix	-
Seeding/planting rates/density (by species)	-	Firebreak seeding rate: 7 lbs/acre	41,030 shrubs planted
Technical assistance provided	-	50+ agricultural landowners	5 neighboring agricultural producers
Archaeological survey clearances	-	254 acres surveyed	176 acres surveyed

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Budget and Funding

Project was completed in 2025. No new information to report for FY 2026.

Table A14. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Other Funds Leveraged (Federal/State/Private)	Other Funds Issued
2024	\$1,100,000	\$680,000	\$1,977,389	\$10,000
2025	-	\$420,000	\$1,000,591	\$930,000
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$1,100,000</i>	<i>\$1,100,000</i>	<i>\$2,977,980</i>	<i>-</i>

Table A15. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Project was completed in 2025. No new information to report for FY 2026.

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	\$680,000	-	-
2025	\$420,000	0	-

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

Over time, thousands of acres on the Oregon Coast have been drained, and infrastructure — such as tide gates, levees, and channels — has been built to control the tide, reduce flooding, and drain the land. This infrastructure is at, or nearing, the end of its life and is at risk of failure, putting communities at significant risk. While challenging, this issue also represents an opportunity to achieve significant improvements in estuarine ecosystem function and carbon sequestration while addressing the flooding risk to rural coastal communities. This proposal includes two projects for a total cost of \$1.1 million without the need for additional FTE.

ODFW and partners have prioritized estuary restoration projects in the Umpqua Watershed. Multiple estuary restoration projects are the targets of a large federal grant application recently submitted to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NRCS, making use of IIJA and IRA. These federal funds will only be eligible to go toward the water control infrastructure. The related vegetation and habitat restoration work is not eligible for federal funding. This allocation from the Fish and Wildlife N&WL Fund will support the vegetation and habitat restoration components of two of these large tidal wetland restoration projects and leverage a large amount of federal funding. N&WL Funds will be used for each estuary restoration project to connect historic tidal channels identified through LiDAR elevation data and imagery, remove earthen embankments to restore tidal inundation areas and hydrologic exchange with freshwater streams, protect and plant seagrass beds of native vegetation within estuary habitat, and remove invasive plant species to assist with establishing native spruce tidal swamps.

This project specifically addresses this section of HB 3409: “ODFW shall use moneys allocated from the fund to promote natural climate solutions and mitigate the future impacts of climate change” and “Securing federal matching funds or other sources of funding to support investments in natural climate solutions on natural and working lands.” Each of these projects seeks to achieve tidal wetland restoration, a recommended practice in the Institute for Natural Resources Report.

Specifics for Each Project

The Smith/Umpqua Estuary Restoration: This was a multi-variable project that included tide gate removal, tidal channel restoration, bridge infrastructure replacement, native vegetation planting, and water management planning. The project includes work on the Glover Estuary Enhancement project and Kennedy Slough located off the south side of the lower Smith River, near the confluence with the Umpqua River in Reedsport. Work completed over the past two years at the Glover Estuary Enhancement project included replacing two failing top-hinge tide gates with side-hinge tide gates. Two seven-foot diameter tide gates were built, side-by-side, at channel A. Two five-foot diameter tide gates were built at channel J. All structures were built using triple-wall plastic culvert pipe fitted with a marine-grade aluminum side-hinge tide gate flap. Contractors installed Muted Tide Regulators (MTRs) on the tide gates at channels A and J to allow the gates to open and allow for fish passage. MTRs were fabricated and installed by Nehalem Marine. Work completed in 2024 included regrading and reshaping 1.80 miles of channels A, B, C, D, J, and K to properly drain during each tidal cycle. There were 0.41 miles of channels E, F, G, H, and I retained in their current functioning condition during 2025. During the spring and summer of 2025, partners worked with landowners to set the MTR to provide 30 acres of tidal inundation during high tides between November 1 through April 1. The MTR was set to provide 15 flooded acres at each high tide the remainder of the year. Project landowners installed 5.38 miles of woven wire fence along the tidal channels and Smith River dike for livestock management. A fence was built along both sides of the tidal channels. An off-channel stock water system consisting of trough stations was installed at seven fields along with piping and a holding tank to move water from the well to the troughs. Partnership for Umpqua Rivers (PUR) contracted the remaining work completed in 2025 to build livestock crossing bridges over the channels at four locations. Each consisted of a 16'x24' concrete slab set on concrete footings. The fence and gate systems were tied into the livestock crossings for exclusion of animals and to prevent them from accessing the areas of native vegetation plantings. Final work is being completed winter 2025 to plant 5,359 native plant cuttings along 1.46 miles of tidal channels. In coordination with the landowner, who actively grazes livestock on-site, the contractor applied a ranch pasture forage seed mix, certified weed-free straw, and mulch to the banks of all channels. Approximately 300 pounds of seed were used. Despite higher-than-anticipated costs, the result has been a marked improvement in vegetative cover and pasture health. Installation of native plants is scheduled to begin during the winter of 2025. Planting materials, already staged on site, will include live stakes and bare-root plants. Species include locally sourced Hooker’s willow, red osier dogwood, Douglas spirea, Pacific ninebark, and black twinberry.

Kennedy slough project goals are completed, including replacement of a tide gate with a new 8’x8’ side hinge gate with MTR system that was cast in place concrete housing and removal of dikes to restore historic tidal channels restoring 10 acres of coho salmon winter habitat and inundating these lands for carbon sequestration. Previous tidal wetland prioritization ranked the project site as high and medium/high for restoration and/or conservation (Brophy 2005b).

N&WL Funds were used for each estuary restoration project to connect historic tidal channels identified through LiDAR elevation data and imagery, remove earthen embankments to restore tidal inundation areas and hydrologic exchange with freshwater streams, protect and plant seagrass beds of native vegetation within estuary habitat, and remove invasive plant species to assist with establishing native plants. Low marsh elevational habitat at the site is expected to restore *Distichlis spicata* (salt grass), green algae (e.g., *Ulva*), *Triglochin maritima*, small spike rush (*Eleocharis parvula*), sandspurry (*Spergularia*), glaux (*Glaux maritima*), pickleweed (*Sarcocornia perennis*), three square (*Schoenoplectus pungens*) and *Bolboschoenus maritimus*.

Esther Creek Tide Gate and Wetland Restoration: The restoration improvements at the Esther Creek Tide Gate and Wetland Restoration project will provide flood resiliency in the interior of the site by improving drainage of flood waters during low tide swings via removal of a tide gate and man-made berms and improved connectivity of existing and new channel networks. All funds for this project have been allocated and final work will be completed during the July 15–September 15 2026 in-water-work period.

Esther Creek is a small tributary providing approximately 2.5 linear miles of stream habitat suitable for migratory fish use. It drains an area of just over 1.28 square miles. Esther Creek’s headwaters are in private timber lands and flow into agricultural lands. The tide gate is located just past the confluence of Esther and Tomlinson Creek on a privately-owned earthen dike structure creating pastureland at Esther Creek stream mile 0.2. After passing through the tide gate, Esther Creek continues to flow under Highway 131 and empties into the Tillamook River near the entrance to Tillamook Bay. A new tide gate at this site will increase fish passage, provide natural water inundation, flood protection, and prevent a failure of the current deteriorated culvert. The old tide gate is a Nehalem Marine NSG5-5mo (aluminum top hinge w/ mitigator) with a circular corrugated metal pipe, 60 feet in length and 5 feet in diameter. The tide gate was replaced with a new tide gate including a Muted Tidal Regulator (MTR) with a pipe 58 feet long and 72 inches in diameter. This will lessen velocities through the pipe and the MTR along with a water management plan coordinated with the landowner that will improve natural water exchange for tidal marsh habitat and fish passage, increasing accessibility to productive salmon winter rearing habitat. Flood drainage under existing conditions is not as efficient, resulting in decreased peak tidal water levels after successive high tides. Proposed conditions result in a substantial increase in tidal inundated area at Mean Higher High Water (MHHW) which indicates significant potential for uplift of tidal marsh habitat in the interior of the site where we anticipate most of the restored estuary will provide the carbon sequestration benefits. The existing culvert under the county-owned road that passes water into the northwest side of a historic Oxbow is substantially undersized (the existing culvert diameter is four feet, while the estimated natural channel top width is on the order of 4 to 6 feet); proposed restoration will replace the native plant species and based on sea level change in the vicinity of the project we anticipate sediment accretion in the restored wetland will provide for native vegetation establishment and carbon storage within a 13 acre area of coastal wetland habitat.

Project Background

Carbon capture, or sequestration, is a pivotal element of climate change strategies and marine ecosystems like estuaries can store carbon ten times as quickly as sediments in forests. Coastal habitats that capture and store this carbon in marine plants and sediments include sea grasses and estuaries. Seagrass can help us adapt and mitigate the effects of climate changes. Ten percent of organic carbon sequestered in the Pacific Ocean is buried in seagrass beds. Roughly one fifth of world’s largest fisheries depend on seagrass. Flood protection and shoreline stabilization is protected through healthy and

sustainable seagrass beds. Restoration of seagrass meadows and estuary function will contribute to carbon storage and the extent of the area will increase storage in the magnitude of 108 Mg/ha.

