

OWEB’s Executive Order 25-26 Workplan

In October 2025, Governor Kotek signed [Executive Order 25-26](#), directing Oregon state agencies to work together to advance climate resilience across the state’s lands and waters by protecting, connecting, conserving, or restoring forests, grasslands, rangelands, farmlands, wetlands, river, lakes, coastal and marine waters, and parks and open spaces in urban areas.

OWEB submitted a detailed workplan in June 2026 describing how its grant programs and partnerships align with each part of the order. This document summarizes that workplan, organized to match the five directives in Section I of EO 25-26, “Foster Resilient Lands, Waters, and Communities.”

1. Define Key Resilience Attributes for Lands and Waters

What the order asks: The EO asks agencies to use existing plans and strategies and the best available science to define key resilience attributes for Oregon’s lands and waters.

OWEB’s role	What OWEB is doing
Lead an interagency team to develop resilience attributes	In March 2026, OWEB and ODFW led a 3-day design workshop and subsequent public feedback process to bring together agencies and external partners to outline climate resilience attributes .
Establish baseline conditions	OWEB, ODFW, and the Governor’s Office are currently working with ODOE to identify actions across all named agencies which advance the EO goal of protecting or restoring 10% more of Oregon’s lands and waters over the next 10 years.

2. Keep Oregon’s Working Lands and Waters Working

What the order asks: The EO asks agencies to make it easier — through funding, permitting, and grant processes — for farmers, foresters, fishers, and other landowners to manage lands and waters in climate-friendly ways.

OWEB’s role	What OWEB is doing
Identify and improve programs, tools, and incentives that support stewardship and co-benefits	OWEB’s existing grant programs already fund restoration, technical assistance, and land and water transactions. Several programs, including Oregon Ag Heritage Program, Drinking Water Source Protection Program (DWSP), and Natural & Working Lands Program also advance the EO, but the majority of that funding is now fully committed. The Environmental Restoration Council recently approved up to \$1.2 million for the DWSP program, which will allow OWEB to offer a second grant cycle later this year as well as to maintain staffing for an additional year.
Improve application and grant review processes	OWEB regularly streamlines its application and reporting systems to make grants easier to access and is coordinating with other state agencies to make reporting more consistent across programs.

3. Conserve Natural Lands and Waters/Lead by Example

What the order asks: The EO sets a statewide goal to protect, conserve, connect, or restore 10% of Oregon’s lands and waters within 10 years; to develop innovative mitigation solutions; and to develop and implement strategies to enhance climate resiliency as a co-benefit of management objectives.

OWEB’s role	What OWEB is doing
Agencies are directed to protect, conserve, connect, or restore 10% of lands and waters in Oregon as compared to 2025 baseline	OWEB’s existing grant programs significantly support this action through funding, technical assistance, and partnership provided by our staff. OWEB has recently updated water acquisition grant program rules to clarify eligibility for activities related to project planning and development, project design, and outreach. OWEB anticipates this work will lead to additional eligible flow restoration projects by supporting development costs for these complex projects.
Agencies are directed to explore mitigation tools which support the long-term protection and resilience of land and water that contain key resilience attributes	While OWEB does not fund mitigation in our grant programs due to the intent of the funds to achieve uplift, we have frequently been a supportive partner to sister agencies and external partners in exploring and designing innovative mitigation approaches. We look forward to increasing this work under the EO and will continue exploratory conversations to support an enterprise-level approach.
Agencies that own or manage lands or waters are directed to develop and implement strategies to enhance climate resilience as a co-benefit of management objectives	OWEB grant programs help recipients implement a variety of management actions that enhance climate resiliency as a co-benefit. Resiliency co-benefits of projects funded by OWEB include enhanced stream flows and improved water quality, increased forest resiliency to wildfire, improved habitat connectivity, and increased resiliency of working lands to drought and wildfire. State and federal agencies are not eligible OWEB grantees but are frequent partners on OWEB-funded projects.

4. Community and Wildfire Resilience

What the order asks: The EO calls for agencies to implement Oregon’s 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan by leveraging partnerships and using available programs and resources to reduce the risk of wildfire and public health impacts of smoke.

OWEB’s role	What OWEB is doing
Implement Oregon’s 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan	OWEB has been a consistent partner to ODF and the other state and federal partner agencies in development of this effort, and our grant programs support implementation, especially through restoration and technical assistance funding for forest and rangeland resiliency projects. OWEB has also served as a grantmaking partner to ODF on Forest Collaborative grants as funds are available.