



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Timeline and Commission



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* to protect farms and ranches from fragmentation



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 Oregon.



Statute:

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



Statute

- Provides funding for:
 - Succession planning
 - Permanent working land conservation easements and covenants
 - Conservation management plans
 - Technical Support
- Study tax-related and other financial barriers to farm and ranch land transfer

Commission Membership

#	Recommended by	Representing
4	Board of Agriculture	Actively engaged in farming and ranching; diverse commodities and geography
1	Board of Agriculture	Agriculture water quality
2	Fish & Wildlife Commission	Expertise regarding fish and wildlife habitat
1	Land Conservation & Dev. Commission	Expertise in conservation easements and similar land transfers
1	OR Watershed Enhancement Board	Natural resource values interests
1	OR Watershed Enhancement Board	Tribal interests
1	OSU Extension	Representing Extension



2017

2018

SEP

OCT

NOV

DEC

JAN

FEB

September 2017-February 2018

- Hire Staff
- Commission & RAC Selection
- RAC Process Approved by OWEB Board
- OWEB Board Approves Commission
- Initial Commission/RAC Meeting



2018

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

March - August 2018

- Rule Development with RAC/Commission
- Public Comment Periods
- OWEB Board Approves Rules (October as backup)
- Pre-Application Developed and Announced

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2019

FEB

September 2018 – February 2019

- Pre-Application Consultations
- Pre-Applications Submitted
- Site Visits as Appropriate
- Staff Report to Commission
- Report to OWEB Board
- Legislative Session Begins