Estuaries are also exceedingly valuable for the biodiversity they harbor and the ecosystem services they provide to resident and migratory fish species. Despite their importance and value to both biodiversity and humans, estuaries represent some of the most degraded habitats and continue to be stressed by human activities on the ocean, on land, and in freshwater. Over time, thousands of acres on the Oregon Coast have been drained, and infrastructure — such as tide gates, levees, and channels — has been built to control the tide, reduce flooding, and drain the land. This infrastructure is at, or nearing, the end of its life and is at risk of failure, putting agricultural communities at significant risk of flooding. While challenging, this issue also represents an opportunity to achieve significant improvements in estuarine ecosystem function and carbon sequestration while addressing the flooding risk to rural coastal communities.

Our vision is that Oregon has a modern tide gate infrastructure that benefits carbon storage and estuary function, fish habitat connectivity, and underserved communities. As a result, coastal agricultural communities are more resilient to the impacts of sea level rise and increased flood frequency and severity. The ecological function of Oregon's estuaries and access to key rearing areas is improved, resulting in healthier and more abundant estuary habitats that can store carbon.

Implementation Update

The coastal restoration projects were completed in 2025. See below for links to StoryMaps for both projects that received NWL funding. Storymaps were created by ODFW NWL staff (P8).

- Smith River Estuary Project: [View the storymap](#).
- Ester Creek Estuary Project: [View the storymap](#).

Next Steps

Monitoring of site conditions will occur at both projects throughout the next year. Partnership for Umpqua Rivers will continue to work with the landowners in the Lower Smith River Tidal projects to maintain water inundation levels that benefit carbon sequestration goals. Trout Unlimited will continue to work with the landowner to maintain water inundation levels within the Esther Creek coastal wetlands habitat. Both projects have fully executed water management plans for tide gate operation and maintenance that will benefit carbon storage and estuary/coastal wetland function, as well as working land objectives.

Needs and Opportunities

- This project is completed, there are no additional specific needs for this project.
- ODFW's natural climate solutions biologists are working with other staff and coastal partners to identify similar restoration needs and opportunities in other estuaries along Oregon's coast. Several potential projects have been identified.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

ODFW passed through N&WL Funds to conservation partners that completed the contractual agreements and construction of estuary restoration activities for each project. Subawards were developed with Trout Unlimited (Esther Creek) and Partnership for Umpqua River (Lower Smith River).

Description of Current Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Leveraged or Anticipated

ODFW has applied for federal funding to support the actual tide gate infrastructure needs to catalyze implementation of adaptation actions that will reduce future damage from weather and climate impacts. Through multiple National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and NRCS federal grants, ODFW will invest funds to repair and replace tide gates within each project, significantly reducing flood risk to natural lands-associated buildings and other infrastructure. Unfortunately, because of federal funding block pauses under IIJA/IRA contracts, ODFW and partners have not been able to implement these additional projects during this 23-25 biennium. Per OMB memorandum M-25-11 "Guidance Regarding Section 7 of the Executive Order Unleashing American Energy", all Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL/IIJA) and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding is paused pending review by DOGE.

Funding Update

All funding issued in 2025.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

These large-scale infrastructure projects will provide significantly reduced flood risk to rural, agricultural communities' built infrastructure.

Project partners include the Glover, Pike, and Viteck Families, with additional support from the Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation District, Business Oregon, and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. The Glover, Pike, and Viteck Families are the combined landowners of the Glover Ranch and Kennedy Slough project areas. They have been critical to the planning process and hold some permits. The Umpqua Soil and Water Conservation's landowner engagement has been instrumental in developing the Glover and Kennedy projects. They also plan to install 5,000 native plants along portions of the restored channels at Glover Ranch.

Projects will directly benefit the ecological habitat and biological production of Oregon Coast Coho ESU, Oregon Coast Chinook Salmon ESU, Coastal Steelhead and Rainbow Trout (Summer) ESU/SMU, and Coastal Cutthroat Trout to benefit the underserved communities in Douglas and Tillamook Counties as well as the Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde, the Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians, and the Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians. Douglas County and Tillamook County are identified as underserved communities in the Climate and Economic Justice Screening tool based on disparities for social, economic, and climate impacts to the areas where projects will be implemented. These funds will directly benefit underserved communities by protecting natural and working lands from the risk of flooding, sea level rise, and help to mitigate climate change through increased blue carbon sequestration.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Project was completed in 2025. No new information to report for FY 2026.

Table A16. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025
Seeding/planting rates/density (by species)	Eventually ODFW will be able to report on plantings in coastal wetland and riparian stream habitat.	300 pounds of ranch pasture forage seed mix seeded along tidal channels
Ecological function repaired	-	Replaced the failing tide gate at Kennedy Slough and protected and restored tidal channels at the Glover Ranch to provide juvenile salmon improved access to 40 acres of important flooded estuarine habitat during the winter and upstream access to 6.88 miles of tidal and freshwater streams. Replacement of the Esther Creek Tide Gate provided 2.5 miles of tidal and freshwater stream access to four HCP Covered species. This project also provided 13 acres of restored coastal wetland habitat to natural condition and function or a condition likely to improve climate resiliency.
Hydrological restoration	-	Provided 40 acres each high tide during winter, providing refuge for up to 10,000 salmon. Restored proper hydrology across 1.8 miles of estuarine channels and ensured an appropriate tidal flow through new tide gates.

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife | P6: Red Hills Conservation Area Wildfire Risk Reduction

Budget and Funding

Table A17. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued.

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Other Funds Leveraged (Federal/State/Private)	Other Funds Issued
2024	\$170,770	\$0	-	-
2025	-	\$64,170	\$170,213 NFWF AERI	-
2026	-	\$106,600	\$522,218 (private timber revenue)	\$355,940 (timber revenue for stewardship)
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$170,770</i>	<i>\$170,770</i>	<i>\$692,431</i>	<i>\$355,940</i>

Table A18. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	-	-	-
2025	\$64,170	0	\$0
2026	\$106,600	0	\$0

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

This project will remove Douglas-fir and non-native tree species to restore oak woodland on 30 acres of a 278.5-acre property owned by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs of Oregon that is permanently protected under a conservation easement held by the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) as part of ODFW's Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). The total project cost is \$170,770 and includes no new FTE.

This oak woodland restoration project addresses the recommendation of reducing wildfire risk in forestlands. The Institute for Natural Resources Natural & Working Lands report notes that a century of fire exclusion has resulted in many western forested ecosystems carrying a "carbon debt", i.e., an excess of carbon. This phenomenon is most typically associated with drier east-side forest types such as ponderosa pine forests, but it is just as applicable to Willamette Valley woodlands that have become overstocked and unsustainable as climate change has led to large-scale dieback and mortality in conifers on some drier sites.

Removal of encroaching Douglas-fir and non-native shrubs and trees from oak woodlands will result in a short-term reduction in carbon storage. But as the Institute for Natural Resources Report notes, citing numerous studies, fuels reduction treatments can result in long-term climate benefits by fostering resilience, paying off the "carbon debt," and reducing the risk of uncharacteristic wildfire. The following treatments, identified in the Institute for Natural Resources report, will all be used in implementing the Forest Management Plan for Red Hills:

- Thinning to stocking levels more resilient to fire and drought
- Removal of trees killed or damaged by insects and diseases
- Mechanical understory removal
- Prescribed fire

Project Background

The Red Hills Conservation Area is a 278.5-acre property acquired by the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWSRO, The Tribes) in 2014 and is part of the Tribes' Conservation Lands portfolio, which includes both east-side and Willamette Valley parcels. The property is permanently protected under a conservation easement held by the Bonneville Power Administration as part of the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP). The property is in an area with extensive recent vineyard development in Yamhill County and is adjacent to the Trappist Abbey, also conserved through the WWMP.

Historically, the property was dominated by oak woodlands and grasslands, designated as Strategy Habitats in the Oregon Conservation Strategy. Native burning practices kept these lands oak-dominated for millennia prior to white settlement and fire exclusion. Human development, agriculture, and encroachment by conifer forests threaten these habitats throughout the Willamette Valley.

Douglas-fir has encroached on oak habitats throughout the property, both through ecological succession in the absence of fire as well as forestry plantations initiated by previous owners. Drought stress over the past decade has led to high mortality levels in Douglas-fir on portions of the property, creating concentrations of flammable wildland fuels that increase the risk of uncharacteristically large wildfire. In addition, invasive plants such as Himalayan blackberry, Scotch broom, false brome, English hawthorn, and orchard cherry have developed large infestations that reduce habitat quality and add to the fuel loads and wildfire risk.

This was a relatively expensive acquisition for the WWMP due to the vineyard potential of the site. As a result, the WWMP project sponsors did not request stewardship funding through the program to make the application as competitive as possible. Consequently, the Warm Springs Tribes have been left without this funding source to offset ongoing operations and maintenance costs for the site. The WWMP does not provide restoration funding for acquired properties.

The Red Hills Conservation Area Forest Management Plan (May 2024) prepared for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs by Trout Mountain Forestry, LLC was approved as final in June 2024 by BPA, ODFW and the Tribes. The plan includes a detailed forest inventory and habitat assessment, and a multi-year phased approach to oak habitat restoration. Douglas-fir and non-native species will be removed to restore oak savanna on 24 acres and to restore native oak woodlands on 156 acres. The oak savanna restoration is excluded from this proposal based on the recommendations in the Institute for Natural Resources N&WL Report.

