

Meeting Agenda – Board of Agriculture

September 2-4, 2026 | Astoria, OR | Holiday Inn Express

Meeting Location and Materials

In Person: Holiday Inn Express, 204 W Marine Dr., Astoria, OR 97103

Virtually: Microsoft Teams – links at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture>

Materials: Available online at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture>

How to Provide Public Comment

Written

Please provide written comment by **Monday, August 31st, 2026**. Comments received by this deadline will be posted to ODA's website and provided to the Board Members in advance of the meeting. You may email your written comments to BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov or upload them at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture>.

Verbal – Remotely

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes. Public comments will be heard at designated times as listed here on the agenda. Please notify the Board Coordinator of your intent to join and provide public comment remotely via Microsoft Teams by completing the interest form at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture> or by emailing BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov with the following information:

- Your first and last name
- Your organizations/affiliation, if applicable
- Topic of your comment
- Date and time slot you plan to provide comment (refer to agenda below)

Verbal – In Person

There will be a sign-in sheet on GREEN paper near the entrance to the meeting room. Please sign in prior to the scheduled public comment period if you wish to make comments in person. If you will be providing hand-outs or other written materials, please bring 20 copies with you and give them to the Board Coordinator to distribute to the Board Members.



Contact the Board Coordinator for information regarding this agenda or to request ADA accommodations.
Please provide 48 hours advance notice (503-986-4552).
This agenda is subject to change.

Wednesday, September 2nd, 2026

ITEM	TIME	AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	PRESENTER
1	3:15 PM (15 mins)	Welcome & Call to Order • Roll Call/Introductions • Review and approval of June 2026 minutes	Elin Miller , Chair, State Board of Ag
2	3:30 PM (60 mins)	Federal Partners Panel - Tootie Smith, USDA FSA State Executive Director - Greg Becker, USDA NRCS State Conservationist - James Carmack, USDA Rural Development State Director - Bryan Zulko, Portland District Director Small Business Administration	
3	4:30 PM (75 mins)	Board Business Biennial Report Topic Review and Development	
	6:30 PM (90 mins)	OSU Seafood Center Facility Tour and Reception – guests and Board members are invited to tour OSU’s Seafood Research and Extension Center, followed by a reception with light appetizers.	Tour: 6:30 PM – 7:00 PM Reception: 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM



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Thursday, September 3rd, 2026

ITEM	TIME	AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	PRESENTER
	8:30 AM	Welcome & Call to Order Roll Call/Introductions	Elin Miller , Chair, State Board of Ag
4	8:35 AM (60 mins)	ODA Director's Report - Updates from ODA's State Veterinarian, Dr. Ryan Scholz - ODA's Strategic Plan - Project OneODA - Governor's Expectations	Lisa Charpilloz Hanson , ODA Director
5	9:35 AM (60 mins)	ODA Budget and Legislative Updates 27-29 Agency Request Budget 2027 Legislative Concept Review and Discussion	Jonathan Sandau , ODA Deputy Director Adam Crawford , ODA COO Lindsay Eng , ODA Deputy Director
	10:35 AM	BREAK	
6	10:45 AM (30 mins)	ODA EO 25-26 Workplan Review	Jonathan Sandau , ODA Deputy Director
7	11:15 AM (30 mins)	USDA Farm Service Agency Updates - Disaster Relief Programs and Rule Updates - USDA's Office of Seafood Initiative	Tootie Smith , USDA FSA State Executive Director Sarah Hanlon , USDA FSA Farm Programs Chief
8	11:45 AM (30 mins)	Upcoming Rulemaking at the Oregon Water Resources Department	Kim Fritz-Ogren , OWRD Field Services Division Administrator
9	12:15 PM	Public Comment – General Topics	
	12:30 PM	Lunch	
10	1:15 PM (60 mins)	ODA's Connections to the Seafood Industry - Food Safety and Shellfish Plat Leasing - Economic Development	Rusty Rock , ODA Food Safety and Animal Health Division Director Erick Garman , ODA Trade Manager
11	2:15 PM (45 mins)	Board Business - Officer Elections - OWEB Report – Chad Allen 2027 Meeting Dates, Locations, and Topics	
	3:00 PM	Site Visit – TBD; Board and ODA staff only	
	6:00 PM	Dinner for Board and ODA Staff only	



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Friday, September 4th, 2026

ITEM	TIME	AGENDA ITEM/TOPIC	PRESENTER
	8:30 AM	Welcome & Call to Order Roll Call/Introductions	Elin Miller , Chair, State Board of Ag
	8:35 AM (10 mins)	OSU College of Agricultural Sciences – Dean’s Updates	Dean Staci Simonich , OSU
12	8:45 AM (60 mins)	Oregon Land Use System Overview	Brenda Bateman , DLCD Director Jon Jinnings , DLCD
	9:45 AM (30 mins)	Oregon Land Use in Practice	Branden Pursinger , Association of OR Counties
	10:15 AM (15 mins)	Land Use Resolution Review Process	Lindsay Eng , ODA Deputy Director John Boyes , ODA Policy Advisor & Tribal Liaison
	10:30 AM (30 mins)	Board Business Continued (if needed) - Biennial Legislative Report - Future Resolution Review	
	11:00 AM	Adjourn	



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Board of Agriculture Roster

Name	Board Role	Position	Member Type	Location	Term Status	Term Expires	Phone	Email
Elin Miller	Chair	#3	Producer	Roseburg, OR	2nd Term	10/28/2028	415-613-5251	elin@elinmiller.com
Eric Orem	Vice-Chair	#10	Producer	Heppner, OR	2nd Term	12/02/2029	541-256-0246	eboremfarms@hotmail.com
Josh Zielinski	Member	#7	Producer	Salem, OR	2nd Term	10/28/2028	503-339-4062	josh.zielinski@gmail.com
Miguel Lopez	Member	#5	Producer	Carlton, OR	2nd Term	12/02/2029	503-437-0118	lopez.mikey@gmail.com
Ty Kliewer	Member	#2	Producer	Klamath Falls, OR	Partial Term	10/31/2026	541-891-2528	kliewertb@gmail.com
Ellie Norris	Member	#6	Producer	Roseburg, OR	Partial Term	10/31/2026	503-799-6114	ellie@norrisblueberryfarms.com
Chad Allen	Member	#11	Producer	Tillamook, OR	1st Term	09/17/2027	503-801-1097	chadvictor76@gmail.com
Kirk Maag	Member	#8	Public Member	Portland, OR	1st Term	12/19/2028	541-881-9613	kirk.maag@gmail.com
Mike Dill	Member	#4	Public Member	Philomath, OR	1st Term	03/31/2029	541-602-5338	mdill@organicgrown.com
Barbara Boyer	Ex-Officio Voting Member	#9	SWCC	McMinnville, OR	—	—	503-434-0651	gourmethay@onlinemac.com
Staci Simonich	Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member	—	Oregon State University	Corvallis, OR	—	—	541-737-2331	staci.simonich@oregonstate.edu
Lisa Charpiloz Hanson	Ex-Officio Non-Voting Member	—	Oregon Department of Agriculture	Salem, OR	—	—	503-986-4552	lisa.charpiloz.hanson@oda.oregon.gov



Effective date: 12/1/2025

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Meeting Minutes

June 24, 2026 | Virtual only via MS Teams

Facilitator: John Boyes – BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov – 503.986.4552

Meeting Recording:

June 24, 2026 – Meeting Recording: <https://youtu.be/izcqe1KCLVQ>

Materials are available online at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture> for up to two years following the conclusion of this meeting and will be made available by request thereafter.

Wednesday, June 24th, 2026

Agenda Item 01 – Welcome and Introductions (Timestamp: 00:00:01)

Vice-Chair Eric Orem called the meeting to order at 8:05 am.

John Boyes, Board Coordinator, called the roll of Board Members.

Board Members Present:

- Elin Miller, Chair
- Eric Orem, Vice-Chair
- Director Lisa Charpillouz Hanson
- Kirk Maag
- Mike Dill

Board Members Excused:

- Ellie Norris
- Ty Kliewer
- Chad Allen
- Miguel Lopez
- Barbara Boyer
- Josh Zielinski
- Dean Staci Simonich

ODA Staff Present:

- Lindsay Eng
- Casey Prentiss
- Karla Valness
- John Boyes
- Andrea Cantu-Schomus

A quorum was not present.

The Board heard updates from ODA staff about budget development work ahead of the 2027 Legislative Session.

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ODA Program Prioritization List (Timestamp: 00:03:45)

The Board reviewed ODA's prior program prioritization list that was developed during the 2025-2027 budget development process. Director Charpilloz Hanson shared a high-level overview of the agency's budget status and the program prioritization list, expressing the central theme of financial stability and program maintenance at ODA. Cash reserves are currently at \$40 million entering the new biennium, but those are projected to fall to \$25 million at the end of the biennium largely due to increased costs and limited fee revenues. Approximately 50% of ODA's budget comes from fee-driven "other funds." For the past several biennia, ODA has made tremendous efficiency gains that have allowed critical work to continue with limited resources. However, that approach is no longer sufficient to meet the pressing budget demands in the 2027-2029 biennium and beyond.

Director Charpilloz Hanson presented a possible shift from a long-standing line-item prioritization method to a "bucketed" approach tied more directly to the agency mission:

- Human health protection (food safety, animal health, lab)
- Natural resources and landscape resilience (water quality, CAFO, pesticides)
- Plant protection and conservation (weeds, IPPM, invasive species)
- Economic development (market access, lab support, commodity programs)
- Consumer protection (measurement standards, feed, fertilizer, motor fuel)
- Oversight programs (SWCDs, commissions, councils)
- Agency administrative operations

Board members expressed support for the bucketed approach as a starting point but emphasized the need for flexibility. In summary, Board members noted the importance of mission alignment, consideration about whether work could be done by another agency or the private sector, the statewide impact per dollar spent, and protecting General Fund programs where possible.

Public Comment (Timestamp: 00:49:00)

The Board heard public comments from Delani Herb on behalf of Oregonians for Food and Shelter (OFS). OFS also submitted written comments ahead of the Board meeting, which are included in meeting materials. Comments included recommendations to lower PARC and Pesticide Stewardship Program's standing on the prioritization list, raising predator control and wolf assistance grants, and expressed opposition to eliminating Ag Water Quality Grants.

Budget Reduction Options (Timestamp: 00:55:46)

As part of the budget development process, ODA must submit to the Legislature reduction options up to 10% for each fund type. Director Charpilloz Hanson emphasized that ODA has historically "thinned the soup" to make cuts without eliminating core services. Some General and Lottery Funds are already under pressure or are structurally insufficient to

meet program and service delivery demand. Board members acknowledged that many ODA fees are significantly outdated and that long gaps between adjustments have caused major structural deficits; some members noted that large businesses pay relatively low proportionate fees. Generally, Board members agreed that ODA should thoroughly review its fee schedules and bring them up to sustainable levels, while also examining long-term efficiency opportunities.

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 am.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Meeting Minutes

June 3-5, 2026 | Inn at Cross Keys Station, Madras, OR

Facilitator: John Boyes – BoardAgriculture@oda.oregon.gov – 503.986.4552

Meeting Recording:

June 3, 2026 – Meeting recording Part 1 - <https://youtu.be/K79f0Ys45qc>

June 4, 2026 – Meeting Recording Part 2 - <https://youtu.be/NNuMSAKOCek>

June 5, 2026 – Meeting Recording Part 3 - <https://youtu.be/ktpasQRvqpw>

Materials are available online at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture> for up to two years following the conclusion of this meeting and will be made available by request thereafter.

Wednesday, June 3rd, 2026

Agenda Item 01 – Welcome and Introductions (Timestamp: 00:00:01)

Chair Elin Miller called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm.

John Boyes, Board Coordinator, called the roll of Board Members.

Board Members Present:

- Elin Miller, Chair
- Eric Orem, Vice-Chair
- Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson
- Kirk Maag
- Mike Dill
- Miguel Lopez
- Barbara Boyer
- Josh Zielinski.

Board Members Excused:

- Ellie Norris
- Ty Kliwer
- Chad Allen
- Dean Staci Simonich

ODA Staff Present:

- Lindsay Eng
- Jonathan Sandau
- Rusty Rock
- Isaak Stapleton
- Casey Prentiss
- Karla Valness
- John Boyes
- Victoria Binning
- Kevin Fenn

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- Maria Snodgress
- Andrea Cantu-Schomus
- Nina Caldwell

Others Present:

- Peter Grubb
- Ali Webb
- Josh Bailey
- Gary Harris
- Mickey Killingsworth
- Hunter Walker
- JoHanna Symons
- Tom Nelson

Action Item 01 – Review and Approval of the March 2026 Board of Agriculture Meeting Minutes (Timestamp: 00:04:40)

Eric Orem moved to approve the meeting minutes as presented. Barbara Boyer seconded. There was no discussion, and the motion passed unanimously with the following Board Members voting in favor: Elin Miller, Eric Orem, Barbara Boyer, Mike Dill, Kirk Maag, Josh Zielinski. No abstentions, no votes, or recusals.

Agenda Item 02 – Local Producer Panel (Timestamp: 00:05:14)

Chair Elin Miller facilitated a panel discussion with local agricultural producers. Peter Grubb, Tom Norton, JoHanna Symons, and Josh Bailey participated. Panelists shared their direct experience navigating ongoing challenges and successes for agriculture in the region. Key highlights included ongoing water delivery shortages compounded by persistent drought conditions and competing needs for irrigation water, challenges sourcing labor, increasing labor costs due to agricultural overtime laws, and innovative management solutions in both livestock and crop production systems.

Chair Miller recessed the meeting until 8:30 AM the next day.

Thursday, June 4th, 2026

Welcome and Introductions (Timestamp: 00:00:02)

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 8:30 AM.

John Boyes, Board Coordinator, called the roll of Board Members.

Board Members Present:

- Elin Miller, Chair
- Eric Orem, Vice-Chair
- Director Lisa Charpillou Hanson
- Kirk Maag
- Mike Dill
- Miguel Lopez

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- Barbara Boyer
- Josh Zielinsk
- Chad Allen
- Dean Staci Simonich

Board Members Excused:

- Ellie Norris
- Ty Kliewer

ODA Staff Present:

- Lindsay Eng
- Jonathan Sandau
- Rusty Rock
- Isaak Stapleton
- Casey Prentiss
- Karla Valness
- John Boyes
- Victoria Binning
- Kevin Fenn
- Maria Snodgress
- Andrea Cantu-Schomus
- Nina Caldwell
- Nick Sirovatka
- Laura Passage (virtually)
- Sunny Summers (virtually)
- Dr. Ryan Scholz (virtually)

Others Present:

- Jefferson County Commissioner Seth Taylor
- Twais Broadus
- Ali Webb
- Misty Buckley
- Megan Chuinard
- Tracy Loew
- Les Ruark
- Kris Schaedel

Agenda Item 03 – ODA Director’s Report (Timestamp: 00:05:33)

Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson provided the Board with updates from the agency. Due to emerging New World Screwworm cases in parts of the southern United States, Director Charpilloz Hanson asked Dr. Ryan Scholz, ODA’s State Veterinarian, to provide an update on Oregon’s preparedness and response to confirmed cases in Texas and New Mexico. Director Charpilloz Hanson’s report included: updates on ODOE’s TIGHGER 2.0 report revision following engagement with the agriculture sector, hosting various industry and youth leadership groups,

updates on the Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund program housed within the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and ODA's involvement with initiatives under Governor Kotek's Executive Order 25-26.

Agenda Item 04 – ODA Budget and Legislative Updates (Timestamp: 00:47:27)

ODA's COO Adam Crawford and ODA Deputy Directors Jonathan Sandau and Lindsay Eng presented budget and legislative updates ahead of the 2027 Legislative Session. Jonathan Sandau provided an overview of the legislative concepts ODA submitted for consideration this session. Descriptions of those legislative concepts are included in the meeting materials. Adam Crawford provided an overview of the budget development process. The Board decided to schedule a special meeting to discuss ODA's program prioritization list and budget reduction options that it must develop during the budget development process.

Agenda Item 05 – ODA Ag Water Quality Program Updates (Timestamp: 01:47:36)

Isaak Stapleton, Division Director, Kevin Fenn, Program Manager, and Victoria Binning, Strategic Initiatives Coordinator, provided updates on ODA's Ag Water Quality Program including progress with Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) and recent water quality compliance and rulemaking initiatives. Additionally, the Board reviewed water quality management area reports that the program has historically provided to the Board for feedback. The Board recommended streamlining those reports to the Board and recommended a follow-up presentation in September of 2026 with a potential revised draft report to review.

Agenda Item 06 – Integrated Water Resource Strategy Updates (Timestamp: 02:47:09)

Nick Sirovatka, ODA's Integrated Water Resource Strategy (IWRS) lead, provided updates to the Board on current revisions and agency progress on the IWRS. The Board heard about the three priority actions identified in the IWRS and corresponding actions that overlap with ODA's regular work and mission.

Chair Miller recessed the meeting at 12:30 pm, and the Board and ODA staff toured several sites in the region.

The Board and ODA staff met with Natural Resource staff of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and toured their Tribal farm enterprise and heard about ongoing noxious weed control efforts. The Board then toured a seed plant situated between two Ag Water Quality Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs). The tour concluded at the Central Oregon Ag Research and Extension Center where the Board heard about ongoing research initiatives.

Friday, June 5th, 2026

Welcome and Introductions (Timestamp: 00:00:20)

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 8:00 am.

John Boyes, Board Coordinator, called the roll of Board Members.

Board Members Present:

- Elin Miller, Chair
- Eric Orem, Vice-Chair

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- Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson
- Kirk Maag
- Mike Dill
- Miguel Lopez
- Barbara Boyer
- Josh Zielinsk
- Chad Allen
- Dean Staci Simonich

Board Members Excused:

- Ellie Norris
- Ty Kliewer

ODA Staff Present:

- Jonathan Sandau
- Rusty Rock
- Isaak Stapleton
- Casey Prentiss
- Karla Valness
- John Boyes
- Ryan Schlunz
- Laura Passage (virtually)
- Sunny Summers (virtually)

Others Present:

- Representative Anna Scharf
- Twais Broadus
- Ali Webb
- Will Wise
- Mickey Killingsworth
- Gary Harris
- Jan Lee (virtually)

Agenda Item 14 – Board Business (Timestamp: 00:03:44)

2026 Meeting Dates and Locations

John Boyes, Board Coordinator, reviewed the remaining 2026 Board Meeting dates and locations. September 2-4 will be in Astoria. The Board decided to meet for two days for four hours in the morning each day for the December Board Meeting on December 3rd and 4th.

Topics for September 2026

The Board discussed potential topics for September's Board Meeting. Those topics included: water rights transfers and rulemaking updates from the Oregon Water Resources Department, water quality regulations for food and fish processing, packaging innovations at OSU, DEQ's

rulemaking for the Recycling Modernization Act and the extended producer responsibilities, 2027 session budget and legislative updates, and updates on the Governor's Prosperity Council and final report.

OWEB Report

Barbara Boyer provided an update on the work of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, including recent grant awards.

OWEB Representation

Action Item ([Timestamp: 00:19:51](#))

Kirk Maag moved to appoint Chad Allen to serve as the Board of Agriculture's representative on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board. Barbara Boyer seconded. No discussion. Motion passed with a unanimous vote. Elin Miller, Eric Orem, Barbara Boyer, Mike Dill, Miguel Lopez, Chad Allen, Kirk Maag, and Josh Zielinski voted in the affirmative. Ellie Norris and Ty Kliever were excused. No abstentions, recusals, or no votes.

Topics to Include in the Ag Quarterly

The Board recommended to include highlights from the panel discussion and updates from the site tours. Fire resiliency was also recommended.

Biennial Report to the Legislature

The Board discussed the process to develop the biennial report to the Legislature. The Board decided to do breakouts on individual topics on the first day of the Board of Ag Meeting in September. It was recommended to develop a four-page report.

Agenda Item 07 – OSU College of Agricultural Sciences – Dean's Updates ([Timestamp: 00:30:53](#))

Dean Staci Simonich provided an update on the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University. OSU is holding several field days throughout the state and will have around 800 students graduating from the College of Agricultural Sciences. Federal and state funding cuts have impacted OSU and other colleges throughout the state.

Agenda Item 08A – ODA Rulemaking Updates ([Timestamp: 00:41:44](#))

Sunny Summers, a Senior Policy Advisor at ODA, provided an update on recent rulemaking. Sunny provided updates on the Central Oregon Protected District (COPD) for canola rulemaking efforts. Following the second COPD Rules Advisory Committee, ODA is pursuing removing Crook and Deschutes County from the COPD and establishing a pinning system for brassica crops for Jefferson County.

Agenda Item 08B – Public Comment ([Timestamp: 00:54:06](#))

ODA heard public comment from Lauren Kuenzi about the extended producer responsibility requirements under the Recycling Modernization Act. Written comments from the Oregon Farm Bureau and Oregonians for Food and Shelter were submitted and are included in the meeting materials. Additional written comments were provided to the Board, including recommendations to consider allowing the cultivation of additional Buddleja varieties in Oregon.

Agenda Item 09 – Japanese Beetle Program Updates (Timestamp: 00:58:28)

Chris Bennemann, Plant Protection and Conservation Division Director, provided the Board with updates on the Japanese Beetle Program work following additional investments from the Legislature during the 2026 Session. Survey work and control measures are under way, and program efficacy has been historically high.

Chair Miller recessed the meeting for a fifteen-minute break.

Agenda Item 10 – Organic Farming Research Foundation (Timestamp: 01:46:48)

Dominica Navarro, Deputy Director at the Organic Farming Research Foundation, provided the Board with an overview of the Foundation's work, including technical assistance tools, research information hubs, and outreach efforts.

Agenda Item 11 – Project OneODA Updates (Timestamp: 02:21:29)

Jonathan Sandau, ODA Deputy Director, and Ryan Schlunz, ODA's Chief Information Officer, provided the Board with an update on Project OneODA. The project has made it through stage gate 2 in the state process, and ODA will begin deploying Microsoft-based technology through spring of 2027. ODA is engaging with staff and stakeholders to ensure a successful launch of the centralized Customer Relations Management and licensing system.

Agenda Item 12 – Public Comment (Timestamp: 02:57:04)

The Board heard public comments from the following individuals:

- Mickey Killingsworth from Jefferson County Farm Bureau who spoke about the Drought Council, support for the Board's land use resolutions, and about the canola rules advisory committee proceedings.
- Jan Lee from Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District about agricultural land conversion.
- Troy Jones about opposition to Muddy Creek Energy Park on behalf of Friends of Gap Road.
- Gary Harris about various agricultural topics including energy related topics and the preservation of agricultural lands.

Agenda Item 13 – Renewable Energy and Agricultural Lands (Timestamp: 03:16:15)

Director Janine Benner (ODOE) and Director Brenda Bateman (DLCD) provided the Board with a comprehensive overview of ongoing renewable energy and climate initiatives, like those under EO 25-29. Director Benner provided an overview of the role ODOE is playing in renewable energy development across the state, including several forthcoming reports. DLCD staff member Jon Jinings provided an overview of energy siting and how that intersects with Oregon's land use planning system.

Agenda Item 14 – Board Business continued (Timestamp: 04:38:21)

Land Use Resolution Review

The Board briefly discussed an approach to consolidate and review the comprehensive suite of Board land use resolutions. The Board plans to consider land use resolutions and consolidate around themes or commonalities between resolutions.

The Board discussed general processes for staying involved and contributing to other natural resource agency reports.

The Board also considered inviting federal partners to the Board meeting in September to talk through federal resources and potential inadequacies in the state of Oregon.

Chair Miller recommended evaluating labor topics and resolutions in September as well, provided there was sufficient time on the agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 1:00 pm.

Agenda Item 2 – Federal Partners Panel Discussion

Board of Agriculture Meeting – September 2-4, 2026

Introduction

The Board of Agriculture has invited local leadership from several federal agencies for a panel discussion. The panel will showcase available economic development and disaster relief tools for farmers, ranchers, fishers, and food processors. Confirmed panelists include:

- Tootie Smith, State Executive Director, Oregon Farm Service Agency (USDA)
- Greg Becker, State Conservationist, Oregon Natural Resource Conservation Service (USDA)
- James Carmack, State Director, Oregon Rural Development (USDA)
- Bryan Zulko, Portland District Director, Small Business Administration



Press Release · June 10, 2026

USDA Announces Office of Seafood



Oregon fishers, crabbers, clammers and shrimpers will greatly benefit from the newly established **Office of Seafood**, recently announced by Secretary of Agriculture Brooke Rollins in a move that signals a stronger federal commitment to support and revitalize America's seafood Industry.

From Newport to Astoria to Coos Bay, Oregon's fishermen drive coastal economies and help feed the nation. The Office of Seafood will ensure they have the necessary federal programs and services needed to keep their

legacy and livelihood alive and remain competitive in the global market for the next generation. Oregon's fishermen are essential to our state's economy and America's food supply. This effort is about putting these Fishermen First and cutting barriers through delivery of the support they need to stay competitive and profitable.

Local leaders and seafood business owners applaud USDA's Office of Seafood with widespread support.

"The creation of the USDA Office of Seafood is exactly the kind of bold, coordinated action our fishing communities have needed for years," said Oregon State Senator Dick Anderson representing Newport, one of Oregon's largest fishing ports. Senator Anderson further points out the huge disparity of foreign imports that flood local markets.

Restrictions such as low catch limits, selling fishing grounds for foreign countries, inaccurate and outdated fisheries data and delayed adoption of modern technology have prohibited Oregon's fish economy from fully realizing its huge economic potential.

"As large and important as Oregon's fishing industry already is, we must also recognize the tremendous, untapped potential ahead of us. The Office of Seafood will keep fishermen fishing," said Oregon State Senator Suzanne Weber.

Oregon's seafood industry already lands hundreds of millions of pounds annually, generating more than \$600 million in dockside

value and supporting thousands of jobs tied to harvesting, processing, and distribution, according to NOAA Fisheries. For decades Oregon fishers have lost market share and the ability to make a family wage living due to Federal government overregulation.

“Providing sustainable food products for the people of America along with responsible natural resource stewardship for our nation will provide and nurture future generations,” said Steve Fick of Fishhawk Fisheries, who runs boats out of Astoria, on the northern Oregon coast.

Oregon’s shrimp fleet is thankful to Secretary Rollins. “USDA Office of Seafood will pave the way for our pink shrimp to be further implemented into the USDA food service programs,” said Nick Edwards, from Jordani Pink Shrimp Fishery, Coos Bay, Or, who operates the second largest pink shrimp fishery in Oregon.

That’s where the Office of Seafood comes in. The initiative marks a new era where Oregon, and American fishermen will be recognized by USDA as key part of the U.S. food supply that supports rural and coastal communities. The office will focus on infrastructure, marketing and trade, workforce development, and stronger risk management and disaster assistance.

Pacific Seafood, one of Oregon’s largest seafood processors, is excited about the Office of Seafood. “We are thrilled about this opportunity that will give West Coast seafood communities a stronger voice and help connect local harvesters and producers to the families and students who rely on nutritious high-quality

food,” said Bella Johnson, Pacific Seafoods Spokesperson.

Standing up an Office of Seafood supports existing tools already available to producers of farm-raised fish through USDA’s Farm Service Agency, including farm loans for equipment and operations, the Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish, the Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program offering risk management and disaster recovery, and the Farm Storage Facility Loan Program to support critical cold storage infrastructure. In addition, the Office of Seafood is leading coordinated interagency efforts to reduce regulatory hurdles faced by American seafood producers, and leading efforts to discover and implement new practices that promote strong coastal communities.

With USDA working alongside Interior, Commerce, and Health and Human Services, this coordinated approach delivers the kind of support Oregon’s fisherman have long needed, and deserve, bringing a holistic approach to federal government support that is much needed and long overdue.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 09, 2026

Tualatin, Oregon

***Tootie Smith, State Executive Director for the
Farm Service Agency in Oregon***

Contact 503-347-6675

Agenda Item 3 – Biennial Report

Board of Agriculture Meeting – September 2-4, 2026

Introduction

The Board of Agriculture will discuss topics and specifics to include in their biennial report to the Legislature as required under ORS 561.378. In previous meetings, the Board identified several topics to include in the report. Based on the experiences shared with the Board over the last two years, ODA staff will prepare draft report language for the Board to review and revise.

General topics identified previously by the Board include:

- Succession Planning
- Mental Health
- Affordability
- Consolidation
- Regulatory Challenges and Cost of Compliance
- Energy Policy and Data Centers
- Labor
- Land Use
- Water

A copy of the 2025 Board of Agriculture report is available at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture> and may be reviewed by the Board during this discussion.

Board of Agriculture 2027 Biennial Report to the Legislature DRAFT

Four to six pages in total

Page 1: Cover, Title, Executive Summary, and Board Member headshots

Title: Oregon State Board of Agriculture 2027 Report

Executive Summary:

Oregon's continued prosperity depends on agriculturists, fishers, and food processors – the early-morning risers that steward our coastal waters and the state's natural and working lands. Together with fiber, these industries generate a \$42 billion annual economic impact and sustain over 531,000 jobs.

Over the past two years, the Board traveled the state to hear from producers in different regions of Oregon. The message is clear: agricultural vitality is at risk. Producers described significant financial hardship driven by escalating input expenses, volatile international trade relationships, rising labor costs, and growing regulatory compliance obligations. These pressures are occurring alongside persistent drought conditions, catastrophic wildfire, and other extreme weather events that have led to irrigation water curtailments, reduced yields, and increased uncertainty for producers. These converging pressures are eroding the resilience of Oregon's farming, ranching, and fishing communities.

To address these challenges, Oregon must strengthen the conditions that allow its agricultural, fishing, and food-processing sectors to remain competitive. Intersecting economic, regulatory, environmental, and workforce-related pressures are outpacing agriculture's ability to adjust. Targeted investments in the middle of the food supply chain, greater support for succession planning and workforce stability, and a regulatory environment that balances natural resource protection with farm financial viability are essential tools to help stabilize Oregon's struggling food and agricultural operations. Strengthening these areas at the state level will bolster producer competitiveness, reduce vulnerability to external market shocks, and ensure a resilient tomorrow for generations to come.

Board of Agriculture:

The Governor appoints seven (7) members actively engaged in producing agricultural commodities and two (2) public members not actively engaged in producing agricultural commodities. The Soil and Water Conservation Commission Chair serves in ex-officio capacity with the right to vote. The ODA Director and the Dean of the College of Agricultural Sciences at Oregon State University serve as ex-officio, non-voting members. The Board of

Agriculture advises ODA generally on policy issues, helps develop innovative solutions to complex food and agriculture challenges, and advocates for the state's food and agriculture industry.

Headshots

Page 2 & 3: Key Topics

Success stories

Succession planning

Succession planning and the resources to facilitate family farm generational transfers are critical needs as Oregon's agricultural workforce continues to age. Although multi-generational legacies define 96% of Oregon's 35,500 farms, almost half of all operators are nearing retirement age without a defined transition strategy. The site-specific stewardship knowledge carried by current operators cannot be replaced. Without comprehensive succession planning tools that support farm financial viability in the long term, the state risks losing both the working lands that underpin statewide economic and ecological resiliency and the institutional knowledge required to manage those lands effectively.

