For Executive Order 25-26: Climate and Resiliency

Department of Land Conservation and Development

September 23, 2026, Draft Work Plan

DLCD

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— EO 25-26 Agency Workplans: Executive Summary

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Prepared by the Governor's Natural Resource Office September 8, 2026

Executive Summary: Coordinated Action to Strengthen the Resilience of Oregon's Lands and Waters (EO 25-26)

Oregon's lands and waters form an interconnected system that supports ecosystems, communities and economies across the state. Forests, rangelands, estuaries, rivers, working farms, transportation corridors, and coastal shorelines each play essential roles. They store carbon, regulate water, support fish, wildlife and First Foods, sustain livelihoods, move people and goods, and buffer communities from the effects of a changing climate. Ecosystems, communities, and economies in Oregon face growing risks from climate-related impacts such as long-term drought, catastrophic wildfire and wildfire smoke, sea level rise, destructive flood events, as well as other stressors like habitat loss, invasive species, and disease.

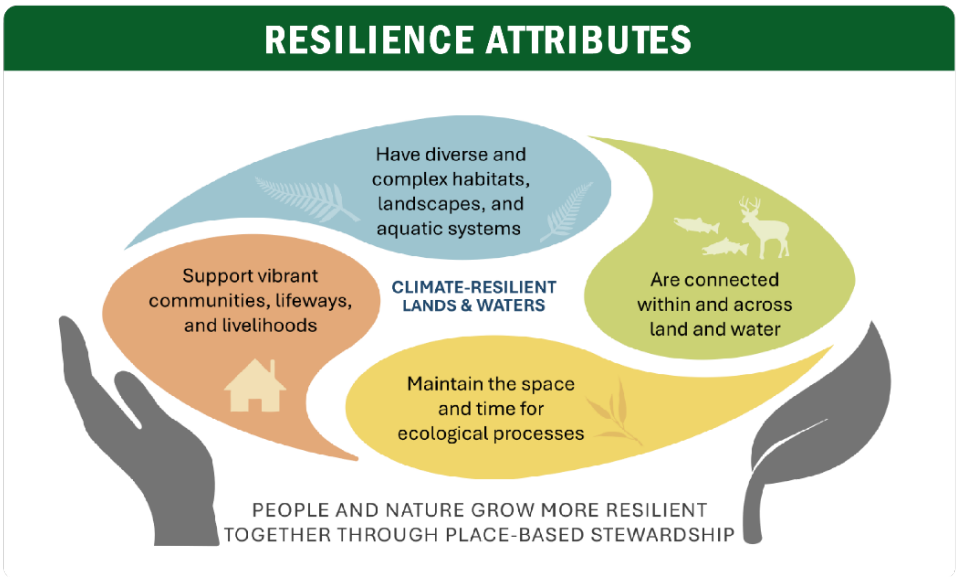
In recognition of the importance of building the resilience of these systems and communities to climate-related disruptions, Governor Kotek issued Executive Order (EO) 25-26 on October 21, 2025. EO 25-26 directs Oregon's natural resource agencies to work collaboratively toward the shared goal of strengthening the resilience of Oregon's natural and working lands and waters. EO 25-26 recognizes that resilience does not mean preserving things exactly as they are; instead, it means protecting the ability of lands, waters and people to cope, adapt, and/or transform in response to a changing climate and to continue to support essential functions even as conditions change.

The first step in implementing EO 25-26 was to define key resilience attributes, i.e. the characteristics of lands and waters that are currently resilient to impacts from climate change and therefore able to deliver multiple benefits that are likely to persist under future climate conditions; or are capable of achieving multiple benefits of high resilience in the face of changing conditions if supported by restoration, enhancement or reconnection. After much conversation and deliberation, the following four resiliency attributes were developed to guide the implementation of EO 25-26 by natural resource agencies:

Connectivity within and across land and water to facilitate the movement of organisms and ecological processes.

1. Diverse and complex habitats, landscapes, and aquatic systems that provide options for native species and human communities to respond to change and disturbance.

2. Flood, fire, and other natural processes have the space and time to sustain key ecological functions.
3. Natural and working lands and waters support, and are supported by, vibrant human communities, lifeways, and livelihoods.