Implementation Update

- Fuels reduction and vegetation management activities began in September 2025. Thirty-seven acres have been thinned to release Oregon white oaks being overtopped by competing conifers. Approximately 477 million board feet were harvested during this restoration project, with revenue generated being returned to the site for additional land stewardship and restoration activities, including more Douglas fir thinning for wildfire reduction and oak release, a culvert replacement, and general property cleanup and weed treatments.
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and Trout Mountain Forestry hosted two tours for ODFW staff and BPA staff (easement holder) to show pre-treatment conditions in August 2025, and post-treatment results in November 2025.

Next Steps

- In FY27, completing thinning activities for Phase I area (10 acres) and starting Phase II area (18 acres) with support from timber harvest revenue
- Complete a small culvert replacement on the property on a non-fish bearing seasonal stream
- In FY28, begin fuels reduction work for the remaining Phase II area on approximately 60 acres with funding awarded through the America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative grant

Needs and Opportunities

Future N&WL or other funding at the Tribes' Red Hills Conservation Area would continue to support the No. 1 management goal to "Reduce fuel loads and wildfire risk" as listed in the Forest Management Plan (plan life: 2025-2032). The Forest Management Plan has three phases of work. Funding for Phase I and Phase II is either implemented or secured. There is a need for Phase III funding, estimated to be \$50,000-\$75,000.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

The work on this project will be completed by the Tribes in partnership with Trout Mountain Forestry, ODFW's WWMP program staff, and NWL program staff.

Description of Current Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Leveraged or Anticipated

The Willamette Valley Resilient Landscapes project, with many partner organizations including several Tribes and ODFW, submitted a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation America's Ecosystem Restoration Initiative Grant proposal in July 2024. This grant was approved for funding. The grant includes \$170,213 for additional forest and vegetation treatments at Red Hills Conservation Area and leverages the Natural and Working Lands funding awarded for this project.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

This project was identified by the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs as the highest priority restoration site within their portfolio of WWMP properties. ODFW will pass funds directly to the Tribes for this project.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Table A19. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Acres treated/restored (by treatment type)	None to report	55 acres of brush management/weed management	37 acres thinned
Seeding/planting rates/density (by species)	None to report	None to report	None to report
Ecological function repaired	None to report	None to report	37 acres of oak woodland habitat and function repaired through conifer removal
Seedlings grown (by species and estimated future impact/purpose)	None to report	None to report	None to report

Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife | P7 & P8: Natural Climate Solutions Biologist & Natural Climate Solutions Assistant Biologist

Budget and Funding

Table A20. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Other Funds Leveraged (Federal/State/Private)	Other Funds Issued
2024	\$605,000	-	-	-
2025	-	\$162,920	USFWS Pittman-Roberston (Wildlife Restoration) Funds: \$187,000; private: \$42,500	-
2026	-	\$291,097	Federal: \$1,464,018	\$99,936 (federal awarded FY25)
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$605,000</i>	<i>\$454,017</i>	<i>\$1,693,518</i>	<i>\$99,936</i>

Table A21. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	-	-	-
2025	\$162,920	2 (8 months)	\$162,920
2026	\$291,097	2	\$291,097
2027	\$150,983	2 (6 months)	\$150,983

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

ODFW leads or supports habitat restoration and enhancement across thousands of acres of natural and working lands each year with many existing staff located in various programs and geographies and with existing budget resources, both state and federal. Historically, the primary objectives of this work have been to maximize benefits for fish, wildlife, and working lands. With the establishment of the Fish and Wildlife Natural Working Lands Fund, we have an opportunity to get even more strategic with ODFW's habitat restoration efforts to accelerate the state's carbon sequestration goals. However, ODFW did not have the capacity to develop and implement this strategic focus or to measure the success of the outcomes.

ODFW hired a Natural Climate Solutions Biologist and a Natural Climate Solutions Assistant Biologist in November 2024 (Natural and Working Lands (NWL) biologists). These biologists were hired to focus on three primary goals: 1) to add ODFW staff capacity to support and pursue federal funding opportunities, 2) to provide support to ODFW staff and partners to ensure the successful implementation of funded projects and demonstrate Oregon's value as a project partner for federal agencies, and 3) to provide expertise to promote natural climate solutions and to ensure habitat restoration and management

activities maximize co-benefits for carbon sequestration and climate resilience across natural and working lands in Oregon. This is being accomplished by:

- Guiding ODFW Natural Climate Solutions priorities and tracking related federal grant opportunities
- Assisting ODFW staff across the Habitat, Fish, and Wildlife Divisions as well as the Regions and Watersheds to develop grant applications for federal or other opportunities, connect staff with partners to leverage additional support for priority habitat improvements, and/or provide capacity to support project implementation
- Assisting existing ODFW restoration practitioners and partners with project design and implementation to better integrate carbon sequestration practices
- Identifying fish and wildlife habitat restoration projects that maximize climate resiliency and carbon sequestration, as well as the research needed to assess co-benefits
- Assisting with administration of new and existing federal grants for fish and wildlife habitat and natural climate solutions projects
- Working toward equitable distribution of natural climate solutions projects and benefits to landowners, Tribes, land managers, and environmental justice communities
- Communicating the benefits of natural climate solutions projects to Oregon's natural and working lands, fish, and wildlife
- Establishing and continuing partnerships and connections to advance landscape scale efforts across jurisdictions and land boundaries.
- Identifying capacity needs from partners implementing habitat restoration and fill those capacity gaps as able
- Collaborating with other fund agencies to promote ODF, ODA, and OWEB strategies and priorities to support natural and working lands
- This proposal specifically addressed this section of HB 3409: "ODFW shall use moneys allocated from the fund to promote natural climate solutions" and "securing federal matching funds or other sources of funding to support investments in natural climate solutions on natural and working lands."

Implementation Update

NWL biologists continue to:

- Establish partnerships across agencies and organizations, including federal, state, county, regional, tribal, private
- Serve as the primary coordination hub for ODFW's Natural Working Lands Funded projects around the state
- Advance connections and pursue applications for funding opportunities- federal and state; staying apprised of funding opportunities that are available for natural climate solutions related habitat projects
- Collaborate with ODFW staff and private landowners to implement a sagebrush shrub enhancement project in pygmy rabbit habitat
- Coordinate with ODFW wildlife area staff and regional habitat biologists to enhance native habitats, promote natural climate solutions, and improve carbon sequestration on ODFW owned and managed properties

- Assist multiple SWCD offices with habitat prioritization, incorporation of natural climate solutions into restoration work, and coordination for advancing projects with private landowners to seek funding through various opportunities, such as NRCS programs, OWEB funds, and NFWF grants
- Develop a series of guidance documents to promote climate resilience and carbon sequestration in key habitats; three documents pending review, two in draft
- Routinely update the ODFW NWL program webpage, which showcases natural climate solutions practices in priority habitats, and highlights ODFW's NWL funded projects
- Increase knowledge of practices that improve carbon sequestration among partners and ODFW staff through shared information and responses to inquiries

New activities accomplished by NWL biologists:

- Worked collaboratively with Washington State University graduate students to develop an ODFW Habitat Restoration geospatial database to centralize ODFW habitat projects around the state
- Received a NFWF Conservation Partnership Program grant (~\$778K) to support eastern Oregon agricultural producers to enhance and restore western grazing lands. Funding through this grant will provide supplemental funding to support the NWL biologists through the end of the FY25-27 biennium. Direct technical assistance will be provided to eastern Oregon producers and NRCS staff to support resilient rangelands, including support for advancing native seed availability in eastern Oregon
- Worked collaboratively with partners for multiple grant applications which supported NCS and NWL priorities. In addition to the NFWF Conservation Partnership Program grant that was awarded, a Foundation for America's Public Lands grant was awarded (\$100K), as well as one U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sec 6 grant (\$765K). Multiple grants are pending
- Served as the agency point of contact for NCS metrics development in collaboration with ODOE
- Created four Storymaps for ODFW NWL funded projects (see other ODFW NWL projects for links to Storymaps)
- Collaborated with Western Beavers, Inc. and partners to assist with volunteer recruitment for willow and cottonwood planting events to enhance beaver habitats
- Presented to approximately 40 people from SWCDs, watershed councils, conservation non-profits, and state and federal agencies about the Oregon Native Seed Strategy (ONSS) at the 2026 CONNECT conference
- Presented to approximately 40 people at the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts annual conference in fall of 2025 about collaboration with Oregon Department of Agriculture to support the ONSS
- Established an Interagency Agreement with the Oregon Department of Forestry for collaboration regarding prescribed fire and forest management/fuels reduction. This will allow a more streamlined process for ODFW and ODF to work together statewide to accomplish wildfire risk reduction and wildlife enhancement on ODFW lands, as well as private and other public lands
- Planning a pilot project at White River Wildlife Area to establish foundation seed lots for three species of native forbs in north central Oregon. Will assess success to determine feasibility of ODFW growing some of the agency's own native plant materials for restoration

2026 Changes: Focus for financial opportunities now includes federal, state, local, or private funding opportunities. Establishing and maintaining partnerships continues to be a high priority, as is improving how we show the public the value of promoting NCS on natural and working lands.

Next Steps

Natural and Working Lands biologists will continue to track and pursue funding opportunities for priority habitat restoration work promoting climate resilience, natural climate solutions and carbon sequestration. Existing partnerships will be maintained and new partnerships pursued.