The Board of Agriculture emphasizes that effective succession plans must address both the administrative transition and the continuity of land management practices that sustain productivity, soil health, and ecosystem function. The Board supports expanding access to OSU Extension programs that help families navigate legal, financial, and interpersonal complexities inherent with intergenerational transfers of agricultural businesses. The Board also supports dedicated funding to expand ODA's pilot Regional Food and Agriculture Business Centers to provide succession planning tools. Additionally, the Board affirms the value of land conservation easements and other similar mechanisms that improve farm cash flows without sacrificing production capability, such as those offered through the Agricultural Heritage Program.

Mental health

Recent studies show that farmers, fishers, and forest workers in Oregon are five times more likely to die by suicide than the general population. High stress from unpredictable markets, weather, labor demands, and financial uncertainty, combined with rural isolation and cultural stigma, drive significant mental health risks in the natural resource sector.

The Board strongly supports a two-armed approach to addressing mental health within the natural resource economy. First, ensure adequate funding for existing mental health resources like the Oregon AgriStress Helpline-a 24/7 crisis text and call service-and OSU Extension's network of QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) trainings. These programs

empower communities to identify warning signs, provide peer support, and connect individuals with professional help.

Second, prioritize administrative reforms that reduce systemic stressors like streamlining grant, permitting, and licensing processes. Minimizing duplicative information collection, reducing administrative costs, and consolidating reporting requirements will lower regulatory burden and stabilize business operations. This approach directly supports operator well-being and strengthens long-term resilience within Oregon's natural resource industries. Agriculturists should spend their time producing food and fiber, not navigating bureaucracy.

Affordability

The U.S. Courts reported 315 farm bankruptcies under Chapter 12 across the nation in calendar year 2025, a sharp 46% increase from 2024. That trend continues to track upward in 2026 with April 2026 recording the highest monthly total since February 2020. Fuel, fertilizer, and other essential farm inputs have increased dramatically in cost over the last two years, adding financial stress for producers operating on already thin margins. These costs are compounded during periods of commodity market and international trade volatility, making it increasingly challenging for farms of all sizes to maintain profitability. Long-term investments in equipment, infrastructure, and land stewardship practices are often sacrificed to cash flow existing harvest and production operations.

In addition to rising input costs, producers face increasing expenses associated with regulatory compliance. Changes to overtime pay requirements under House Bill 4002, for example, have significantly raised labor costs for many farms, particularly those with seasonal peaks or livestock operations that require extended daily workloads. Across all of agriculture, producers report being forced to reduce hours, reorganize workflows, or absorb work that otherwise would have been completed by paid staff. Industry groups warn that these accumulated regulatory expenses could accelerate further industry consolidation and further jeopardize midsize operations that lack the financial flexibility to absorb them.

Consolidation

The 2022 USDA Agricultural Census shows a 6% reduction in Oregon farms and ranches since 2017, while approximately 3% of those remaining produce 75% of the economic output. This shift reflects broader structural trends across the sector, including increasing operational costs, evolving regulatory requirements, and changing domestic and international market conditions that all favor efficiency and scale. In some cases,

consolidation emerges as a practical response to labor shortages, high input costs, and the complexities of modern compliance.

The Board recognizes that consolidation can bring certain benefits like technological advancement, innovative and improved processing capacities, and strengthened competitiveness in domestic and global markets. However, continued contraction of mid-scale and small farming operations risks diminishing rural vitality, reducing the diversity of production systems, and weakening community-based agricultural networks that have long supported Oregon's resiliency. These locally rooted operations play vital roles in specialty markets, direct-to-consumer sales, and the continued stewardship of Oregon's natural and working landscapes. The Board urges policies that take a balanced approach: supporting succession planning, encouraging pathways for new and beginning farmers, strengthening infrastructure that enables mid-scale operations to thrive, and fostering conditions where both small and large producers can contribute to the state's food and agricultural strength.

Regulatory Challenges

Producers across Oregon consistently report that regulatory requirements from multiple state and federal levels are creating financial and operational strain, particularly for small and mid-scale operations. Compliance obligations tied to water use, land use, labor, environmental protection, food safety, pesticide application, and livestock management often require significant time, documentation, and capital investment. These rules serve important public purposes but cumulatively increase the cost of production and reduce flexibility for producers to adapt on-farm management practices to rapidly changing market and environmental conditions.

Recent regulatory changes demonstrate how each change compounds in effect against sustained farm viability. Labor regulations like agricultural overtime laws have increased wage expenditures and required operational reorganization for many agricultural businesses. Water resource regulations including measurement, permitting, and drought-related curtailments add additional layers of compliance and uncertainty across irrigated regions.

The Board recognizes that each regulatory program is intended to protect vital public interests such as natural resources, worker safety, environmental quality, and community well-being. However, the combined effect of these requirements exacerbates the effects of high input costs, water shortages, drought, wildfire, and market volatility. The Board recommends that state regulators partner with producers to develop workable processes

and rules that provide clarity and consistency without undermining the sustained financial durability of the family farm.

Renewable Energy Development Competing for Finite Agricultural Lands

Oregon's energy infrastructure is in need of rehabilitation and expansion, especially as energy demand continues to grow. Agrivoltaics present opportunities for agriculturists to diversify income streams on farm while still producing food and fiber. As both the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Oregon Department of Energy alluded to in their reports under EO 25-29, agrivoltaics warrant additional study to determine best practices for deployment across Oregon landscapes.

Because agricultural lands are a finite and critical resource, the Board urges careful consideration during energy development processes, especially when development could impact limited water and agricultural land resources. The Board also supports continued and increased funding to OSU's agricultural research programs like those at the North Willamette Research and Extension Center, which is currently evaluating best practices to combine solar energy production with crop production on the same land.

Labor

Labor shortages and rising costs pose major obstacles, especially for livestock and specialty crop producers. Between 2001 and 2019, agricultural wages grew 16% after inflation compared to just 5% in other sectors. Oregon's recent overtime protections are increasing labor costs and prompting operations to reduce hours or staff, particularly on smaller farms. However, the amount of work required to bring commodities to market remains unchanged, leading farm operators to sacrifice time with family to absorb the gap in responsibility fulfillment.

The Board supports comprehensive labor solutions, including strategic reform of H-2A worker programs, targeted agricultural immigration reforms, and investment in mechanization and precision agriculture technology. Maintaining affordability while meeting labor needs requires creative incentives and coordinated regulatory reform.

Land Use

Water

Agenda Item 4 – Director’s Report

Board of Agriculture Meeting – September 2-4, 2026

Introduction

The Board of Agriculture will hear from ODA Director Lisa Charpilloz Hanson about recent agency activities over the last quarter, including:

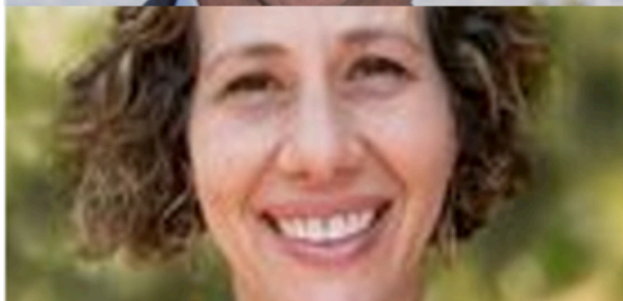
- International Year of the Woman Farmer
- Animal Health Program Updates including:
 - o Scrapie detection in Oregon
 - o Preparation for New World Screwworm
 - o Other animal health issues
- Emerging issues with agricultural pest pressures
 - o Grasshoppers
 - o Pear psylla
 - o Spotted wing drosophila
 - o Others

Also included for Board review are:

- Updates on meeting the Governor’s Expectations of Agencies
- Updates from ODA’s programs
- ODA Strategic Plan Updates
- Copy of the letter from the Governor requesting assistance from USDA for pear growers in Hood River and Wasco Counties
- Copy of the letter from the Governor requesting assistance from both USDA and DOI with wildfire response and recovery
- Copy of the letter from Director Charpilloz Hanson supporting USDA FSA’s request for statewide emergency grazing of CRP

BACK
TO
NEWSROOM

USHBC ANNOUNCES NEW COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kasey Cronquist

kcronquist@nabcblues.org

916.333.7863



Ellie Norris
Norris Blueberry Farms



John Johnston
Driscoll's



Amanda Steele
Agriculture Capital

The [U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council](#) (USHBC) has appointed three influential leaders with decades of experience in the blueberry industry to its committees.

Appointed to the USHBC Promotion Committee are John Johnston, senior director of blueberry product leadership for Driscoll's, and Amanda Steele, chief marketing officer for Agriculture Capital.

Ellie Norris, owner of Norris Blueberry Farms in Oregon, was appointed to the USHBC Export Subcommittee.

"We're grateful for the expertise John, Amanda and Ellie bring to our committees and for their willingness to volunteer their time to move the blueberry industry forward," said USHBC President Kasey Cronquist.

The Promotion Committee is charged with driving consumer demand and promoting the health benefits of blueberries. The committee, chaired by Bob Carini of Carini Farms in Michigan, will meet in Dallas in November to review new agency proposals for USHBC's food service program and finalize marketing and promotion tactics for 2020.

"Driscoll's has found that flavor differentiation and health benefits are key factors driving the increased consumer demand for fresh blueberries," Johnston said. "I look forward to serving on the USHBC Promotion Committee to help drive continued growth of the blueberry industry."

"I'm honored to have the opportunity to work with the USHBC Promotion Committee to continue the great work the industry is doing to drive blueberry demand. With over 20 years of food marketing and management experience, I've seen the transformation in food as consumers increasingly demand better, healthier, real foods. It's no wonder that blueberries are the fastest growing fresh fruit as they meet consumer needs for great taste, health and convenience," Steele said. "I look forward to learning from the industry and contributing my 'consumer first' point of view to the Promotion Committee."

The Export Subcommittee's responsibilities include opening new foreign markets and marketing U.S. highbush blueberries around the world. The majority of the Export Subcommittee's annual budget is funded by USDA Foreign Agricultural Service (FAS) Trade Programs.

"Developing export markets is a top priority for the U.S. highbush blueberry industry and I look forward to working with fellow blueberry growers and marketers on the USHBC Export Subcommittee to develop strategic programs that will move us forward," Norris said.

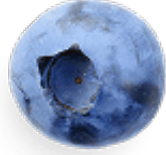
In 2020, USHBC will use USDA FAS Market Access Program (MAP) and Agricultural Trade Promotion (ATP) funding to conduct targeted promotions (including retail and food service partnerships, and media campaigns) in Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. In Southeast Asia, where blueberry consumption is rapidly growing, USHBC aims to increase the U.S.' market share, especially in countries like the Philippines and Vietnam where fresh market access is new or pending.

#

About USHBC:

The U.S. Highbush Blueberry Council (USHBC) is an agriculture promotion and research group made up of blueberry farmers, processors and importers who work together to research, innovate and promote the growth and well-being of the blueberry industry. The U.S.

Department of Agriculture (USDA) provides independent oversight of the organization.



EPA Announces New Members to the Farm, Ranch and Rural Communities Advisory Committee

July 20, 2026

Contact Information

EPA Press Office (press@epa.gov)

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin announced the appointment of 21 new members to the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Federal Advisory Committee (FRRCC). The FRRCC provides independent policy advice and recommendations to the Administrator on crucial environmental issues affecting agriculture and rural communities.

Mr. William Thomas McDonald, from Five Rivers Cattle Feeding LLC, has been appointed as chair, and Mr. Michael Crowder, from Brushy Creek Farms, will serve as vice-chair, leading the FRRCC's work. Together, these members bring practical experience and represent a broad range of perspectives from academia, agriculture and allied industries, non-governmental organizations, and state, local and tribal governments.

*“The Trump EPA remains committed to ensuring American farmers and ranchers have a respected seat at the table in this Administration,” **said EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin.** “The members of the FRRCC bring real-world knowledge and firsthand experience from across the country. Their insights will be instrumental in helping the EPA develop practical, commonsense solutions that enhance our rural communities and support viable farming operations. Together, we will power the Great American Comeback by building stronger, more resilient rural economies while protecting our shared environment.”*

The FRRCC will continue to serve as a productive and valuable resource to the EPA. The committee will focus on several key priorities, including improvements to the technical assistance EPA provides to rural communities, outreach and education on advancing artificial intelligence for precision pesticide application and reduced chemical use in U.S. agriculture, and the critical balance between agricultural conservation, nutrient pollution reduction, and long-term farm viability.

The selection process for new members began in December 2025, with EPA issuing a request for nominations that drew more than 90 applicants. The agency selected individuals from a highly qualified pool, ensuring representation across the country. Members were chosen for their expertise in key EPA priority areas, including water quality and regenerative agricultural practices and represent a variety of agricultural sectors, rural stakeholders and geographies.

The members of the Farm, Ranch, and Rural Communities Committee include:

Carrie Vollmer-Sanders, Field to Market, Angola, Indiana

Chad Franke, Rocky Mountain Farmers Union, Lander, Wyoming

Chris Tanner, Tanner Farms, Norton, Kansas

David Graybill, Red Sunset Farm, Mifflintown, Pennsylvania

Eric Orem, Oregon Department of Agriculture, Heppner, Oregon

James Henderson, Richfield Ranch Ag Ventures Inc., La Jara, Colorado

Jason Warren, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, Oklahoma

Jeffrey Tiberi, Montana Association of Conservation Districts, Helena, Montana

John Klar, MAHA Farmers Hub, Brookfield, Vermont

Katherine English, Pavese Law Firm, Fort Myers, Florida

Michael Crowder, Brushy Creek Farms, Richland, Washington

Nocona Cook, Cook Farms, Cordell, Oklahoma

Rick Naerebout, Idaho Dairymen's Association, Twin Falls, Idaho

Dr. Russell Hamlin, Grimmway Farms, Bakersfield, California

Ryan Schohr, Schohr Ranch, Chico, California

Dr. Stanley Culpepper, University of Georgia, Tifton, Georgia

Stephen Logan, Logan Farms, Giliam, Louisiana

Steve Keen, North Carolina Environmental Management Commission,
Goldsboro, North Carolina

Stuart Swanson, Iowa Corn Growers Association, Galt, Iowa

Dr. Whitney Crow, Mississippi State University, Starkville, Mississippi

William Thomas (Tom) McDonald, Five Rivers Cattle Feeding, Dalhart, Texas

Last updated on July 20, 2026

Agenda Item 4: Director's Report – Rulemaking Updates

Topic	Program Area	Status
Central Oregon Protected District (Canola)	Plant Program	Open for public comment until August 31 (extended from July 31 dues to wildfires)
Livestock ID Program (Brands)	Livestock ID	Open for public comment until August 31 (extended from July 31 dues to wildfires)
Food Code Updates	Food Safety	Adopted July 15
Slow Pay No Pay Program	Ag Services	Comment closed July 31; waiting for DAS approval on fees
Weighing & Measuring Device Fees	Measurement Stds	Adopted June 24
Animal Rescue Entity Rules	Animal Health	In Progress — RAC pending
North Coast Basin Mgmt Area	Ag Water Quality	Adopted July 16
Lost River Basin Mgmt Area	Ag Water Quality	Adopted July 16
Walla Walla Basin Mgmt Area	Ag Water Quality	Comment closed July 31
Umatilla Basin Mgmt Area	Ag Water Quality	Adopted July 16
Willow Creek Basin Mgmt Area	Ag Water Quality	Adopted July 16
Animal Health Enforcement	Animal Health	Adopted June 12
Import Restrictions for New World Screwworm	Animal Health	Adopted June 4
Vet Disease Reporting Rules	Animal Health	Adopted July 8
Nursery Fees Increase	Plant Program	Comment closed July 21; ready to adopt
Increase of Organic Certification Fees	Ag Services	In progress; RAC scheduled late August/Sept
Removing Notification Exception for Wreaths and Manufactured Cut Green Products	Plant Program	In progress; RAC scheduled for October



OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE

2024-2027 Strategic Plan

Quarterly Report
to the Board
September
2026



STRATEGIC GOAL 1: ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE

Workforce Accountability



100% Training Completion: For the last three consecutive quarters, ODA has maintained 100% completion rate for all required new employee orientation and customer service trainings, exceeding the state's goal of 90%. These trainings provide the essential foundation for long-term public service success.

Manager Training: For the last thirteen consecutive quarters, ODA has routinely met or far exceeded the state's target of 90% completion for manager-employee performance feedback check-ins.

Creating a Culture of Safety: After maturing the "Lone Worker" protocols, ODA implemented additional measures to foster a culture of safety across our workforce. That included launching an anonymous reporting mechanism where staff can report "near miss" safety incidents so hazards can be resolved ahead of an accident.

Building Internal Resilience



Continuity of Operations: Natural hazards can impede service delivery for ODA's critical functions like food safety inspections, animal health and disease response coordination, and natural resource protection. ODA formalized the "COOP Group," a group of staff members from all reaches of the department who regularly meet and update ODA's Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP). Their work memorializes invaluable institutional knowledge, ensuring continued service delivery during times of disaster and facilitating smooth workforce duty transitions.

Proactive Disease Response Planning: New world screwworm cases continue to rise in the southern United States. ODA's animal health team convened state, federal, and tribal animal health and emergency planning officials to workshop the state's response plan in the event the new world screwworm makes its way north to Oregon. Developing those key relationships early between agencies and with the Tribal Nations in Oregon will help ensure rapid, coordinated disease response throughout the state and help keep Oregon's livestock and wildlife safe.

STRATEGIC GOAL 2: MODERNIZATION

Project OneODA Updates



- OneODA is an agencywide effort to improve processes and service delivery, supported by new underlying technology. ODA programs have mapped, audited, and reviewed their workflows and requirements. That work has already produced improvements and surfaced interdependencies before a single new system is in place.
- The Request for Proposal (RFP) is open for the full month of September 2026, inviting vendors to bid on implementing Microsoft Dynamics as the agency's Customer Relationship Management (CRM) and licensing platform. The RFP is a major step toward delivering Phase 1 of OneODA, and it lays the foundation for future expansion.

Connecting the Hybrid Workforce



Intranet: Development of ODA's Intranet is nearing completion. This site will serve as the central hub for internal staff resources and news. It will help consolidate several outdated information repositories into a one-stop-shop toolbox for staff to quickly access the information they need to carry out their work.

Employee Credentials: A majority of ODA's field staff have received updated credential cards. Now, they have verifiable, professional credentials to present when entering private businesses on official ODA business.

STRATEGIC GOAL 3:

CUSTOMER-FOCUSED SERVICE

Disaster Response Coordination



63 Tons of Hay to Wheeler County: ODA leads the state's ESF-11 (agriculture and animals) response during disasters, ODA partnered with the Oregon Cattleman's Association, the Oregon Farm Bureau, the Oregon Livestock Council, OSU Extension, local emergency managers, and the Oregon Department of Emergency Management to deliver 63 tons of hay to evacuated cattle in Wheeler County.

Speaking Flexibility for Recovery: ODA worked with the Oregon Farm Service Agency during fire season, rather than waiting for it to end, to support requests for more programmatic flexibility in disaster relief. That included implementing the Emergency Livestock Disaster Assistance Program (ELAP) for wildfire-caused losses and ensuring restoration funds were available to Oregon farmers and ranchers under the Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) and the Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP). Both programs provide cost-share assistance to replace and repair fencing and reseed burned pastures.

Strategic Goals



Vision of
Resiliency



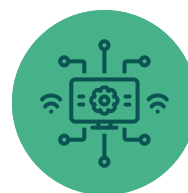
Customer-
Focused



Diversity,
Equity,
Inclusion &
Belonging



Engaged
AGGIES



Modernization

							
Goal 1: Organizational Excellence	1.1	Mission-Driven Agency					
	1.2	Accountability					
	1.3	Business Continuity					
Goal 2: Modernization	2.1	Cloud-First Technology Strategy					
	2.2	Modernize Legacy Systems					
Goal 3: Customer-Focused Service	3.1	Evaluate Services					
	3.2	Focus on Interaction					
	3.3	Continuous Improvement of Service					

GOVERNOR'S EXPECTATIONS

In January of 2023, Governor Tina Kotek issued a letter to the Executive Branch agencies outlining 11 expectations for state agency leaders. These expectations serve as guideposts for the Executive Branch's work with Oregonians and drive system improvements to help serve individuals and families in all corners of the state.

Completed Expectations

Expectation and Goal	Update
<u>Strategic Planning</u> Agencies will develop and follow a strategic plan that also aligns with priorities set forth by the Governor's Office.	ODA completed its 2024-2027 Strategic Plan in 2025.
<u>Continuity of Operations Plan (COOP)</u> Agencies will maintain and annually update a COOP.	2024: 96% completeness 2025: 94% completeness 2026: ODA continues to update the COOP
<u>DEI Planning</u> Agencies will maintain a biennial Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) plan and will report Affirmative Action progress every even-numbered year.	DEI Plan embedded within ODA's 2024-2027 Strategic Plan
<u>Technology Planning</u> Agencies will maintain a business-driven and enterprise-aligned information technology (IT) strategic plan that supports the organization's strategic priorities.	Completed in 2024; revised in 2025 with an annual update
<u>Succession Planning</u> All agencies will develop and submit an annual succession plan.	Completed in 2024; updated in 2025
<u>Leadership</u> Each agency director will receive a 360 review every two years.	Review completed with next review scheduled for April 2027

Expectation Updates and Metrics

ODA Employee Engagement

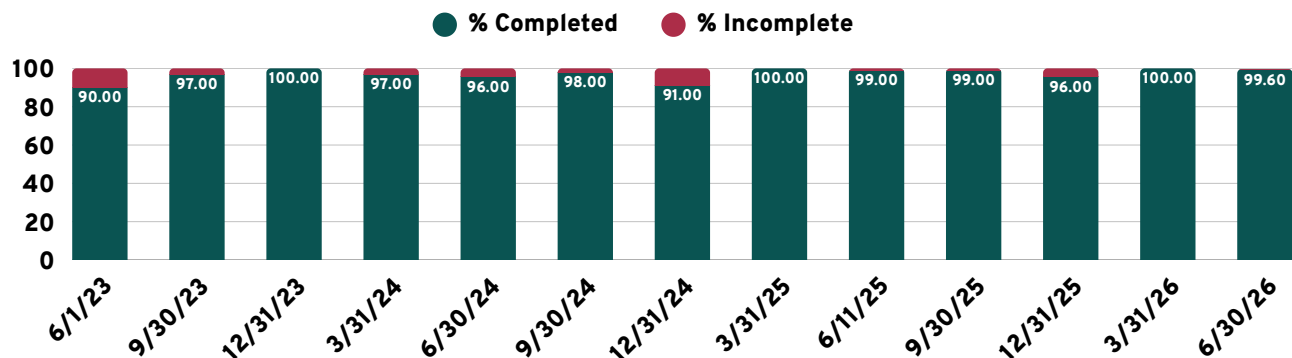
All agencies with more than four full-time equivalent employees will annually administer the Gallup Q12 survey to measure employee engagement and satisfaction.

Metric	3/31/25	3/31/26
% Employees that responded to survey	57%	63%
Engagement score	3.80*	3.94*

*Ratio of engaged employees to not engaged employees

ODA Employee Feedback

Each agency will complete 90%+ of its required manager and employee performance feedback check-ins each quarter.



ODA Workforce Development

All agencies will have all new employees complete an agency orientation and DAS Customer Service Fundamentals training within 60 days of hire and attend an Uplift Your Benefits session.

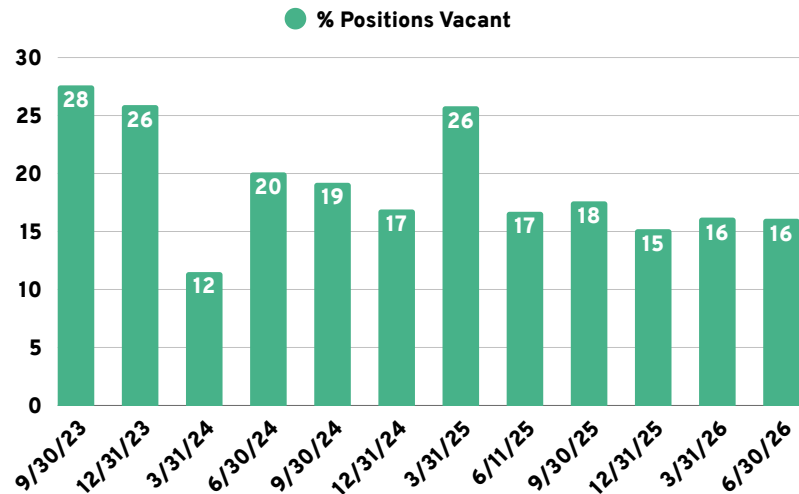
Training	12/23	3/24	6/24	9/24	12/24	3/25	6/25	9/25	12/25	3/26	6/26
Customer Service	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	83%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%
Foundational	*	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	*	100%	100%	100%	100%
Performance Accountability & Feedback	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	*	*	100%	100%	*	100%
Uplift Your Benefits	88%	90%	100%	100%	71%	50%	100%	60%	100%	100%	100%

*Indicates no data available in the applicable quarter

Expectation Updates and Metrics

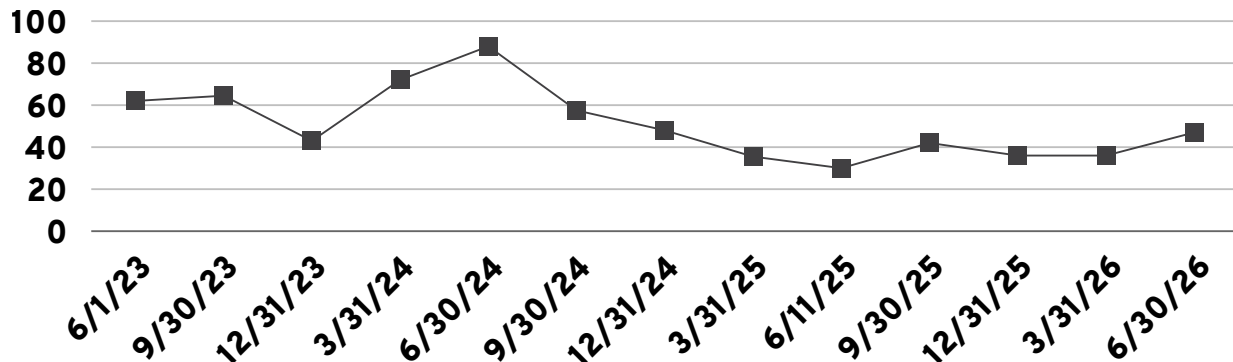
ODA Filled Positions

Each agency will maintain an average of 50 or fewer days to complete open competitive recruitments and will actively manage vacancies, reporting quarterly the reasons for each.



ODA Days to Fill Vacant Positions

Agencies will aim to fill vacant positions in 50 days or less.





TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

July 2, 2026

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

RE: Request for a Secretarial Natural Disaster Designation and Market Relief for the
2025 Hood River Valley Pear Crop

Dear Secretary Rollins,

I write to request that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) declare a Secretarial natural disaster designation for Hood River and Wasco Counties in Oregon, and their contiguous counties for the 2025 crop year. Oregon's pear growers in the Columbia River Gorge were impacted by the worst pear psylla (*Cacopsylla pyri*) infestation in nearly half a century, compounded by excessive summer heat and a short mountain snowpack that tightened irrigation supply. The result is an estimated \$40 to \$45 million in losses and a decline in grower revenue of roughly 50 percent, among the lowest returns these family orchardists have experienced in fifty years. I respectfully ask USDA to act promptly to place federal recovery tools within reach of these producers and to explore disaster relief and market stability opportunities where possible under your broader discretionary authorities.

Oregon has a proud history of a vibrant and diverse agricultural sector that anchors its rural economies and helps feed families across the country. The Pacific Northwest produces approximately 85 percent of the nation's fresh pears, which is Oregon's official state fruit. The Hood River Valley is its heartland, with roughly 16,000 acres of fruit trees, predominantly pears, farmed by third and fourth generation family farmers. Without rapid disaster relief deployment, many of these family farms face bankruptcy ahead of the 2026 harvest. The consequences of a failed season in this valley will be felt in grocery aisles nationwide and in the continued viability of the American family farm.

The 2025 pear psylla outbreak coincided with a summer that ran about 20 percent hotter than the prior five-year average. Psylla coated trees and fruit in honeydew which developed a black sooty mold, the worst outbreak reported by experienced growers. Growers attempted in earnest to mitigate losses by applying over 1,200 gallons per acre of water and soap to their trees, but substantial quality losses remained, not fully covered by disaster relief or traditional crop insurance. The blemishes left by the mold rendered the pears entirely unmarketable. While assistance under the Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers program will offer some financial

relief, economic impacts far exceed the full scale of bridge payments anticipated to be disbursed in the region. Insect infestation and excessive heat are recognized natural causes of loss, and together they compound the impacts and form the basis of this request.

These natural losses occurred during a market that was already experiencing distress. A substantial 2024 crop, coupled with a gradual adjustment in prices, resulted in a surplus. Consequently, the May 2025 closure of the Del Monte cannery in Yakima, Washington, deprived cannery Bartletts of their primary market destination, compelling them to enter an already saturated fresh market. Although Oregon's pear tonnage rose 36 percent in 2025, grower revenue fell by half, a clear instance of greater volume yielding lower returns. Oregon growers are export-dependent, shipping a substantial share of their crop to Canada and Mexico, and they have absorbed significant harm from disruption to those markets and from unfair trade pressure on American specialty crops. Many are now carrying these losses on personal lines of credit simply to reach the 2026 season.

Given this disaster is in part natural and in part market driven, I respectfully ask USDA to act on two fronts.

1. **Declare a Secretarial natural disaster designation** for Hood River and Wasco Counties and their contiguous counties [JS1.1](Clackamas, Gilliam, Jefferson, Marion, Multnomah, Sherman and Wheeler in Oregon, and Klickitat and Skamania in Washington) for the 2025 crop year. This designation will allow USDA's Farm Service Agency to extend emergency credit under 7 U.S.C. §§ 1961 and 1942 to family-farm operators substantially affected by this natural disaster who cannot otherwise secure critical capital through private financing sources. Though not a panacea, these disaster loans could help some growers reach the end of the 2026 harvest. Where the 30-percent production-loss threshold under 7 C.F.R. § 759.5(c) is not squarely met, I ask that USDA proceed through the County and State Emergency Board pathway under § 759.5(b) and apply the discretionary authority under § 759.5(d), in light of the unusual quality and marketability nature of these losses and the undue hardship this pest has imposed on a defined segment of our growers.
2. **Ensure that Gorge pear growers reach the market relief USDA already administers.** Specifically, confirm that Hood River pear producers are eligible for, and promptly paid under, the Assistance for Specialty Crop Farmers program; direct additional purchases of Northwest pears under Section 32 (7 U.S.C. § 612c), an authority devoted principally to perishable, non-basic commodities such as pears, to clear the post-Del Monte surplus, building upon USDA's prior purchase of Bartlett pears; explore discretionary disaster relief or market stabilization pathways to the maximum extent possible; and open the application window and publish a timeline for the fruit and vegetable funds reserved within the broader agricultural trade-relief package, so that growers may plan accordingly.

Secretary Rollins
July 2, 2026
Page 3

The permanent disaster programs do not fully fit specialty crop production in Oregon. The Tree Assistance Program does not indemnify production loss, and traditional crop insurance will not indemnify losses realized so far after harvest. I ask that all program implementation account for these losses to the maximum extent allowable by statute so that relief reaches the producers who need it most.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) stands ready to coordinate with the FSA Oregon State Office and the State Emergency Board to complete the Loss Assessment Report and to serve as a point of contact. If additional disaster relief funding is available in the form of individual block grants, ODA is prepared to expeditiously administer those funds. I have designated John Boyes (john.boyes@oda.oregon.gov) as the State's lead for this request. Rural communities and economies are dependent on your leadership and action in times of need.