This executive summary distills core elements from workplans prepared by 14 state agencies and the Columbia Gorge Commission to implement the directives of EO 25-26. The summary provides a clear overview of shared priorities and demonstrates how agencies are aligning programs, tools and investments to advance the resilience of lands, waters and communities. The workplans focus on maximizing resilience gains from existing resources while positioning agencies to take advantage of new opportunities as they arise. The workplans focus on the existing and upcoming budget cycle (2026-2029) and will be updated in advance of the 2029-2031 budget development process.

While individual agency workplans vary based on each agency's mission and responsibilities (and may not include all elements noted below), together they reflect a coordinated statewide vision-- integrated, science driven, partnership centered and focused on building long-term resilience. Where possible, the work of Oregon's natural resource agencies leverages work done by others such as Tribal Nations, landowners, federal and local governments, universities, and non-governmental organizations and philanthropic partners. Collectively, these efforts strengthen Oregon's capacity to adapt to change while protecting the values Oregonians share and support the EO's goal to **protect, conserve, connect, or restore 10% of Oregon's lands and waters within ten years.**

Core Themes of 2027-2029 Agency Workplans

1. Advance Protection, Restoration and Stewardship Actions Across Priority Oregon Waters and Landscapes

Across forests, rangelands, farms, estuaries, rivers, near-shore environments, transportation corridors, state parks, coastal dunes, and wildlife habitats, agencies are implementing or preparing to implement large-scale actions that strengthen the four statewide resilience attributes.

Actions include:



Connectivity across land, sea, water, and sky

Protecting cold-water refugia, increasing fish passage, restoring riparian corridors and floodplains, protecting and restoring wildlife corridors, protecting coastal habitats, supporting healthy forest landscapes, and mitigating hazards in a key transportation corridor.

Diversity and complexity of habitats and landscapes

Restoring kelp ecosystems, sage-grouse habitat, oak and grassland systems, tidal wetlands, estuaries, beaver habitat, rangelands, and aquatic systems affected by contaminants, and systems affected by invasive species.





Ecological process function

Pursuing landscape-scale native plant restoration, prescribed and cultural burning, climate-aligned reforestation, groundwater and watershed protection, removal of structural barriers, and actions that allow rivers, forests, dunes, and estuaries to adjust naturally to disturbance.

Community and livelihood resilience

Respecting Tribal sovereignty and supporting the health, abundance, and access to First Foods. Supporting rural stewardship, transportation reliability, drinking-water resilience, smoke-readiness, wildfire-adaptation, hazard mitigation planning, and community leadership—ensuring communities can thrive while adapting to change.



2. Improve and Expand Access to Programs that Support Land and Water Managers in Building Resilience

Workplans show consistent agency commitment to addressing technical, regulatory, and financial barriers, reducing timelines, and modernizing rules and policies to enable restoration, stewardship, climate-smart forestry, water-quality protection, coastal resilience, and wildfire adaptation.

Efforts include:

- Enhancing outreach and communication with land and water managers seeking information on state technical and financial assistance to support resilience projects on natural and working lands;
- Streamlining removal-fill, fish passage, riparian and terrestrial restoration, and tidal project permitting;
- Increasing forest resilience by modernizing forest-practice and prescribed-fire policies;
- Integrating resilience attributes into grant making and planning;
- Expanding wetland and conservation mitigation banking;
- Innovating approaches for water reuse, aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge;
- Collaborating with Tribal Nations to further the integration of Indigenous knowledge; and
- Supporting local governments and communities adapting to wildfire and smoke, flood, heat, drought, coastal hazards, and ecosystem change.

Building resilience at scale requires collaborating with partners and supporting their stewardship of Oregon's working lands and waters in ways that strengthen ecosystems, communities and local economies. These actions will help Oregonians act quickly and confidently to build resilience, while maintaining environmental safeguards and community protections.