With the award of the NFWF Conservation Partnership Program grant, more attention will be focused on supporting eastern Oregon producers and NRCS staff to sustain and enhance resilient rangelands. The biologists will continue to provide technical assistance for NCS and carbon sequestration practices in priority habitats, but more focus will be in eastern Oregon grassland and sagebrush ecosystems.

Work will continue on the guidance documents being developed for each of ODFW's NWL program's four priority habitats. Once the documents are complete, a simplified version will be produced for private landowners to provide information on how to incorporate NCS into habitat projects.

The NWL Assistant Biologist will continue to develop the habitat restoration inventory database platform and coordinate with ODFW staff to contribute data to the ODFW habitat inventory, and will manage the Habitat Restoration database.

The NWL Assistant Biologist will collaborate with other ODFW staff to develop Storymaps for habitat restoration projects with ODFW involvement to improve interagency and public knowledge and transparency of projects occurring around the state.

The NWL Biologist will continue to implement the various stages of development for the native seed pilot project at White River Wildlife Area.

There is opportunity for NWL biologists to become more involved in ODFW mitigation planning to prioritize NCS practices and to ensure measurable benefits for wildlife, habitat quality, and climate and carbon resilience can be expected from proposed mitigation plans.

Needs and Opportunities

- With the award of the NFWF Conservation Partnership Program grant, NWL biologists received funding to support the positions through June 30, 2027. Funding beyond that date is not secured, but opportunities for continued funding are actively being pursued. The Conservation Partnership Program grant will prioritize technical assistance for eastern Oregon producers and provide conservation planning support to NRCS staff. This is a great opportunity to directly connect with more private landowners to promote voluntary conservation on critically important wildlife habitat on private lands.
- NWL biologists are in conversations with other ODFW staff and a land trust regarding a potential acquisition project that includes premier estuary and floodplain habitats and has a working lands component. If acquired, this property would be an excellent example to showcase how conservation values, public access, and working lands can all work hand-in-hand to benefit fish, wildlife, local economies, and the recreating public.
- There is continued interest and momentum for advancing Oregon Native Seed Strategy goals in central and eastern Oregon. The NWL biologists will continue to advance collaboration and coordination for increasing native seed availability in Oregon.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

ODFW staff have already demonstrated great success [tracking and pursuing federal grants](#) under IJA and IRA. The NWL biologists are now part of ODFW's Habitat Division, in the Land Resources Program and immediately began working with existing staff who have been tracking federal grants.

There are a number of existing ODFW programs and staff whose ongoing work has been or could be leveraged by the NWL biologists' efforts to accelerate carbon sequestration. Those include:

- Nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands owned and managed by ODFW across 20 wildlife areas, each of which are staffed by wildlife area managers involved in habitat maintenance and restoration as well as agricultural activities but who historically have not had a carbon sequestration lens to their work.
- Five (5) Oregon Conservation Strategy Farm Bill Biologists, funded 80 percent by NRCS, who implement Farm Bill Programs and fish and wildlife habitat practices on thousands of acres of working lands annually.
- The Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP), which has protected nearly 16,000 acres of natural and working lands with federal BPA funds and is now seeking technical and financial assistance for habitat restoration and carbon sequestration long-term on these lands.
- Eighteen (18) ODFW stream and fish habitat restoration biologists located throughout Western and Eastern Oregon whose focus is on restoring and enhancing aquatic riparian and wetland habitats at landscape scales but for whom carbon sequestration has not yet been a focus.
- Fifteen (15) ODFW Regional Habitat Biologists who review land use permit applications and design/implement upland, wetland, and estuary habitat restoration projects on natural and working lands across the state.
- Fish and Wildlife District Biologists (>24 FTE) across ODFW's Watershed Districts who are also involved in habitat restoration projects on natural and working lands across the state, using federal and state funds and involving many diverse partners.

Description of Current Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Leveraged or Anticipated

At the end of November 2023, ODFW and partners had been awarded \$58.1 million in federal IJA and IRA funds. Additional awards were announced in December 2023. The NWL ensures that those funds for habitat restoration are all spent in Oregon as committed and is actively scaling up the federal investment.

The NWL Assistant Biologist could leverage carbon sequestration work out of several of ODFW's federally funded restoration programs including U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Wildlife and Sportfish Restoration, Bonneville Power Authority, and NRCS Farm Bill. A total amount of federal funding is unknown and will be based on the partnerships and projects identified by this position.

2026 Update: The NWL biologists have helped ODFW and partners leverage additional funds for habitat restoration and technical assistance through the NFWF Conservation Partners Program, the Foundation for America's Public Lands Big Game Migration Corridors Conservation grant, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Sec 6 Habitat Conservation Planning grant.

Additional federal, state, and private funding opportunities and application submissions are being tracked, and these positions are connecting with partners to pursue applicable grants. These positions are involved in many partnership groups around the state that are seeking federal funds, administering

federal grants awarded in ODFW’s habitat division, and incorporating natural climate solutions and carbon sequestration data in support of habitat restoration.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

ODFW has strong partnerships with Oregon’s nine federally recognized Tribes and organizations across rural communities. Many rural, agricultural landowners are key participants in federal grants that ODFW pursues for natural climate solutions. A large percentage of the \$58.1 million referenced above has been for projects granted by the America the Beautiful Challenge; the projects are led-by or strongly partnered with Tribes in western Oregon.

These positions have leveraged the existing relationships between ODFW field biologists and Tribal and environmental justice communities to learn about and pursue grants for their priorities in the future. Frequently, capacity to write and manage grants at this financial scale is limited for these communities or organizations and sometimes states are the only eligible applicant for the federal funding opportunities. ODFW has found that added capacity within the state allows us to develop more projects in partnerships as well as pass through more funds to these communities.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Table A22. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Federal grants leveraged	-	1 PR grant: \$187K federal; \$42,500 private; \$20K NWL	\$877,702 federal
New partnerships established	-	Minimum of 26	Minimum of 15
Technical assistance connections established	-	Minimum of 70	Minimum of 30
Technical assistance documents generated	-	2 pending review; 3 in draft version	3 pending review; 2 in draft version
Connections/applications to funding opportunities	-	Applied: -NFWF CPP- \$750K federal* -ODF- PFA HCP Sec 6- \$765,187 federal* Partner applied: OWEB- ~\$290K state Connected partners w/funding opportunities: 5	Applied: 2 NFWF HAFI^ (federal)- \$1.8M and \$2M NFWF WBGSHM^ (federal)- \$742K 2 FAPL (federal)- \$100K* and \$250K Partner applied: 2 OWEB (state)- \$350K; \$365K Allen Family Philanthropy (private)- \$1.35M Connected partners w/funding opportunities: 15

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Outreach and communications	-	-	- New ODFW NWL webpage developed - 4 Storymaps for NWL funded projects created

*Awarded

^Pending notification

Oregon Department of Forestry | P9: Advance Implementation of Climate-Smart Forestry

Budget and Funding

Table A23. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Other Funds Leveraged (Federal/State/Private)	Other Funds Issued
2024	\$1,500,000	-	-	-
2025	-	-	-	-
2026	-	\$875,059	-	-
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$1,500,000</i>	<i>\$875,059</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>

Table A24. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	-	-	-
2025	-	-	-
2026	\$875,059	-	-
2027	\$624,941	-	-

Budget and Spending Plan Update: The department has been establishing agreements with local special districts and Tribes to fulfil the intention of the NWL fund goals. A majority of the funds are allocated to projects across the state at this time and will continue to be expended as those projects are completed. The department continues to pursue additional projects with local special districts. Further information is provided below, but the currently complete or underway projects include: securing seedlings for post fire reforestation in 2024 fire footprints in northeast Oregon, development and outreach for a climate-informed forestry guide in northwest Oregon, development of tools to help small and traditionally disadvantaged landowners understand their forest carbon options and markets, establishment of a seed orchard in south-central Oregon that will focus on seed supply for climate adapted seed throughout eastern Oregon, and implementation of the ODF seed orchard project to ensure that there is climate ready/adapted seed in the future. The bulk of these projects should be completed within the 2027 FY and the remaining ones should be nearing completion by the end of calendar year 2027. The Tribal funding agreements are being put in place, and those projects are anticipated to be established and underway by the end of calendar year 2026.

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

With allocations from the Natural and Working Lands Fund, the Department of Forestry is continuing implementation of its Climate Change and Carbon Plan (CCCP, November 2021). This holistic plan is centered around climate-smart forestry and has eight broad goals including research and monitoring,

urban forestry, and silviculture, among others. Implementation of the plan has been challenging due to limited resources; however, with these funds substantive results are being accomplished.

Through this work the department will incentivize climate-smart forestry practices directed toward natural and working lands adaptation, climate mitigation, and social resilience (the three legs of climate-smart forestry). Many of the goals of the Climate Change and Carbon Plan are complementary to the initial recommendations provided to the Commission by the Institute for Natural Resources in 2023, the subsequent actions listed as Oregon’s Natural Climate Solutions by ODOE and the Commission:

Table A25. Comparison of Climate Change and Carbon Plan Goals and 2026 Natural Climate Solutions.