Thank you for your urgent review, and I look forward to a favorable reply and to your continued support for Oregon's family farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Kotek", written in a cursive style.

Governor Tina Kotek



TINA KOTEK
GOVERNOR

July 29, 2026

The Honorable Brooke L. Rollins, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Doug Burgum, Secretary
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

**RE: Wildfire Disaster Assistance and Program Flexibility for Oregon's
Farmers and Ranchers, 2026 Fire Season**

Dear Secretary Rollins and Secretary Burgum:

I write as Oregon battles the largest wildfires in the nation. As of this letter, more than one million acres have burned, nearly three times all of 2025, and more large fires are burning in Oregon than in any other state. The Rowe Creek Complex at more than 200,000 acres and the Hay Creek Complex at more than 180,000 are burning ranch country: rangeland, hay, barns, corrals, and hundreds of miles of fence across Wheeler, Wasco, Gilliam, Sherman, and Crook counties. The Big Grass Fire, now the state's largest at some 280,000 acres and five percent contained, is burning the Malheur County high desert, the Coleman Creek and Second Flat Fires are sweeping Harney County, the heart of Oregon's cattle country, and fire is burning on the Warm Springs Reservation. Homes have been lost near Weston, in Gilliam County, near Sisters, and at Warm Springs.

In Baker County, the Powder River Fire burned across nearly the same ground that burned in 2024. Ranchers who spent two years rebuilding fence watched it burn again in an afternoon. They gathered their cattle from blackened allotments, hauled water, and started feeding winter hay in July. They will rebuild again. What they ask of their government is not sympathy; it is speed. A ranch runs on a calendar fire does not respect, seed must be planted in burned ground before the fall rains, hay must be stacked before the snow, and next spring's calves will land on whatever ground we save this month.

I declared a statewide wildfire emergency on June 16 (Executive Order 26-10), invoked the Emergency Conflagration Act ten times in July, mobilized the Oregon National Guard, and have declared drought emergencies in 21 counties. When the Lower Dry Creek Fire took homes near Weston, neighbors sheltered one another's livestock at the Pendleton Round-Up Grounds. The State of Oregon is doing its part. I am asking your departments to do what only they can do, using existing authorities.

254 STATE CAPITOL, SALEM OR 97301-4047 (503) 378-4582 FAX (503) 378-8970

WWW.GOVERNOR.OREGON.GOV

I make this request to you jointly and deliberately. Your departments planned wildland fire response together, signed a joint grazing memorandum of understanding on March 31, and USDA directed the Forest Service on June 12 to restore grazing on National Forest System lands. Nearly everything Oregon needs is within priorities your administration has announced. Secretary Rollins, you promised in Nebraska this spring that government would step in for fire-struck ranchers “where it is needed” and immediately. Secretary Burgum, you launched the U.S. Wildland Fire Service saying, “wildfire does not discriminate.” This letter asks you to deliver those priorities in Oregon to support our rural communities.

I respectfully request the following, with full technical detail in Enclosure A:

1. **Wildfire-cause Secretarial disaster designations.** In accordance with 7 C.F.R. § 759.5, I request USDA Secretarial disaster designations recognizing wildfire as the cause of loss for Baker, Crook, Deschutes, Gilliam, Grant, Harney, Jackson, Jefferson, Malheur, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wasco, and Wheeler counties, with additional counties as the season evolves. Where loss documentation is still maturing, I ask the Department to use the Emergency Board process of § 759.5(b) and the discretionary authority of § 759.5(d). I thank the Department for the two drought designations of July 16; fire now demands the same recognition drought received.
2. **Immediate activation and funding of the full USDA recovery suite,** announced for Oregon as it was for Texas in March and Utah on July 22. Across FSA, NRCS, RMA, and Rural Development: LIP, ELAP, LFP, TAP, NAP, emergency loans, Disaster Set-Aside, and Farm Storage Facility Loans; a dedicated ECP and EFRP fence-and-water allocation with advance payments at the new statutory rates of Public Law 119-102, 75 percent for replacement and 50 percent for repair; an emergency EQIP pool above the \$2 million Oregon received in 2024, with ACT NOW processing; Emergency Watershed Protection exigencies pre-positioned on the Rowe Creek and Hay Creek burn scars before the fall rains; and direction to approved insurance providers to extend deadlines for fire counties. I thank the Department for the emergency haying already authorized across 36 Oregon counties. My Director of the Oregon Department of Agriculture is working closely with Oregon FSA's State Executive Director to request a statewide authorization to graze acreage enrolled in CRP and CRP Grasslands. I ask that Oregon FSA's request be processed expeditiously and that the Department support our local FSA staff with additional resources and streamlined administrative processes that expedite county office disaster relief program signups and minimize the administrative burden on producers (Enclosure A-5).
3. **Forest Service implementation of the June 12 grazing directive in Oregon.** In accordance with 36 C.F.R. § 222.3, I request that Region 6 issue temporary permits on vacant and closed allotments for burned-out permittees under § 222.3(c)(2)(i), including its emergency authority at subsection (E), approve nonuse without loss of preference, use the emergency exception in § 222.4 to modify seasons and numbers, and deploy virtual

fencing so unburned portions of damaged allotments keep working. I further request that the Regional Forester replace the weed-free forage order that lapsed July 1 with one carrying a standing emergency livestock-feeding exemption under 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e), so local forage can lawfully feed livestock and hold soil when certified supply runs short.

4. Bureau of Land Management activation of its flexibility and fee-relief authorities.

The Bureau moved quickly to close the John Day River corridor, and I appreciate it; the same urgency must now reach the producer-facing decisions. In accordance with 43 C.F.R. part 4100, I request that BLM place displaced herds on temporarily available forage, including vacant allotments, under § 4130.6-2, backed by an immediate forage inventory within trailing distance of the burns and standing forage reserves on the Idaho model; process temporary changes and nonuse liberally under § 4130.4; document every fire-related grazing closure promptly, because that record is the producer's trigger for federal forage assistance; and apply § 4130.8-2(b) across the burned districts. The regulations authorize the Bureau, during range depletion due to fire, to credit or refund fees in whole or in part or to postpone payment for as long as the emergency exists.

5. Post-fire stabilization at the speed the reorganization committed. I request that the Department of the Interior deploy Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams to the Rowe Creek and Hay Creek Complexes before full containment; hold Emergency Stabilization plans to the 21-day clock of BLM Handbook H-1742-1; issue decisions effective immediately under 43 C.F.R. § 4190.1; replace every fire-damaged range improvement on public land, accepting permittee labor and materials in kind under §§ 4120.3-2 and 4120.3-7; fund virtual fencing as a stabilization tool; and publish measurable reopening criteria in every plan, so grazing returns as the ground recovers, not by the calendar; and activate emergency consultation under 50 C.F.R. § 402.05 with the wildlife agencies, so Endangered Species Act compliance moves with the emergency instead of behind it. Oregon asks to be the proving ground that the new U.S. Wildland Fire Service makes recovery faster.

6. A named Grazing Permittee Wildfire Liaison for Oregon's fires within two weeks, as your March 31 memorandum of understanding provides, and consultation with the Oregon Department of Agriculture on every fire-related grazing closure and reopening decision, as 43 C.F.R. §§ 4110.3-3(b) and 4130.6-2 already require.

7. Standing with the federally recognized Tribes in Oregon. Fire knows no boundaries, and I make this request in the spirit of collaboration and co-creation with the nine federally recognized Tribes in Oregon. On July 22, the Board of Trustees of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR) declared a state of emergency, finding the Reservation at "imminent risk of fire danger related to the Hagen Fire near its eastern boundary." The North Cayuse Fire has already burned some 2,500 acres of the Reservation's working rangeland, local resources are at capacity, and the Hagen Fire continues to spread. The Bench and Beachcomb Fires are burning the reservation of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and have taken homes. Tribal lands are no longer merely threatened; they are burning. Fires statewide are also burning

ceded lands rich in First Foods and cultural resources, whose protection and restoration must honor tribal sovereignty and traditional ecological knowledge. I ask both departments to honor government-to-government consultation under Executive Order 13175 on every recovery decision touching tribal trust or ceded lands; to run Emergency Stabilization on burned trust rangeland on the same clock as neighboring federal land under 25 C.F.R. parts 162 and 166; to keep tribally contracted fire programs whole through the Wildland Fire Service transition; and to staff and resource the FSA offices serving tribal communities so tribal producers can reach critical federal aid quickly. Oregon will support, not supplant, any tribal government that seeks its own declaration under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170(b) and 5191(c).

- 8. Recovery delivery through Oregon produced commodities.** Recovery is also the chance to build capacity that outlasts the fire. I request that both departments deliver restoration and stabilization services through Good Neighbor agreements with the State of Oregon under 16 U.S.C. § 2113a, which covers rangeland and watershed restoration on National Forest System and Bureau of Land Management lands alike, so the work moves at state speed and its dollars stay in the counties that burned; that stabilization seed purchases prioritize ecologically appropriate, Oregon-grown native seed under the interagency National Seed Strategy and Oregon's 2025 Native Seed Strategy; and that APHIS expand its cooperative agreements with the Oregon Department of Agriculture under 7 U.S.C. §§ 7717 and 7721 for grasshopper suppression and post-fire invasive plant control. Oregon's delivery network is ready: forty-five conservation districts, a statewide native seed partnership, and 35,000 farms and ranches.
- 9. Coverage for 2025 and 2026 losses.** The disaster programs funded by the American Relief Act stop at 2024, and the pending supplemental addresses freeze losses but not fire. I ask both departments to support extending that relief to 2025 and 2026 wildfire losses, whether through a successor program or a state block grant on the model your administration executed with Florida, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee.

There is reason for hope in this work. After the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire, University of Oregon researchers seeded native wildflowers into the burn and observed pollinator communities growing more diverse. Seed these rangelands with Oregon's own native stock, rebuild fence smarter than it stood, and the country that burned this summer will come back stronger: for the cattle, for the bees our orchards and seed crops depend on, and for the families who will steward this land for another generation.

Together we can use existing authority, cut red tape, and move quickly. This Administration has already set the pace: disaster assistance for Texas within days in March; a wildfire-cause designation for Nebraska in July; and for Utah, an emergency EQIP signup on July 17 and full disaster assistance on July 22, days after its fires burned. BLM's Vale District earned the national Pulaski Award for its work on Oregon's 2024 burns. Oregon's ranchers have earned the same response, and Oregon asks for the Utah clock.

Secretaries Rollins and Burgum

July 29, 2026

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I have designated John Boyes (john.boyes@oda.oregon.gov) of the Oregon Department of Agriculture as the State's lead for this request, who will coordinate with the FSA State Executive Director, the NRCS State Conservationist, Forest Service Region 6, and BLM Oregon-Washington. Our communities look to us for leadership and action in times of need.

My personal thanks go to the county and state FSA, NRCS, Forest Service, and BLM staff already in the field with our producers. Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter. I look forward to continuing our partnership to assist Oregon's rural and agrarian communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tina Kotek", with a stylized, cursive script.

Governor Tina Kotek

cc: The Honorable Ron Wyden, Senator
 The Honorable Jeff Merkley, Senator
 The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici, Congresswoman, Oregon's 1st District
 The Honorable Cliff Bentz, Congressman, Oregon's 2nd District
 The Honorable Maxine Dexter, Congresswoman, Oregon's 3rd District
 The Honorable Valerie Hoyle, Congresswoman, Oregon's 4th District
 The Honorable Janelle Bynum, Congresswoman, Oregon's 5th District
 The Honorable Andrea Salinas, Congresswoman, Oregon's 6th District

ENCLOSURE A

Technical Requests and Authorities

I. Requests to the Department of Agriculture

A-1. Disaster designations (FSA). Wildfire-cause Secretarial designations for the counties named in the letter via expedited Loss Assessment Reports (7 C.F.R. § 759.5(b); three-month LAR window) and the discretionary exception (§ 759.5(d)). Requested action: direct the Deputy Administrator for Farm Programs to act on Oregon's LARs within 15 days of receipt, as was done for Nebraska's spring wildfires this month.

A-2. Emergency credit (FSA). Emergency loans under 7 U.S.C. § 1961 and 7 C.F.R. part 764, subpart I, in primary and contiguous counties; Disaster Set-Aside under 7 C.F.R. §§ 766.51-766.61 for existing borrowers; Farm Storage Facility Loans (7 C.F.R. part 1436) for hay and feed storage rebuilding; marketing assistance loan maturity flexibility for fire-county borrowers.

A-3. Livestock programs (FSA). Prompt processing under the LFP fire provision (7 C.F.R. § 1416.205(c)), with payment at 50 percent of monthly feed cost for up to 180 days, for permittees excluded from federally managed rangeland by fire; direction to the Forest Service and BLM to issue and document grazing prohibitions immediately, because the closure record is the producer's trigger; LIP processing including the unborn-livestock provisions of the July 9, 2026 final rule (91 FR 42313); ELAP for grazing losses on non-federal land, feed losses, water hauling, and above-normal feed and livestock transport mileage, including ELAP's coverage of honeybee colony losses to fire; APHIS carcass-management technical assistance, with livestock carcass removal treated as eligible debris under ECP for the 2026 fires; and LIP predation claims processed at the new 100 percent rate, with documentation flexibility where fire delayed carcass recovery (see A-21). TAP and NAP, named in the letter, run through this same county machinery and belong on the same emergency footing: Tree Assistance Program applications within the 90-day window (7 C.F.R. part 1416, subpart E) and Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance notices of loss within 15 days (7 C.F.R. part 1437).

A-4. Conservation programs (FSA and NRCS). A named Oregon ECP/EFRP allocation (16 U.S.C. §§ 2201-2206; 7 C.F.R. part 701) with advance payments at the rates newly mandated by the Emergency Conservation Program Improvement Act of 2025 (Public Law 119-102, amending 16 U.S.C. § 2201): 75 percent of cost for replacement and 50 percent for repair or restoration, with a 180-day expenditure window, pending the conforming update to 7 C.F.R. § 701.128, and noting the Act's express coverage of wildfires caused by the Federal Government; the 90 percent limited-resource cost share publicized (§ 701.126); streamlined FSA-850 processes that leverage appropriate categorical exclusions established under 7 C.F.R. part 1b and minimize county office processing and review time; exercise of the Secretary's waiver authority at § 701.126(d) for fence replacement, where the 50-percent-of-agricultural-value cap collides with low rangeland values and fence costs near \$15,000 per mile; an emergency EQIP fire pool with ACT NOW processing exceeding the August 2024 baseline, on the model NRCS opened for Utah on July 17; Emergency Watershed Protection

(7 C.F.R. part 624) exigency determinations pre-positioned for burn scars above homes, roads, and municipal water, with sponsor coordination through ODA and the affected counties; emergency haying and grazing authorization on ACEP-WRE wetland-easement acres as a compatible use; and Rural Development Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants (7 C.F.R. part 1778) for fire-affected rural and stock-water systems.

A-5. Conservation Reserve Program (FSA/CCC/NRCS). Building on the emergency haying authorizations already covering 36 Oregon counties (FSA list of July 9, 2026): expedited authorization of emergency grazing alongside haying through the end of the grazing season under 7 C.F.R. § 1410.63(f)(2); coordinated and streamlined conservation plan revision processing and approval for emergency grazing requests so producers can utilize standing forage quickly; primary-nesting-season emergency grazing at 50 percent of carrying capacity where counties carry Livestock Forage Disaster Program triggers (§ 1410.63(f)(2)(ii)); and cost-share to re-establish fire-destroyed CRP cover without contract penalty (grassland-signup acres graze under their own contract terms).

A-6. Crop insurance (RMA). A bulletin directing approved insurance providers to extend premium billing deadlines and waive interest for Oregon fire counties, on the 2021 precedent; continued expansion of smoke-loss products, noting the Fire Insurance Protection - Smoke Index endorsement reaches Oregon for crop year 2026.

A-7. Forest Service grazing. Implementation of the June 12, 2026, USDA directive to the Forest Service in Oregon: temporary permits on vacant and closed allotments (36 C.F.R. § 222.3(c)(2)(i), including the emergency authority of subsection (E)); emergency modifications without one-year notice (§ 222.4); approved nonuse without loss of preference (§ 222.3(c)(1)(vi)(D)); virtual fencing and alternatives allowing grazing of unburned areas, as the directive itself instructs; an inventory of vacant allotments and available forage within trailing distance of the 2026 burns, coordinated with BLM.

A-8. Weed-free forage. Replacement of Pacific Northwest Region Order 06-00-00-21-02, which lapsed July 1, 2026, with a renewed order carrying a built-in exemption under 36 C.F.R. § 261.50(e) authorizing non-certified local forage for emergency livestock feeding and soil stabilization during a Governor-declared emergency when certified supply is constrained.

A-9. One Department, one door. A written commitment that Region 6 realignment and headquarters relocation will not interrupt range administration, BAER, or permit processing for Oregon's 2026 fires; one named USDA point of contact for Oregon fire recovery carrying standing across FSA, NRCS, RMA, Rural Development, APHIS, and the Forest Service, so the State works one door rather than six; and Rural Development engagement through the Oregon State Office for the rural communities that lost homes and outbuildings, including Single Family Housing repair assistance and Community Facilities support (7 U.S.C. § 1926) alongside the Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants at A-4.

II. Requests to the Department of the Interior

A-10. Temporary forage (BLM). Nonrenewable grazing permits under 43 C.F.R. § 4130.6-2 for displaced herds; temporary changes in grazing use under § 4130.4 and temporary nonuse under § 4130.2(g), with approvals processed within days and no loss of grazing preference; crossing permits under § 4130.6-3; designation of standing forage reserves from vacant Oregon allotments, prioritized for fire-displaced permittees. Where fire has burned wild horse herd management areas, emergency gathers of excess animals under 16 U.S.C. § 1333(b)(2) so recovering range is not grazed bare while permittees stand in nonuse.

A-11. Grazing fees (BLM). District-wide application of § 4130.8-2(b) fee credits, refunds, and payment postponements in burned counties before any late-payment assessment; issuance of temporary authorizations directly to displaced owners so the § 4130.8-1(d) subleasing surcharge does not fall on fire-displaced stock.

A-12. Closures and reopening (BLM). The Oregon Department of Agriculture treated as the consulting state agency on every closure and modification under § 4110.3-3(b); every 2026 ES&R plan to publish measurable reopening criteria and interim grazing options, including virtual-fence-managed use of unburned pastures, consistent with Handbook H-1742-1's objective-based framework.

A-13. Stabilization (USWFS and BLM). BAER teams to the Rowe Creek and Hay Creek Complexes before full containment; Emergency Stabilization plans within 21 days of containment with funding requests in 7 days (BLM Handbook H-1742-1); advance commitment of the Bureau-Director extension so seeding windows are not lost; decisions effective immediately under § 4190.1; repair or replacement of all fire-damaged range improvements on public land programmed in ES/BAR regardless of cooperative-agreement title share, with permittee in-kind contributions accepted under §§ 4120.3-2 and 4120.3-7; Oregon's proportional share of range improvement funds surged to burned districts (§ 4120.3-8(a); 43 U.S.C. § 1751(b)(1)); Wyden Amendment agreements (16 U.S.C. § 1011) for cross-boundary fence and restoration work, which the statute expressly permits Wildland Fire Management appropriations to fund for "reduction of risk from natural disaster where public safety is threatened"; virtual fencing funded as a stabilization and range-improvement tool; and activation of emergency consultation procedures under 50 C.F.R. § 402.05 with the Fish and Wildlife Service and NOAA Fisheries for all 2026 Oregon fire stabilization work, so section 7 compliance follows the emergency instead of delaying it.

A-14. Flexible permits (BLM). Conversion of burned-allotment permit renewals to outcome-based flexible terms during rehabilitation under Instruction Memorandum 2025-011 and 43 C.F.R. § 4130.3-2, so restocking follows monitoring; fuels-oriented grazing through wildfire-management decisions (§ 4190.1(a)(1)) and nonrenewable authorizations (§ 4130.6-2) to maintain fuel breaks around the 2026 burns.

A-15. Liaison and response. A named Grazing Permittee Wildfire Liaison for the Oregon fires within 14 days under the March 31, 2026, DOI-USDA memorandum of understanding; a standing Oregon post-fire grazing task force (BLM Oregon-Washington, ODA, permittee

representatives, affected counties) under 43 C.F.R. §§ 4120.5-1 and 4120.5-2; and a written response to this letter within 30 days.

A-16. Tribal nations (BIA, FEMA coordination). Emergency Stabilization on burned tribal trust rangeland, beginning with the North Cayuse Fire footprint on the Umatilla Indian Reservation, on the same clock as neighboring federal land; emergency action and grazing-capacity adjustments under 25 C.F.R. §§ 166.306 and 166.708 and § 162.024, with rental adjustment where it serves the Indian landowners' interest (§ 166.408(a)(3)); continuity of tribally contracted fire programs through the Wildland Fire Service transition; government-to-government consultation under Executive Order 13175 on recovery decisions affecting tribal trust and treaty-ceded lands; tribal producer access to the temporary forage network on neighboring federal land; leveraging co-management agreement authorities with interested Tribes to aid in post-fire recovery on tribal trust and ceded federal lands; and departmental readiness to support any tribal request under 42 U.S.C. §§ 5170(b) and 5191(c) and FEMA's Tribal Declarations Interim Guidance (December 2024), as this Administration did on July 17, 2026, when it granted fire management assistance, at Washington State's request, for the Kaiser Canyon Fire burning on the Colville Reservation. Oregon stands ready to make the same requests on behalf of any Oregon tribe that asks.

A-17. National Wildlife Refuges (FWS). Emergency haying and grazing compatibility at Malheur National Wildlife Refuge through its existing cooperative agriculture program, and completion of the pending Klamath Marsh compatibility determination, on the 2017 Charles M. Russell Refuge emergency-grazing precedent (50 C.F.R. §§ 29.1, 29.2); a Partners for Fish and Wildlife allocation (16 U.S.C. §§ 3771-3774) for burn-area restoration on private ranchland.

A-18. Irrigation infrastructure (Reclamation). Emergency Fund readiness (43 U.S.C. § 502) and extraordinary operation and maintenance authority (43 U.S.C. § 510b) pre-positioned for ash, debris-flow, and canal damage in the Deschutes, Crooked River, and Wapinitia project areas, on the Yakima-Tieton precedent.

III. Cross-Cutting and Joint Requests

A-19. Interagency handoffs. Joint Forest Service, BLM, and NRCS coordination so BAER hands off to EWP at the forest boundary without a gap, and closure documentation flows to FSA within days for LFP purposes.

A-20. 2025-2026 loss coverage. Departmental support for extending federal disaster coverage to 2025 and 2026 wildfire losses through a successor to SDRP/ELRP, a wildfire component in the pending supplemental, or a state block grant on the 2025 precedents.

IV. Recovery Investment and Oregon's Delivery Capacity

Oregon is organized to put federal recovery dollars to work. Through forty-five soil and water conservation districts, a statewide native seed partnership, and the working-lands stewardship network the State is building under its own resilience initiatives, the requests below keep restoration local, fast, and durable.

A-21. Good Neighbor Authority (USDA and DOI). Delivery of post-fire restoration and stabilization work through Good Neighbor agreements under 16 U.S.C. § 2113a between the Secretaries and the State of Oregon (the Oregon Department of Forestry and Oregon Department of Agriculture as appropriate executive officials of the State), on National Forest System and BLM public land alike. The authority's defined "authorized restoration services" expressly include "forest, rangeland, and watershed restoration services," not timber alone, and agreements may run to a Governor or an appropriate State executive official, keeping recovery work at state speed and its dollars and jobs in the counties that burned.

A-22. Native seed (BLM, USFS, NRCS). Priority for ecologically appropriate, Oregon-grown native seed in Emergency Stabilization and Burned Area Rehabilitation purchases, consistent with the interagency National Seed Strategy and Oregon's 2025 Native Seed Strategy, building on the 233,000 pounds of bluebunch wheatgrass seed programmed in the 2024 Durkee and Cow Valley rehabilitation plans; and investment, through NRCS and BLM, in Oregon native seed production capacity so ecologically appropriate supply keeps pace with a rising fire workload and sustains the Oregon growers who produce it.

A-23. Invasive species and rangeland pests (APHIS, BLM, NRCS). Expanded APHIS cooperative agreements with the Oregon Department of Agriculture under the Plant Protection Act, 7 U.S.C. § 7721, for post-fire detection and control of invasive annual grasses and plant pests (funded at \$90 million nationally for fiscal year 2026 by the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Public Law 119-21); grasshopper and Mormon cricket suppression on burned and adjacent rangeland under 7 U.S.C. § 7717, which directs treatment on the request of the State agriculture department with the Federal government bearing 100 percent of the cost on federal rangeland and cost-sharing on State and private land; and BLM and NRCS invasive-plant work delivered through cooperative weed-management agreements with ODA, counties, and soil and water conservation districts, so recovering range is not lost to cheatgrass and medusahead.

A-24. Pollinator and forb recovery (NRCS, BLM, FWS). Inclusion of native forbs and pollinator-forage species in Emergency Stabilization and EQIP seeding mixes where compatible with erosion and rangeland objectives, supporting the specialty-crop, seed, and honey producers whose livelihoods depend on pollination. University of Oregon researchers seeding native plants after the 2020 Holiday Farm Fire observed pollinator communities growing more diverse, a low-cost recovery investment with lasting agricultural return.



**OREGON
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE**

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Director's Office

635 Capitol St NE, Salem, OR 97301-2532
503.986.4552 | Oregon.gov/ODA

July 23, 2026

Tootie Smith

State Executive Director, Oregon Farm Service Agency

Via email: tootie.smith@usda.gov

Dear Director Smith,

I write to you today to respectfully request that you and your staff pursue a statewide authorization to graze acres enrolled in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) and the Grassland Conservation Reserve Program to the maximum extent allowed under 7 C.F.R. §1463(f)(2). Statewide, over 463,000 acres have burned and the major wildfires remain active, spreading rapidly.

ODA is currently working with industry partners to source and transport forage for livestock displaced by wildfire in Gilliam and Wheeler Counties. However, we anticipate a significant increase in the need for forage and grazing ground for livestock given the volume and intensity of active wildfires across the state. Recognizing that a revised conservation plan is a requirement for emergency grazing activities on CRP acreage, I request that you and the Oregon FSA State Committee work together to minimize administrative burden for Oregon's ranchers and streamline CRP conservation plan revisions and subsequent County Committee (COC) review and plan approval.

Individual cattle grazing operations in Oregon span multiple counties and states, especially in Eastern, Central, and Southern Oregon currently affected by wildfire. A statewide authorization is critical to ensure cattle producers can quickly source forage for their livestock displaced by these wildfires without needing to navigate complex administrative processes.

ODA stands ready with you to support our farmers, ranchers, and food producers during these times of disaster. Please reach out to John Boyes on my staff at john.boyes@oda.oregon.gov if you need additional information from ODA to support this request.

Thank you for your continued partnership and support in helping protect Oregon's family farmers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa Charpillot Hanson".

Lisa Charpillot Hanson

Director, Oregon Department of Agriculture

ODA Program Updates

Board of Agriculture Meeting – September 2-4, 2026

Administration

Central Oregon Protected District for Brassica

The proposed rules were filed with the Oregon Secretary of State, opening a formal public comment process. Because of severe wildfires in the area (and around the state), ODA rescheduled the public comment hearing and extended the public comment period to August 31, 2026 (from July 31st). The rules propose to repeal the former Central Oregon Protected District (Crook, Deschutes, Jefferson counties) and replace it with a new Jefferson County–only Protected District, swapping the previous prohibition/research-permit system for a Notice of Intent framework. Under the new framework:

- growers file advance notice of planting details (location, acreage, planting date),
- ODA makes the information publicly available online, and
- that transparency helps growers and neighbors coordinate crop isolation needs.

Wildfire Response

Emergency Support Function 11 (ESF 11) is one of 15 emergency support functions established under the federal National Response Framework, which guides how government agencies provide a unified response to disasters and emergencies. At the federal level, USDA serves as the coordinating agency for ESF 11, working alongside the U.S. Department of the Interior to deliver agricultural and natural resource support to affected areas. Oregon mirrors this structure at the state level: the State Emergency Operations Plan designates ODA as the state's lead agency for ESF 11 when the Oregon Department of Emergency Management (OEM) activates the Emergency Coordination Center (ECC).

On July 17, ODA was activated by OEM in response to wildfires around the state. ODA was deactivated on August 10 but continues to participate in all calls for situational awareness. ODA's participation can include:

- Participating in statewide coordination calls
- Public information coordination
- Coordinating public and private organizations to support emergency agricultural needs and recovery efforts in affected counties
- Federal assistance request coordination
- Assisting with animal sheltering and veterinary needs as requested

ODA's level of involvement is shaped by requests from individual counties, the agricultural community, partners, and the type of natural disaster or emergency. Once immediate response needs are addressed, ODA shifts from leading to supporting, participating as one of several agencies under each of these four Recovery Support Functions (should they be activated by OEM):

- RSF 2 (Economic Recovery, led by Business Oregon): helps businesses and communities rebuild and develop sustainable economic opportunities after a disaster.
- RSF 3 (Health Services, led by Oregon Health Authority): supports restoration of public health, health care, and behavioral health services.
- RSF 6 (Infrastructure Systems, led by ODEM): supports rehabilitation and reconstruction of impacted infrastructure, with an emphasis on resilient rebuilding.
- RSF 7 (Natural and Cultural Resources, led by Department of Environmental Quality): supports preservation, conservation, rehabilitation and restoration of natural, cultural and historic resources.

Tribal Affairs

The Tribal Consultation Task Force is meeting regularly, and a legislative concept is expected in the 2027 Session that would codify best practices of tribal consultation for Oregon state agencies. Additionally, there may be additional authority afforded to the Tribes to hold agencies accountable for adhering to these consultation protocols.

ODA is currently in consultation with several Tribes on:

- Pesticide applicator licensing to support Tribal employees in obtaining EPA certifications to apply certain restricted use pesticides solely on Indian Country lands.

Tribal representation on several ongoing Rules Advisory Committees (RACs):

- Livestock Identification (Brands) program
- Fee increases for the Weights and Measures program
- Local advisory committees for Ag Water Quality rule updates

Emergency Managers and Animal Health professionals from several Tribes participated in an infectious disease response tabletop exercise for New World Screwworm hosted by ODA's Animal Health team in July.

Food Safety, Animal Health, and Lab Services

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Retail and Manufactured Foods

Top Accomplishments:

- As of July 30, we have completed 92% of the FDA contract work for contract year (CY) 2025-2026.
- In June, we held a 1.5-day conference to go over the changes with the updated ODA Retail Food Code.
- On July 15, 2026, we adopted our 2026 ODA Retail Food Code to align more with the 2022 FDA Food Code.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- The FDA contract specialist raised some questions regarding our 2026-2031 contract proposal. We have provided our response and are currently waiting for the approval of the proposal.
- This is the largest change we have had to our Retail Food Code in over 10 years, there will likely be challenges internally and externally to learn, teach, and ultimately implement the changes.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Complete all FDA contract work for CY 2025-2026.
- Work with FDA to complete contract work planning for CY 2026-2027.
- Assign CY 2026-2027 contract work and provide update and guidance for contract inspectors.
- Complete processing training for two new inspectors and have them signed off for processing inspections.
- Start implementing the educational rollout for the retail food code and update outdated handouts as well as create new ones.
- Complete retail training for a new inspector in the Eugene area who started with ODA in June.

