

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP): Rules and Timeline



Need for OAHP:

- Two-thirds of Oregon's agricultural land is changing hands between 2012 and 2032; most Oregon farmers and ranchers do not have a comprehensive succession plan.
- Oregon has limited state match for federal working land easement programs.
- Few programs support conservation management plan development or ongoing implementation.



Purpose: Develop voluntary tools to keep lands in farming and ranching to support:

- Oregon's economy;
- healthy rural communities; and
- healthy fish and wildlife and other natural resources.



Why Focus on Working Lands?

- State's second-largest *economic* driver - \$5.4 billion
- Agricultural lands support valuable *fish and wildlife habitat* and enhance other *natural resources*
- Cornerstone of state's *rural communities*
- State's land use *laws are not enough* on their own to protect farms and ranches from fragmentation and being taken out of production



Goals

- Incentives to keep farms and ranches in production.
- Incentives to support fish, wildlife or other natural resource values.
- Flexible approaches that are tailored to individual landowners.
- Balance landowner and conservation needs.
- Leverage federal money, mostly untapped in OR (*Not a stand alone program*).

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program



Statute: ORS 541.977 – 541.989

- Establishes Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for a variety of grant programs
- Establishes Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to oversee investments



Statute: ORS 541.977 – 541.989

- Provides funding for:
 - Conservation management plans
 - Working land conservation covenants and easements
 - Technical assistance
 - Succession planning
- Study tax-related and other financial barriers to farm and ranch land transfer (LPRO)

Commission Membership

Recommended by	Role	Commissioners
Board of Agriculture	Farmer & rancher	Chad Allen, Tillamook Ken Bailey, The Dalles Doug Krahmer, St. Paul - Chair Woody Wolfe, Wallowa
Board of Agriculture	Ag water quality	Lois Loop, Salem
Fish & Wildlife Commission	Fish & wildlife habitat	Bruce Taylor, Portland – Vice Chair Mary Wahl, Langlois
Department of Land Conservation & Development	Conservation easements	Derek Johnson, Portland
OWEB Board	Natural resource	Mark Bennett, Unity
OWEB Board	Tribal interests	Nathan Jackson, Myrtle Creek
OWEB Board	OSU Extension	Sam Angima, Corvallis
OWEB Board	OWEB Board <i>ex officio</i>	Will Neuhauser, Yamhill



Ken Bailey, Wasco
Farmer/Rancher



Woody Wolfe, Wallowa
Farmer/Rancher



Mary Wahl, Langlois
Fish & Wildlife



Lois Loop, Salem
Ag Water Quality



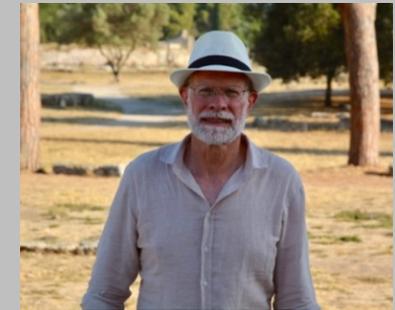
Bruce Taylor, Portland
Fish & Wildlife, **Vice Chair**



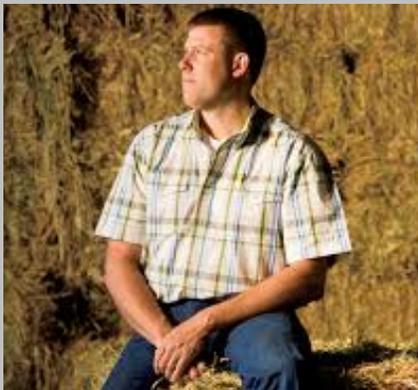
Doug Kraemer, St. Paul
Farmer/Rancher, **Chair**



Chad Allen, Tillamook
Farmer/Rancher



Will Neuhauser, Yamhill
OWEB Board ex officio



Nathan Jackson, Myrtle Creek
Farmer/Rancher



Derek Johnson, Portland
Land Transfer



Sam Angima, Corvallis
OSU Extension



Mark Bennett, Unity
Natural Resources

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**Diverse Commission Background –
Integrated Commission Approach**

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program



2017

2018

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

September 2017-February 2018

- Hire Staff
- Commissioner recommendations
- OWEB Board approves Commission
- Initial Commission meeting – Rulemaking begins



2018

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

March - August 2018

- Rule Development with Commission as RAC
- Public Comment Period July 1 – October 5:
 - July 16, Salem hearing
 - July 17, Burns hearing
- Letter of Interest solicitation



SEP

OCT

2018

NOV

DEC

JAN

2019

FEB

September 2018 – July 2019

- Letters of Interest due by September 14
- Commission approves rules and reviews Lols
- January OWEB Board Meeting
 - Board vote on rules
 - Reviews staff report on LOIs
- Legislative Session – Potential Funding

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Commission: Shift from 'Balance' to 'Integration'

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Lands must be 'working land', as defined: land that is actively used by an agricultural owner or operator for an agricultural operation that includes, but need not be limited to, active engagement in farming or ranching

NOTE: grants may not include a consideration of the type of agricultural operation conducted on the working land



Non-evaluation Rules (CMP and Covenant/Easement)

- Eligible Applicants
- Term of Payment
- Monitoring and Compliance
- Mutual Modifications
- Combination with other OAHP programs
- Match
- Use of Grant Funds
- Public Involvement
- Conveyance of easement after covenant