Climate Change and Carbon Plan Goals	2026 Natural Climate Solutions
Climate-smart forestry in silviculture	Climate smart forestry-practices
Reforestation and afforestation	Reforestation and restoration of forest/Afforestation
Maintain and conserve forest	Forest conservation, protection, and reduced deforestation in forest land

Additional parallels exist at the action level where the Climate Change and Carbon Plan recognizes managing the fire environment, urban forestry efforts, encouraging low-carbon impact materials in Oregon, among others.

The ODF is involved with other sections of HB 3409 and will work within those program areas to further the state’s climate goals. These include topics like urban forestry and harvest residue utilization and the department is well partnered in those areas.

With the development and direction provided in Executive Order 25-26, the department is also working on bridging the desired outcomes of the Natural and Working Lands Fund with the expectations laid out in the EO. This will likely result in further refinement and efforts around development of climate resilience as actions that will be pursued through the remaining allocation.

Implementation Update

The department is continuing to work with its partners on the NCS projects. Several intergovernmental agreements have been established, and local special districts are working on those projects, largely with landowners, cooperators, and contractors. The department decided that with limited funds, it would be more impactful to develop the tools that are needed to implement climate-smart forestry than to provide specific, parcel-scale projects. To that end, the projects that have been established are ones that provide seed, seedlings, management guidance, or longer-range planning around forest carbon.

Next Steps

Local special district projects will continue and be completed through 2026 and into 2027. The department will continue to track and gather reportable metrics as outlined in the individual Inter-governmental Agreements for each project. With the funds that remain unallocated, the department will work to determine additional interested districts and look to establish IGAs and projects with them. Department staff continue to be engaged and involved with the project implementation and will work with the special district staff around outreach and education for each project. It is expected that the department will be updating the Climate Change and Carbon Plan in the coming year and in its drafting,

the Natural and Working Lands Fund will be considered as one action or strategy that can be used to make the plan successful.

Needs and Opportunities

- With roughly \$600,000 remaining unallocated funds, the department will continue to do outreach to local districts to find partners and interest to implement climate-smart forestry in FY 2027.
- With further direction around agency priorities from Executive Order 25-26, the department will be developing strategies and actions that help ensure climate resilient forests in Oregon in the future. This work is fluid and on-going and the department will navigate the work as appropriate.
- The department is looking to leverage work that is taking place in local special districts to implement climate-smart forestry, particularly for smaller and disadvantaged landowners.
- The department looks forward to working with federal partners as they work to ensure that there is a seed and seedling supply that will be ready in a changing climate and maximize the effectiveness of the funds for both entities.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

The implementation of these efforts will use relationships with third parties like SWCDs, WCs, and community-based organizations. These organizations are highly capable and provide place-based planning expertise and knowledge as well as landowner, Tribal, and traditionally underserved community relationships. Grant and agreement structure exists within ODF through its many different programs that provide landowner assistance. It also has extensive experience with successfully implementing intergovernmental agreements that are being used. Existing program staff have been identified to complete these efforts and the pace should increase.

Description of Current Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Leveraged or Anticipated

Funds will be used to further efforts begun by the USFS around seed production, some of which has traditionally flowed to state and private organizations and landowners.

Funds will be supplied to Tribes through the Urban and Community Forestry Program which has also been working with them through federal funding and will be used in areas with high climate focus and help stretch the federal funds.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

Funds that are available to CBOs and partners can flow to environmental justice communities, however, a separate project using these funds is directly proposed for Tribal and environmental justice communities.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Table A26. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Acres treated/restored (by treatment type)	None to report	None to report	None to report
Seeding/planting rates/density (by species)	None to report	None to report	450,000 seedlings procured for post fire reforestation in winter 2026–2027
Ecological function repaired	None to report	None to report	None to report
Number and acres of binding covenants put in place	None to report	None to report	None to report

Oregon Department of Forestry | P10: Climate-Smart Forestry Implementation in Partnership with Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

Budget and Funding

Table A27. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Other Funds Leveraged (Federal/State/Private)	Other Funds Issued
2024	\$1,000,000	-	-	-
2025	-	-	-	-
2026	-	\$1,000,000	-	-
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$1,000,000</i>	<i>\$1,000,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>	<i>\$0</i>

Table A28. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	-	-	-
2025	-	-	-
2026	-	-	-
2027	\$1,000,000	0	0

2026 Update: The department is in the process of establishing agreements with the nine federally recognized Tribes as they identify NCS projects and those that build climate resilience. It is anticipated that these agreements will be largely in place near the end of calendar year 2026 and work will begin shortly after. Primary focus for these funds is toward Tribal projects with more effort to connect with environmental justice communities included in the small landowner NCS project.

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

With respect to advancing change in action necessary to realizing climate-smart practices, incentives and tax breaks have repeatedly been recognized as a meaningful and at times necessary mechanism to encourage change in practice. While we, as agencies, cannot provide tax breaks, this funding will provide a mechanism to incentivize managers to consider climate change and make changes they may otherwise not consider or be unable to realize. These funds will be directed primarily toward Tribes that are looking to pursue more climate-smart forest practices. The funds will be provided to Tribes through ODF's Urban Community Forestry program or via direct partnerships with Tribes or third parties that work with traditionally disadvantaged landowners.

While western science has, and continues to provide, a wealth of knowledge on climate and forestry, there is also a substantial amount of traditional ecological knowledge that has not been included in current silvicultural practice. Elevating this knowledge can help inform current forest managers on traditional approaches to some of today's more sticky issues facing the state's forests. The department would like to partner with Tribes to provide more bi-directional communication and information transfer

that can help improve holistic outcomes across forest ownerships. Additionally, embracing a commitment to integrating traditional practices into the processes and outcomes of this climate-related work, as well as general agency work, can help to build trust, respect, and ecological benefits as the climate changes. Modern scientific information can provide the technical aspects of climate change (e.g., projections, plant physiology, etc.) that are key as forest types shift.

Implementation Update

The department has developed a granting process to allocate funds to the nine federally recognized Tribes. Ideally this will take place by the end of calendar year 2026. The project is being developed and led by the department's highly capable Urban and Community Forestry Program, which has worked extensively to build relationships with the Tribes as they provide federal funds to the Tribes. While the federal funding can be restrictive in its application, the Natural and Working Lands Fund allocations are intended to help the Tribes further their ambitions around climate-smart forestry as defined in the department's Climate Change and Carbon Plan.

Next Steps

ODF will work to finalize intergovernmental agreement language and implementation, set up tracking mechanisms for reporting to ODOE, OWEB, and the Commission. ODF will work through the Urban and Community Program staff to capitalize on the exemplary efforts that they have made to engage with the Tribal governments. Getting agreements in place and money to the Tribal recipients will be the primary focus in coming months.

Needs and Opportunities

- Additional engagement opportunities with the Tribes are always welcome. While ODF staff work closely with the Tribes on an array of matters, broad engagement and priority conversations are always helpful to guiding the department as it works to fulfill its mission.
- Recent granting processes have helped to build relationships, and these will be used to provide additional climate-focused project funding.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

The implementation of these efforts will use relationships that the Urban and Community Forestry Program has worked to develop with the federally recognized Tribes. The grant and agreement structure has been developed and exists within ODF through its previous work with the Tribes and it will be used to ensure that there is an easy and straightforward allocation of funds. It also has extensive experience with successfully implementing intergovernmental agreements that could be used. Existing program staff have been identified to complete these efforts and the pace should increase. Depending on Tribal participation, if there are additional funds following initial agreements, the department will work with third parties to engage and provide incentives to other environmental justice communities. This will continue to be a priority with the recent development of the Small Landowner Office (thanks to the Private Forest Accord) and may be used to distribute funds to small, disadvantaged landowners.

Description of Current Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Leveraged or Anticipated

It is anticipated that additional funding will become available from the USDA Forest Service's State, Private, and Tribal Forestry program. At this time, it is unclear if this will be competitive funding or provided by a formula. With time this will become clearer.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

Efforts will be made to partner with Tribes as directly as possible. This will likely be through the Tribes forestry or natural resource departments that manage and steward their lands. Many of these relationships exist at the local level currently and the agency will work to strengthen and build upon those existing relationships. Supporting disadvantaged forest owners has long been one of the agencies focuses.

2026 Update: ODF is working through implementation efforts with its Urban and Community staff as well as the tribal liaison for the department. ODF is working with other agencies to minimize workload on recipients and the number of requests that are being made.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Table A29. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Acres treated/restored (by treatment type)	None to report	None to report	None to report
Seeding/planting rates/density (by species)	None to report	None to report	None to report
Ecological function repaired	None to report	None to report	None to report
Number and acres of binding covenants put in place	None to report	None to report	None to report
Opportunities for bidirectional learning	None to report	None to report	None to report

Oregon Department of Forestry | P11: Establishment of Climate-Ready Seed Orchards

Budget and Funding

Table A30. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Other Funds Leveraged (Federal/State/Private)	Other Funds Issued
2024	\$750,000	-	\$160,000 (Federal)	-
2025	-	\$750,000	-	-
2026	-	-	-	-
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$750,000</i>	<i>\$750,000</i>	<i>\$160,000</i>	<i>\$0</i>

Table A31. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	\$300,000	2	Minimal
2025	\$450,000	2	Minimal
2026	-	-	-

2026 Update: Seed orchard staff have worked to determine costs, establish contracts, and plan for implementation and establishment of this long-term project. Some of the actions are ensuring adequate irrigation capacity for orchard establishment, energy resilience for the seed freezer (highly important long-term investment), and expansion of the species located at the seed orchard. Additional work on the riparian corridor and oak woodland/stand restoration has also begun. One success has been the management planning for existing mature Oregon white oak as a source for acorns. This will be completed in the near term, and the department looks to start the process of supplying those to interested parties. This is a long-term project and needs proper planning to take place to ensure success. Will likely need to extend funds into coming biennium due to timing of receiving funds.