Dairy Program

Top Accomplishments:

- We continue to cross-train ODA employees of different programs and expanding our dairy sampling obligations. This cross-training model provides for operational flexibility,

strengthens the dairy program's resilience, and maximizes the effective use of other available ODA resources.

- Our State Rating Officers (SROs) conducted ratings of several new dairy Bulk Tank Units (BTUs) each consisting of multiply milk producers, that were created through last-minute subdivisions of existing, larger BTUs. Although this process was time-intensive, it ensured the new BTUs were added to the [IMS List](#) in time to maintain interstate commerce, preventing producers from losing the ability to market their milk across state lines.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Herdshare operations and raw milk-associated disease outbreaks continue to be a public health concern in the US, including in Oregon. Most recently, in late April 2026, the Oregon Health Authority (OHA) investigated an illness outbreak associated with a Tillamook County herdshare operation where there were three reported cases of shiga toxin-producing E coli 0121. OHA was unable to complete the disease investigation because, after a few initial contacts, the herdshare did not provide the information necessary to continue the investigation. This event underscores the ongoing public health challenges associated with herdshare operations making raw milk and milk products for their members.

Other news:

- Our licensed dairy processors are continually winning national awards. Below are the most recent major awards from Oregon Dairy Processors

Year	Company	Product	Award
2026	Rogue Creamery	Caveman Blue	3 Gold, 2 Silver & 2 Bronze – International Cheese & Dairy Awards
2026	Tillamook County Creamery Association	Cream Cheese Spreads	Multiple Gold medals, including Best USA Cheese & Best Cheese Spread – International Cheese & Dairy Awards
2025	Umpqua Dairy	4% Cottage Cheese	1st Place – U.S. Championship Cheese Contest
2025	Umpqua Dairy	Low-fat Cottage Cheese	2nd Place – U.S. Championship Cheese Contest
2025	Springfield Creamery	Nancy's Cultured Butter	1st Place – American Cheese Society (Cultured Butter Category)*
2024	Tillamook County Creamery Association	Maker's Reserve 2014 Extra Sharp White Cheddar	Best Cheddar in the World – World Cheese Awards
2024	Don Froylan Creamery	Liliana's String Cheese	1st Place – American Cheese Society
2024	Don Froylan Creamery	Queso Oaxaca con Chipotle	1st Place – American Cheese Society
2023	Don Froylan Creamery	Liliana's String Cheese	1st Place – American Cheese Society
2023	Don Froylan Creamery	Queso Oaxaca con Chipotle	1st Place – American Cheese Society

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Overseeing the 1st installation of Paperless Chart Recorders on a pasteurizer.
- Approving the first use of the *Liquitank Solutions* milk bladder for hauling raw milk from dairy producers to processors.
- Adoption of the 2025 Grade A Pasteurized Milk Ordinance (PMO) and related documents by rule ([OAR 603-024-0211](#))

State Meat Inspection

Top Accomplishments:

- A recent State Meat Inspection (SMI) program new hire has completed extensive training and is now independently conducting SMI and Custom Exempt inspections. We still have one new hire in training, with the process is going well.
- We continue to receive inquiries regarding new SMI facilities and are optimistic that a recent inquiry in the Hubbard area will result in a new facility.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- As additional facilities come under inspection, staff are experiencing increased pressure related to long-distance travel, overnight stays, and the completion of required trainings and inspections

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Finalize the draft rule to incorporate poultry inspection language into OAR 603, Division 28
- Provide Meat Rules and Licenses Guidance document to ODA Food Safety Program staff

Lab Services

Top Accomplishments:

- The ODA lab continues to progress towards an alternate method of for the monitoring of marine biotoxins. The lab now has almost all necessary materials and equipment onsite and has submitted a proposal to FDA for them to validate the new method.
- Titan LIMS (lab software) implementation continues to go well with only minor hiccups (Dairy, Shellfish, Food, CAFO and Pesticides live)
- Little to no backlogs in Pesticide and Fertilizer areas

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Supply chain challenges continue to drive cost pressures and extend lead times.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Training of new lab manager after retirement of Kathrine Wickman after 43+ years.
- Accreditation, audits, and proficiency testing cycles leading into fall.

Agriculture Services Division

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Shipping Point Inspection

Top Accomplishments:

- ODA was able to meet the needs of the cherry industry with shipping point staff from other districts, implementing the agency's shared services model.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Finding labor to support upcoming harvests will be an issue, particularly in Hermiston.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- The pear harvest has just begun, and we are looking to potato harvest. Movement is expected to be good going into fall.
- Hops season will begin in late August and go through the end of September. Oregon's harvest is expected to be similar to last year.

Certification Program

Top Accomplishments:

- Audits and inspections are in full swing across the state.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- High input costs for production and labor.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Meeting all customer on site auditing and inspection needs.
- Working on Organic Program fee increase.

Field Burning/Smoke Management

Top Accomplishments:

- Field burning season began on July 6. To date, growers have burned 2,706 of the registered 10,546 acres. We are on track for growers to burn all their allocated acres this season.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Wildfires in other areas of the state as well as smoke intrusion into the Willamette Valley has resulted in increased scrutiny on the program and burn decisions. These factors also place an extra burden on the growers who rely on this program.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- The field burning season is anticipated to end by October 1, 2026 with all growers able to burn their acres.

Livestock Identification Program

Top Accomplishments:

- Continue to work through the rulemaking process to address three areas of the program:
 - Establishing a permanent Brands Advisory Committee
 - Improving the process to determine brand eligibility and resolve brand design conflicts
 - Increase fees for certain inspection types.
- A public hearing was held on July 16, 2026. The public comment period was extended through August 31st at the request of the livestock industry.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Finalize rulemaking.
- Begin implementation of the Alternative Inspection Pilot program

Plant Health Program

Top Accomplishments:

- Program staff participated in an APHIS-led bilateral meeting with New Zealand, highlighting our Blueberry Nursery Stock Certification program - the only one of its kind in the US. New Zealand delegates visited several locations, including a blueberry nursery, the Clean Plant Center in Corvallis, and a fresh blueberry packing facility.
- Field inspections of ~20,000 acres of seed field crops across the state are nearly finished. The program inspected 34 different crops this year, including 2,444 acres of garlic for Allium White Rot. Other significant seed crops include carrot (4,600 acres), radish (1,600 acres), and peas (903 acres).
- Weed Free Forage and Gravel program activities to date have resulted in inspection of ~3,750 acres of hay and straw as well as 41 gravel pits throughout the state. Forage inspections are consistent with previous years, but we anticipate more in the next few months as demand rises for such products due to the wildfires.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- We continue to assist seed export customers and engage in discussions with federal partners about issues with *Anguina funesta* (nematode) and annual ryegrass exports, particularly to China.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- *Phytophthora ramorum* Nursery Program fall surveys and testing will begin; the increase in positive detections in new nurseries and environmental sites, as well as declining federal funding, continue to be a challenge for the program.

Produce Safety Program

Top Accomplishments:

- New Year 6 funding was received resulting in \$630,000 in funding for non-regulatory work implementing the FDA Produce Safety Rule.
- Subaward with Oregon State University established to assist with statewide education efforts.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Ongoing need for producers to follow correct documentation and training guidelines.

- Qualified Exempt Farms are having verification visits from FDA. Sometimes these visits are unannounced.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Host grower training classes for Oregon growers.
- Restart outreach efforts through stakeholder engagement and On-Farm Readiness Reviews statewide.

Seed Regulatory Program

Top Accomplishments:

- Rulemaking to update processes for Slow Pay No Pay investigations and adoption of fee and penalty authorities from HB 4065 is nearly complete. A public hearing was held on July 15th and public comments were accepted through July 31st.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- The program will be engaging with the industry to discuss process improvements for seed services such as witnesses and verifications to improve efficiencies to meet the requirements for seed exports.

Weights and Measures Program

Top Accomplishments:

- Finished testing all Railroad track scales west of the Cascades.
- Completed the 2026 Country of Origin Labeling (COOL) 5-year cooperative agreement.
- Initiated 2026 COOL review cycle.
- Investigated 40 complaints covering fuel quality, fuel quantity, and packaging.
- Completed scale and meter performance tests at 2,100 locations statewide in Q2.
- Completed preparation work for a planned biannual NVLAP assessment of our Metrology program.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Staffing - currently we have no inspector assigned to the Eugene and Roseburg areas and we have a supervisor vacancy.
- We've had challenges staffing our admin shop over the past quarter.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Finish testing Railroad track scales east of the Cascades.
- Finish a majority of the 2026 COOL review caseload.
- Develop procedures for shipping fuel samples to the new contract fuel quality lab (ASAP Labs).
- Update motor fuel quality rules to align with current national fuel quality standards.
- Fill an inspector vacancy in Eugene.
- Complete a NVLAP onsite assessment of our Metrology program.
- Continue weights and measures / motor fuel quality compliance inspection work / investigate consumer complaints.

Natural Resource Division

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Pesticides Program – Registration and Certification

Top Accomplishments:

- Hired a permanent Pesticides Program Analyst to help the program improve processes and materials using data analytics. This is a new position.
- Hired a limited duration Bilingual Certification and Licensing Specialist to assist with creating and updating Spanish language resources and exams. This is a new position.
- Filled two vacant Registration Specialists positions, this will help shorten the backlog of registration applications resulting from the vacancy of two of the three Pesticide Registration specialist team.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Working to improve outreach to unlicensed pesticide users and prospective users. Especially people seeking to be licensed to apply via Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (i.e., drones), roof treatments for moss, and Spanish-language speakers.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Planning for the possibility of obtaining Oregon Environmental Restoration Funds to help modernize the materials used to educate and assess the competency of pesticide users.
- Put contracts in place or set dates to offer paper-based pesticide exams to assess needs.

Pesticides Program – Investigation/Enforcement

Top Accomplishments:

- To proactively promote compliance the Pesticide Enforcement team:
 - During the second quarter of 2026 (April-June) conducted presentations to around 145 persons at 5 in-person events and 1 online meeting, on topics such as pesticide regulations, school IPM law, and drones. In addition to those presentations, also attended and presented at 2 OSU School IPM trainings in June.
 - Program rolled out social media messaging to promote awareness around licensing requirements when applying moss control pesticides for others. Plus, additional social media messaging to promote compliance (e.g. reading the label).
 - Reviewed and updated the program's Marketplace Inspection brochure <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Documents/Publications/PesticidesPARC/PesticideMarketplaceInspection.pdf> plus had it translated into Spanish <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/Documents/Publications/PesticidesPARC/Pesticide-Marketplace-Inspections-SPA.pdf>
- The number of complaint-initiated cases increased during the Spring quarter; thus, a major focus of this quarter for the program has been following up on complaint-initiated cases. The team completed and closed 135 cases in April-June 2026! (included a mixture of cases such as complaint-initiated investigations, routine compliance monitoring inspections, plus EPA Producer Establishment Inspections).
- Continued to develop and strengthen partnerships. For example,
 - In April, ODA participated in 3-day crop and forestry workshop hosted by Cultivate Northwest. Additional attendees included representatives from EPA, Fish and Wildlife, National Marine Fisheries Service, and USDA Office of Pest Management Policy, Washington State Department of Agriculture, Oregon State University, and consultants from Compliance Services International. The workshops were developed to foster understanding of ESA-pesticide label implementation challenges and promote localized solutions.
 - During the Spring, ODA along with OSU assisted in the planning of a NASDA Foundation hosted PIRT Training in Oregon in July. The focus of the training for Pesticide Inspectors (from a number of states and territories) was "Ag Use Concerns Pesticide Inspection and Investigation Training." <https://www.nasda.org/nasda-foundation/nasda-foundation-epa-pirt/ag-use-concerns-pesticide-inspection-and-investigation-training/>

Compliance Note:

- In 2025, the program received 9 separate complaints concerning drift onto vineyards. In 2026, the program has been monitoring incoming complaint cases to assess the impact of the outreach efforts of the Winter and Spring.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Increases in complaint-initiated pesticide investigation cases typically continue into the Summer, so the program will likely see an increase in this work into the next quarter. Will continue to work on routine compliance monitoring activities as time allows.
- The Pesticide Enforcement Team also plans to continue attending and presenting with OSU School IPM Program for the remainder of their summer 2026 trainings.

- Completing Fiscal Year 2027 Cooperative Agreement with EPA.

Fertilizer Program

Top Accomplishments:

- The program caught up on the cases pending lab sample results from 2025.
- The program has been working to improve efficiency of internal processes.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- The program experienced an increase in compliance violations relating to tonnage reporting. Registrants are required to file a report twice per year for tonnage. The program is doing additional outreach ahead of the next reporting period.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Onboard and train for the new case review position.
- Work with the ODA lab and IT teams to incorporate the lab's new LIMS for sample result reporting.
- Continue working to digitize the program's paper files.

Ag Water Quality Program

Top Accomplishments:

- The Willamette Temperature Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Agricultural Implementation plan draft has been completed. This will be submitted to DEQ after a final internal review.
- Field coordination meeting with ODA Water Quality Program and DEQ Nonpoint and drinking water protection program staff. This allows program staff to have focused time together on current high-priority program needs.
- Recruitment of new Water Quality Program Administrative staff and new South Willamette/Mid Coast regional water quality specialist. Administrative staff started at the beginning of August and the water quality specialist at the beginning of September.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Ongoing discussions with DEQ related to the ability of the Agricultural Water Quality Rules to meet temperature TMDL needs.
- Concerns from agricultural community/producers of potential impacts from temperature TMDL implementation plans and agricultural water quality rules.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Complete new program Biennial Report draft for presentation to the Board of Agriculture.
- Onboarding new South Willamette/Mid Coast regional water quality specialist
- LUB GWMA rules outreach
- Agricultural Water Quality Program Advisory Committee Meeting
- Agency coordination with DEQ on TMDL and program implementation

Soil and Water Conservation Districts Program

Top Accomplishments:

- Department staff have coordinated with OWEB staff to present to the OWEB board on the need for capacity grant rulemaking SWCDs and Watershed Councils. The OWEB board approved moving forward with a Rules Advisory Committee and rulemaking.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Continued engagement with OWEB on the upcoming capacity grant rulemaking process.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Oregon Association of Conservation Districts Annual Conference
- Continued coordination with OWEB on capacity grant rulemaking process. The initial Rules Advisory Committee meeting will be in September with monthly meetings for approximately 6 months.
- Soil and Water Conservation Commission meetings in August and November.

Confined Animal Feeding Operation (CAFO) Program

Top Accomplishments:

- Onboarded a new CAFO Inspector, based in Hermiston, to cover NE Oregon including the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area
- Facilitated the first preliminary consultations; the preliminary consultation is a new requirement from 2023's Senate Bill 85 for new large and expanding large CAFOs to have a conversation with ODA, DEQ, OWRD, and other relevant state agencies before submitting their application package
- Began renewing CAFOs to Oregon CAFO National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Permit #01-2026; facilities go to public notice in batches and the public notice, Nutrient Management Plan for each CAFO, and response to comments are posted at <https://oda.direct/cafo>

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- On July 14, Center for Food Safety, Food & Water Watch, Animal Legal Defense Fund, and Willamette Riverkeeper filed a [petition for judicial review](#) challenging Oregon CAFO NPDES General Permit #01-2026. The lawsuit alleges that the permit does not meet state and federal water quality requirements, including requirements related to monitoring and certain pathways of discharge.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Continue renewing facilities to Oregon CAFO NPDES General Permit #01-2026
- Draft Oregon CAFO Water Pollution Control Facilities (WPCF) General Permit #01
- Finalize the Environmental Quality Commission and ODA Memorandum of Understanding relating to the CAFO Program that expires December 31, 2026

Natural Resources Administrative Team

Top Accomplishments:

- The NRD administrative team has successfully onboarded our newest team member who will be supporting the Water Quality team and will be based out of Salem.
- The team continues to make steady progress on digitization efforts leading up to the ODA building restack. The current priority is to digitize 449 CAFO operator files through a two-phased approach: Phase 1 (scanning) and Phase 2 (separating, renaming individual forms, and filing digitally).
- The admin team has successfully completed phase 1 and will now move to phase 2 of the project.
- The admin team continue to support the OneODA modernization project by providing frontline subject matter expertise to ensure licensing systems and CRM development efficiently and effectively improve license renewal processes both internally and externally.
- To further support modernization, the team has embarked on "summer projects" which include modernizing pesticide templates and forms and digitizing Fertilizer files.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Continue leading the digitization efforts for Natural Resource Division physical files
- Assist as subject matter experts with the OneODA modernization of ODA's CRM and licensing database
- Gear up for renewal seasons for Product Registrations and Pesticide Applicators.

Plant Protection and Conservation Division

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Hemp Program

Top Accomplishments:



- One priority indicated in our last update was to address access to testing at Oregon standards for out-of-state manufacturers of hemp items intended for sale to Oregon consumers. We have continued our discussions with OHA on that. It has been established that current Oregon Health Authority (OHA) testing rules allow out-of-state manufacturers with potency testing done at their local labs to transport their entire batches to an Oregon ORELAP accredited lab for sampling and complete compliance testing. This understanding has led to more out-of-state manufacturers successfully meeting the requirements for the OLCC Hemp Product Registry.

Further, OHA is now in talks with a couple of larger labs with locations in other states to potentially develop agreements for sampling and testing protocols which would align with Oregon standards. If the latter comes to fruition, hemp licenses outside of Oregon will have better access to full-compliance testing.

- Hemp inspectors have conducted preliminary site visits to high priority grow sites, providing education on requirements and verifying that cultivation plans outlined in their applications match what is happening on-site. Inspectors have also conducted a mix of proactive and complaint-based site visits to handler and vendor sites, which has further developed relationships and communication with licensees, addressed compliance issues through education and corrective action, and led to the removal of some non-compliant products from the market.
- The Hemp Program has developed settlement agreements with licenses which violated hemp rules, where they agree to corrective action plans to reduce their civil penalties where appropriate. Those agreements are designed to improve compliance while reducing the time and expense of administrative hearings. Licensees are incentivized to adhere to a settlement agreement because otherwise the entirety of the initial civil penalty would become due and they may incur additional violations.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Anticipated changes to the Federal Farm Bill may still bring devastating and sweeping changes to the hemp industry, as set for November 12, 2026. However, there is promising movement toward passing a delay of those changes to December 11, 2026. Though that might not seem significant on its face, it is anticipated that the additional month time will allow for multiple new proposals to be presented that may come with more reasonable limits on THC per serving allowances and better plans for effective regulation of intoxicating and non-intoxicating hemp items, including CBD items.
- Due to the unknown federal landscape for hemp-derived items, the number of hemp handler and grower licenses are down by about half this year. We had many applications come in toward the end of our July 31st deadline for grower/grow sites. Our team is working diligently along with applicants towards license issuance for those folks.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- DaNette will continue to participate in "Reimagining Hemp" workgroups to process industry input and develop legislative concepts to promote a healthier, stable, and compliant industry. These workgroups include subcommittees for testing, distribution, and compliance. Participants in these groups include legislators, hemp special interest groups, the OHA, OLCC, cannabis industry attorneys, and cannabis businesses.
- ODA, OHA, and OLCC will continue exploring pathways to improve testing access for out-of-state manufacturers whose products are sold in Oregon. Additional guidance will also be developed to help manufacturers and laboratories better understand Oregon's testing, sampling, and compliance requirements.

Insect Pest Prevention and Management (IPPM) Program

Top Accomplishments:

- **Successful recruitment for a new IPPM Program Manager.** Genoveva Rodriguez joined ODA on May 4th. She will oversee program planning, coordination, and implementation, ensuring effective operations and strategic alignment with agency goals. Ms. Rodriguez will also provide leadership to staff, manage program resources, and support stakeholder engagement.
- **Japanese Beetle Program** will continue its eradication and monitoring in 2026 and into 2027 with \$1.8M in renewed funding through House Bill 5204, allowing the agency to maintain essential protections for Oregon's plant industries. Online property consent collection began in March, treatments started in mid-April, and trapping will continue through September, with expanded efforts in Salem and La Grande following single-beetle detections last year. In 2025, program activities reduced beetle numbers by 92% since 2016, with 1,918 beetles trapped statewide, mostly at one Washington County property. Seasonal recruitment was successful, bringing on nine staff members to support the 2026 Japanese Beetle trapping operations.
- **USDA Plant Protection and Survey Funding** was awarded at a total of \$1,477,492 to support multiple projects across Oregon. Funded work includes multi-species spongy moth detection, exotic wood borer and bark beetle surveys, fruit crop pest monitoring, national identification support, biological control research for Japanese beetle, and several taxonomic identification guide projects. These investments strengthen early detection, diagnostics, and response capacity for invasive pests, supporting both state and national plant health priorities.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Oregon is facing rapidly growing pressure from multiple invasive pests—and ODA's ability to respond is being stretched thin. This year, ODA did **not** receive USDA funding for several high-priority biological control and early-detection projects. These gaps directly affect ODA's detection and response to threats that put Oregon's forests, farms, and ecosystems at risk. Reduced investment in early detection tools like environmental DNA (eDNA) or biocontrol of pests like spotted winged drosophila (a major pest of berry and tree fruit), hinder the state's early detection and long-term mitigation capacity.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- **Monitor Seasonal Changes & Impacts.** Milder winters and longer spring and summer seasons are extending the reproductive period for invasive species. These shifts can disrupt the timing of ODA's monitoring and control programs. For example, in 2026 emerald ash borer is emerging 2-months earlier than previously documented. ODA will closely evaluate this year's trapping season and adjust response strategies as needed to better align with changing seasonal conditions.
- **Yellow-Legged Hornet Survey.** On May 4, 2026, a Yellow-legged Hornet was observed and subsequently killed on a docked boat arriving from South Korea into Vancouver, Washington by an agricultural inspector. The ODA is pursuing federal funding to conduct surveys to confirm whether a local colony is present or whether this was a hitchhiking event. ODA is working closely with partner agencies to ensure rapid detection and a coordinated response.

Native Plant Program

Top Accomplishments:

- **Completed Conservation and Mitigation Guidelines.** This is a comprehensive guidance document that informs state agencies and permittees of the avoidance, conservation and mitigation requirements associated with potential T&E species. This document empowers agencies and their contractors to plan ahead and will streamline permitting process, limit impacts to sensitive species and lessen the consultation burden for ODA.

- Reached an agreement in principle with Douglas County to partner on conservation and mitigation projects that will offset impacts caused by landfill expansion.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- None at this time.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Native Plant Program will undergo extensive rulemaking processes in 2026 and 2027 that focus on clarity revisions, alignment to ORS and an overhaul of ODA's commercial permitting processes and requirements.

Noxious Weeds Program

Top Accomplishments:

- Completed overhaul of all Statewide Management Strategies for over 60 of Oregon's highest priority weeds. These are species-specific strategies that are prescriptive at the regional level to empower local managers, clearly define ODA's approach and to inform the general public. These documents were also brought up to current branding standards and made updated to meet WCAG accessibility standards.
- Rangeland Health Initiative is making great progress and producing resources to streamline project implementation
- Rangeland Health Initiative hosted a 2-day drone applicator training and informational workshop in Pendleton that was very well attended and received.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- The program has been asked to issue exceptions for new cultivars of a prohibited species. This process has highlighted work that needs to be done to formalize these types of requests and processes. ODA is working closely with nursery industry partners and academia to address the matter.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Sharing program 2025 Annual Report with partners.
- Continued planning and implementation of Palmer Amaranth response.
- Finalize A-Rated Weed Detection Response Plan

Nursery and Christmas Tree Program

Top Accomplishments:

Oregon nursery stock ship without quarantine restrictions

- Oregon HB 5204 allocated \$1.8 million to continue Japanese beetle eradication and monitoring efforts through the 2026–2027 beetle seasons, allowing Oregon to maintain Category 1 status under the U.S. Domestic Japanese Beetle Harmonization Plan.
- ODA is currently working with individual states to unwind or modify temporary restrictions several states implemented regarding certification, trapping, treatment, and pre-notification requirements during the 2025 funding uncertainty.
- While most states are receptive to Oregon's reinstated program status, others (CO, NM) continue to require additional nursery-level trapping and treatments, until confidence in the long-term continuity of the program is restored.

Online Compliance and Large Retail Inspection Program

- The Online and Large Retail Compliance Inspector pilot continues to show strong compliance and outreach results focusing on online marketplaces and large retailers, including Facebook Marketplace, Etsy, eBay, Craigslist, Home Depot, Lowe's, Costco, and Walmart.
- Since coming on board in October, ODA's inspector has identified more than 150 online nursery quarantine issues and resolved over 300 licensing and shipping issues.
- The program has significantly improved outreach and voluntary compliance among small online sellers unfamiliar with Oregon plant regulations.

Nursery Program Financial and Staffing Update

- The 2026–2027 nursery license renewal cycle includes an 18.7% license fee increase, representing the first fee adjustment in approximately 10 years.
- The increase is intended to address rising program operational costs and provide support for regulatory and inspection activities.
- Revenue generated from the fee increase is planned to eventually support two additional NRS2 inspector positions to improve statewide inspection coverage, compliance response capacity, and support for emerging regulatory demands.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Federal budget cuts to the *Phytophthora ramorum* program and ongoing USDA funding uncertainty may impact future cooperative agreement funding levels and could create financial pressures for nursery survey, sampling, and mitigation activities within the program.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Due to the success of the E-commerce Regulatory Pilot Program, ODA will recruit for a permanent Online Compliance Inspector (NRS1) position to address ongoing e-commerce regulatory demands.
- Fill one NRS2 position to aid current inspection staff in backlog of outstanding nursery inspections and emergent pest issues.
- Plan field testing for the Air Curtain Incinerator (ACI) to support future mitigation efforts byway of destroying infested/infected plant material. Ability to destroy material onsite reduces the risk of spreading invasive pests (such as emerald ash borer, Mediterranean oak borer, noxious weeds, and *Phytophthora ramorum* mitigation) and can be of service to impacted land and business owners.

Agricultural Trade and Economic Development

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Local, National, and International Activities

Top Accomplishments:

- Domestic trade show: May – Assisted six Oregon food and beverage companies at the 2026 National Restaurant Association Show, connecting them with foodservice buyers and distributors. Based on early follow-up, participating companies expect more than \$150,000 in new sales over the next year. Foodservice continues to be an important growth market with many finding it easier to enter than traditional retail channels.
- Outbound missions: June – ODA supported Oregon and additional WUSATA companies at the Seoul Food & Hotel Show in South Korea. ODA met with USDA/APHIS officials on IQF berry market access and straw imports from Oregon to Korea. July 25-31 – ODA led a trade mission to Japan with three Oregon wine and hazelnut companies, arranging business meetings in two cities and group meetings with restaurant and food industry representatives.
- Inbound mission: August 6–7 – ODA partnered with WUSATA and the Nevada Department of Agriculture to bring 11 ingredient and foodservice buyers from Taiwan, Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, and Thailand to Oregon. The buyers met with Oregon food businesses and toured farms and processing facilities. OSU's Food Innovation Center presented an ingredient seminar and tasting showcasing applications in U.S. and Southeast Asian cuisines.
- Helped secure suspension of the United Kingdom's 20% tariff on albacore tuna, creating a new export opportunity for Oregon's seafood industry with potential for millions in new sales. The action marks Oregon's first seafood tariff reduction since Brexit and reflects more than five years of ODA market access work. ODA is now working with Travel Oregon and industry partners on a November media and trade event in London to promote Oregon seafood.
- Completed an update to the [ODA Food & Beverage Co-Packer website](#), which continues to be a leading resource for companies looking for co-packing services in the Pacific Northwest. The site

has drawn interest from several other states that have reached out to learn how the model supports food and beverage businesses and whether they can participate.

- ODA and partners are wrapping up the 2026 Fresh from Oregon promotional program, featuring monthly stories on Oregon food and agriculture through KGW's Hello Rose City and news segments. Highlights include spring greens, processed vegetables, cider, dairy, wheat, seafood, and initiatives such as Farmer's Ending Hunger, Oregon FFA and Regence's Nutrition for All. Remaining features will spotlight Oregon's bountiful harvest, organic agriculture, and farm to school programs. Visit [KGW Fresh from Oregon](#) to explore program highlights and recipes.
- Oregon Agricultural Trust and Business Impact Northwest have been contracted to provide technical assistance to Oregon supply chain businesses, with fall programming delivered statewide in partnership with the three-pilot Regional Food & Agriculture Business Centers. Workshops will help farms and food businesses access capital, improve financial management, enter the middle of the supply chain, and expand regional opportunities.
- Participated in the inaugural Pacific Northwest Industrial Symbiosis Conference in Vancouver, WA, highlighting regional efforts to turn industrial waste into valuable resources and advance circular economies. The conference also featured a tour of four innovative McMinnville companies each demonstrating unique approaches to resource conservation, innovation, and agricultural sustainability: New Energy Works, Solid Carbon, Chapul Farms, and Revino.
- Due to the ongoing oversupply and low berry prices, representatives from the Oregon Raspberry and Blackberry Commission and ODA supported a petition to USDA to include frozen blackberries in its relief schedules. This resulted in a \$2 million Section 32 purchase of IQF blackberries, providing immediate cash flow to processors and farmers.
- The Mid-Willamette Regional Food and Agriculture Business Center is supporting development of a whey processing facility that would create a new revenue opportunity for Oregon creameries while addressing growing US demand for protein products.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- International tariffs continue to create challenges for Oregon's seafood industry, as well as many other agricultural sectors. At the same time, projected shortages of certain seafood species in global markets are creating new opportunities for Oregon producers. In some cases, buyers and sellers are willing to absorb tariff costs to secure product and maintain supply. We continue to monitor these market conditions, work closely with industry, and keep our federal partners informed of emerging trade issues and opportunities.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- ODA will host an inbound trade mission for eight European seafood buyers from September 27–October 2, 2026. This mission is the final step in a year-long effort to build interest in Pacific Northwest seafood. The goal is to build relationships, give buyers a firsthand look at the industry, and create new export opportunities for Oregon seafood.
- ODA and the OSU Food Innovation Center will bring six Oregon companies with approved school food products to production scale for school culinary workshops scheduled for 2026-2027.
- Work continues with Business Oregon, Travel Oregon, and the Port of Portland on the state's economic and global strategies.

Economic Development Grant Programs

Top Accomplishments:

- The Specialty Crop Block Grant Program (SCBGP) 2026 grants have been selected by the Department and are under review by the USDA.
- All eight RFSI Infrastructure Projects have made significant progress with their construction - \$2,380,746.32 has been disbursed to the Infrastructure Projects to date. 15 of 17 Equipment-only have spent all their funding are officially closed - \$1,002,666.36 has been disbursed to the Equipment-only projects to date.