CMP Evaluation Criteria

- Significance of agricultural, natural resource and related social values of the working land
- Extent to which the plan protects, maintains, enhances:
 - Farming or ranching on working land
 - Fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values



CMP Evaluation Criteria

- Protect significant agricultural outcomes, benefits or other investment gains
- Organizational Capacity
- Benefit to the state
- Impacts (+/-) on neighboring lands
- Level of threat of fragmentation or conversion



Easement/Covenant Evaluation Criteria

- Significance of agricultural, natural resource and related social values of the working land
- Extent to which the plan protects, maintains, enhances:
 - Farming or ranching on working land
 - Fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values



Easement/Covenant Evaluation Criteria

- Protect significant agricultural outcomes, benefits or other investment gains
- Organizational Capacity
- Benefit to the state
- Impacts (+/-) on neighboring lands
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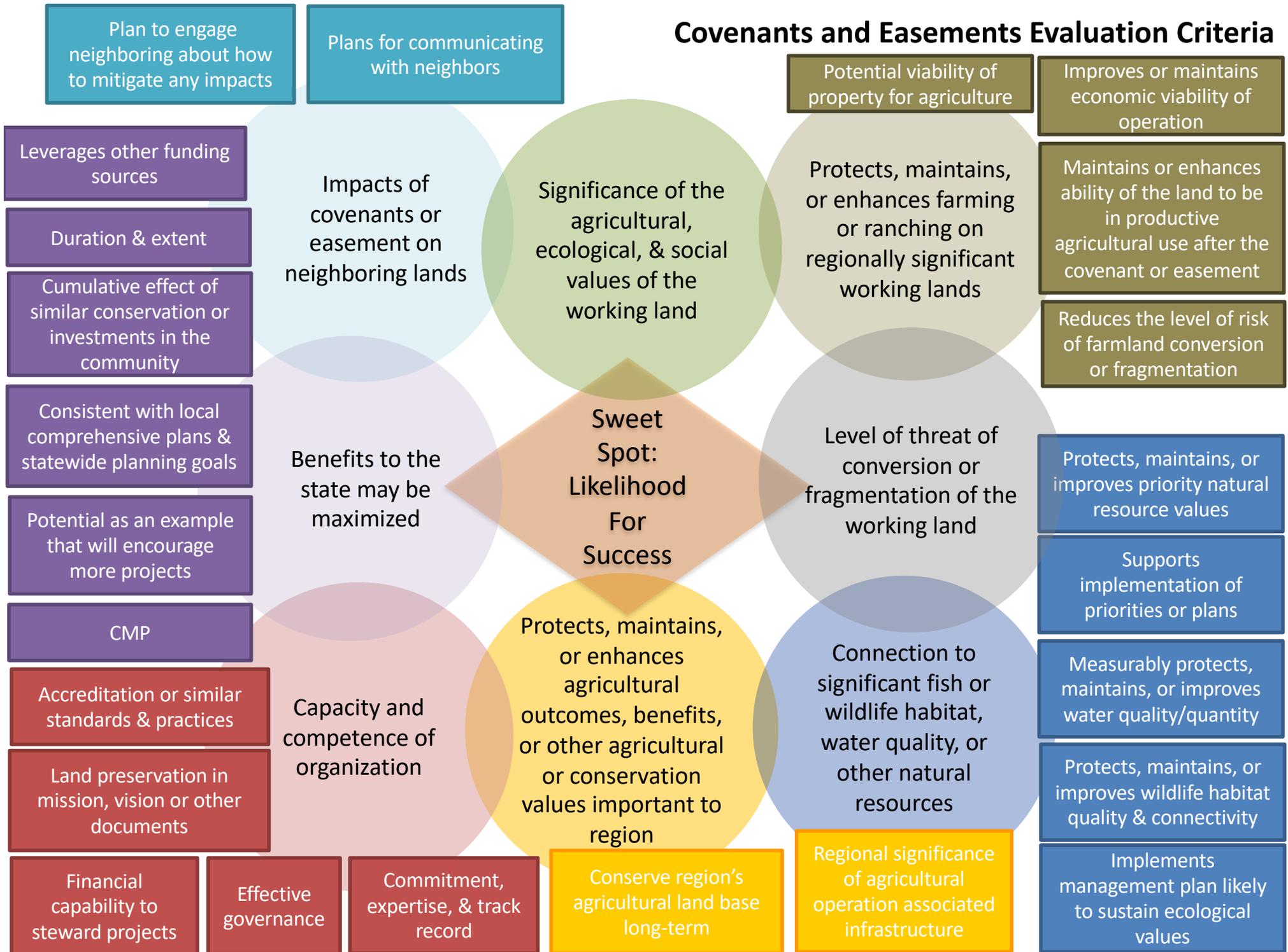
Succession Planning

- Eligible Applicants
- Eligible Activities
- Evaluation Criteria
 - Achieve grant program purposes
 - Organizational capacity
 - Organizational background
 - Cost-effectiveness
 - Reach diverse audiences
 - Introduces applicants to conservation tools as a resource

Technical Assistance

- Eligible Applicants
- Eligible Activities
- Evaluation Criteria
 - Achieve grant program purposes
 - Improves capacity to develop CMPs or Conservation Easements/Covenants
 - Reach diverse audiences

Covenants and Easements Evaluation Criteria



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Discussion of Scenarios

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Staying connected with Board of Agriculture

- Annual appointments/reappointments
- Progress and implementation check-ins

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Questions