3. Target Resources toward Priority Needs and Programs that Deliver Results

Agency workplans embed EO 25-26 into existing programs that have a track record of delivering results — fish and wildlife habitat restoration, forest management, watershed enhancement grants, placed based water planning and investment, water-quality and quantity protection, mitigation banking, estuary and shoreline planning, land-use regulation, transportation resilience, emergency management, scenic-waterway protection, and wildfire programs. Agency workplans not only prioritize these programs but, in many cases, identify strategies to expand their reach and impact. By strengthening proven systems rather than building new ones, agencies increase impact

while maintaining clarity for landowners, local governments, Tribal Nations, and community organizations.

Agency workplans direct resources toward areas of highest need that lay the foundation for our future. Collectively they center the following priority initiatives:

Build a Resilient Water Future through Strategic Monitoring, Protection, and Innovative Water Management Tools

Monitor and implement groundwater quality strategies, advance drought preparedness, increase instream water protections particularly in cold-water habitats, and innovate approaches for water reuse, aquifer storage and recovery and aquifer recharge.

Accelerate Strategic Water Quality and Aquatic Habitat Restoration

Drive integrated and prioritized restoration efforts—instream leasing, aquatic habitat restoration, fish passage barrier removal, mine reclamation—and incorporate multi benefit approaches to implementing water quality improvement plans (Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs)) to ensure durable, adaptive watershed strategies.

Expand Wetland and Species Mitigation Capacity to Protect Critical Landscapes and Waters

Increase wetland inventories, strengthen mitigation banking, modernize mitigation processes, and scale programs like Sage Grouse In Lieu Fee to protect sensitive species and landscapes under increasing climate pressure.

Advance Rangeland Resilience through Invasive Grass Management, Native Seed Capacity, and Fire-Adapted Strategies

Address invasive annual grasses, protect and grow core sagebrush landscapes, expand native seed capacity, strengthen agricultural water quality partnerships, and support fire-adapted rangeland landscapes to stabilize ecosystem and community resilience.

Increase Coastal and Nearshore Resilience to Climate and Ocean Change

Invest in kelp/rocky habitat resilience, support coastal science convenings, and support planning to safeguard nearshore ecosystems and coastal communities. Locate and prioritize high-risk erosion, landslide and flooding hazard sites along the State’s most critical coastal lifeline route (Highway 101).

Protect and Restore Terrestrial Habitat Connectivity

Invest in protection and habitat restoration within Priority Wildlife Connectivity Areas, remove barriers within big game migration corridors by supporting working lands transitions to virtual fence options and support highway wildlife crossing projects, provide technical and financial assistance to landscape restoration projects that facilitate movement of wildlife and climatic shifts in vegetation over time.

Advance Community and Wildfire Resilience

Modernize and align Community Wildfire Protection Plans with statewide hazard mitigation planning, increase use of prescribed fire with public health protections, update the Smoke Management Program and expand landscape-scale fuel treatments, build fire-adapted communities and reduce risk to people, infrastructure, and lifeways, advance climate-smart forestry, ecological restoration, riparian protection, and long-term regenerative capacity.

4. Accelerate the Acquisition and Use of Data that Supports Resilience, Mapping, and Monitoring

Agency workplans prioritize funding and scaling actions that move toward informed, climate-smart decision-making,

Actions include:

- Statewide lidar and remote-sensing for forests, floodplains, estuaries, rangelands, shorelines, watersheds and landslides;
- Water-quality and groundwater monitoring networks;
- Air-quality and wildfire-smoke trend reporting;
- Forest inventory, carbon flux modeling, reforestation and climate adapted species alignment;
- Climate-hazard risk maps for wildfire, flooding, heat, landslides, and coastal erosion;
- Blue-carbon accounting tools for tidal wetlands;
- Vital Signs ecological and cultural monitoring in the Columbia River Gorge;
- Real-time transportation hazard monitoring along U.S. 101;
- Shared statewide data infrastructure for natural climate solutions; and
- Tribal-led integration of Indigenous Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge.

These shared information sources and data sets dramatically increase Oregon’s ability to predict climate impacts, prioritize resilience investments, coordinate across jurisdictions, and measure progress statewide.

5. Identify Actions that Promote Collaboration and Shared Resources to Secure Stronger Resilience Outcomes

Agency workplans prioritize actions that build collaboration, support broad use of shared information and tools, and coordinate resources through shared strategies and plans.