- ODA has selected 14 farms and food businesses for the 2025-2027 ODA Farm to School Producer Grants to purchase equipment and install infrastructure for school markets. This cycle's cohort of grantees is widely represented across different regions of the state and industry sectors. A press release will be released once contract agreements have been executed.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- USDAAMS has not released the 2025 and 2026 Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) for the Organic Certification Cost Share Reimbursement (OCCSR) program yet. Once released we will apply and distribute funding.
- Two RFSI Equipment-only projects that are not closed out have been delayed due to the equipment being made/having to be shipped from overseas. Infrastructure-only Projects have run into some delays due to permit approval taking longer than anticipated – all projects are still in line to meet their 12/31/2026 deadline for completion.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- SCBGP will sign agreements and begin grant work in October of 2026.
- Organic Certification Cost Share Reimbursement Program will hopefully be open by September of 2026, but there are no guarantees.
- Conducting site visits for all SCBGP and RFSI Infrastructure and Equipment-only Projects to check on progress.
- All RFSI funding for equipment-only, infrastructure and supply chain coordination funding must be spent by December 31, 2026.

Commodity Commission Oversight Program

Top Accomplishments:

- Commissioner Appointments: staff completed the spring recruiting and appointments process. This included issuing appointment letters and ensuring commissioners are ready to begin their terms of service in July.
- Commission Budgets: the ODA Director must approve all commodity commission budgets. Commission budgets run on a July – June budget year, except Dairy. Dairy Council's budget runs January – December. Commissions then submit their budgets to ODA for review and approval. Two commission were late submitting their budgets this year, all other budgets were approved before the start of the new budget year.
- Commission Contracts: 74 contracts were reviewed and approved for the Commission's 2026/2027 budget year.

Issues, Compliance Concerns, or External Pressures:

- Current events: as noted in the previous report, current events continue to impact all commodities. Some common themes across most commissions are fuel prices, rising fertilizer costs and increased production costs.

Priorities for Next Quarter:

- Year-End Financial Reporting: each year commissions submit a comprehensive report of their financials to ODA. Staff will be working to ensure these reports are submitted on time, so ODA is able to stay in compliance with required State reporting.
- Operational Plans: annually, commission develop and update their annual marketing and research plans. Staff will be working with the commissions to collect and approve these plans.
- Workday Training: oversight staff are continuing to assist commission staff and commissioners to ensure they complete the required discrimination and harassment training.
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Agenda Item 5 – ODA Budget and Legislative Updates

Board of Agriculture Meeting – September 2-4, 2026

Introduction

The Board of Agriculture will hear updates on ODA's budget and legislative development for the 2027 Legislative Session. A special Board meeting was held on June 24, 2026, to discuss ODA's program prioritization list and accompanying proposed reduction list that are required components of the Agency Request Budget (ARB).

The ARB is required to be submitted by August 31, 2026, and a copy of the finalized program prioritization list and accompanying proposed reductions list will be provided to the Board when available.

Also included for Board Review is an overview of the Legislative Concepts being developed by ODA for consideration in the 2027 Legislative Session. In June of 2026, the Board heard a high-level update of the proposed Legislative Concepts.

PROGRAM PRIORITIZATION FOR 2027-29

Agency Name: Oregon Department of Agriculture																										
2027-29 Biennium																				Agency Number: 60300						
Agencywide																										
Program/Division Priorities for 2027-29 Biennium																										
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22					
Priority (ranked with highest priority first)	Agency	Program or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	Identify Key Performance Measure(s)	Primary Purpose Program-Activity Code	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL-FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	New or Enhanced Program (Y/N)	Included as Reduction Option (Y/N)	Legal Req. Code (C, D, FM, FO, S)	Legal Citation	Explain What is Mandatory (for C, FM, and FO Only)	Comments on Proposed Changes to CSL included in Agency Request Budget						
Agcy	Prgm / Div																									
1	1	ODA	Food Safety Program	Licenses and inspects Oregon food establishments across various disciplines, including food and beverage manufacturing, retail food distribution, dairy, meat, eggs, seafood, and shellfish. The program protects public health and bolsters consumer confidence by ensuring food products meet stringent safety standards, supporting the economic stability of food businesses and preventing costly outbreaks.	603-1, 13	10	6,649,557	-	11,524,236	-	-	-	\$ 18,173,793	43	42-55	Y	Y	FM, FO, S	ORS 603, 616, 619, 621, 632, 625, 628, 635	FM - Food & Drug Cosmetic Act FO - Contract Inspection on behalf of FDA - currently at 468/year	Pkg 410 - Implements an intra-agency transfer to support cross program work in the General Inspectors Program. Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.					
2	2	ODA	Animal Health	The Animal Health Program is dedicated to safeguarding the health of Oregon's livestock and poultry through prevention, control, and eradication of diseases. This program conducts surveillance, traceability, planning, and response activities to manage outbreaks and prevent the spread of zoonotic diseases. Collaborating with federal and state agencies, the Animal Health Program ensures the safety of the livestock industry and protects public health by maintaining robust disease monitoring and emergency response systems.	603-13	10	1,194,069	-	1,710,420	-	881,704	-	\$ 3,786,193	6	6.45	Y	Y	FO, S	ORS 596, 599, 600, 601, 609, 619	FO - Animal disease surveillance and traceability efforts.	Pkg 210 - Requests to continue a federally funded limited duration position for Avian Influenza. Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept. Pkg 469 - Ratifies fees adopted administratively.					
3	1	ODA	Agricultural Water Quality Program	The Agricultural Water Quality Program is responsible for developing and implementing rules and plans to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities and soil erosion on rural lands. The program ensures that farmers and ranchers comply with state water quality standards and meet pollutant load allocations as mandated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) under the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) framework. This program supports sustainable agricultural practices and the protection of Oregon's water resources.	603-12a, 12b, 12c, 13	9	5,926,845	2,763,755	369,246	-	-	-	\$ 9,059,846	20	20.00	Y	Y	S	ORS 561, 568, 468B	-	Pkg 070 - Balances Lottery Funds expenditures with available resources. Pkg 340 - Projects awarded by the Environmental Restoration Council.					
4	2	ODA	Insect Pest Prevention and Management	The Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program focuses on the detection, survey, and eradication of harmful invasive plant pests such as the Spotted Lanternfly and Emerald Ash Borer. This program also addresses emerging pest threats and conducts surveys to monitor destructive native species like grasshoppers. The aim is to protect Oregon's agricultural and natural resources from significant pest-related damages, ensuring the health and productivity of the state's ecosystems and agricultural economy.	603-3, 4, 13	9	4,012,641	3,359,365	497,667	-	3,940,379	-	\$ 11,810,052	34	21.00	Y	Y	FO, S	ORS 570	FO - Participation in exclusion, detection, eradication of target harmful plant pests.	Pkg 070 - Balances Lottery Funds expenditures with available resources. Pkg 330 - Establishes one limited duration position supported by Federal Funds. Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL. Pkg 464 - Carry forward one-time General Fund related to Japanese Beetle activities that cross over into the 2027-29 biennium.					

Priority (ranked with highest priority first)	Agency	Program or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	Identify Key Performance Measure(s)	Primary Purpose Program- Activity Code	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL- FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	New or Enhanced Program (Y/N)	Included as Reductio n Option (Y/N)	Legal Req. Code (C, D, FM, FO, S)	Legal Citation	Explain What is Mandatory (for C, FM, and FO Only)	Comments on Proposed Changes to CSL included in Agency Request Budget	
5	1	ODA	Agriculture Development & Marketing	The Agriculture Development and Marketing Projects support the ODA's mission to promote economic development within Oregon's agricultural sector. This program identifies and creates marketing opportunities for Oregon's food and agricultural products both domestically and internationally. Key initiatives include the Specialty Crop Block Grants and Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grants, which provide critical funding to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of specialty crops. Additionally, the Farm to School initiative leverages public and private resources to increase the availability of locally grown and processed foods in Oregon schools, fostering healthy eating habits among children and supporting local farmers.	603-7, 8, 9, 13	6	4,143,345	-	74,440	-	6,895,475	-	\$ 11,113,260	8	7.07	N	Y	S	ORS 576	-	
6	3	ODA	Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Program	The Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Program ensures that CAFO operators comply with state and federal water quality standards through the issuance of water quality permits. This program provides oversight and support to CAFO operators, helping them implement practices that minimize environmental impacts, particularly related to water pollution from animal waste.	603-10, 13	9	4,086,220	-	478,689	-	-	-	\$ 4,564,909	11	11.00	N	N	FM, S	ORS 468B	FM - Adherence to federal regulations related to Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs).	Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
7	4	ODA	Pesticides Program	The Pesticides Program administers state and federal regulations governing the distribution, use, and application of pesticide products in Oregon. The program ensures that pesticides are used safely and effectively, protecting human health, agricultural productivity, and environmental quality. Through licensing, compliance monitoring, and education, the program promotes responsible pesticide management practices.	603-6, 13	10	-	-	12,626,306	-	1,738,814	-	\$ 14,365,120	33	32.97	Y	Y	FM, S	ORS 634	FM - Adherence to Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA)	Pkg 310 - Interagency alignment of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership between ODA and DEQ. Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
8	5	ODA	Natural Resources	The Natural Resources activity unit oversees the administration of various programs dedicated to protecting Oregon's natural resources. This includes the Agricultural Water Quality Program, Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) Program, Fertilizer Program, Pesticides Program, Pesticide Analytical Response Center (PARC), Pesticide Stewardship Partnership, and the Soil and Water Conservation District Program. These initiatives work collectively to maintain environmental quality, promote sustainable agricultural practices, and ensure compliance with state and federal regulations.	603-10, 11, 12a, 12b, 12c, 13	9	644,136	-	169,057	-	26,210	-	\$ 839,403	2	1.50	Y	N	S	561, 568, 468B	-	Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
9	3	ODA	Laboratory Services	Provides chemical and microbiological analysis for ODA in areas such as food, dairy, meat products, shellfish, foliage, soil, fertilizer, pesticides, and water quality. The lab ensures legally defensible compliance with state and federal regulations, enabling Oregon's agricultural products to enter interstate and international markets, thus enhancing economic competitiveness.	603-13	10	7,034,849	-	7,077,945	-	720,070	-	\$ 14,832,864	26	26.00	Y	Y	FO, S	ORS 561, 576	FO - Food Emergency Response Network - Capability to perform proficiency testing and assist with food emergency assignments.	Pkg 070 - Balances Other Funds expenditures with available resources. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.

Priority (ranked with highest priority first)	Agency	Program or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	Identify Key Performance Measure(s)	Primary Purpose Program Activity Code	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL- FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	New or Enhanced Program (Y/N)	Included as Reduction Option (Y/N)	Legal Req. Code (C, D, FM, FO, S)	Legal Citation	Explain What is Mandatory (for C, FM, and FO Only)	Comments on Proposed Changes to CSL included in Agency Request Budget
10	4	ODA	Animal Health Lab	The Animal Health Laboratory helps state and federal veterinarians monitor the health status of production animals that are in Oregon, including when they move into, or out of, the state or country. The laboratory provides testing and referral services for veterinarians whose clients require specialized testing not normally available in routine diagnostic laboratories.	603-13	10	1,096,724	-	659,349	-	-	\$ 1,756,073	3	2.83	Y	Y	FO, S	ORS 561, 596	FO - Animal disease surveillance and detection in support of federal programs.	Pkg 070 - Balances Other Funds expenditures with available resources. Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL.
11	6	ODA	Noxious Weed Control Program	The Noxious Weed Control Program protects Oregon's natural resources and agricultural economy from invasive noxious weeds. The program works in coordination with county weed control districts, federal agencies, tribes, and private landowners to implement early detection, rapid response, and biological control measures. It also provides technical assistance and grants to support local weed management efforts, ensuring the preservation of native ecosystems and agricultural productivity.	603-3, 4, 13	9	98,826	3,081,416	355,287	-	2,241,467	- \$ 5,776,996	14	11.59	Y	Y	S	ORS 570	-	Pkg 070 - Balances Lottery Funds expenditures with available resources. Pkg 320 - Continues two limited duration positions related to a Natural Working Lands project. Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL.
12	7	ODA	Native Plant Program	The Native Plant Program focuses on the protection of threatened and endangered native plant species in Oregon. It provides consultation services to infrastructure projects to ensure that appropriate actions are taken to mitigate harm to these species. The program also engages in conservation efforts to preserve the biodiversity and ecological health of Oregon's natural landscapes.	603-5, 13	9	901,090	-	259,984	-	930,158	- \$ 2,091,232	4	4.00	Y	Y	S	ORS 564	-	Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL.
13	5	ODA	Shellfish Program	The Shellfish Program ensures the safety and quality of Oregon's commercial and recreational shellfish industries. By enforcing compliance with FDA standards, this program facilitates the safe interstate shipment of shellfish. It also collaborates with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife to monitor and test for harmful biotoxins, providing critical public health advisories and closing affected harvest areas when necessary. The program's rigorous testing protocols protect consumers and support the sustainability of Oregon's shellfish resources.	603-13	10	596,903	-	605,366	-	-	\$ 1,202,269	2	2.00	Y	N	FO, S	ORS 622	FO - Adherence to FDA requirements for interstate shellfish compact. Interstate movement of shellfish.	Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
14	6	ODA	State Meat Inspection Program	The State Meat Inspection Program provides essential services to local meat processors by ensuring their operations meet USDA-equivalent standards. This program supports Oregon's agricultural economy by enabling local producers to access markets with high-quality, inspected meat products. By maintaining stringent inspection protocols, the program enhances consumer trust and promotes the availability of safe, locally produced meat, contributing to the resilience and sustainability of the local food system.	603-13	10	1,007,291	-	-	-	841,955	- \$ 1,849,246	2	2.00	Y	Y	FO	ORS 603, 616, 619, 628	FO - Adherence to federal regulations at the minimum of equal to Federal standards for meat facilities.	Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL.
15	2	ODA	Plant Health Program	Plant Health Programs include the exclusion, detection and eradication of harmful plant diseases (e.g. sudden oak death), seed field inspections, testing of commodities for plant pathogens, and virus certification for fruit tree, berry, and grape nursery stocks. The USDA Agricultural Plant Health and Inspection Service grants authority to the program to issue federal phytosanitary certificates, required for many exported products.	603-3, 13	9	1,656,095	-	3,135,442	-	1,858,845	- \$ 6,650,382	13	12.64	Y	N	FO, S	ORS 570	FO - Participation in exclusion, detection, eradication of target harmful plant diseases.	Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.

Priority (ranked with highest priority first)	Agency	Program or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	Identify Key Performance Measure(s)	Primary Purpose Program Activity Code	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL- FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	New or Enhanced Program (Y/N)	Included as Reduction Option (Y/N)	Legal Req. Code (C, D, FM, FO, S)	Legal Citation	Explain What is Mandatory (for C, FM, and FO Only)	Comments on Proposed Changes to CSL included in Agency Request Budget
16	3	ODA	Field Services & Certification - General Inspectors	The General Inspectors Program consists of a pool of inspectors aimed at modernizing inspection services across multiple ODA programs. This program enhances resource sharing and coordination across the state, improving recruitment and retention strategies and ensuring consistent, high-quality inspection services for Oregon's agricultural sector.	603-13	6	-	-	534,534	-	-	\$ 534,534	2	2.00	Y	N	-	Various	-	Pkg 410 - Implements an intra-agency transfer to support cross program work in the General Inspectors Program.
17	8	ODA	Nursery Program	The Nursery Program provides inspection and export certification services for Oregon's nursery industry. It ensures that nursery stock, including imported plants, meets health standards to prevent the spread of pests and diseases. The program relies on internal services provided by the IPPM and Plant Health programs to maintain the integrity of Oregon's nursery industry and support its global competitiveness.	603-13	6	-	-	5,319,258	-	767,219	- \$ 6,086,477	16	14.53	Y	Y	S	ORS 571	-	Pkg 070 - Balances Lottery Funds expenditures with available resources. Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
18	9	ODA	Christmas Tree Program	The Christmas Tree Program conducts inspection and export certification services for Oregon's Christmas tree industry. It ensures that Christmas trees meet health and quality standards, facilitating their safe export to international markets. The program's success depends on internal collaborations with the IPPM and Plant Health programs, supporting the industry's economic vitality and reputation for high-quality products.	603-13	6	-	-	790,771	-	-	- \$ 790,771	-	2.00	Y	Y	S	ORS 571	-	Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
19	4	ODA	Shipping Point Inspection Program	The Shipping Point Inspection Program provides inspection and certification services for a wide range of fruits, vegetables, and nut crops, ensuring they meet quality standards for both export and domestic markets. The program includes the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Program, which focuses on enhancing the safety of fresh produce through rigorous inspection and compliance with federal food safety standards.	603-7, 13	6	-	-	13,344,141	-	-	- \$ 13,344,141	62	45.76	Y	Y	FO, S	ORS 632	FO - Adherence to federal programs for various certification and audit programs.	Pkg 070 - Balances Other Funds expenditures with available resources. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
20	5	ODA	Seed Regulatory Program	The Seed Regulatory program provides service to Oregon's agricultural and specialty seed industries and is responsible for regulating the sale and labeling of seeds sold in Oregon. The program helps to create a level playing field for seed dealers and provides sampling and verification services as well as issues phytosanitary certificates for export. The program also provides active supervision and oversight of supervised price negotiations where producers and processors can come together to negotiate prices for grass seed.	603-13	6	-	-	1,102,381	-	-	- \$ 1,102,381	2	2.82	Y	N	S	ORS 633	-	Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept. Pkg 469 - Ratifies fees adopted administratively.
21	6	ODA	Livestock ID Program	The Livestock ID Program ensures the proper ownership of livestock through brand registration and inspection. By denying stolen livestock access to the marketplace, this program supports the economic production of livestock and protects legitimate livestock owners. The program is vital for maintaining the integrity of Oregon's livestock industry and preventing theft and fraud.	603-13	6	-	-	4,451,494	-	-	- \$ 4,451,494	69	13.24	Y	Y	S	ORS 577, 579, 603, 604, 607, 608, 601, 164, 167	-	Pkg 070 - Balances Other Funds expenditures with available resources. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept. Pkg 467 - Increases fees in the Livestock ID program to support current service level operations. Pkg 469 - Ratifies fees adopted administratively.

Priority (ranked with highest priority first)	Agency	Program or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	Identify Key Performance Measure(s)	Primary Purpose Program Activity Code	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL- FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	New or Enhanced Program (Y/N)	Included as Reduction Option (Y/N)	Legal Req. Code (C, D, FM, FO, S)	Legal Citation	Explain What is Mandatory (for C, FM, and FO Only)	Comments on Proposed Changes to CSL included in Agency Request Budget
22	7	ODA	Hops/Hay/ Grain Program	The Hops/Hay/Grain Program provides inspection and certification services for hops, hay, and grains, including the issuance of necessary export certificates. This program ensures that these agricultural products meet quality standards for both domestic and international markets, supporting the competitiveness and reputation of Oregon's agricultural exports.	603-13	6	-	-	970,589	-	-	\$ 970,589	2	2.03	Y	N	S	ORS 561, 571, 586, 632, 633	-	Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
23	8	ODA	Smoke Management Program	The Smoke Management Program administers the rules for field burning in the Willamette Valley. It collaborates with the Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the Oregon Seed Council to ensure that field burning is conducted safely and efficiently, with minimal impacts on public health. The program aims to balance agricultural needs with environmental and public health considerations.	603-2, 13	10	-	-	1,017,558	-	-	\$ 1,017,558	1	0.77	Y	N	S	ORS 468B	-	Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
24	9	ODA	Certifications and Audit Services Program	The certification and audit services program provides voluntary market access certification and validation for processes and attributes of fresh and processed agricultural products. Programs include National Organic Program certification, Global Food Safety Initiative audits, USDA GAP/GHP Audit Verification Program, and other private and industry driven standards verification and third-party audit services.	603-7, 13	6	-	-	1,849,870	-	-	\$ 1,849,870	4	6.11	Y	Y	FO, S	ORS 632	FO - Adherence to federal programs for various certification and audit programs.	Pkg 070 - Balances Other Funds expenditures with available resources. Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept. Pkg 468 - Increases fees in the Certifications program to support program operations.
25	10	ODA	Measurement Standards	The Weights and Measures Program ensures fairness and accuracy in commercial transactions involving weighing and measuring devices. This program licenses, inspects, and certifies devices such as grocery store scales, gas pumps, and industrial meters, ensuring they provide accurate measurements. By maintaining uniform standards and offering precision calibration services, the program protects consumers, promotes fair competition, and enhances the economic vitality of Oregon's marketplace.	603-13	3	-	-	10,768,251	-	-	\$ 10,768,251	27	24.92	Y	Y	S	ORS 618	-	Pkg 410 - Implements an intra-agency transfer to support cross program work in the General Inspectors Program. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
26	11	ODA	Motor Fuel Quality Program	The Motor Fuel Quality Program is responsible for ensuring that motor vehicle fuels sold in Oregon meet national quality standards. The program enforces the state's renewable fuel standards, requiring 10% ethanol in gasoline and 5% biodiesel in diesel fuel. By monitoring fuel quality and compliance, the program protects consumers, supports environmental sustainability, and contributes to Oregon's renewable energy goals. Its efforts ensure that fuel sold within the state is safe, reliable, and environmentally friendly.	603-2, 13	3	-	-	839,467	-	-	\$ 839,467	-	2.08	Y	Y	S	ORS 618	-	Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.

Priority (ranked with highest priority first)	Agency	Program or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	Identify Key Performance Measure(s)	Primary Purpose Program Activity Code	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL- FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	New or Enhanced Program (Y/N)	Included as Reductio n Option (Y/N)	Legal Req. Code (C, D, FM, FO, S)	Legal Citation	Explain What is Mandatory (for C, FM, and FO Only)	Comments on Proposed Changes to CSL included in Agency Request Budget
27	10	ODA	Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)	The Soil and Water Conservation Districts Program provides administrative oversight, operational, elections support to Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. SWCDs collaborate with landowners, residents, natural resource organizations, and government agencies to conserve natural resources, control soil erosion, enhance water quality, preserve wildlife habitats, and promote sustainable land use practices. This program fosters community-driven conservation efforts to maintain healthy and productive landscapes.	603-12a, 12b, 12c, 13	9	-	1,428,406	-	-	-	\$ 1,428,406	3	3.00	N	Y	S	ORS 561, 568	-	Pkg 070 - Balances Lottery Funds expenditures with available resources.
28	7	ODA	Commercial Feeds Program	The Feeds Program regulates the safety and quality of commercial animal feed products sold in Oregon. Through registration, inspection, and testing, this program ensures that animal feeds are free from harmful contaminants and accurately labeled. The Feeds Program supports livestock health and productivity, safeguarding the food supply chain and protecting consumer interests. Its rigorous standards and monitoring efforts contribute to the overall integrity and reliability of Oregon's agricultural sector.	603-13	3	-	-	473,209	-	-	\$ 473,209	1	1.00	Y	N	FO, S	ORS 633	FO - Adherence to federal regulations for feed.	Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
29	11	ODA	Fertilizer Program	The Fertilizer Program regulates the composition, labeling, and marketing of fertilizer products in Oregon. This program ensures that fertilizers meet safety standards and are properly labeled to protect consumers and the environment. By overseeing the quality of fertilizers, the program supports agricultural practices.	603-13	3	-	-	2,249,018	-	-	\$ 2,249,018	4	4.53	Y	Y	S	ORS 633	-	Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
30	12	ODA	Hemp Program	The Hemp Program oversees the inspection and licensing of industrial hemp production in Oregon. It ensures that hemp producers comply with state regulations and standards, supporting the growth of a safe and sustainable hemp industry. The program plays a crucial role in fostering the development of hemp as a valuable agricultural commodity.	603-13	6	-	-	5,193,047	-	-	\$ 5,193,047	12	12.00	Y	Y	S	ORS 571	-	Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL. Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.
31	12	ODA	Commodity Commission Oversight	The Commodity Commission Oversight Program provides administrative oversight for Oregon's agricultural commodity commissions. This program ensures that commodity commissions operate effectively and in compliance with state regulations, supporting the development and promotion of various agricultural commodities in Oregon.	603-11, 13	4	-	-	756,079	-	-	\$ 756,079	1	1.50	N	N	S	ORS 576, 577, 578	-	-
32	13	ODA	Invasive Species Council (OISC)	The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) coordinates efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Oregon. The council works to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species through comprehensive and collaborative strategies. It engages with stakeholders across the state to protect Oregon's ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from the threats posed by invasive species.	603-3, 4, 13	9	-	189,107	214,544	-	546,576	\$ 950,227	-	-	Y	Y	S	ORS 570	-	Pkg 070 - Balances Lottery Funds expenditures with available resources. Pkg 462 - Records revenue and limitation related to transient lodging taxes.

Priority (ranked with highest priority first)	Agency	Program or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	Identify Key Performance Measure(s)	Primary Purpose Program- Activity Code	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL- FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	New or Enhanced Program (Y/N)	Included as Reductio n Option (Y/N)	Legal Req. Code (C, D, FM, FO, S)	Legal Citation	Explain What is Mandatory (for C, FM, and FO Only)	Comments on Proposed Changes to CSL included in Agency Request Budget	
33	14	ODA	Nursery Research Program	The Nursery Research Program provides grants for nursery-related research through funds collected from the nursery research assessment. These grants support studies aimed at improving the health, productivity, and sustainability of Oregon's nursery industry. The program fosters innovation and scientific advancements to address challenges and opportunities within the nursery sector.	603-13	6	-	-	516,115	-	-	-	\$ 516,115	-	-	N	N	S	ORS 571	-	
34	15	ODA	Pesticide Analytical Response Center (PARC)	The Pesticide Analytical Response Center (PARC) coordinates Oregon's response to pesticide-related incidents that may affect human, animal, or environmental health. PARC collaborates with multiple state agencies to conduct investigations and enforce regulatory actions when necessary. The center aims to mitigate the impacts of pesticide incidents and enhance public safety through timely and effective responses.	603-6, 13	10	-	-	1,034,068	-	-	-	\$ 1,034,068	1	1.00	N	N	S	ORS 634	-	
35	16	ODA	Pesticide Stewardship Partnership (PSP)	The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership identifies potential concerns related to pesticide use and works to improve water quality affected by pesticides across Oregon. By collaborating with local stakeholders, the partnership promotes education and outreach for use of best management practices and provides resources to mitigate the environmental impacts of pesticide use, supporting the health of Oregon's watersheds.	603-12a, 12b, 12c, 13	9	1,374,886	-	1,374,889	-	-	-	\$ 2,749,775	1	1.00	Y	Y	-	ORS 561, 568, 634	-	Pkg 310 - Interagency alignment of the Pesticide Stewardship Partnership between ODA and DEQ.
36	17	ODA	Apiary Program	The Apiary Program manages the registration of apiaries in Oregon. While it does not have expenditure limitations, it facilitates the collection of registration fees, which are passed through to Oregon State University (OSU) to support honey bee health research. The program plays a vital role in promoting the well-being of honey bee populations, which are crucial for pollination and agricultural productivity.	603-13	6	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	-	-	Y	N	S	ORS 602	-	Pkg 466 - Records fee revenue related to fee modernization legislative concept.	
37	13	ODA	Predator Control Program	The Predator Control Program is a cooperative effort with USDA Wildlife Services and Oregon counties to reduce losses to agricultural producers caused by predatory animals. The program implements various strategies to manage predation, supporting the sustainability and economic viability of Oregon's agricultural producers.	603-13	9	572,397	-	-	-	-	-	\$ 572,397	-	-	N	Y	S	ORS 610	-	
38	14	ODA	Grants: Wolf Assistance	The Wolf Financial Assistance and Grants Program provides block grants to counties to support the implementation of wolf depredation compensation programs. These grants help mitigate the economic impact of wolf predation on livestock producers, promoting coexistence between wildlife and agricultural activities.	603-13	6	259,577	-	-	-	223,774	-	\$ 483,351	-	-	Y	Y	FO, S	ORS 610	FO - Distribute direct compensation for losses and/or prevention. Reporting to Federal Gov regarding program activities.	Pkg 430 - Establishes agency grant coordinator. Pkg 462 - Records revenue and limitation related to transient lodging taxes.
N/A	N/A	ODA	Grants	The Grant Programs structure is a newly established agency framework designed to support potential future activities. This structure aims to provide funding opportunities for various agricultural projects and initiatives, fostering innovation and development within Oregon's agricultural sector.	N/A	6	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	-	-	N	N	-	-	-		

Priority (ranked with highest priority first)	Agency	Program or Activity Initials	Program Unit/Activity Description	Identify Key Performance Measure(s)	Primary Purpose Program Activity Code	GF	LF	OF	NL-OF	FF	NL- FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	New or Enhanced Program (Y/N)	Included as Reductio n Option (Y/N)	Legal Req. Code (C, D, FM, FO, S)	Legal Citation	Explain What is Mandatory (for C, FM, and FO Only)	Comments on Proposed Changes to CSL included in Agency Request Budget
N/A	N/A	ODA	Admin and Support Services	This program unit provides administrative support services to department programs including leadership, policy development, interagency coordination, collaboration with agricultural industries, information systems, accounting, payroll, budgeting, procurement, human resources, public affairs, and staff support for Board of Agriculture.	603-13	4	3,840,540	-	16,667,102	-	-	\$ 20,507,642	44	44.00	Y	Y	—	ORS 561	-	Pkg 410 - Implements an intra-agency transfer to support cross program work in the General Inspectors Program. Pkg 462 - Records revenue and limitation related to transient lodging taxes. Pkg 463 - Align agency position classifications and SCR location to match program delivery requirements, abolishes/establishes positions within CSL.
N/A	N/A	ODA	Agency Modernization	Investment efforts to advance core elements of ODA's Strategic Plan and mission by unifying fragmented data sets, servers, and business applications to deploy modern solutions and systems to improve operational efficiencies and customer service.	603-13	4	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	-	-	Y	N	—	-	-	Pkg 461 - Carryforward unspent Project OneODA costs.
N/A	N/A	ODA	Bond Cost of Issuance	Bond cost of issuance related to XI-Q Bonds to support Agency Strategic Modernization	N/A	4	-	-	-	-	-	\$ -	-	-	N	N	—	-	-	
N/A	N/A	ODA	Debt Service	Debt Service to support Agency Strategic Modernization	N/A	4	2,668,110	-	-	-	-	\$ 2,668,110	-	-	N	N	D	-	-	
							47,764,101	10,822,049	109,009,819	-	21,612,646	-	\$ 189,208,615	473	387.89					

7. Primary Purpose Program/Activity Exists

- 1 Civil Justice
- 2 Community Development
- 3 Consumer Protection
- 4 Administrative Function
- 5 Criminal Justice
- 6 Economic Development
- 7 Education & Skill Development
- 8 Emergency Services
- 9 Environmental Protection
- 10 Public Health
- 11 Recreation, Heritage, or Cultural
- 12 Social Support

19. Legal Requirement Code

- C Constitutional
- D Debt Service
- FM Federal - Mandatory
- FO Federal - Optional (once you choose to participate, certain requirements exist)
- S Statutory

Prioritize each program activity for the Agency as a whole

Document criteria used to prioritize activities:

Programs are prioritized based on the following principles: impacts on public health, potential economic development, environmental protections, agency's core mission, and other ways of meeting the requirements of the agency.