Approximate expenditures to date: \$410,000

Remaining funding: \$340,000

Anticipate expending 90 percent of funds by January 2027.

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

There are over 40 million seedlings planted in Oregon forests each year. The vast majority are a single species and often are sourced from the same local seed that is used from generation to generation. Empirical observation along with climate projections and scientific findings indicate that the margins of existing forest land are experiencing decline and further expected to consist of different species types in coming decades as a function of climate change. Production of native and adapted species seed that will be viable in shifted landscapes is currently not available or in exceptionally limited supply due to narrow forest seed orchard capabilities and directives. To meet the need for native, diverse, and climate

adapted species necessary to maintain the state's forests as forests (a key to climate mitigation), the department looks to increase the use of its existing seed orchard in providing the seed and potentially seedlings for Tribal, small, and disadvantaged forest landowners. This facility currently produces a substantial amount of genetically improved seed of limited species as a function of directives and funding but has tremendous capacity for additional seed production and seeks to advance its capability to meet climate and landscape needs.

Implementation Update

Funds for this project are supporting:

- **Cone Shed Enhancements:** \$75K investment; 100 percent complete
The cone shed is used to store and protect harvested cones where they dry and open before shipping to the seed extractor.
 - Roof Repair: Analyzed and repaired roof to prevent active leaking, adding an estimated 15-20 years to the existing roof's lifespan. *(This project is a cost share with Orchard cooperators.)*
 - Equipment Upgrades: Purchased forklift to support general operations, replacing 30+ - year old unit; Purchased used scissor lift to improve worker safety for cone shed operations.
- **Supporting Equipment & Implements:** \$80K investment; 100 percent complete
Upgraded equipment and implements to increase reliability, safety and efficiency
 - Three new utility terrain vehicle work platforms that provide primary transportation for staff, equipment, and supplies around the orchard. *(This project is a cost share with Orchard cooperators.)*
 - Farm implements, including a new disc and spray equipment that supports orchard establishment and maintenance.
 - New hand tools and shop equipment to increase safety, efficiency, and capability around orchard establishment, maintenance, and harvest.
- **Seed Freezer Upgrades:** \$230K investment; 60 percent complete; October 2026 target
The seed freezer houses Schroeder's entire collection of seed, which represents both State Forests and Oregon Seed Bank inventory. The inventory amounts to about 15K pounds, valued at nearly \$5M. Some of the seed is 40 years old.
 - Installation of an automatic standby generator that will fully power both the seed freezer and main office, enabling full functionality of core systems through power outages and support for offsite monitoring. *(This project is a cost share with State Forests.)*
 - Replacement of the seed freezer mechanical systems, moving to more efficient and reliable technology while eliminating several single points of failure in the current system. Re-sealing of the existing freezer box to increase efficiency. *(This project is a cost share with State Forests.)*

- Building enhancements, including a new roof and replacement of some wall panels, to increase the building's lifespan and efficiency.
- **Rainwater Collection System:** \$295K investment; 30 percent complete; December 2026 target
Water availability for orchard establishment is a critical bottleneck at Schroeder, particularly under a hotter, drier climate. The rainwater collection system will harvest water from building rooftops to impound up to 100K gallons annually for orchard establishment.
 - The project includes three phases:
 - Excavate and re-plumb stormwater systems to isolate gutter water collection from surface water collection (100 percent complete).
 - Engineering and design of a complete water storage tower and pump system to move water into and out of the tank (80 percent complete).
 - Construction of the foundation/base of the water tower, erection of the tank, completion of plumbing to deliver water to/from the tower (0 percent complete).
- **Orchard Mapping / Management Planning:** \$40K investment; 20 percent complete
There is currently no geospatial mapping system for the Orchard. Building and implementing a solution like Fieldmaps will increase efficiency and enable management continuity as staff transition. Additionally, the Orchard property, which is about 430 acres, includes features such as riparian areas and mature oak stands that would benefit from more comprehensive mapping and management planning.
 - GIS Investments: Staff time and equipment to develop and maintain a geospatial system for cataloging resources and implementing management activities across the Orchard.
 - Orchard Management Planning: Primarily staff time to support development of a management plan for forward-looking active management of riparian areas, mature oak stands, and other non-production areas of the orchard.
- **Demonstrations & Community Engagement:** \$30K investment; 70 percent complete
 - Air Curtain Incinerator: In partnership with ODF's Urban and Community Forestry Program, the orchard hosted an air curtain incinerator that was used to demonstrate the technology while abating biomass waste on the property.
 - Management Activities: Support of staff time and other resources to engage with community partners. Examples include demonstrating the use of goats for vegetation management and hosting tours with Tribal workforce development programs.
 - Kiosk: Development and placement of a kiosk to interpret the work of the Orchard for the public visiting the Orchard property.

Next Steps

ODF will continue to work on implementation, including collection or purchase of seed, sowing, field prep, and planting. Efforts are underway to identify long term funding opportunities for maintenance until seed is ready to be harvested and provided to landowners. Infrastructure resilience work and efforts will continue to ensure long-term operation. Riparian and oak area restoration efforts will continue.

Needs and Opportunities

Staff at the seed orchard have brought in new ideas and interest for additional work. These are being used as much as possible and leveraging other funds where possible to optimize each intent is underway.

Additional efforts by the USFS to build its future-ready seed inventory are helping to facilitate additional seed orchards and species plantings.

Linking to another Natural and Working Lands Fund funded project, the south-central Oregon seed orchard, is being explored and anticipated as a key opportunity to bridge the east side and west side forests in Oregon as well as providing a mechanism to further leverage federal and private funds to supply climate-ready seed.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

ODF has an existing seed orchard facility with available space to achieve the goals of this effort. It has existing infrastructure and partnerships but will need operational funding to collect and sow the seed for the new species orchards.

Description of Current Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Leveraged or Anticipated

Federal funds for seed and seedling efforts may become available through the Inflation Reduction Act or other mechanisms. Ongoing planning activities and efforts around seed, seedlings, and reforestation at the federal and state levels will help to identify and distribute additional funding.

2026 Update: Federal fund award of \$160,000 has been used to further the implementation of climate adapted orchard development and the overall goals of a robust and long-lasting seed source for reforestation efforts in the state. The N&WL Funds will help to expand or continue the work of these other funding pools.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

An aspect of the ODF seed orchard responsibilities is providing seed for small landowners. This in addition to a desire to partner with Tribes will be beneficial to a successful endeavor. While this specific effort is targeted at long-term benefits, there may be some near-term as there will be an initial need for seed collection and establishment and an economic benefit through that work.

2026 Update: ODF looks to engage with Tribes through other N&WL project efforts to ensure there are species that are of interest to Tribes included in the efforts moving ahead. This will be particularly important as the department works on its other projects that interact more directly with the Tribes. Additional work to supply smaller and traditionally disadvantaged landowners will take place and use various programs within the agency.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Table A31. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Orchards maintained or revitalized	None to report	None to report	Management planning for oak stands
Orchards prepared for additional planting	None to report	None to report	None to Report
Orchards prepared for additional species	None to report	None to report	None to Report
Orchard facilities and equipment maintained to ensure longevity	None to report	None to report	Cone shed enhancement, seed freezer upgrade, rainwater collection, supporting equipment

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board | P12: Restoration and Technical Assistance Grants – Open Solicitation Programs

Budget and Funding

Table A33. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Funds Leveraged by OWEB (Federal/State/Private)*	Funds Leveraged by Grantees
2023	\$1,625,000	-	-	-
2024	-	-	\$350,000 committed (Federal, shared across P12 and P13)	-
2025	-	\$1,497,476 (Committed)	Continued to leverage the \$350,000 cooperative agreement funds referenced above	Proposed projects will leverage approximately \$631,000 in other funding and in-kind match
2026	-	\$256,301 (Issued)	Fully expended \$350,000	-
Totals	\$1,625,000	\$1,497,476	\$350,000	\$631,000

*Additional funding leveraged by grantees included in table in Description of Investment. (Committed) indicates the amount of N&WL Funds committed to funding grantees under this project/program; (Issued) indicates the amount of committed funds that, as of July 2026, been paid to grantees.

Table A34. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	-	-	-
2025	\$1,497,476	-	-
2026	-	.17	\$32,150

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

OWEB has awarded \$1.5 million in Natural and Working Lands Funds for a range of restoration and technical assistance projects throughout Oregon. The five awarded restoration grants provide incentives to help landowners, Tribes, land managers, and environmental justice communities adopt practices that support natural climate solutions while optimizing the community co-benefits of those solutions. The technical assistance award supports the required groundwork for future implementation of natural climate solutions.

OWEB requested \$250,000 for administrative costs for the combination of our Open Solicitation and Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program investments. Administrative funds will also be used for personnel costs during 2025-2027 and future biennia and for other supplies and services such as legal costs for grant agreement review.