Actions include:

- **Shared Science:** Where possible, develop common datasets and monitoring tools to support consistent, science-based decisions;
- **Shared Resources:** Develop tools, data, and guidance that can be shared amongst agencies and with partners to strengthen local planning, hazard readiness, and infrastructure resilience;
- **Shared Planning:** Support efforts to develop a long-term plan that integrates natural resources, infrastructure, public health, land use, emergency management, Tribal priorities, and community needs as part of a Plan for a Resilient Oregon;
- **Integrated Stewardship:** Identify cross-agency work on forests, watersheds, coasts, and habitats using shared strategies and plans and aligned funding; and
- **Partnership with Tribal Nations:** Consider Indigenous knowledge and priorities across key resilience efforts.

DLCD Work Plan

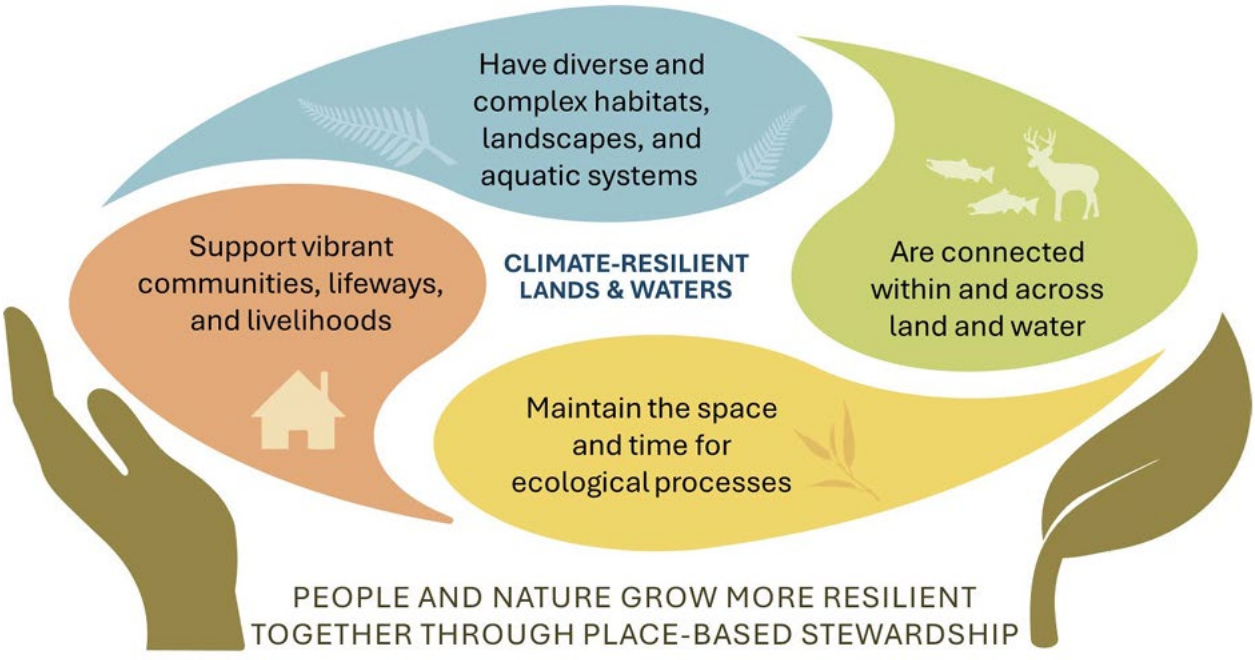
Reference: description of resiliency attributes from *Resilience Attributes*, development from the March inter-agency public private partnership workshop.

Attribute #1: Connectivity within and across land and water to facilitate the movement of organisms and ecological processes.

Attribute #2: Diverse and complex habitats, landscapes, and aquatic systems that provide options for native species and human communities to respond to change and disturbance.

Attribute #3: Flood, fire, and other natural processes have the space and time to sustain key ecological functions.

Attribute #4: Natural and working lands and waters support, and are supported by vibrant human communities, lifeways, and livelihoods



The Enabling Environment: People and nature grow more resilient together through place-based stewardship

The following actions are organized by subparts of the Executive Order identified by Governor's Office staff.