Source: 2027-29 Current Service Level

10% Reduction Options (ORS 291.216)

Agriculture (ODA) 2027-29 Biennium

Activity or Program	Describe Reduction	Amount and Fund Type							Rank and Justification
(WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN)	(DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2023-25 AND 2025-27)	GF	LF	OF	FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Ranking follows ODA prioritized list of programs and begins at the lowest ranked programs and moves up the list until funding targets have been met.
First 5% Reduction - General Fund									
Pesticide Stewardship Partnership/The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership identifies potential concerns related to pesticide use and works to improve water quality affected by pesticides across Oregon. By collaborating with local stakeholders, the partnership promotes education and outreach for use of best management practices and provides resources to mitigate the environmental impacts of pesticide use, supporting the health of Oregon's watersheds.	Elimination of the Special Payment of PSP program to DEQ. Water quality work and programs at both ODA and DEQ would continue, but this funding supported DEQ Water Quality Lab positions. Instead of passthrough, DEQ is proposing an offsetting package to move the General Fund directly to that agency.	(909,798)		(909,800)		(1,819,598)	-	-	1
Predator Control/The Predator Control Program is a cooperative effort with USDA Wildlife Services and Oregon counties to reduce losses to agricultural producers caused by predatory animals. The program implements various strategies to manage predation, supporting the sustainability and economic viability of Oregon's agricultural producers.	Eliminates pass through funding. Elimination of General Fund budget for the USDA Wildlife Services Predator Control Program will result in less predator control activities provided to the counties. If services are needed the counties or landowners would need to make up the difference as a result of the loss of state funding from ODA to APHIS.	(572,397)				(572,397)	-	-	2
Agricultural economic development programs support the ODA's mission to promote economic development within Oregon's agricultural sector. This program identifies and creates market opportunities for Oregon's food and agricultural products both domestically and internationally. Additionally, the Farm to School initiative leverages public and private resources to increase the availability of locally grown and processed foods in Oregon schools, fostering healthy eating habits among children and supporting local agricultural producers.	Eliminate Farm to School Equipment grant funding. The Farm to School Equipment Grant Program funds infrastructure improvements to farms and value-added food businesses to support their ability to supply fresh, locally-grown produce to students in their district. Eliminating this funding will decrease economic opportunities for Oregon producers who supply their product to schools, potentially impacting their income and sustainability.	(546,529)				(546,529)	-	-	3
Multiple programs across the agency. Predominant General Fund impact in State Meat Inspection Program/The State Meat Inspection Program provides essential services to local meat processors by ensuring their operations meet USDA-equivalent standards. This program supports Oregon's agricultural economy by enabling local producers to access markets with high-quality, inspected meat products. By maintaining stringent inspection protocols, the program enhances consumer trust and promotes the availability of safe, locally produced meat, contributing to the resilience and sustainability of the local food system.	Position funding changes from Pkg 463. Position reclasses supported by classification and compensation review.	(200,217)				(200,217)	-	-	4
	First reduction subtotal:	(2,228,941)	-	-	-	(1,319,143)	-	-	
	Target:	(2,254,800)							
	Difference:	(25,859)							

Agriculture (ODA) 2027-29 Biennium

Activity or Program	Describe Reduction	Amount and Fund Type							Rank and Justification
(WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN)	(DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2023-25 AND 2025-27)	GF	LF	OF	FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Ranking follows ODA prioritized list of programs and begins at the lowest ranked programs and moves up the list until funding targets have been met.
Second 5% Reduction - General Fund - 10%									
Multiple programs across the agency. Including Administration, Food Safety, and IPPM Programs.	Hold positions vacant to achieve vacancy savings in Adminstration, Food Safety, and IPPM. This will slow inspections, and internal compliance with enterprise objectives.	(249,874)				(249,874)	-	-	5
Laboratory Services/Provides chemical and microbiological analysis for ODA in areas such as food, dairy, meat products, shellfish, foliage, soil, fertilizer, pesticides, and water quality. The lab ensures legally defensible compliance with state and federal regulations, enabling Oregon's agricultural products to enter interstate and international markets, thus enhancing economic competitiveness.	Hold position vacant to achieve vacancy savings in the Regulatory Lab. This will slow the processing and testing of laboratory samples.	(137,838)		(82,510)		(220,348)	-	-	6
Agriculture Water Quality/The Agricultural Water Quality Program is responsible for developing and implementing rules and plans to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities and soil erosion on rural lands. The program ensures that farmers and ranchers comply with state water quality standards and meet pollutant load allocations as mandated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) under the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) framework. This program supports sustainable agricultural practices and the protection of Oregon's water resources.	This would eliminate all grant funding support for water quality improvements. This will limit ODA's ability to fund on-the-ground projects addressing agricultural water quality issues across the state, potentially leading to increased pollution and degradation of water resources. This can have serious consequences for the environment, public health, and compliance with state and federal water quality regulations. Farmers may face increased scrutiny and potential penalties if water quality standards are not met, affecting their operations and financial stability.	(681,850)				(681,850)	-	-	7
Wolf Financial Assistance & Grants/The Wolf Financial Assistance and Grants Program provides block grants to counties to support the implementation of wolf depredation compensation programs. These grants help mitigate the economic impact of wolf predation on livestock producers, promoting coexistence between wildlife and agricultural activities.	The elimination of General Fund in ODA's Wolf Grant Program would reduce the agency's ability to provide county wolf programs the funding to compensate those who experience a loss or injury to livestock or working dogs related to wolf depredation or provide financial assistance to implement nonlethal wolf deterrent techniques. This grant program is a critical part of the Oregon Wolf Plan.	(259,577)				(259,577)	-	-	8
Animal Health Lab/The Animal Health Laboratory helps state and federal veterinarians monitor the health status of production animals that are in Oregon, including when they move into, or out of, the state or country. The laboratory provides testing and referral services for veterinarians whose clients require specialized testing not normally available in routine diagnostic laboratories.	Reduces Laboratory Services microbiological capacity by eliminating some non-regulatory Animal Health testing services for veterinarians and the livestock industry. Two of the three positions filled. Any remaining work would be completed by remaining microbiological lab personnel.	(1,096,724)		(659,349)		(1,756,073)	(3)	(2.83)	9
	Second reduction subtotal:	(2,425,863)	-	(741,859)	-	(3,167,722)	(3)	(2.83)	
	Target:	(2,254,800)							
	Difference	171,063							
	Grand total 10% reductions	(4,654,804)	-	(741,859)	-	(4,486,865)	(3)	(2.83)	

General Fund Target (4,509,600)
Difference 145,204

10% Reduction Options (ORS 291.216)

Agriculture (ODA) 2027-29 Biennium

Activity or Program	Describe Reduction	Amount and Fund Type							Rank and Justification
(WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN)	(DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2023-25 AND 2025-27)	GF	LF	OF	FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Ranking follows ODA prioritized list of programs and begins at the lowest ranked programs and moves up the list until funding targets have been met.
First 5% Reduction - Lottery Funds									
Multiple programs across the agency. Including Weed Control and IPPM Programs.	Position funding changes from Pkg 463. Position reclasses supported by classification and compensation review.		(14,317)				-	-	1
Oregon Invasive Species Council/The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) coordinates efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Oregon. The council works to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species through comprehensive and collaborative strategies. It engages with stakeholders across the state to protect Oregon's ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from the threats posed by invasive species.	Reduces Lottery Funds support for the OISC, shifting to Other and Federal Funds for grant support using Transient Lodging Tax dollars.		(189,107)				-	-	2
Agriculture Water Quality/The Agricultural Water Quality Program is responsible for developing and implementing rules and plans to prevent and control water pollution from agricultural activities and soil erosion on rural lands. The program ensures that farmers and ranchers comply with state water quality standards and meet pollutant load allocations as mandated by the Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) under the Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) framework. This program supports sustainable agricultural practices and the protection of Oregon's water resources.	Abolish the Water Quality Compliance and Planning Lead position. The Agriculture Water Quality Program is essential for improving and ensuring the quality of Oregon's water resources. Eliminating the Water Quality Compliance and Planning Lead position will significantly reduce the program's ability to manage, participate in, and respond to statewide water quality and quantity policy challenges, including the Governor's water initiatives. This reduction will lead to an increased workload for remaining staff, resulting in slower response times and diminished capacity to address compliance efforts effectively. Position currently vacant.		(314,623)			(314,623)	(1)	(1.00)	3
	First reduction subtotal:	-	(518,047)	-	-	(314,623)	(1)	(1.00)	
	Target:		(475,288)						
	Difference		42,759						

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Activity or Program	Describe Reduction	Amount and Fund Type							Rank and Justification
(WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN)	(DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2023-25 AND 2025-27)	GF	LF	OF	FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Ranking follows ODA prioritized list of programs and begins at the lowest ranked programs and moves up the list until funding targets have been met.
Second 5% Reduction - Lottery Funds - 10%									
Soil and Water Conservation Districts/The Soil and Water Conservation Districts Program provides administrative oversight, operational, elections support to Oregon's 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. SWCDs collaborate with landowners, residents, natural resource organizations, and government agencies to conserve natural resources, control soil erosion, enhance water quality, preserve wildlife habitats, and promote sustainable land use practices. This program fosters community-driven conservation efforts to maintain healthy and productive landscapes.	Eliminate two of the three positions 12 months into biennium. This will significantly curtail the ability for oversight and support of 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts. This support includes trainings, technical assistance, and guidance related to adherence to laws governing public bodies.		(602,876)			(602,876)	-	(1.00)	4
Second reduction subtotal:		-	(602,876)	-	-	(602,876)	-	(1.00)	
Target:			(475,288)						
Difference:			127,588						
Grand total 10% reductions		-	(1,120,923)	-	-	(917,499)	(1)	(2.00)	

Lottery Funds 10% Target

Difference

(950,576)

170,347

10% Reduction Options (ORS 291.216)

Agriculture (ODA) 2027-29 Biennium

Activity or Program	Describe Reduction	Amount and Fund Type							Rank and Justification
(WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN)	(DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2023-25 AND 2025-27)	GF	LF	OF	FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Ranking follows ODA prioritized list of programs and begins at the lowest ranked programs and moves up the list until funding targets have been met.
First 5% Reduction - Other Funds									
Pesticide Stewardship Partnership/The Pesticide Stewardship Partnership identifies potential concerns related to pesticide use and works to improve water quality affected by pesticides across Oregon. By collaborating with local stakeholders, the partnership promotes education and outreach for use of best management practices and provides resources to mitigate the environmental impacts of pesticide use, supporting the health of Oregon's watersheds.	Elimination of the Special Payment of PSP program to DEQ. Water quality work and programs at both ODA and DEQ would continue, but this funding supported DEQ Water Quality Lab positions. Instead of passthrough, DEQ is proposing an offsetting package to move the General Fund directly to that agency.	(909,798)		(909,800)		(1,819,598)	-	-	1
Multiple programs across the agency. Including Administration, Food Safety, Animal Health, Animal Health Laboratory, Christmas Tree, Weed Control, Nursery, and Native Plant, Hemp, and Certifications Programs.	Position funding changes from Pkg 463. Position reclasses supported by classification and compensation review.			(1,000,887)		(1,000,887)	(3)	(2.33)	2
Shipping Point Inspection/The Shipping Point Inspection Program provides inspection and certification services for a wide range of fruits, vegetables, and nut crops, ensuring they meet quality standards for both export and domestic markets. The program includes the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Program, which focuses on enhancing the safety of fresh produce through rigorous inspection and compliance with federal food safety standards.	Reduce Shipping Point Personal Services to remove Temporary Appointments and Social Security Taxes. This would reduce ODA's ability to hire temporary positions as market or harvest conditions require.			(467,773)		(467,773)	-	-	3
Shipping Point Inspection/The Shipping Point Inspection Program provides inspection and certification services for a wide range of fruits, vegetables, and nut crops, ensuring they meet quality standards for both export and domestic markets. The program includes the Food Safety Modernization Act (FSMA) Produce Safety Program, which focuses on enhancing the safety of fresh produce through rigorous inspection and compliance with federal food safety standards.	Reduce Shipping Point Services and Supplies.			(46,227)		(46,227)	-	-	4
Certifications/The certification and audit services program provides voluntary market access certification and validation for processes and attributes of fresh and processed agricultural products. Programs include National Organic Program certification, Global Food Safety Initiative audits, USDA GAP/GHP Audit Verification Program, and other private and industry driven standards verification and third-party audit services.	Hold Certifications Manager position vacant to achieve vacancy savings. Current revenues do not support the hiring of this position. This work will continue to be met by managers assigned to other areas within ODA as time and resources allow.			(299,835)		(299,835)	-	-	5
Certifications/The certification and audit services program provides voluntary market access certification and validation for processes and attributes of fresh and processed agricultural products. Programs include National Organic Program certification, Global Food Safety Initiative audits, USDA GAP/GHP Audit Verification Program, and other private and industry driven standards verification and third-party audit services.	Eliminate vacant Certifications NRS1 position. Current revenues do not support the hiring of this position.			(238,569)		(238,569)	(1)	(1.00)	6

Agriculture (ODA) 2027-29 Biennium

Activity or Program	Describe Reduction	Amount and Fund Type							Rank and Justification
(WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN)	(DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2023-25 AND 2025-27)	GF	LF	OF	FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Ranking follows ODA prioritized list of programs and begins at the lowest ranked programs and moves up the list until funding targets have been met.
Multiple programs across the agency. Including Pesticides, Oregon Invasive Species Council, Laboratory Services, Nursery, and Christmas Tree Programs.	Reduce Services and Supplies across Pesticides, Oregon Invasive Species Council, Lab Services, Nursery, and Christmas Tree. Totals for each come to \$224,477 - Pesticides, \$166,333 - OISC, \$156,300 - Lab Services, \$127,567 - Nursery, \$55,904 - Christmas Tree			(730,581)		(730,581)	-	-	7
Multiple programs across the agency. Including Pesticides, Fertilizer, Christmas Tree, and Nursery Programs.	Reduce Capital Outlay in Pesticides, Fertilizers, Christmas Tree, and Nursery. Totals for each come to Pesticides is \$235,476, Fertilizers is \$8,636, Christmas Tree is \$4,158, and Nursery is \$25,541			(273,811)		(273,811)	-	-	8
Livestock ID/The Livestock ID Program ensures the proper ownership of livestock through brand registration and inspection. By denying stolen livestock access to the marketplace, this program supports the economic production of livestock and protects legitimate livestock owners. The program is vital for maintaining the integrity of Oregon's livestock industry and preventing theft and fraud.	Eliminate eight vacant Brand Inspector positions. This reduces geographic availability of brands inspectors in Oregon and often would leave just one part-time position covering a large area, increasing travel time and limiting available staff to inspect cattle.			(117,906)		(117,906)	(8)	(0.60)	9
Hemp Program/The Hemp Program oversees the inspection and licensing of industrial hemp production in Oregon. It ensures that hemp producers comply with state regulations and standards, supporting the growth of a safe and sustainable hemp industry. The program plays a crucial role in fostering the development of hemp as a valuable agricultural commodity.	Eliminate two vacant Hemp positions. These positions have not been filled since their creation. Additional workload would be present for the remaining staff, limiting their availability. Current revenue projections do not support the hiring of these positions.			(555,056)		(555,056)	(2)	(2.00)	10
Multiple programs across the agency. Including Food Safety and Weights and Measures Programs.	Vacancy Savings. Hold Food Safety Manager, Food Safety Inspector, and Compliance Specialist 2 in Weights and Measures vacant for the remainder of the biennium.			(661,198)		(661,198)	-	-	11
The Weights and Measures Program ensures fairness and accuracy in commercial transactions involving weighing and measuring devices. This program licenses, inspects, and certifies devices such as grocery store scales, gas pumps, and industrial meters, ensuring they provide accurate measurements. By maintaining uniform standards and offering precision calibration services, the program protects consumers, promotes fair competition, and enhances the economic vitality of Oregon's marketplace.	Hold vacant one of two Weights and Measures Field Staff Manager positions. This would increase workload on the program director and remaining field manager.			(300,530)		(300,530)	-	-	12
	First reduction subtotal:	(909,798)	-	(5,602,173)	-	(6,511,971)	(14)	(5.93)	
	Target:			(5,294,826)					
	Difference:	909,798		307,347					

Agriculture (ODA) 2027-29 Biennium

Activity or Program	Describe Reduction	Amount and Fund Type							Rank and Justification
(WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN)	(DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2023-25 AND 2025-27)	GF	LF	OF	FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Ranking follows ODA prioritized list of programs and begins at the lowest ranked programs and moves up the list until funding targets have been met.
Second 5% Reduction - Other Funds - 10%									
Admin and Support Services/This program unit provides administrative support services to department programs including leadership, policy development, interagency coordination, collaboration with agricultural industries, information systems, accounting, payroll, budgeting, procurement, human resources, public affairs, and staff support for Board of Agriculture.	Hold vacant Board Support position. This would require work duties to be split among other staff members, reducing their availability especially immediately preceeding ODA Board Meetings.			(210,647)		(210,647)	-	-	13
The Shipping Point Inspection Program provides inspection and certification services for a wide range of fruits, vegetables, and nut crops, ensuring they meet quality standards for both export and domestic markets.	Holds vacant Shipping Point Program manager position. This position oversees the Shipping Point program statewide. Currently the Division Director is fulfilling those duties, reducing availability for support of other programs within the Division.			(401,354)		(401,354)	-	-	14
Livestock ID/The Livestock ID Program ensures the proper ownership of livestock through brand registration and inspection. By denying stolen livestock access to the marketplace, this program supports the economic production of livestock and protects legitimate livestock owners. The program is vital for maintaining the integrity of Oregon's livestock industry and preventing theft and fraud.	Hold vacant Livestock ID/Brands Program Manager vacant. This position oversees the Livestock ID/Brands program statewide. Currently, the Division Director is fulfilling those duties, reducing availability for support of other programs within the Division.			(338,357)		(338,357)	-	-	15
Laboratory Services/Provides chemical and microbiological analysis for ODA in areas such as food, dairy, meat products, shellfish, foliage, soil, fertilizer, and pesticides. The lab ensures legally defensible compliance with state and federal regulations and assist the agricultural industry in enhancing economic competitiveness.	Hold position vacant to achieve vacancy savings in the Regulatory Lab. This will slow the processing and testing of laboratory samples.	(137,838)		(82,510)		(220,348)	-	-	16
Animal Health Lab/The Animal Health Laboratory helps state and federal veterinarians monitor the health status of production animals that are in Oregon, including when they move into, or out of, the state or country. The laboratory provides testing and referral services for veterinarians whose clients require specialized testing not normally available in routine diagnostic laboratories.	Reduces Laboratory Services microbiological capacity by eliminating some non-regulatory Animal Health testing services for veterinarians and the livestock industry. Two of the three positions filled. Any remaining work would be completed by remaining microbiological lab personnel.			(463,214)		(463,214)	(2)	(2.00)	17
Laboratory Services/Provides chemical and microbiological analysis for ODA in areas such as food, dairy, meat products, shellfish, foliage, soil, fertilizer, and pesticides. The lab ensures legally defensible compliance with state and federal regulations and assist the agricultural industry in enhancing economic competitiveness.	Reduce three analytical chemistry positions in the Laboratory Services program. These positions currently support adherence to food safety, pesticide, and fertilizer standards. These services support analysis of food chemistry, pesticide residue, fertilizer chemistries, and possible request for analyses. Eliminating these positions would slow the processing of laboratory samples.			(904,820)		(904,820)	(3)	(3.00)	18

Agriculture (ODA) 2027-29 Biennium

Activity or Program	Describe Reduction	Amount and Fund Type							Rank and Justification
(WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN)	(DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2023-25 AND 2025-27)	GF	LF	OF	FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Ranking follows ODA prioritized list of programs and begins at the lowest ranked programs and moves up the list until funding targets have been met.
Certifications/The certification and audit services program provides voluntary market access certification and validation for processes and attributes of fresh and processed agricultural products. Programs include National Organic Program certification, Global Food Safety Initiative audits, USDA GAP/GHP Audit Verification Program, and other private and industry driven standards verification and third-party audit services.	Eliminate Organic Certification Program. This includes two NRS 2s, one Shipping Point Inspector 2 and one Assistant Manager. ODA is a USDA-accredited certifying agent for organic crop production and organic handling/processing. This means that ODA's Organic Program staff ensure the National Organic Program (NOP) regulations are being met locally for the Crop and Handler scopes.			(1,063,645)		(1,063,645)	(2)	(4.11)	19
Livestock ID/The Livestock ID Program ensures the proper ownership of livestock through brand registration and inspection. By denying stolen livestock access to the marketplace, this program supports the economic production of livestock and protects legitimate livestock owners. The program is vital for maintaining the integrity of Oregon's livestock industry and preventing theft and fraud.	Eliminate most of program, leaves three Brand Supervisors, one full-time Brand Inspector, one Brand Recorder and 0.5 FTE administrative support to coordinate and provide oversight of brand registrations, alternative inspections and sale yards. This would severely curtail the sale and movement across state lines of cattle and other brand inspected animals limited to changes at sale yards and staff availability.			(1,974,139)		(1,974,139)	(54)	(5.64)	20
	Second reduction subtotal:	(137,838)	-	(5,438,686)	-	(5,576,524)	(61)	(14.75)	
	Target:			(5,294,826)					
	Difference			143,860					
	Grand total 10% reductions	(1,047,636)	-	(11,040,859)	-	(12,088,495)	(75)	(20.68)	

Other Funds Target

Difference

(10,589,652)

451,207

10% Reduction Options (ORS 291.216)

Agriculture (ODA) 2027-29 Biennium

Activity or Program	Describe Reduction	Amount and Fund Type							Rank and Justification
		GF	LF	OF	FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	
(WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN)	(DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2023-25 AND 2025-27)								Ranking follows ODA prioritized list of programs and begins at the lowest ranked programs and moves up the list until funding targets have been met.
First 5% Reduction - Federal Funds									
Laboratory Services/Provides chemical and microbiological analysis for ODA in areas such as food, dairy, meat products, shellfish, foliage, soil, fertilizer, and pesticides. The lab ensures legally defensible compliance with state and federal regulations and assist the agricultural industry in enhancing economic competitiveness.	Reduce Lab Temporary Appointments and related Services and Supplies. This would eliminate the ability to hire temporary staff in the Lab. This resource has not been used in several biennia.				(720,070)	(720,070)	-	-	1
Oregon Invasive Species Council/The Oregon Invasive Species Council (OISC) coordinates efforts to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species in Oregon. The council works to eliminate, reduce, or mitigate the impacts of invasive species through comprehensive and collaborative strategies. It engages with stakeholders across the state to protect Oregon's ecosystems, agriculture, and economy from the threats posed by invasive species.	Reduce Oregon Invasive Species Council Services federal funds limitation. There is federal limitation in this program that has not been used during the 25-27 biennium and we have no known opportunity for significant additional federal revenue. If that changes, ODA will return to the Legislature for limitation.				(518,095)	(518,095)	-	-	2
	First reduction subtotal:	-	-	-	(1,238,165)	(1,238,165)	-	-	
	Target:				(1,080,633)				
	Difference:				157,532				
Second 5% Reduction - Federal Funds - 10%									
Pesticides Program/The Pesticides Program administers state and federal regulations governing the distribution, use, and application of pesticide products in Oregon. The program ensures that pesticides are used safely and effectively, protecting human health, agricultural productivity, and environmental quality. Through licensing, compliance monitoring, and education, the program promotes responsible pesticide management practices.	Reduce Pesticide Temp Appointment and related S&S. This would eliminate the ability to hire temporary staff in the Pesticide program.				(153,970)	(153,970)	-	-	3
Insect Pest Prevention and Management/The Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program focuses on the detection, survey, and eradication of harmful invasive plant pests such as the Spotted Lanternfly and Emerald Ash Borer. This program also addresses emerging pest threats and conducts surveys to monitor destructive native species like grasshoppers. The aim is to protect Oregon's agricultural and natural resources from significant pest-related damages, ensuring the health and productivity of the state's ecosystems and agricultural economy.	Reduce IPPM Temp Appointments. This would reduce most of the ability to hire temporary staff. IPPM has used federal funding in the past to hire temporary staff.				(250,803)	(250,803)	-	-	4

Agriculture (ODA) 2027-29 Biennium

Activity or Program	Describe Reduction	Amount and Fund Type							Rank and Justification
(WHICH PROGRAM OR ACTIVITY WILL NOT BE UNDERTAKEN)	(DESCRIBE THE EFFECTS OF THIS REDUCTION. IDENTIFY REVENUE SOURCE FOR OF, FF. INCLUDE POSITIONS AND FTE FOR 2023-25 AND 2025-27)	GF	LF	OF	FF	TOTAL FUNDS	Pos.	FTE	Ranking follows ODA prioritized list of programs and begins at the lowest ranked programs and moves up the list until funding targets have been met.
Agriculture Development & Marketing/The Agriculture Development and Marketing Projects support the ODA’s mission to promote economic development within Oregon’s agricultural sector. This program identifies and creates marketing opportunities for Oregon’s food and agricultural products both domestically and internationally. Key initiatives include the Specialty Crop Block Grants and Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure Grants, which provide critical funding to enhance the competitiveness and sustainability of specialty crops. Additionally, the Farm to School initiative leverages public and private resources to increase the availability of locally grown and processed foods in Oregon schools, fostering healthy eating habits among children and supporting local farmers.	Reduce Specialty Crop Block Grant (SCBG) limitation. This is dependent on matching SCBG revenues and limitation. Federal revenues for this grant for the 27-29 biennium are currently unknown.				(452,086)	(452,086)	-	-	5
Grants: Wolf Assistance/The Wolf Financial Assistance and Grants Program provides block grants to counties to support the implementation of wolf depredation compensation programs. These grants help mitigate the economic impact of wolf predation on livestock producers, promoting coexistence between wildlife and agricultural activities.	Reduce Wolf Depredation Special Payment. This is dependent on matching Wolf Grant revenues and limitation. Federal revenues for this grant for the 27-29 biennium are currently unknown.				(223,774)	(223,774)	-	-	6
	Second reduction subtotal:	-	-	-	(1,080,633)	(1,080,633)	-	-	
	Target:	-	-	-	(1,080,633)				
	Difference:	-	-	-	-				
	Grand total 10% reductions	-	-	-	(2,318,798)	(2,318,798)	-	-	

Federal Funds Target

(2,161,266)

Difference

157,532



2027 ODA Agency LC Request List

Why we're here. Oregon's agricultural economy generates more than \$5.4 billion annually at the farm gate and supports communities in every county. Every concept in this package either removes a barrier that no longer makes sense, creates a pathway that should already exist, or gives the people doing the work the tools to do it better.

Taken together, these seven concepts reflect an agency focused on three commitments: deliver essential services reliably, use public resources carefully, and build the operational infrastructure Oregon's agricultural economy needs to stay competitive and resilient. Most carry no fiscal impact, and where a concept touches fees, it sets them to recover the cost of the service, not to expand the agency. The department's mission, *Protect. Promote. Prosper.* is the organizing principle for every concept in this package.

(For Discussion Purposes Only)

NUMBER	TITLE	DESCRIPTION
603-01	Fee and Service Modernization	Establishes a unified fee and service framework in ORS 561 to keep fee-funded programs solvent without sudden, large fee corrections. Publishes one consolidated fee schedule; authorizes cost-of-service recovery for specific services (set to recover, not exceed, cost); and indexes fees biennially to CPI, approved through the normal budget process. Adds electronic service delivery and flexible license terms, supporting ODA's OneODA modernization initiative and reducing per-licensee administrative cost. Indexing holds each fee at the value the Legislature already intended, the approach already used by agencies and programs. Amends ORS 561 and operates across approximately 17 ORS chapters.
603-02	Soil and Water Conservation District Elections	Transfers administration of SWCD director elections from ODA to county elections officers, the professionals who already run elections for more than 30 other special-district types under ORS Chapter 255. Inverts the supremacy clause in ORS 568.520 so Chapter 255 governs the process, while preserving every SB 775 candidacy qualification, including the urban-rural framework, in ORS 568.560. Adds candidate self-certification under penalty of perjury with a county-clerk safe harbor; a structured eligibility-challenge process with a default-eligible rule (a referred challenge ODA does not resolve within 10 business days deems the candidate eligible); and a low-cost filing-fee option alongside the petition path. Frees conservation staff for the program's mission. No cost shift to districts; first applies to the 2028 cycle. Amends ORS 568 and 254.
603-03	Pesticide Control Modernization	Makes a focused set of operational corrections to ORS 634 so pesticide licensing and enforcement match current technology and federal standards, with no change to the registration fee. Creates an inactive license status during job transitions (preserving a worker's license and continuing-education investment while suspending restricted-use purchasing); extends the intentional label-violation prohibition to any person, matching FIFRA; defines "jurisdiction" for the public-entity

		exemption; brings antimicrobial products into the pesticide definition; recognizes the FAA remote pilot certificate for drone application alongside the manned-aircraft certificate; standardizes equipment terminology; replaces an unworkable financial-responsibility option with a narrow utility self-insurance path; adds insurance attestation with inspection-based verification; adds general registration-refusal authority; and requires a U.S. mailing address and agent for registrants. ODA is also consulting federally recognized Tribes on a licensing-options gap for work solely on Tribal lands. Amends ORS 634.
603-04	Commercial Feed and Fertilizer Modernization	Part A aligns Oregon’s commercial feed law with the 2026 AAFCO Model Bill through a section-by-section modernization of ORS 633.006 to 633.089: updated definitions, labeling, misbranding, adulteration, and recordkeeping; brand-level registration to cut hundreds of per-product filings; and export-certificate authority for Oregon feed manufacturers. Introduces a proportional, tonnage-based inspection fee, the national standard, set by rule and paid by the labeler, not the farmer, so smaller operations pay less. Retains the pet-food exclusion; seeks no FSMA authority. Part B completes the fertilizer framework begun in SB 833 (2025): enhanced civil penalties matching the feed program, an expanded Fertilizer Research Committee (lime and climate), a potting-mix definition and label statement, label-claim review, new mislabeling and adulteration grounds, periodic label and lab resubmission with a 60-day cure period, and a U.S. agent requirement for foreign registrants. Amends ORS 633.
603-05	Food Safety License Exemptions	Replaces the cottage food statute (ORS 616.723) with a structured Class A framework: mandatory registration with a Unique Identification Number, allergen labeling, all sales channels open (direct, retail, wholesale within Oregon), and a graduated step-up to a domestic kitchen license when a producer exceeds the \$50,000 cap, instead of a regulatory cliff. Adds a county-permitted farm-structure processing option and delegates product scope to rulemaking, so food-science-supported additions skip a legislative cycle. Creates an explicit farm-direct retailer sales channel in ORS 616.683 so grocers, co-ops, and specialty stores can stock local farm products with clear authority. Authorizes ODA to exempt low-risk retail (sealed, shelf-stable packaged food) from licensing while preserving complaint and enforcement tools. Lowers barriers for small and beginning producers. Amends ORS 616.
603-06	Livestock and Animal Health Modernization	Part A repeals and replaces ORS Chapter 604, reorganizing the brand inspection program by function and formally incorporating the contract and self-inspection programs created by SB 1019 (2025). Recognizes federally accepted livestock identification as supplemental evidence; authorizes electronic certificates; adds a \$25 flat-rate self-certification for routine pasture moves with no ownership change; requires a buyer to obtain inspection within 10 days if the seller did not; closes the chain-of-custody gap at slaughter; adds civil-penalty authority so enforcement no longer relies on criminal prosecution; removes peace-officer designations while keeping inspect-and-seize authority; retires the duplicative feedlot license; and lifts the four-state reciprocity cap. Resets fees to cost-recovery (effective October 1, 2027) while adding low-cost options for

		small operators. Part B replaces the estray provisions in ORS 607 with a streamlined three-step process, reducing ODA’s role to a brand-registry check and removing unfunded custody, sale, arbitration, and fence-determination duties. Implements the SB 1019 study; net savings on the estray side. Amends ORS 604 and 607.
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DRAFT

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 25-26

DIRECTING STATE AGENCIES TO TAKE URGENT ACTION TO PROMOTE THE RESILIENCE OF OUR COMMUNITIES AND NATURAL AND WORKING LANDS AND WATERS

WHEREAS, the lands and waters that comprise the State of Oregon have supported people since time immemorial, contributing to clean air and water, food, fiber and shelter, rich biodiversity and ecosystems, recreation, livelihoods, and enhanced quality of life; and

WHEREAS, Oregon is at an inflection point as changing climate and ocean conditions are impacting Oregon's landscapes, waters, communities, and local economies with increased temperatures, warming surface waters, changing precipitation patterns, reduced snowpack, hotter and drier summers, sea-level rise, diminishing water supplies, habitat constraints to iconic species, and more frequent and damaging wildfires and extreme weather events; and

WHEREAS, Oregon's natural and working lands and waters — including forests, grasslands, rangelands, farmlands, wetlands, rivers, lakes and coastal and marine waters, and the parks and open spaces in urban environments — provide a range of environmental, social, health, and economic benefits statewide, including opportunities to increase carbon sequestration to help address climate change; and

WHEREAS, Oregon can realize the promise and power of our natural and working lands and waters through proactive policies and actions that facilitate the management of natural landscapes and waterways in a way that enhances their ability to withstand and recover from climate change impacts; and

WHEREAS, the effects of our changing climate are resulting in direct health impacts from heat and wildfire smoke; damage to and often destruction of homes, businesses, and working landscapes; and economic losses across multiple sectors of the State's natural resource economy; and

WHEREAS, communities have the knowledge, ability, and desire to participate in climate solutions and increase local disaster resilience through collaborative planning and action in partnership with state agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Oregon State Legislature established a definition of climate resilience in House Bill 3409 (2023) as "the capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from significant climate-related threats while minimizing damage to social wellbeing, the economy and ecosystem functions"; and



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WHEREAS, meeting Oregon’s resilience goals at scale requires bringing everyone together — Tribes, landowners, communities, business, and government — in partnership to support our lands, waters, and communities; and

WHEREAS, meeting Oregon’s resilience goals requires a coordinated, outcome-focused effort to implement actions that will meaningfully mitigate and adapt the State’s lands and waters to the increasing pace and scale of impacts from the changing climate, so they continue to contribute to the social, environmental, and economic well-being of Oregonians.