Implementation Update

Funded projects include a wide range of activities, riparian restoration, oak understory habitat, invasives removal, and wildfire reforestation. Grantees address climate co-benefits such as soil health, water retention and quality, or wildfire resilience outcomes as well as social co-benefits like workforce development for at-risk or BIPOC youth, incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge into work removing invasives or selecting species for plant stock, and building the capacity of landowners to implement restoration activities. The legislative mandate of the Natural and Working Lands Fund grant offering created more flexibility to fund projects with a greater focus on community co-benefits than the Measure 76 lottery dollars that OWEB typically administers.

Grantees selected for funding with the Natural and Working Lands funds received grant agreements in August 2025.

[Black Oregon Land Trust, Community-Led Riparian Restoration and Education in Corbett, Oregon](#): This project aims to restore ecological function and improve climate resilience and community connection on 30 acres, including riparian corridors, working agricultural areas, and on a learning farm. Restoration activities involve BIPOC and other marginalized communities in all stages of restoration, helping build skills in conservation, ecological literacy, and climate resilience.

- No project updates at this time.

[Clackamas River Basin Council, Gersh Property Restoration and Forest Stewardship](#): This project supports ongoing post-wildfire restoration on 80 acres of forestland, conducting fuels reduction and noxious weed management, riparian and forest planting, soil carbon enhancement, and forest stand improvement activities. This project employs at-risk youth and will function as a demonstration site for local landowners.

- The grantee has worked with reforestation contractors to treat and clear blackberries across 2.1 acres of riparian area and 4.8 acres of upland area in preparation for planting. Youth crews conducted fuels reduction efforts on approximately 2 acres, producing several piles of firewood, slash, and chips to be used or processed. The grantee faced challenges when winter winds blew down standing dead material, which required additional cleanup in access and planting areas. The grantee is also working with education partners on youth workforce development programming and will be providing workshops and field experiences in fall 2026.

[Deschutes River Conservancy, Strategy and Design Development to Support Cover-Cropping Incentivization in Jefferson County](#): This technical assistance project is exploring the feasibility of a cover cropping incentive program as a component of intra-district water trading. The grantee will examine the requirements of various state, federal, and private funding programs to support wider cover crop adoption.

- The grantee has been working with landowners and partner organizations to understand how cover cropping is currently being implemented, the challenges to cover cropping, and the opportunities for incentives to increase cover cropping. The Deschutes River Conservancy is also working with consultants at Environmental Science Associates to develop a web platform that will facilitate water transactions and promote cover cropping within the North Unit Irrigation District.

[Institute for Applied Ecology \(IAE\), Tribal Priority Plant Materials for Climate Resiliency in Oak Understory Habitat](#): This project is working to increase the availability of tribal priority oak understory native plant materials to support cultural use and restoration work at five project sites owned by the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde (CTGR). Project outcomes will support a diverse understory plant ecosystem, which acts as an effective carbon sink as native bunchgrasses and wildflowers have deep root systems to mitigate drought stress and build below-ground carbon stores.

- The grantee has identified 15 priority species for collection, including assessing inventory, identifying sites for collection, and applying for permits. In summer 2026, the seed collection crew conducted wild collections, which are currently drying at the IAE Seed Shop before cleaning and weighing. CTGR completed a prescribed burn at the Noble Oaks site with match funding from USFS in September 2025 and is planning three additional burns in the fall 2026.

[Klamath Watershed Partnership, Copperfield Wildfire Reforestation](#): This project planned to reforest 506 acres across seven private properties following the Copperfield Fire to ensure the timely restoration of ecological services while managing for future wildfire risks in the face of a changing climate.

- Klamath Watershed Partnership has been able to start activities a year earlier than anticipated, planting a larger area and in collaboration with more landowners than originally proposed as a result of strong partnerships with the Oregon Department of Forestry and Green Diamond. In preparation for planting, 213 acres were treated in fall 2025 with broadcast pre-emergent herbicide and March 2026, the grantee planted 80,840 site appropriate Ponderosa pine seedlings on 321 acres across nine landowners.

[The Understory Initiative, Collaborative Oak Meadow Restoration Training and Seed Banking for Community Climate Resilience](#): This project is restoring meadow ecosystem function at three sites, which are also serving as demonstration plots for training landowners and community members in biodiversity, soil health, and carbon sequestration strategies. Project activities are helping scale meadow restoration techniques not currently being used in Douglas County, advancing local seed production, and facilitating collaborative efforts among project partners.

- In the first year, the grantee has conducted site visits with landowners to determine project footprints and treatment plans based on baseline soil and vegetation observations, completed landowner agreements, secured required permits, and verified insurance and safety compliance requirements. In collaboration with landowners, the grantee has also completed site prep on 9 acres across three demonstration sites, including removal of invasives and conifers, solarization, and oak meadow reconnection in preparation for future prescribed fire, native seeding, and pollinator habitat establishment.

[Next Steps](#)

OWEB will continue to support grantees with project implementation. As project activities get further underway, OWEB will work with grantees to highlight impact stories, elevating the climate benefits and equity components of these projects in our communications.

[Needs and Opportunities](#)

In spring 2025, OWEB received 22 applications for the Restoration and Technical Assistance portion of the Natural and Working lands funds. The total request was for \$5.3 million, and OWEB was able to fund

just \$1.5 million. This represents one of the most competitive grant solicitations OWEB has offered and shows the considerable interest in community-led natural climate solutions projects.

Funded projects engage landowners and land managers in a wide range of activities including restoration, developing plant stock supply chains, and building technical capacity. While many of the grantees will likely be able to leverage other funding, in the current environment, resources are limited and more competitive. This program needs additional investment to ensure the gains of this important work are sustained and scaled.

In addition, to meet the legislative intent of these funds, OWEB ran a separate solicitation from the general Open Solicitation offering. Applicants submitted thoughtful and impactful projects that address both the ecological and social co-benefits of natural climate solutions; however, continued investment would elevate equity work as part of OWEB's grantmaking and build applicants' capacity to speak to this priority.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

OWEB is a state grant-making agency, with a long and successful track record of getting conservation and restoration dollars on the ground for a range of priorities around the state. For the Natural and Working Lands Funds, OWEB has used the existing Open Solicitation grant program, which includes Restoration and Technical Assistance grants and their corresponding administrative rule and evaluation criteria.

Description of Current Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Leveraged or Anticipated

For this offering, OWEB dropped the match requirement to 5 percent with the goal of promoting inclusion for smaller applicants, however many grantees are leveraging more than 5 percent. Funded projects have proposed at least \$631,000 in other funding and in-kind match.

2026 Update: OWEB received \$350,000 in federal funding from NRCS for the 2023-2025 biennium to support the Water and Climate Coordinator position, with the aim of helping OWEB advance climate adaptation and mitigation across their grantmaking portfolio. This position has supported the administration of the Natural and Working Lands funds in addition to other climate and equity related initiatives.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

As stated in HB 3409, funding decisions should prioritize projects or activities administered or proposed by an environmental justice community or Tribe. The technical review team was encouraged to consider this legislative intent in their evaluations and the funded projects have incorporated equity considerations, including partnering with Tribes, incorporating Traditional Ecological Knowledge, providing workforce development opportunities for rural youth, amongst others.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Table A35. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Acres treated/restored (by treatment type)	None to report	None to report	7 acres (Gersh - invasives removal and planting prep) 9 acres (Collaborative Oak Meadow) 321 acres (Copperfield – reforestation)
Seeding/planting rates/density (by species)	None to report	None to report	4,500 (Gersh – native trees and shrubs) 80,840 seedlings @ 252/acre (Copperfield – Ponderosa pine)
Ecological function repaired	None to report	None to report	2 acres (Gersh - fuels reduction)
Other applicable	None to report	None to report	45 acres (prescribed fire with match funding)

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board | P13: Conservation Management Planning, Technical Assistance, and Payment for Practices

Budget and Funding

Table A36. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Funds Leveraged by OWEB (Federal/State/Private)	Funds Leveraged by Grantees
2024	\$875,000	-	\$350,000 committed (Federal, shared across P12 and P13)	-
2025	-	\$752,524 (Committed)	Continued to leverage the \$350K cooperative agreement funds referenced above	Proposed projects will leverage approximately \$83,339 in other funding and in-kind match
2026		\$1,472 (Issued)	Fully expended \$350,000	
Totals	\$875,000	\$752,524	\$0	\$83,339

(Committed) indicates the amount of N&WL Funds committed to funding grantees under this project/program; (Issued) indicates the amount of committed funds that, as of July 2026, been paid to grantees.

Table A37. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2024	\$25,000	0.125	-
2025	\$850,000	0.125	-
2026	-	.17	\$32,150

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

OWEB has invested \$752,524 of the Natural and Working Land Funds into grants administered through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) for the development of conservation management plans and a climate-smart payment-for-practices component.

OWEB requested \$250,000 for administrative costs for the combination of our Open Solicitation and Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program investments. Administrative costs will also be used for personnel costs in future biennia and for other supplies and services such as legal costs for grant agreement review.

Implementation Update

The five awarded conservation management plan grantees are currently working to develop their plans. There is no set due date for plans, but approved plans must be in place to receive payment for eligible activities. At this time, three grantees have submitted plans for approval, with the remainder underway.

[Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council, Creswell Oaks Conservation Management Plan and Implementation Phase One](#): The conservation management plan is being developed for the 1,800-acre ranch near Creswell. The ranch is currently enrolled in a conservation easement to enhance oak habitat and fire resiliency through the expanded use of prescribed grazing and mechanical removal of understory brush. In May, a grasslands assessment was done on the property to identify key native species along with noxious weed species that will be targeted for control as part of the conservation management plan.

[Deschutes Land Trust, Garden Creek Ranch CMP](#): The grantee has completed their conservation management plan in collaboration with project partners and the landowner for a 640-acre ranch near Prineville. The plan is designed to achieve measurable improvements in soil health, water quality, riparian habitat function, forest health, and native vegetation composition, while simultaneously supporting the economic goals of the cattle operation and the broader socio-economic goals of the landowner and surrounding community.

[Jefferson Soil and Water Conservation District, Henderson Flats OAHP Conservation Management Plan](#): The grantee has nearly completed their conservation management plan for 932 acres across three contiguous farm properties managed by a single operator near Terrebonne. The goal of the conservation management plan is to implement practices that improve crop yields while using irrigation water more efficiently, eliminating nutrient- and sediment-laden runoff water from irrigated fields to the Crooked River, improving rangeland health in the Crooked River Canyon, and improving soil health.

[Long Tom Watershed Council, Deck Family Farm Conservation Management Plan](#): The grantee and landowner have completed portions of the conservation management plan following site visits and assessments. Conversations are also underway with other partners around funding options to support agricultural best management practices. Implementation of the plan will occur on a 321-acre ranch near Junction City and will enhance water quality and quantity as well as enhancing riparian and oak habitats on the farm through prescribed grazing, wetland creation, and various plant establishment strategies. The landowners are interested in producing high-quality agricultural products for local markets, as well as protecting local drinking water sources and providing educational and apprenticeship programs. The educational and apprenticeship programs provide opportunities for first-generation farmers, especially BIPOC and other underrepresented groups, to gain exposure and hands-on business training with housing, food, and compensation provided.

[Sustainable Northwest, Horseshoe Bar Conservation Management Plan](#): The grantee has completed the conservation management plan for 34,542 acres near Antelope along the John Day River and has begun implementation of prescribed grazing. The plan was designed to prioritize natural resource conservation while safeguarding agricultural and wildlife value through a range of approved practices including tree and shrub establishment, prescribed grazing, conservation range planning, prescribed burning, and upland habitat improvement. These conservation practices will contribute to healthier rangelands, improved watershed function, and other ecosystem benefits that support the broader public.

Next Steps

The five funded projects will continue developing their conservation management plans in 2026. Once plans are approved, grantees will begin implementing their plans and will be eligible for payments for the first 5 years of implementation. They will report to OWEB annually on the practices implemented as a result of the plan and the impacts to fish and wildlife habitat, water quality, and carbon sequestration.

Needs and Opportunities

The awarded conservation management plan grants support land managers working with technical service providers to complete long range management plans for their agricultural operation and to compensate them for several years of implementation for the expected ecosystem services. The program is designed to pair well with existing federal conservation programs such as the NRCS's Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), which tend to pay for the cost to install conservation measures (i.e. irrigation improvements, cover crops, etc.) but not for the ongoing contributions of those measures. While many producers will be able to leverage federal conservation programs to support implementation of their plans, the Natural and Working Lands funding is critical to support the integrated planning efforts and long-term support for ecosystem service delivery especially given the uncertainty around the availability of funding from state and federal sources going forward. OWEB was unable to fund all projects that applied for this funding and is unable to fund the implementation of the 20–50-year conservation management plans beyond the initial few years. More funding is needed to scale the program to meet existing demand and help create a reliable incentive structure for farmers and ranchers who may be changing their cropping systems or taking land out of production to provide ecosystem services.

Ability of Agency to Implement the Program

OWEB is a state grant-making agency, with a long and successful track record of getting conservation and restoration dollars on the ground for a range of priorities around the state. For the OAHP Natural and Working Lands Funds, OWEB has used our existing Conservation Management Planning grant program, which includes a payment for ecosystem service component with project selection based on existing administrative rule and evaluation criteria. The payment for ecosystem services program was developed in partnership with Highland Economics, with payment rates calculated for existing NRCS conservation practices based on their ability to sequester carbon, provide fish and wildlife habitat, and improve water quality.

Description of Current Federal, State, and/or Private Funds Leveraged or Anticipated

For this offering, OWEB dropped the match requirement to 5 percent with the goal of promoting inclusion for smaller applicants. Funded projects will leverage \$83,339 in other funding and in-kind match, with the potential to leverage much more due to the program's alignment with NRCS conservation practices and programs. The implementation methodology for the OWEB-funded conservation management plans was specifically developed to leverage federal conservation dollars, and all applicants mention that they plan to work with NRCS to explore federal cost share opportunities for practices identified in their conservation management plans.

2026 Update: OWEB received \$350,000 in federal funding from NRCS for the 2023-2025 biennium to support the Water and Climate Coordinator position, with the aim of helping OWEB advance climate adaptation and mitigation across their grantmaking portfolio. This position has supported the

administration of the Natural and Working Lands funds in addition to other climate and equity related initiatives.

Connection to Tribal and Environmental Justice Communities

2026 Update: As stated in HB 3409, funding decisions should prioritize projects or activities administered or proposed by an environmental justice community or Tribe. The OAHP program adopted new rules and evaluation criteria governing the program in early 2025 and was able to incorporate new evaluation criteria focused on climate change mitigation and adaptation as well as support from environmental justice communities and Tribes. These new evaluation criteria were used together with existing criteria to evaluate and rank the applications received and contributed to the decisions about which projects to fund.

Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Table A38. Summary of Measurable Outcomes for Reporting

Metrics for Tracking Outcomes	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026
Acres treated/restored (by treatment type)	None to report	None to report	None to report
Seeding/planting rates/density (by species)	None to report	None to report	None to report
Ecological function repaired	None to report	None to report	None to report
Other applicable	None to report	None to report	None to report

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Budget and Funding

Table A39. Summary of NWL Fund and Other Funds Allocated, Leveraged, Committed, and/or Issued

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Allocation	N&WL Funds Committed/Issued	Funds Leveraged (Federal/State/Private)	Funds Leveraged by Grantees
2026	\$55,000	\$55,000	-	-
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$55,000</i>	<i>\$55,000</i>	<i>-</i>	<i>-</i>

Table A40. Spend Plan Summary: Natural & Working Lands Funds

Fiscal Year	N&WL Fund Budget	FTE	Admin & Personnel
2026	\$55,000	0	\$0
<i>Totals</i>	<i>\$55,000</i>	<i>0</i>	<i>\$0</i>

Description of Investment

Program/Project Description

On October 21, 2025, Oregon Governor Tina Kotek issued Executive Order No. 25-26 (EO), titled Directing State Agencies to Take Urgent Action to Promote the Resilience of our Communities and Natural and Working Lands and Waters. Included in Section I of the EO, Foster Resilient Lands, Waters, and Communities, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) and Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) were directed to use existing plans and strategies and the best available science to define key resilience attributes for Oregon with the goal of defining characteristics of lands and waters 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.

There is substantial overlap between the work necessary to achieve the goals of the Executive Order and work toward increasing carbon sequestration and storage on natural and working lands. Managing the carbon cycle is an essential component of increasing the resilience of Oregon's natural and working lands and waters, and careful management of the carbon cycle can increase resilience while simultaneously increasing carbon sequestration and storage.

In January of 2026, the Oregon Climate Action Commission approved a request for the use of \$55,000 from the Natural and Working Land Fund. The Commission authorized and directed the use of these funds for the purpose of supporting the development and research conducted by ODFW related to climate resilience attributes for Oregon's lands and waters.

These funds supported a six-month process of identifying resilience attributes of Oregon's natural and working lands and waters. A portion supported a three-day design workshop in March 2026 that convened 45 state agency staff and content experts on climate resiliency planning and assessment efforts. Attendees included experts from Tribal governments, federal agencies, local governments,

academic and research institutions, resource management organizations, philanthropic foundations, and conservation science organizations. The four resilience attributes as a result of this process, along with other outcomes of the March workshop, can be found in the [2026 Final Report on Climate Resilience Attributes of Oregon's Lands and Waters](#) (Final Report).

Needs and Opportunities

In the fall of 2026, Oregon agencies named in the EO will submit their 2027-2029 workplans in alignment with the resilience attributes identified in the Final Report. These workplans will include agency-specific actions to identify and improve programs, tools, and incentives that support stewardship and co benefits; improve permitting processes; protect, conserve, restore or connect key lands and waters; enhance climate resilience on state-owned and managed lands; and other actions identified in the EXECUTIVE ORDER. As many of these actions will support carbon sequestration and storage, additional funding to this project, and to expand on the other projects and programs that have already received allocations, would enhance the abilities of agencies to achieve the goals of the Executive Order.

Additional funding could also support the development of indicators of resilience to target in agency plans, and the metrics that agencies should track to gauge their progress toward meeting the Executive Order. ODOE and state agencies have been collaborating to identify metrics already being tracked or that could be tracked related to carbon sequestration and storage, as well as the positive and negative effects on communities, resulting from the implementation of natural climate solutions. However, agencies would benefit from additional staff capacity and technical training to do this tracking and attribution of the effects of natural climate solutions.