Keep Oregon's Working Lands and Waters Working

I. Identify and Improve Programs, Tools and Incentives that Support Stewardship and Co-Benefits

Anticipated Agency Actions qualifying under this subpart address all four attributes.

A. Support continued implementation of statewide planning Goals 3 (Agricultural Land) and Goal 4 (Forestlands). These goals share a statutory and administrative rule policy objective of maintaining working lands and associated habitat in large tracts as cohesive working landscapes. The leading key takeaway in the state's 2025 Land-Based Net Carbon Inventory report is that "continued protection of Oregon's unique land use laws should be an important climate mitigation strategy into the future", noting that "land use in Oregon has stayed relatively consistent over the last 35 years, which is a testament to Oregon's land use system and land protection, and has helped to keep Oregon's land-based emissions low relative to other states".

> **Metrics:** DLCD reports on agricultural and forest land conversion to the public and the Oregon Legislature in two ways: through the agency's Biennial Farm & Forest Report, in the agency's Key Performance Measures (KPMs). The agency's KMPs are designed to track removal of land from protective resource zoning. The biennial report provides further insight into trends in non-resource development on farm and forest land and conversion of such land to other uses. Data is derived from county reporting and collaboration with Oregon Department of Forestry evaluation and monitoring of conversion of forestlands. Contribute to the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality's Land-Based Net Carbon Inventory report.

B. Maintain zoning based conservation program of working lands implementing statute and rule, including Statewide Land Use Planning Goals 16 (Estuarine Resources), 17 (Coastal Shorelands), 18 (Beaches and Dunes), and 19 (Ocean Resources). Goals 16, 17, and 18 support local governments to protect coastal resources for environmental, cultural, economic, and social values and needs.

> **Metric**: change in zoning in tidal wetlands and estuaries as noticed through Post Acknowledgement Plan Amendments reported to DLCD when local governments change comprehensive plans. DLCD staff review these amendments for consistency with statute and rule.

C. Use technical assistance grant funding for cities to remove barriers to housing and employment lands infill to reduce encroachment on natural/working lands.

Metric: planning grant funds to local governments to remove barriers to housing and employment lands each biennium.

D. Continue leadership in the Oregon Mass Timber Coalition; removing barriers in local land use codes for modular and mass-timber housing.

Metric: number of land use plans where barriers are removed for modular and mass timber housing.

E. Finalize Oregon Coastal Management Program Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment habitat conservation and restoration program investments with Tribes and coastal communities.

Metric: acres of habitat acquired/restored.

II. Improve Permitting Processes for Restoration Projects on Working Lands and Waters

Anticipated Agency Actions qualifying under this subpart address all four attributes.

A. Continue coordination with Oregon Parks and Recreation Department on efficient review of ocean shore permits.

Metric: number of permits reviewed for compliance with Statewide Planning Goal 18 (Beaches and Dunes).

B. Continue coordination with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, the Department of State Lands, and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department on nearshore issues including rocky habitat, eel grass and kelp restoration.

Metric: number of marine policy meetings inclusive of rocky habitat, eel grass and kelp restoration strategies.

C. Ongoing support for local governments; staff technical assistance for land use permits.

Metric: number of workshops/trainings including coastal statewide planning goals.

D. Complete rulemaking to support nature-based solutions to mitigate coastal erosion.

Metric: rules adopted.

E. Continued work with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency to approve program changes supporting the state’s enforceable policies.

Metric: number of approved program changes.

F. Update estuary management plans to expand opportunities for habitat restoration.

Metrics: number of estuary management plan parts or supporting information updated; per cent (%) areas zoned natural, conservation, and development by estuary management plans.

G. Support for cities using Wetland Technical Assistance Program funds to inventory wetlands for the purpose of determining significance; protecting high functioning high value wetlands allowing development in non-significant wetland areas, and mitigating others; expand the number of cities that have Local Wetland Inventories (LWIs)

Metric: communities with additional wetlands inventories.

H. Implementation of the state's federal consistency program and enforceable policy review.

Metric: number of decisions issued.