**NOW IT IS HEREBY DIRECTED AND ORDERED THAT AGENCIES
SHALL FURTHER THE ACTIONS IDENTIFIED BELOW.**

I. FOSTER RESILIENT LANDS, WATERS AND COMMUNITIES

- 1. Define Key Resilience Attributes for Land and Waters.** Agencies shall use existing plans and strategies and the best available science to define key resilience attributes appropriate for Oregon with the goal of identifying characteristics of lands and water 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.
 - a.** The Executive Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (“OWEB”) will partner with the Director of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (“ODFW”) (collectively “Lead Agencies”) to lead a natural resource interagency team to undertake the work associated with development of resilience attributes anticipated by Section 1, including determining baseline conditions against which progress will be measured. The Lead Agencies shall collaborate closely with the Director of the Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE), who oversees the Natural and Working Lands Program, to ensure consistency across efforts.



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2. Keep Oregon's Working Lands and Waters Working.

- a. Executive branch agencies identified in Section II of this Order ("Agencies") are directed to utilize the resilience attributes along with other relevant information to identify and improve programs, processes, and practices that protect and promote stewardship of working lands and waters to adapt to impacts from a changing climate. These include but are not limited to the following:
 - i. Existing programs, tools and incentives that support the stewardship of working lands and waters in order to provide more diverse agricultural, forest and ocean-reliant products while also supporting co-benefits such as clean water, healthy soils and improved resilience to changing climate conditions.
 - ii. Partnerships to increase the pace and scale of adoption of sustainable stewardship and climate resilient practices by landowners including federal, local and tribal governments, businesses, non-profit organizations and private citizens.
 - iii. Application and review processes for grantmaking, loan, and financing programs to improve partner engagement on resilience projects including exploration of opportunities to leverage and expand access to capital and administrative capacity through partnership with third party service providers.
 - iv. Permitting processes for restoration projects on working lands and waters.
- b. The Department of State Lands, Department of Land and Conservation Development and Department of Fish and Wildlife, shall work with the Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council, the Oregon Ocean Science Trust and Oregon Sea Grant to evaluate opportunities to support long-term resilience of nearshore resources in Oregon, and incentivize and promote globally competitive ocean-reliant products derived through sustainable practices.

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3. Conserve Natural Lands and Waters to Act as Resilience Anchors in the Face of Climate Change Impacts.

- a. Ten Percent in Ten Years.** Agencies are directed to protect, conserve, connect or restore ten percent of lands and waters in Oregon within ten years as compared to baseline conditions established for 2025.
- b. Prioritize Key Lands and Waters.** Agencies subject to this Order will utilize resilience attributes developed in Section I (1) to prioritize implementation of programs, policies and projects seeking to advance protection, conservation, restoration, or connection of lands and waters in support of the goal of ten percent in ten years. Durability and effectiveness of actions to conserve, protect, restore, or connect lands and waters must be considered in determining whether proposed actions further this directive. Agencies shall seek to maximize implementation of actions with co-benefits such as increased carbon sequestration and biodiversity, improved community health and cultural well-being, enhanced ecosystem health, and/or reduced fire and flood risk.
- c. Develop Innovative Mitigation Solutions.** The natural resources inter-agency team established in Section II (3) of this Order shall collaborate with Business Oregon as appropriate to explore innovative mitigation tools to support the long-term protection and resilience of land and waters that contain key resilience attributes while ensuring that the economic benefits of mitigation investments support local communities. Consideration shall be given but not be limited to the following potential solutions:
 - i.** Advanced Mitigation Banks: which proactively conserve or restore ecological values in anticipation of future development impacts; and
 - ii.** In-Lieu Fee Programs: which allow project developers to meet mitigation obligations by paying into a state-managed or authorized fund used for strategic conservation, restoration, and landscape resilience projects.
 - iii.** These programs must be designed to:



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1. Maximize ecological outcomes aligned with the protection of lands and waters with key resilience attributes.
 2. Retain mitigation revenue within Oregon, ensuring that funds support in-state projects.
 3. Allow for creative mitigation portfolios that ensure “no net loss” of lands and waters with key resilience attributes while supporting “net benefit” programs and organizations that protect lands and waters from catastrophic wildfire and/or flooding.
 4. Benefit Oregon’s agricultural families and rural communities through partnerships with local landowners, land trusts, and conservation districts.
 5. Create durable and locally beneficial conservation outcomes through transparent governance, science-based site selection, and robust monitoring/accountability requirements
 6. Leverage private investment and market-based tools in ways that complement existing public funding and programs.
4. **Lead by Example: State-Owned and Managed Lands and Waters.** Agencies subject to this Executive Order that own or manage lands or waters (including, but not limited to, those identified below) are directed to develop and implement strategies to enhance climate resilience as a co-benefit of current management objectives and to ensure present and future impacts of climate change are explicitly considered in planning for the management of those lands and waters.
- i. State Parks
 - ii. State Forests, including the Elliott State Research Forest
 - iii. State Wildlife Management Areas
 - iv. State Fish Hatcheries
 - v. State-Owned Properties/Lands (including Trust lands) not principally owned, operated, or managed in support of structures, offices, or facilities serving state agency programs.
 - vi. State Held Conservation Easements and/or Leases
 - vii. State owned submerged and submersible lands and waters, including the Territorial Sea
 - viii. State-Held Water Rights



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5. Ensure a Livable Oregon.

a. Support and Enhance Local Resilience Efforts through Planning and Action in Collaboration with Communities. The Oregon State Resilience Officer shall lead an effort to create a Plan for a Resilient Oregon ("PRO") that identifies and offers funding pathways for strategies to help communities adapt and thrive in the face of increasingly severe climate risks, and to support communities in long-term recovery from climate-driven disasters. The following actions shall be taken to implement this directive:

- i. Extensive and meaningful outreach with communities shall occur in every region of the State and shall inform the development of the PRO.
- ii. Agencies participating in PRO planning and implementation efforts shall utilize existing and available staffing resources.
- iii. The PRO will integrate with existing strategies and plans, including those related to wildfire and flood protection, energy resilience, and directives of this Order.

b. Protect Oregon from Catastrophic Wildfire.

i. Implement Oregon's 20-year Landscape Resiliency Plan.

Agencies are directed to leverage partnerships and use available programs and resources to reduce the risk of wildfire and public health impacts of smoke by creating resilient natural and working landscapes. The following actions shall be taken to implement this directive:

1. Prioritize landscapes for restoration and resilience treatments and identify pathways to increase the extent and scale of treatments.
2. Maximize dedicated funding to promote partnerships through Good Neighbor Authorities to accomplish large scale landscape resilience treatments.
3. Identify pathways to increase the extent and scale of prescribed burns and cultural burning while minimizing smoke impacts to public health.



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4. Support the development and implementation of community smoke response plans. Identify additional measures for timely dissemination of air quality information and alerts during wildfire and prescribed fire events.
- ii. **Create Fire-Adapted Communities.** To safeguard lives, property, and critical infrastructure from the growing threat of wildfires, agencies are directed to support efforts to build Fire-Adapted Communities across the state. The following actions shall be taken to implement this directive:
 1. Further defensible space education and establishment across the state. Defensible space is the buffer between a building and the surrounding vegetation that slows or stops the spread of wildfire.
 2. Promote increased use of fire-resistant building materials (home hardening) and community design features to reduce structural vulnerability.
 3. Promote community risk reduction efforts through volunteer programs such as Firewise, local evacuation route planning, and partnerships to increase community survivability during urban wildfire conflagrations.

II. ACCOUNTABILITY, COORDINATION, AND IMPLEMENTATION

1. **Executive Branch Agencies Subject to this Order.** Progress on the direction and commitments of this Order will take focused and coordinated planning and execution by Oregon's natural resource agencies, each of which has its own Board or Commission. The following state agencies and their Boards or Commissions are subject to the goals and directives outlined in this Order as they may apply section by section:
 - i. Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD);
 - ii. Department of State Lands (DSL);
 - iii. Oregon Department of Parks and Recreation (OPRD);
 - iv. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ);
 - v. Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA);
 - vi. Oregon Department of Energy (ODOE);



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- vii. Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW);
 - viii. Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI);
 - ix. Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF);
 - x. Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT);
 - xi. Oregon Health Authority (OHA) Environmental Public Health;
 - xii. Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD);
 - xiii. Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB);
 - xiv. Public Utility Commission of Oregon (PUC); and
 - xv. Oregon Climate Action Commission (OCAC).
- 2. **Reporting and Accountability.** State agencies must deliver transparent, accurate reporting on public programs, maintain accountability to citizens and stakeholders, and establish clear feedback loops that enable public input and demonstrate responsive government action, using the following:
 - a. **Develop Biennial Plans.** Each agency shall develop (or incorporate into an existing planning process) a biennial plan that includes targets and metrics appropriate to the agency's intersection with this Order with the goal of focusing existing and new resources, programs, and incentives to advance the goals and actions in Sections I and II of this Order as applicable:
 - i. **Public Feedback and Oversight.** Agencies will present their biennial plans to their respective board or commission for discussion, review, and comment at a public meeting where public testimony can be received.
 - ii. **Recommendations for Governor's Recommended Budget ("GRB").** Biennial plans will be developed on a schedule and in a format to inform the development of the GRB starting with the 2029-2031 Agency Request Budget ("ARB") biennial cycle. Actions for consideration for the development of the 2027-2029 GRB will be expedited as needed.
 - iii. **Implementation Workplan.** Agencies shall immediately begin developing implementation timelines and pathways to comply with this Order. The following existing reporting requirements

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related to the goals of this Order will be assessed and consolidated to the extent practicable: the Climate Adaptation and Resilience Roadmap, Forest Climate and Carbon Plan, Connectivity Action Plan, Integrated Water Resources Strategy, Climate Adaptation Framework, Natural Climate Solutions, and others as identified.

- b. Update Key Performance Measures (“KPMs”).** Agencies will work with Department of Administrative Services to review and modify existing plans and KPMs to adjust existing goals as appropriate to integrate with and advance this Order.
 - c. Engagement with Oregon’s Nine Federally Recognized Sovereign Tribal Nations.** The State, through the Office of Governor Kotek and the State Agencies within the Natural Resources Cluster Workgroup, shall collaborate with Oregon’s nine federally recognized sovereign tribal nations to build, sustain, and enhance relationships to find common ground in support of the implementation of this Order.
- 3. Coordination and Oversight of Implementation.** The Governor’s Natural Resources Office will take a leadership role in advancing the efforts associated with this Order. It is the responsibility of each respective agency director to ensure appropriate coordination and implementation contemplated by this Order is integrated into agency programs and initiatives.
 - a. Agency Leadership Implementation Team.** A group of agency directors and senior staff will be assembled under the auspices of the Governor’s Natural Resources Cabinet. The subgroup, working at the direction of the Governor’s Office and State Agency Natural Resources Cabinet, will:
 - i.** Identify existing initiatives and programs that could benefit from increased cross-agency collaboration and develop recommendations to improve integration of climate resilience programs and actions in this Order. These recommendations will



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include both policy and budget needs related to the successful implementation of this Order.

- ii. Develop recommendations to address critical gaps or barriers (e.g., programs, administrative rules, statutory changes) to the state's implementation of this Order.
 - iii. Assess and implement as practicable a State of Oregon Climate Action and Resilience Dashboard to serve as source of information on the work of agencies on this Order.
- b. **Board & Commission Oversight Team.** A subgroup of relevant Board and Commission members will be assembled under the auspices of the Governor's Natural Resources Cabinet. The subgroup will work parallel to the Agency Leadership Team to support the implementation work of the Order.
- c. **Legislative & Public Engagement.** As requested, agencies shall provide updates and presentations on implementation work to relevant Boards, Commissions, Councils, Local Governments, Federal Agencies, and the Oregon State Legislature.

Done at Salem, Oregon, this 21st day of October, 2025.



A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tina Kotek".

Tina Kotek
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Tobias Read".

Tobias Read
SECRETARY OF STATE

ODA Connection Points to Executive Order 25-26

The Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) views Executive Order 25-26 as an opportunity to align Oregon's working lands heritage with its climate future. ODA's existing statutory authorities provide a strong foundation to advance the Order's goals, particularly in protecting the environmental, social, health, and economic benefits of the state's agricultural landscapes.

ODA has identified the following primary connection points between its programs and the directives of Executive Order 25-26:

Foster Resilient Lands (Section I.2)

- **Agricultural Water Quality Management (SB 1010):** This is Oregon's primary mechanism for ensuring that working lands contribute to water quality standards and is well positioned to support the directive to identify and improve programs that help lands adapt to the impacts of a changing climate.
- **Soil Health Nexus:** ODA's water quality and native plant work is a nexus to soil health that directly supports the order's emphasis on co-benefits such as clean water, healthy soils, and improved resilience to changing climate conditions.

Conserve Natural Lands (Section I.3)

- **Native Plant Conservation Program:** This program manages threatened and endangered plant species and may play a role in identifying and supporting "resilience anchors" that contribute to the state's "10% in 10 Years" conservation goal.

Ensure a Livable Oregon / Wildfire Protection (Section I.5)

- **Noxious Weed Control:** By managing invasive species that function as fine fuels for wildfires (for example, cheatgrass), this program contributes to resilient natural and working landscapes that reduce wildfire risk.
- **Insect Pest Prevention and Management (IPPM):** ODA's Early Detection and Rapid Response capabilities help prevent economic losses across multiple sectors by limiting the establishment and spread of climate-driven plant pest threats.

High-level priority items

ODA is exploring several concepts to operationalize Executive Order 25-26 in ways that keep working lands productive while enhancing their ability to withstand climate-related shocks.

1. Enhancing climate resilience in agricultural water quality planning

- **Concept:** ODA is considering how the order’s key “resilience attributes” might be incorporated into the biennial review process for the state’s 38 Agricultural Water Quality Management Area Plans. In addition, incorporating the order’s key “resilience attributes” into grant decisions and designations of Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs).
- **Approach:** ODA is exploring guidance for Local Advisory Committees that encourages identification of existing Area Rules that already deliver climate co-benefits, such as riparian shading for temperature mitigation or soil cover for drought and fire resilience.
- **Consideration:** This work may highlight the tension between static regulatory targets, such as TMDLs based on historical conditions, and the dynamic reality of climate shifts. ODA looks forward to collaborating with DEQ and OWEB to ensure that resilience definitions support both water quality compliance and the continued viability of working lands.

2. Climate-smart pest prevention (IPPM) and biological control

- **Concept:** ODA is examining opportunities to refine pest surveillance priorities to better address “climate migrants,” meaning pests that expand their range into Oregon because of warming conditions.
- **Approach:** By using climate-based risk assessments, ODA could further focus its efforts on emerging biosecurity threats affecting both agriculture and natural resources. ODA also sees significant potential to leverage the state’s investment in the Wilsonville Lab Complex to scale the production of beneficial insects, providing a chemical-free pathway to long-term resilience against established invasive species.
- **Consideration:** Advancing a state-specific climate pest survey model may require evaluation of how federal cooperative agreement priorities are balanced with Oregon-specific resilience needs.

3. Integrated wildfire defense and native plant conservation

- **Concept:** ODA sees a strong opportunity to better align its botanical and land stewardship programs with the order’s wildfire and conservation directives.
- **Approach:** ODA is reviewing the Noxious Weed Grant Program criteria to assess whether greater weight can be given to projects that reduce wildfire fuel loads, which would directly support Fire-Adapted Community objectives. At the same time, ODA is exploring how the Native Plant Conservation Program could help identify priority habitats that contribute to the state’s “10% in 10 Years” goal, particularly where native restoration improves soil stability and water retention.

4. Economic resilience through regional agricultural business hubs

- **Concept:** Recognizing that economic stability is a prerequisite for ecological stewardship, ODA is exploring how its agricultural development capacity can support resilient channels of commerce.
- **Approach:** ODA is examining how emerging Agricultural Business Hubs might prioritize technical assistance for supply chains that shorten the distance between producers and consumers. Strengthening local market access can provide the financial durability landowners need to voluntarily invest in the long-term stewardship practices envisioned by the order. This couples directly to Oregon Governor Tina Kotek's "Prosperity Roadmap," a broad economic development strategy unveiled in December 2025 aimed at boosting the state's economy and attracting business investment.

What ODA is excited about

ODA is most excited about the opportunity to move from a siloed approach to a unified, integrated OneODA resilience strategy. The department envisions a future in which programs operate in concert rather than in parallel, where laboratories function as biological armories protecting riparian systems, where weed control investments serve as a frontline defense against wildfire, and where economic development reinforces voluntary stewardship by Oregon's producers.

Executive Order 25-26 provides space to articulate that resilience is not solely about preservation but also about preparation. By equipping farmers and ranchers with practical tools to adapt, whether through improved data for water planning, biological agents for pest management, or stronger local markets, ODA believes Oregon's working lands can remain one of the state's strongest anchors in a changing world.



Climate Resilience Attributes of Oregon Lands and Waters **Final Report**



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD



The following report provides a recommended set of climate resilience attributes for Oregon’s lands and waters. These attributes were developed through a scan of existing attribute frameworks (Appendix A), a 3-day design workshop, and a draft report and public comment period, all of which have been incorporated into this final version.

This report was possible thanks to the innumerable contributions from many people who have helped inform our thinking, including during the design workshop, through public comment, or in other consultation meetings. OWEB, ODFW, and the Governor’s Office teams are profoundly grateful for this expertise, and this revised report incorporates that important feedback.

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(Photos in report: Linda Repplinger-OWEB, LDED-flickr, Jeff Clark-BLM, Matt Christenson-BLM, Jim Choate, Bonnie Moreland.)



SECTION I: Background

1. Context

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) hereafter, “lead agencies,” 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.

The goal of the attributes is to outline the characteristics of climate resilience for Oregon’s lands and waters, serving as the first step in a coordinated and sustained effort across state agencies and helping guide investment and action. The state agencies identified in Section II of the EO are tasked with using the resilience attributes combined with other relevant information to identify and improve programs, processes, and practices that protect and promote stewardship of working lands and waters to adapt to the impacts of a changing climate. The resilience attributes are also intended to inform the 2025 baseline, with Section III of the EO directing agencies to protect, conserve, connect, or restore ten percent of lands and waters within ten years as compared to baseline.

As directed, this process focused on defining the climate resilience attributes of Oregon’s lands and waters, emphasizing their ecological resilience and resistance. While there are many state efforts underway to strengthen community systems—such as transportation, public health, economic prosperity, and emergency preparedness—this effort centers primarily on ecosystems, bearing in mind that social, economic, and health outcomes are inseparable from resilient natural systems, as established in the statutory definition of climate resilience (ORS 468A.183).

2. Process

The lead agencies tasked with developing the resilience attributes were directed to lead a natural resource interagency team. After consultation with the Governor’s Natural Resource Office, the lead agencies expanded the attribute development process beyond an interagency team, and in January 2026, contracted with Portland State University’s Oregon Consensus program to support

with facilitation. This led to a three-day design workshop, intended to function as a sprint exercise, which would lead to a set of draft attributes for a wider audience to respond to.

There were roughly 45 participants at the design workshop, with approximately half coming from state agencies and the other half content experts experienced in similar climate resiliency planning and assessment efforts, including experts from Tribal governments, federal agencies, local governments, academic and research institutions, resource management organizations (representing private and working lands), philanthropic foundations, and conservation science organizations (See Appendix C for invitee list).

Prior to the workshop, OWEB and ODFW collaborated on a [background memo](#), pulled from the most salient findings from the literature review and preliminary conversations with invitees, and intended to set the stage for the workshop content. The memo included guidelines for the workshop, links to key Oregon plans and strategies, and eight proposed attributes as an initial draft for people to respond to, which helped tee up the conversation on the first day.

3. Workshop

The workshop was held in March 2026 in Salem. On the first day, the conversation opened with remarks from the Governor’s Natural Resource Office and from OWEB and ODFW. These remarks highlighted the intent and sideboards of the EO and the goals of the attributes process during the following three days. That afternoon, attendees broke up into small groups to discuss the eight initial attributes outlined in the background memo and began to winnow them down. On the second day, representatives from three Oregon Tribes were able to join and provide feedback on the consolidated draft list. Their feedback highlighted gaps around the reciprocal role of human stewardship in ecological processes, and the importance of taking a holistic view of ecological processes (i.e. water cycles, nutrient flows, or fire regimes) and existing state policies and regulations in discussions about climate resilience. On the third day, additional attendees from state agencies joined to discuss how the resilience attributes would inform their work and to surface cross-agency implementation needs. For a more detailed write up of the workshop, please see [these notes](#).

After the workshop ODFW and OWEB, with the help of Oregon Consensus, pulled the draft attributes and discussion notes into a draft report, published on April 8. This was shared with workshop participants, agency colleagues, and OWEB’s GovDelivery email lists for feedback. Lead agencies asked for input about whether respondents saw their work and expertise reflected in the attributes and corresponding indicators, if there was anything that should be included that wasn’t, and if the attributes and indicators were practical and actionable. ODFW and OWEB also coordinated with Oregon Department of Energy staff, who support the Oregon

Climate Action Commission, to ensure consistency between the EO attributes and the forthcoming Natural Climate Solutions metrics.

4. Feedback Process and Results

More than 40 people and organizations took the time to provide feedback, either as written comments or in response to a survey posted on OWEB's website. Lead agencies also received compiled feedback from five state agencies and held several one-on-one and group meetings with interested partners to collect feedback and input. Respondents generally felt that the draft attributes reflected their work and expertise, appreciated the attributes' focus on ecological function under changing conditions, and valued that the interconnection between people and environment in achieving resilience outcomes was acknowledged. Other key themes from the feedback are summarized below:

1. While the workshop focused on defining the attributes of resilient lands and waters, participants also brainstormed possible indicators of progress for each of the attributes. These indicators, included in the draft report only as examples, generated such significant feedback that more work, including additional partner engagement, will be needed to advance indicators in a cohesive framework. As a result, this final report incorporates the feedback received and includes revised attributes, but it does *not* update the indicators. That work will occur alongside agency workplan development for the 2027–2029 biennium. Indicators identified during the workshop will be shared with state agencies for consideration in future workplan development. Feedback provided during this round of work on potential indicators will be carried forward into that effort.
2. Several respondents recommended including more acknowledgement of working lands across the four attributes, rather than just in attribute #4, *climate resilient lands and waters support vibrant communities, lifeways, and livelihoods*. Some respondents said this framing made working lands seem incidental to climate resilience and discounted the important contributions of landowners and land managers in stewarding ecosystems. In response to this feedback, the role of working lands has been incorporated into the descriptive paragraphs for attributes #1, #2, and #3; stewardship of working lands has been included in the language around the enabling environment; and the economic resilience of working lands in the face of climate impacts is now included in #4 where the Plan for a Resilient Oregon and the Prosperity Roadmap are noted as key strategies for economic viability.

Conversely, other respondents saw the draft attributes as too focused on human-ecosystem interactions and recommended greater focus on the inherent benefits and resilience of natural systems. Respondents with multiple perspectives expressed a desire for early coordination and engagement opportunities on these types of initiatives.

3. Some respondents highlighted that it would be helpful to link applicable Oregon plans and strategies more closely with the attributes, rather than as an appendix. While many plans are crosscutting, the most topical plans and strategies are now included with each attribute.
4. In response to feedback, greater consideration of surface and groundwater has been incorporated into the attributes. As agencies develop their 2027-29 workplans, it will be imperative to incorporate the Integrated Water Resources Strategy (IWRs) and other basin-scale efforts that are already underway.
5. There was feedback about roads and culverts being framed solely as barriers to connectivity, rather than acknowledging how culvert replacements can improve hydrologic function or how roads serve an important function in emergency response, ecosystem management, and post-disturbance restoration efforts. The connectivity language has been revised to reflect that strategic infrastructure planning and management practices can both support working lands and ecological outcomes.



SECTION II: Climate Resilience Attributes

5. Framing

Prior to outlining specific attributes, it is important to articulate a shared definition of climate resilience, what it means for Oregon lands and waters, and why it matters for future ecological and human well-being.

Defining Climate Resilience

As stated in Executive Order 25-26, “The Oregon State Legislature established a definition of climate resilience in House Bill 3409 (2023) as ‘the capability to anticipate, prepare for, respond to and recover from significant climate-related threats while minimizing damage to social wellbeing, the economy and ecosystem functions.’” At the March workshop, participants recommended further expanding our use of the term to reflect that climate-related disturbances are a part of natural ecological processes and also play an important role in resilience. They also emphasized the importance of recognizing how human stewardship supports key ecosystem functions, such as carbon and water cycles.

Some Oregon ecosystems are naturally able to resist change when they experience disturbances like small, frequent fires. This ability to stay the same is called ecological resistance, and it is an aspect of climate resilience. For the purposes of the EO, ecological resilience (the ability to recover) and ecological resistance (the ability to stay the same) are treated as related and complementary ideas within the broader definition of “climate resilience.”

The EO and the attributes development process emphasized that ecosystems, communities, and economies in Oregon are at risk of disruption and loss due to a number of factors, including climate-related impacts such as long-term drought, catastrophic wildfire, sea level rise, destructive flood events, as well as other stressors like habitat loss, invasive species, and disease. The goal of resilience is not to preserve things exactly as they are at a point in time, but to protect the ability of lands and waters to cope, adapt, and/or transform in response to a changing climate and to continue to support essential functions even as conditions change.

FIGURE 1.0. Reasons for Considering Climate Resilient Land and Waters

The diagram below illustrates that climate impacts involve both short-term shock events (i.e., wildfire, heat domes, or drought) combined with long-term stressors (i.e., rising temperatures or changes in the timing or type of precipitation). These climate impacts are magnified by other pressures that may or may not be directly related to climate change (i.e., pests, habitat loss and fragmentation, etc.). In order to be climate resilient, ecosystems must be able to cope with many different impacts over time or will likely transition to an alternative state.

WHAT IS CLIMATE RESILIENCE?



As climate change shocks and stressors accelerate, our stewardship must adapt to keep Oregon’s lands, waters, species, and communities resilient.

Definitions of Lands and Waters:

For the purposes of the EO attributes, it is important to clearly define what is meant by “**lands**” and “**waters**,” ensuring that the diversity of Oregon’s ecosystems is included. The EO outlines natural and working lands and waters as, “including forests, grasslands, rangelands, farmlands, wetlands, rivers, lakes and coastal and marine waters, and the parks and open spaces in urban environments.” As attributes are described throughout this document, the intent is to be inclusive of all types of lands and waters, and to be inclusive of terrestrial and aquatic systems, regardless of any specific examples provided.

6. Considerations for Attributes

This effort was intended to define the attributes of climate-resilient lands and waters, knowing that in order to be operationalized, attributes will have to step down to indicators and metrics. This report provides the attributes, and future work will articulate the indicators and metrics required to track progress toward these attributes.

ATTRIBUTE

A broad characteristic or quality of land or water that contributes to climate resilience. Attributes help articulate big-picture goals for resilience.

Connectivity within and across land, sea, water, and sky

INDICATOR

A specific observable feature or condition that signals progress toward an attribute. Indicators provide a way to determine whether an attribute is improving or declining.

Habitats are reconnected through removal of barriers

Opportunities to access large intact areas

Miles of fencing made wildlife-friendly

Acres conserved in priority connectivity areas

METRIC

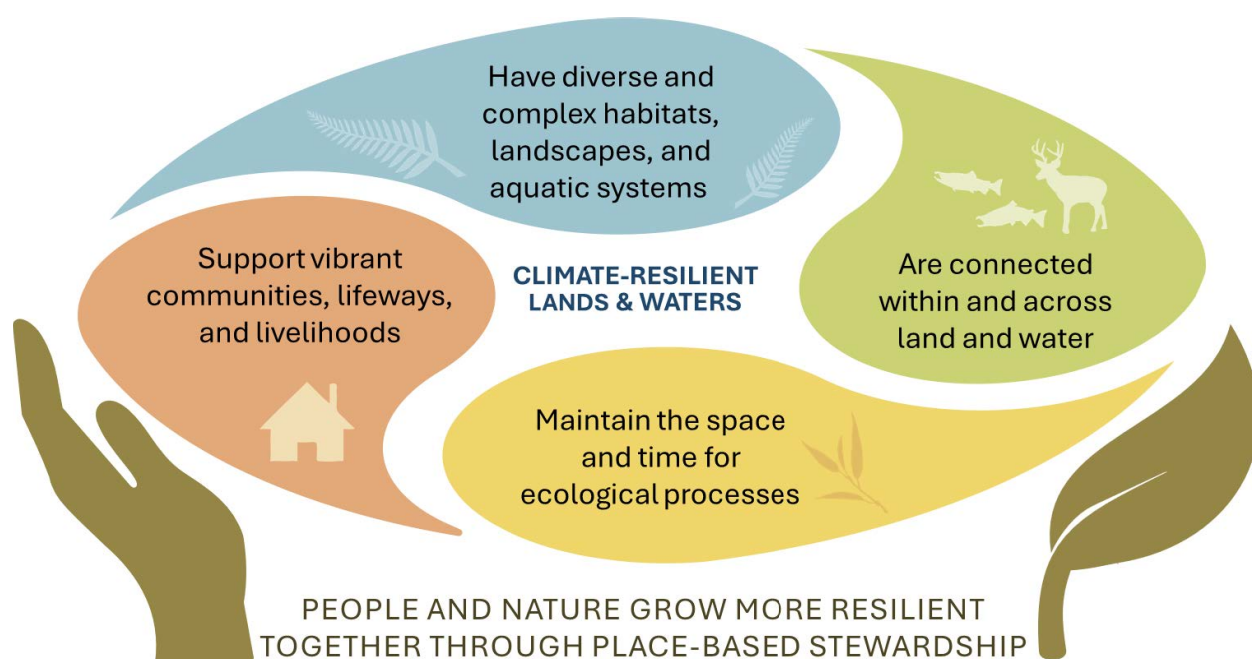
The actual numeric value or unit used to measure an indicator over time. Metrics enable monitoring and comparison and can be quantitative or qualitative.