III. Improve Application and Grant Review Processes

Anticipated Agency Actions qualifying under this subpart address Attribute #4: Natural and working lands and waters support, and are supported by vibrant human communities, lifeways, and livelihoods

A. Create consistent application and evaluation processes across continues to improve consistency across grant programs.

Outcome: Updated protocols; lower barriers for applications including for small and rural communities.

IV. Evaluate opportunities to support long-term resilience of near-shore resources.

Anticipated Agency Actions qualifying under this subpart address all four attributes.

The Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP) was authorized under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972. It is a strong, highly coordinated networked program that includes expertise and engagement among 11 state agencies and 41 coastal counties and cities. The geographic zone is from the coast range to three miles out into the ocean or territorial sea. The eleven agencies regularly interact through a variety of interagency teams. OCMP members review any action in the coastal zone with a federal nexus for consistency with local and state enforceable policies. For stewardship of nearshore habitats, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), the Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), the Department of State Lands (DSL), and the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) meet weekly to discuss marine policy issues and proposed projects. These meetings often include

conversations around estuary needs and projects. Many of the agencies in the network participated in the marine conservation designations of rocky shore habitats along the coast and subsequent development of management strategies for those areas. Pilot projects for kelp restoration involve several network agency partners. The development of estuary management plan updates involves many of the networked agencies and local governments. The state's Territorial Sea Plan also is a guiding document that ensures coordination and collaboration among state agencies for all activities that occur within the state's territorial sea. With these solidly established networks, state agencies are well poised to implement actions within EO 25-26.

A. Updating estuary management plans to reflect current and future conditions, best available information, and a process for regular updates to engage the community.

Metric: number of updated plans; amount of area added to the regulated estuary boundary (acres); percent (%) of change in management units in estuary conservation or natural zones.

B. In coordination with state agencies represented on the Ocean Policy Advisory Council (Department of State Lands, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, Department of Environmental Quality, Department of Geology and Mineral Industries, Oregon Department of Agriculture, and Oregon State University Sea Grant Office), update the Territorial Sea Plan to reflect current and future conditions, best available information, and a process for regular updates to engage the community.

Metric: number of Territorial Sea Plan amendments.

D. Through the Ocean Policy Advisory Council, updating rocky habitat management strategies to reflect current and future conditions, best available information, and a process for regular updates to engage the community.

Metric: number of new designations; number of updated management strategies.

E. Promote the use and update of the Blue Carbon Calculator (sequestration).

Metric: number of presentations.

F. Participation in the West Coast Ocean Alliance network and contributions to the West Coast Ocean Data Portal.

Metrics: number # of West Coastal Ocean Alliance meetings including executive committee and work groups.

Conserve Natural Lands and Water

I. Protect, Conserve, Connect or Restore 10% of Lands and Waters within 10 years

Anticipated Agency Actions qualifying under this subpart address all four attributes.

A. Continue partnership with the Department of State Lands (DSL) regarding innovating to support community protection of wetland and waterways: initiate and expand pilot programs at DSL and DLCD to improve protection of wetlands and waterways within the agencies' existing authorities. This action would seek to increase the number of communities with an adopted local wetlands inventory through expansion of DLCD's technical assistance program and DSL's development of modern mapping tools; and develop a community-based advanced mitigation demonstration project. The desired outcome here is the presence of and increase in the inventory and protection of high functioning high value wetlands in urban and urbanizing areas that are ecologically connected to floodplains / flood function, habitat, wildlife corridors, first foods and material, water quality function (acres).

> **Metrics shared with Department of State Lands:** total number of acres of Local Wetlands Inventories (LWIs) approved by the Department of State Lands from 2001 to 2025 as a percentage of total number of acres of land within a UGB statewide.

B. Percentage of territorial sea in some form of state designated protected status/designation.

> **Metric:** percentage of Territorial Sea in some form of state designated protected status/designation e.g. Marine Protected Areas, Rocky Habitats.

II. Develop Innovative Mitigation Solutions

Anticipated Agency Actions qualifying under this subpart address all four attributes.

A. Complete the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan (CELP) working with state agencies, tribes, local governments, and other partners to identify conservation and restoration projects within the coastal zone. This plan allows the state, through the Oregon Coastal Management Program, to pursue federal funding through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration when available.

> **Metric**: number of projects identified in the Coastal and Estuarine Land Conservation Plan.

B. Community Green Infrastructure Investments

Metric: completion of 2023-2027 investments of $6M into community green infrastructure projects. Trees and other green infrastructure help prevent erosion and reduce the urban heat island effect, making Oregon more resilient in the face of increasingly frequent and deadly heat waves and potential electrical grid failure.

III. Develop and Implement Strategies to Enhance Climate Resiliency as Co-Benefit of Management Objectives

A. Implement Ocean Acidification and Hypoxia Council (OAH) Recommendations.

Metric: staff support of the OAH Council meetings, number of actions in the Oregon Ocean Change Action Plan supported or implemented.

B. Implement recommendations of the Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap.

Metric: number of Offshore Wind Energy Roadmap recommendations being implemented.

Community Wildfire and Resilience

I. Support Efforts to Create a Plan for a Resilient Oregon

A. DLCD's work to lead a subgroup with Governor's office and Oregon Emergency Management staff to Support Efforts to Create a Plan for a Resilient Orgon is complete. Governor Kotek released the Plan on September 10, 2026. Agency staff look forward to implementing Action 2.9: Assist cities and counties in updating comprehensive plans and development regulations with current data on hazards and risks, standards for resilient development, and incentives that reduce risk in hazard-prone areas found on page 31.

Metric: complete. See 1B for implementation, below.

B. For life, health, and safety in addition to preserving and supporting ecological function, help tribes, counties, cities and special districts with natural hazards planning to update data to provide for a current factual basis for land use planning (mapped hazard areas, assessing risk, setting goals, and identifying community-based actions to reduce risk).

Metrics: number of Natural Hazards Mitigation Plans completed, number of comprehensive plan updates including updated hazard data and information, guidance documents, and presentations.

C. With Oregon Department of Transportation and the Oregon Department of Forestry, facilitate the Climate Change Adaptation Framework Implementation Team to coordinate climate resilience actions among state agencies and Tribal governments. Regular collaborators include representatives from the Oregon Climate Action

Commission, the University of Oregon's Institute for Policy Research and Engagement, Oregon Partnership for Disaster Resilience, the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute, and the Oregon Climate Service at Oregon State University.

Metrics: three meetings per month; information sharing, project coordination.

E: Help cities and counties assess flood risks; identify actions to mitigate those risks; support local governments to manage development in flood hazard zones.

Metrics: Number of meetings, newsletters, guidance documents. Percent of cities and counties with regulations for development in flood hazard areas that qualify for the National Flood Insurance Program.

F. Help cities and counties plan urban patterns and transportation systems that are increase walking and biking, reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Metric: Urban population living in cities that have updated transportation system plans to be less dependent on fossil fuels.

G. Expanded guidance on how land use planning reduces risk from natural hazards.

Metrics: Number of presentations, newsletters, guidance documents including guidance for fire adapted communities, including model development code, comprehensive plan policies, and transportation planning strategies.

H. With Oregon Department of Emergency Management, help tribes, counties, cities, and special districts prepare natural hazard mitigation plans.

Metric: updated plans.

II. Implement 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan

A. Forest land use zoning prevents development of potentially conflicting uses that could increase the risk of wildfire or the cost of wildfire protection.

Support continued implementation of statewide planning goals 3 and 4 which have a policy objective of maintaining working lands in large tracts and cohesive working landscapes. In this work, DLCD collaborates with the Oregon Department of Forestry and the Oregon State Fire Marshal.

Metric: Number of new dwellings in forest zones reported by counties as required by ORS 197.065. Fire resistant standards in OAR 660-006-0035 that regulate dwellings in forest zones. Regulations in OAR 660-006-0035 are up to date and adequate.

III. Create Fire-Adapted Communities

A. Develop land use guidance for fire adapted communities, including model development code, comprehensive plan policies, and transportation planning strategies.

Metric: cities and counties that have adopted land use plans and development regulations for fire adapted communities.