Fish passageways installed

7. Climate Resilience Attributes

After reviewing the literature, the results of the three-day design workshop, and input from the public feedback process, the lead agencies have articulated four attributes of climate-resilient lands and waters, situated in the enabling environment of people working together to manage and steward for resilience outcomes.

In outlining these attributes, it is crucial to remember that everything is interconnected, and no attribute stands on its own. They must all be in place, as highly connected ecological and social processes that interact across space and time. This concept is illustrated below, showing that resilience is the summation of interconnected attributes, each one influenced by people and communities working together towards climate resilience goals, and which subsequently make human communities more resilient as well.



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

Before articulating the resilience attributes, it is important to start with the role of active management and stewardship as the *enabling environment* through which climate resilience occurs and as illustrated above in the text outside the four attributes. In other words, climate resilience doesn't just happen but must be intentionally managed for.

As was discussed during the three-day workshop, the relationship between people and the environment is reciprocal and human actions shape the ecology of Oregon. Tribes, landowners, communities, businesses, and government all play essential roles in advancing climate resiliency.

In order to fill an important stewardship role, landowners and land managers need consistent financial, economic, technical, and policy supports that balance wildlife habitat, food and fiber production, clean energy infrastructure, carbon benefits, and community development in a changing climate (this is also reflected in Oregon statute: ORS 468A.185(3)(d)). Climate resilience requires ongoing planning, intention, and investment around how land and water are used, currently and into the future.

The concept of an enabling environment is different from attribute #4, *climate resilient lands and waters support vibrant communities, lifeways, and livelihoods*, in that it speaks to the *conditions* that must be in place, rather than the characteristics of climate resilient lands and waters. That is to say, the enabling environment is the prerequisite for climate resiliency efforts across all of the four attributes, including interventions that support connectivity, diversity, ecological processes, and thriving working lands.

To create this enabling environment, people and communities need:

- Structures for collaborative management across ownership boundaries;
- Systems and policies for decision-making that are data-informed and are responsive to changing ecological and social trends;
- Economic conditions and incentives that foster the capacity to implement voluntary practices;
- Access to representation and participation in planning and resource allocation processes that account for disproportionate impacts, equity, and Tribal sovereignty; and
- Innovations which help foster new ways of working and understanding impact.

1

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

Connectivity is the degree to which land and water facilitate the movement of organisms and ecological processes. Connectivity encompasses both structural and functional components. Structural connectivity is the *physical* structure of the landscape, seascape, and hydrologic systems. For example, structural connectivity might look like open sagebrush rangeland that mule deer cross in their seasonal migration, or it might look more like a ribbon of streamside riparian vegetation that migratory birds use as stopovers for rest and foraging as they move across working lands or urban areas. Managed agricultural landscapes and working forests can function as a permeable matrix habitat when operators adopt wildlife-friendly infrastructure and management practices.

Functional connectivity is the extent to which structural connectivity supports the successful movement of organisms (the deer and the birds safely reaching their destination) and ecological processes, such as water flow and nutrient cycling (seasonal flooding of wetland areas carrying leaf litter, sediment, and dissolved nutrients to different habitat zones).

Connectivity of surface and groundwater is also important. Surface water like rivers, streams, wetlands, and floodplains must be connected with aquifers and springs below ground. This hydrologic connection has a moderating effect on water quality and quantity, and supports resilience during droughts, floods, and changing climate conditions.

It is important that connectivity within and across ecosystems is consistent with the underlying biophysical environment and linked to appropriate reference conditions, such as the historic range of variability and/or future range of variability (that is to say, what conditions would normally look like—either in the past or as expected in the future).

Connectivity over space and time allows for the movement of species both over the short term, such as when fish retreat to cold water refugia during a heat event, and over the long term, such as tree species moving up in elevation in response to rising annual temperatures and long-term drought. Connected habitats also allow species to complete their full life history cycles; organisms must have access to pathways for their daily, seasonal, and once-in-a-lifetime movements in the face of climate impacts.

Key Plans and Strategies:

- [Oregon's 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy](#), 2023, ODF: Department of Forestry-led plan to coordinate federal, local, and state partners, and leverage investment opportunities within priority geographies to achieve landscape-scale resilience and wildfire risk reduction.
- [Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan](#) (formerly the Oregon Conservation Strategy), 2016 (2026 revision pending), ODFW: An overarching state strategy for conserving fish and wildlife. It provides a shared set of priorities for addressing Oregon's conservation needs. Includes the [Oregon Wildlife Corridor Action Plan](#) (2024), which addresses wildlife and habitat connectivity.
- [Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds](#): The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds was established in 1997 to restore salmon populations and improve watershed health in Oregon. The plan included specific actions to address factors affecting fish populations and watershed health, aiming for a comprehensive approach to ecosystem restoration.

2

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.

Diversity helps create resilience in many different ways and at many different scales. Diversity has many potential components and can refer to the variety, complexity, and redundancy in a system. Variety can apply to species, genes, landscape patches, vegetation communities, habitat types, soils, depths, seafloors, nutrient regimes, flow and temperature regimes, topography and stream channel complexity, crop types, cultural groups, management approaches, and more.

Diversity can also refer to having complexity in a system at multiple scales. For example, having multiple tree age- or size classes in a forested stand, or multi-aged forest stands in a watershed; or having a variety of substrate types, water velocities, and structures in a stream. Whereas diversity speaks to the range of species types (for example), complexity speaks to the range of structures and functions.

Equally important to complexity and diversity is redundancy; that is, the replication of particular elements of a system such that short-term losses can be absorbed. Diversity and redundancy are critical attributes of climate-resilient lands and waters because they allow the ecosystem to better handle disturbances or changing conditions and provide “insurance” in the event of uncharacteristic disturbance. Akin to connectivity, diversity and redundancy must also be defined by, and consistent with, the natural range of variability and/or future range of variability for a given area.

Key Plans and Strategies:

- [Oregon Native Seed Strategy](#), 2025, ODA: Guidance document that supports ecological restoration and conservation through the procurement, preservation, and production of native seed in Oregon.
- [Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan](#) (formerly the Oregon Conservation Strategy), 2016 (2026 revision pending), ODFW: An overarching state strategy for conserving fish and wildlife. It provides a shared set of priorities for addressing Oregon’s conservation needs and includes the [Oregon Wildlife Corridor Action Plan](#) (2024), which addresses wildlife and habitat connectivity.
- [Oregon Statewide Strategic Plan for Invasive Species](#), 2017, Oregon Invasive Species Council: Invasive species management is foundational to maintaining native species diversity and preventing the loss of landscape heterogeneity. This plan is meant to guide a comprehensive state-wide approach over the next ten years.

- [Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#), 2025, State of Oregon: The IWRS provides a statewide inter-agency framework for better understanding and meeting Oregon's instream and out-of-stream water needs. Oregon's Water Resources Commission adopted the first IWRS in 2012 and the second in 2017. Oregon Revised Statute (536.220) was updated in 2023 to require that the IWRS is updated every 8 years.

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

Natural processes — such as fire, flooding, the carbon and nutrient cycles, sea level dynamics, and soil formation — play an important role in systems like the hydrologic cycle, air quality, and nutrient cycling. Ecological functions rely on disturbances such as fire, high flow and flood events, wind events, and landslides to create, enhance, and sustain structural and functional diversity across the landscape and to facilitate the flow of nutrients and materials through the ecosystem. When ecological processes are taking place, and when disturbance events are within the historic or desired range of variability, lands and waters can resist, adapt, recover, and sometimes even benefit from short-term shocks and long-term stressors.

Managing for ecological processes requires good monitoring and an understanding that future conditions are uncertain and variable. Successful adaptive management depends on data-informed decision-making and the capacity to translate that to on-the-ground actions. Tools like climate modelling on current trajectories and future scenarios are important for Oregon to understand changing ecological processes (i.e., precipitation, temperature, vegetation community, and species range shifts, etc.) and to manage for those changes.

Progress toward this attribute includes land use planning and restoration activities, which take into account the frequency, extent, and severity of disturbance in order to protect the ecological functions they support. For example, rivers and floodplains need room to move, store, and slow water, thereby reducing the exposure of people and assets to drought or high flow events. Fire can also act as a natural control to invasives by providing disturbance, which helps reset the understory. Additionally, some human activities can be done in a way that mimics the benefits of ecosystem processes and natural disturbance. Maintaining and enhancing the space and time for disturbance processes to occur often operates on very long timescales, and it is important to keep in mind the time horizon for returns on investment under this attribute.

Oregon's working landscapes are where ecological processes and human management intersect daily. For example, when wildfire burns rangeland or when floods destroy irrigation infrastructure, the working landscape's capacity to recover both ecological and productive function is itself an indicator of whether this attribute is being achieved. The resilience of

ecological processes on working lands depends on operators having the adaptive capacity and access to resources to restore function after disturbance events.

Key Plans and Strategies:

- o [Oregon's 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy](#), 2023, ODF: Department of Forestry led plan to coordinate federal, local, and state partners, and leverage investment opportunities within priority geographies to achieve landscape-scale resilience and wildfire risk reduction.
- o [Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds](#): The Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds was established in 1997 to restore salmon populations and improve watershed health in Oregon. The plan included specific actions to address factors affecting fish populations and watershed health, aiming for a comprehensive approach to ecosystem restoration.

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

Lands and waters that are highly resilient to climate change support and protect human resilience as well. Healthy ecosystems provide the resources and benefits that all living things, including people, need to thrive. Sometimes referred to as ecosystem services, these resources and benefits may include everything from food and timber production to cultural resources to recreation access to flood attenuation and fire mitigation. It means that people have the ability not only to earn a living from the resources our working lands provide, but also have safe places to live, recreate, or practice ceremony.

Additionally, climate resilience is an outcome of stewardship and management. On working lands and waters, adopting climate-smart practices in forestry, farming, fishing, and ranching activities supports and reinforces the other attributes. Activities like crop rotation, cover cropping, and rotational grazing have benefits for soil health and water conservation as well as increasing the resilience of agricultural land to fire, invasive species, or drought. Foresters, restoration crews, wildfire contractors, and other working lands managers implement climate-smart practices on forestlands that enhance forest structure and species diversity and mimic natural disturbance patterns.

In urban areas, the efficient use of land already inside of Urban Growth Boundaries takes pressure off the lands outside, helping protect the natural systems that provide climate benefits. Thoughtful and deliberate land use changes, where they do occur, improve climate resilience by reducing exposure to climate-related hazards (i.e. keeping development out of floodplains, fire-prone areas, or coastal erosion areas, etc.), and encourage climate-ready development (i.e. stormwater harvesting, urban tree canopy, development that reduces heat islands and transportation emissions, etc.).

Key Plans and Strategies:

- o [Climate Change and Carbon Plan](#), 2021, ODF: The plan positions Oregon forestry as a regional leader in climate-smart forestry, including both climate-change mitigation and adaptation. The goals are to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, increase carbon sequestration (i.e. storage of carbon in trees), and positively benefit climate-impacted and resource-dependent communities.
- o [Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#), 2025, State of Oregon: The IWRS provides a statewide inter-agency framework for better understanding and meeting Oregon's instream and out-of-stream water needs. Oregon's Water Resources Commission adopted the first IWRS in 2012 and the second in 2017. Oregon Revised Statute (536.220) was updated in 2023 to require that the IWRS is updated every 8 years.
- o [Plan for a Resilient Oregon](#): The Plan for a Resilient Oregon (PRO) is a people-centered resilience strategy to help communities around Oregon adapt and thrive in the face of increasingly severe disasters. The PRO aims to be responsive to the unique cultures, demographics, histories, and hazards of Oregon's diverse regions and will inform the work of Executive Branch agencies, the Governor's recommended budget, and the legislative work for the next biennium.
- o [Prosperity Roadmap](#), 2025, State of Oregon: A statewide economic strategy built around three overarching goals (accelerate Oregon's economic growth, catalyze job growth, and retain and grow Oregon's businesses) and a set of strategic initiatives designed to achieve those goals.

8. Conclusion and Next Steps

This document reflects the significant contributions of a broad cross-section of expertise, lived experience, and institutional knowledge. The process to develop these attributes took place over six months and included a three-day design workshop, a draft report and public comment period, and several one-on-one and group meetings. The climate resilience attributes presented here reflect the participation, expertise, and enthusiasm for mitigating the impacts of climate change so that Oregon's lands and waters continue to contribute to the social, environmental, and economic well-being of all Oregonians.

In the summer and fall of 2026, Oregon natural resource agencies will submit their 2027-2029 workplans in alignment with these resilience attributes. These workplans 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 EO.



APPENDIX A: Attribute Frameworks Explored

A.1. The Nature Conservancy's Center for Resilient Conservation Science

- The framework is called “Conserving Nature’s Stage,” which looks at the “conditions that allow nature to move, adapt, and thrive in a changing world.” Available at <https://crcs.tnc.org/pages/resiliencescience>.
- This framework is useful because it represents over two decades of work and considers the unique ecoregions of the Pacific Northwest.
- The framework is based on the idea that the biota (flora and fauna) need the landscape (aka, stage) to survive and thrive. By identifying the characteristics of landscapes that support thriving plants and animals, TNC can then look for landscapes and/or parcels of landscapes to protect and conserve.
- This framework emphasizes connectivity, not only looking within regions of the United States and ecoregions, but the tools help identify connections across ecoregions and geographies.
- The Resilient Land Mapping Tool <https://www.maps.tnc.org/resilientland/#/explore> and Resilient River Mapping Tool <https://www.maps.tnc.org/resilientrivers/#/> are the results of decades of research to map lands and waters across the US.
- Attributes are:
 - Geophysical: soil order, slope, elevation

A.2. Synthesis of Pacific Northwest and West Coast Tribal Frameworks

- Tribal plans emphasize that resilience is not resistance to change, but the capacity of lands, waters, and communities to continue providing food, culture, identity, and life under changing conditions. It is also the capacity of the people to adapt to changing conditions.
- This framework is useful because it offers a non-Western perspective on resilience. The plans do not frame resiliency as a set of attributes, rather resilience is ecological processes, cultural relationships, and adaptive capacity.
- The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation have articulated an Uplands Vision and a River Vision that include “Touchstones” which might be similar to attributes:
 - [Uplands](#): Soil Stability; Hydrological Function; Landscape Pattern; Biotic Integrity
 - [Rivers](#): Water and Water Quality; Geomorphology; Connectivity among habitats and across the river network; Riverine biotic community; Riparian vegetation

- Tribal plans also emphasize connectivity, but from a systems perspective rather than an attributes perspective. Cyclical versus linear?
- Attributes (the plans do not describe them as such; ChatGPT found implicit characteristics) include
 - Intact, connected watersheds (ridge-to-reef/headwaters-to-estuary)
 - Functioning estuaries, nearshore, and tidal wetlands
 - Structurally diverse forests and culturally stewarded fire landscapes
 - Cold-water refugia and groundwater-supported system (springs, seeps, wetlands)
- A synthesis of the following Tribes and Tribal organization plans:
 - Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
 - Swinomish Indian Tribal Community
 - Tulalip Tribes
 - Jamestown S’Klallam Tribe
 - Lummi Nation
 - Quinault Indian Nation

A.3. Maine Climate Council

- 2019 legislation created the Maine Climate Council. The Council, with six working groups and a subcommittee, created a four-year action plan, [Maine Won’t Wait](#), to address climate change in Maine. The plan has four goals:
 - Reduce Maine’s Greenhouse Gas Emissions
 - Avoid the Impacts and Costs of Inaction
 - Foster Economic Opportunity and Prosperity
 - Advance Equity through Maine’s Climate Response
- In October 2024, Maine started a \$69 million climate resilience grant, funded through the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s Climate Resilience Regional Challenge.
- Created a State Resilience Office (SRO) which “works to grow the ability of communities and the state to prepare for and thrive within a changing climate.”
- Office of Policy Innovation and the Future/ Community Resilience Partnership

A.4. Local Government Plans

- King County, Washington’s [Strategic Climate Action Plan](#) defines a “Clean Air, Water, and Healthy Ecosystems” objective. The objective discusses protecting and restoring high-value forest and farmland; more robust tree canopy in heat islands; improved stormwater management and water conservation; protected floodplains to reduce flood risk; promoting habitat connectivity for salmon recovery; protecting shorelines and minimizing economic impacts of sea level rise.

- The City of Portland, Metro Regional Government, Lane County, and other local governments in Oregon have also defined local climate action plans, natural hazard mitigation plans, and other strategies that point to resilience attributes for lands and waters.

APPENDIX B: Oregon Plans and Strategies

Oregon Department of Agriculture. (2025). [Oregon Native Seed Strategy 2025](#).

Oregon Department of Emergency Management. (2025). [Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan Volume I: Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan](#).

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. (2015). [Water Quality 2035 Vision and Strategy](#).

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality & Oregon Department of Energy. (2024). [Oregon's Priority Climate Action Plan](#).

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife. (2016). [Oregon Conservation Strategy – A Blueprint for Conservation in Oregon](#).

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Division. (2024). [Oregon Wildlife Corridor Action Plan](#).

Oregon Department of Forestry. (2023). [The 20-Year Strategy. The Future of Landscape Resiliency in Oregon](#).

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development. (2021). [2021 Climate Change Adaptation Framework](#).

Oregon Department of Transportation Climate Office Adaptation and Resilience Team. (2022). [Climate Adaptation & Resilience Roadmap](#).

Oregon Department of Transportation. (2012). [ODOT Climate Change Adaptation Strategy Report](#).

Oregon Health Authority. (2017). [Oregon Climate and Health Resilience Plan](#).

Oregon Parks and Recreation Department. (2015). [Oregon Natural Areas Plan](#).

Oregon Water Resources Department. (2025). [Integrated Water Resources Strategy](#).

State of Oregon. (n.d.). [Plan for a Resilient Oregon](#).

State of Oregon. (2021). [State of Oregon Climate Equity Blueprint](#).

APPENDIX C: Workshop Invitees

Affiliation	Name	Position
Allen Family Philanthropies	Yuta Masuda	Director of Science
American Rivers	Sarah Dyrdaahl	Northwest Regional Director
Blue Mountains Forest Partners	Mark Webb	Executive Director
Burns Paiute Tribe	Trey Wall	Natural Resources Director
City of Ashland	Chris Chambers	Forestry Officer
City of Portland	Nishant Parulekar	Resilience Program Supervisor
Columbia River Gorge Commission	Lisa Naas Cook	Climate Program Manager
Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw Indians	Ashley Russell	Director of Natural and Cultural Resources
Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians	Angela Sondanaa	Director, Natural Resources
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde	Brandy Bishop	Tribal Emergency Preparedness Coordinator
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde	Colby Drake	Natural Resources Director
Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde	Lindsay McClary	Restoration Ecologist & Wildlife Policy Analyst
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation	Eric Quaempts	Natural Resource Director
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs	Austin Smith, Jr	General Manager, Natural Resources
Conservation Science Partners	Brett Dickson	Chief Scientist
Coquille Indian Tribe	John Ogan	Executive Director of Natural Resources
Coquille Indian Tribe	Robin Harkins	Director, Natural Resource Department
Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians	Kelly Coates	Natural Resources Director
ECONorthwest	Sarah Reich	Project Director
Farmers Conservation Alliance	Peter Harkema	Community Relations Manager
Foundations of Success	Marcia Brown	Senior Program Officer
Gilliam Soil and Water Conservation District	Herb Winters	District Manager
Institute for Applied Ecology	Laura Brophy	Estuary Technical Group Director
Klamath Tribes	Steve Rondeau	Natural Resources Director
Lomakatsi	Marko Bey	Executive Director
Mary's River Watershed Council	Nicole DeCrappeo	Director
Nature Record	Heather Tallis	Center for Coastal Climate Resilience
Oregon Biodiversity Information Center	Eleanor Gaines	Director
Oregon Sea Grant	Jessi Kershner	Associate Director of Extension & Engagement
Oregon State University, Geography and Environmental Sciences	Hannah Gosnell	Geography and Environmental Sciences
Oregon State University, Oregon Climate Change Research Institute	Erica Fleishman	Director
Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission	Caren Braby	Economics Fisheries Information Network Program Manager
Research Triangle Institute International	Jeff Petrusa	Director, Energy and Environmental Economics
San Francisco Estuary Institute	Ellen Plane	Senior Scientist

Affiliation	Name	Position
Sustainable Northwest	Dallas Hall Defrees	Regenerative Ranching Program Director
The Nature Conservancy	Pete Caligiuri	Oregon Forest Strategy Director
The Nature Conservancy	Ryan Haugo	Director of Conservation & Science for Oregon
The Pew Charitable Trust	Andy Maggi	Officer, US Conservation
Trout Unlimited	Nell Scott	Director
Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District	Dean Moberg	Director
US Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service	Chad Boyd	Ecologist
US Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service	Cory Owens	Associate Director for Soil Services
US Fish and Wildlife Service	Mike Hudson	Regional Climate Change Coordinator
US Forest Service	Becky Flitcroft	Research Fish Biologist
US Forest Service	Meta Loftsgaarden	Forest Supervisor
US Geological Survey	Jason Dunham	Supervisory Research Ecologist
US Geological Survey, NW Climate Adaptation Science Center	Leona Svancara	Acting Regional Administrator
Wallowa Resources	Nils Christoffersen	Executive Director
Washington State Department of Ecology	Jimmy Kralj	Climate Resilience Strategy Planner
Washington State University, Center for Sustaining Agriculture and Natural Resources	Chad Krueger	Director
West Coast Seafood Processors	Susan Chambers	Deputy Director
Western Wildland Environmental Threat Assessment Center	Jessica Halfosky	Director
Weyerhaeuser	Jessica Homyack, PhD, CWB	Director of Environmental Research and Operational Support
World Wildlife Fund	Becky Chaplin-Kramer	Global Biodiversity Lead Scientist
WSP	Kelsey Harpham	Alliance for Global Water Adaptation Project Manager
Governor's Office	Chandra Ferrari	Natural Resources Policy Advisor
Governor's Office	Geoff Huntington	Senior Natural Resources Advisor
Oregon Climate Advisory Commission	Cathy Macdonald	Chair
Oregon Department of Agriculture	Jonathan Sandau	Deputy Director
Oregon Department of Agriculture	Troy Abercrombie	Program Manager
Oregon Department of Energy	Jamshed Suntoke	Climate Team Lead
Oregon Department of Energy	Jason Sauer	Natural & Working Lands Research Analyst
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Jennifer Wigal	Water Quality Division Administrator
Oregon Department of Environmental Quality	Joshua Seeds	Forest Water Quality Analyst
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Debbie Colbert	Director
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Rachel Wheat	Wildlife Connectivity Coordinator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Sarah Reif	Habitat Division Administrator
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife	Spencer Sawaske	Water Program Manager
Oregon Department of Forestry	John Tokarczyk	Resource Planning Manager
Oregon Department of Forestry	Tim Holschbach	Deputy State Forester

Affiliation	Name	Position
Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries	Christina Appleby	Legislative Coordinator and Geologist
Oregon Department of Geology and Mineral Industries	Jason McClaughry	Geological Survey and Services (GS&S) Program Manager
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development	Kirstin Greene	Deputy Director
Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development	Meg Reed	Coastal Policy Specialist
Oregon Department of State Lands	Bill Ryan	Deputy Director for Aquatic Resource Management
Oregon Department of State Lands	Jane Rombouts	Mitigation Coordinator
Oregon Department of State Lands	Randy Wiest (virtual)	Lead rangeland manager
Oregon Health Authority	Beth Haley	Senior Climate and Health Equity Strategist
Oregon Health Authority	Carey Palm	Emergency Preparedness Tribal Liaison
Oregon Health Authority	Gabriela Goldfarb	Environmental Public Health Section Manager
Oregon Health Authority	Kim Tham	Operations & Policy Analyst
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department	Andrea Hanson	Central Operations Resource Manager
Oregon Parks and Recreation Department	Matt Rippee	Central Park Services Manager
Oregon Water Resources Department	Annette Liebe	Technical Services Division Administrator
Oregon Water Resources Department	Crystal Grinnell	Integrated Water Resources Strategy Specialist
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Alexa Schmidt	Water and Climate Coordinator
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Sara O'Brien	Executive Director
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Stephanie Page	Deputy Director

ODA EO 25-26 Workplan Summary

A resilient tomorrow for generations to come

Why it Matters

ODA's EO 25-26 Workplan is a promise to Oregon's working landscapes and the people who steward them - a commitment to strengthen working lands, improve water quality, and ensure agriculturists maintain and improve their economic viability. By modernizing systems, expanding restoration activities where possible, and elevating the stewardship already rooted across the state, ODA commits to working with producers, land owners, and Tribes to ensure Oregon's fields, forests, and coasts remain resilient and productive, and endure for generations to come.



Guiding Principles

Producers are partners: Economic viability makes stewardship possible.

Address limits: Be clear about what current resources cover, and what scaling requires.

Build on what works: Embed resilience goals into existing programs, grants, and processes.

Key ODA Programs

- Agricultural Water Quality
- Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)
- Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)
- Agricultural Trade and Economic Development
- Rangeland Health Initiative, Noxious Weed Control, & Plant Conservation
- Insect Pest Prevention and Management (IPPM)

Delivering on EO 25-26: ODA leads the EO's three working lands and waters directives.

Ag Water Quality Restoration (\$500,000):

Riparian restoration by small agricultural landowners, through conservation districts and watershed councils. Acres count toward Oregon's 10% goal.

Pesticide Applicator Training Modernization (\$1.5 million):

Modernizing training & education materials for Oregon's pesticide applicators, including Spanish-language materials, to strengthen stewardship and keep lands working.

Resilient Food Systems Infrastructure (\$1.45 million):

Grants to nine Oregon food businesses strengthening the middle of the supply chain, plus three pilot Regional Food and Agriculture Business Centers in the Rogue Valley, mid-Willamette Valley, and Ontario.



ODA's Contributions to Oregon's 10% in 10 Years Goal

Acres is the primary metric:

- Acres mitigated through noxious weed, plant conservation, and rangeland health initiatives.
- Acres covered by operations registered under new strengthened General CAFO NPDES and WPCF permits.
- Acres with Ag Water Quality practices implemented, as reported by SWCDs (KPM 12b).

What else is ODA tracking?

- Technical assistance provided for both ecological improvement and economic development.
- USDA Agricultural Census data trends, including average farm size, acres dedicated to agricultural production, and producer demographics (collected on 5-year intervals).
- Permit, license, and grant processing times.

EO 25-26

STATE AGENCY WORKPLAN

Oregon Department of Agriculture | DRAFT | August 2026

ODA's Approach to Executive Order 25-26

Oregon's farms, ranches, and managed forests are ecological infrastructure. They filter water, hold soil, cycle nutrients, harbor native species, and buffer communities against wildfire. They also feed families, sustain rural economies, and anchor a \$6.7 billion food and agricultural sector that supports every region of the state. These outcomes are not in tension. They are interdependent. A ranch that stays profitable stays intact. A farm with healthy soils withstands drought. Economic resilience and ecological resilience reinforce each other, and both get strained when either one faces challenges.

ODA approaches Executive Order 25-26 from this premise. The agency's role is to serve Oregon's producers and land stewards with the technical assistance, compliance frameworks, and partnership structure that allows working lands to deliver resilience outcomes alongside productive ones. ODA is not a land-managing agency. It works with land managers. The value lies in facilitation: connecting programs, coordinating across jurisdictions, and providing targeted scientific expertise that local partners depend on.

The workplan that follows maps ODA's existing statutory authorities and programs to the directives of Executive Order 25-26. Six programs form the initial foundation: the Agricultural Water Quality Management Program, the Noxious Weed Management Program, the Native Plant Conservation Program, the Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program, the Soil and Water Conservation District network, and ODA's agricultural development and market access capacity. Each program already delivers outcomes that align with the Executive Order's goals. The workplan identifies where those programs could be adjusted to strengthen resilience co-benefits, where ODA may streamline processes to reduce friction for voluntary stewardship, and where sustained or new investment could accelerate progress.

Three principles guide every commitment in this workplan.

First, working land operators are partners in achieving landscape-scale resilience, not recipients of a framework imposed on them. Their participation may be voluntary, their knowledge is essential, and their economic viability is a precondition for the resilience outcomes the order envisions. Metrics in this workplan measure ODA's service to producers, not producers' compliance or participation.

Second, ODA builds on what works. The agency aims to integrate resilience objectives into existing review cycles, grant criteria, and technical assistance channels rather than creating parallel structures. Strengthening proven programs delivers greater impact per dollar than launching new ones.

Third, ODA names what it can explore and is honest about what it cannot do alone. Where programs have demonstrated results and could expand with sustained investment, the workplan says so. Where federal funding has been reduced or coordination across agencies is required, the workplan says that, too. Most actions in this workplan depend on additional resources and interagency coordination to realize potential success.

Section I.2: Keep Oregon's Working Lands and Waters Working

	Identify and Improve Programs, Tools and Incentives	Improve Permitting Processes	Improve Grant Review Processes	Near-Shore Resources
Anticipated Agency Action	Internally and with the direction of the Board of Agriculture, analyze existing ODA programs, tools, and initiatives that address the objectives of EO 25-26 and opportunities to align with targets set by the Oregon Climate Action Commission. These activities focus on technical assistance, landscape resilience and restoration, invasive species control, native seed supply, rangeland health, and pest and disease mitigation, with a focus on improving economic resilience in rural communities across the state. ODA leverages a mix of general, lottery, federal, and other funds to accomplish this work. This work is largely additive and more targeted to address emerging issues in the agriculture and food system, using current resources, with expansion dependent on new funding. As Oregon agriculture and food businesses evolve to meet changing environmental and market dynamics, ODA programs need to meet them where they are and build on resilient practices that improve landscape resilience. Key ODA Programs: <u>Rangeland Health Initiative Program:</u> With two federally funded, limited-duration Rangeland Health Specialists, ODA provides technical assistance to facilitate landscape-scale restoration across Oregon's 20 million+ acres of rangelands and provide clarification where federal partners may be restricted from doing so. Consistent general funds could allow ODA to scale this work further. <u>Noxious Weed Management Program:</u> ODA coordinates invasive plant prevention, biological control, and technical assistance across all land ownerships. Six regional specialists	Conduct internal permitting business process analyses, leveraging prior feedback from grantees or permittees and ODA staff. Additive to existing process improvement efforts under Project OneODA (I.T. Modernization). Process improvement applies across ODA's full permitting portfolio, including water quality, pesticide, nursery, and livestock program permits, not only restoration-related processes. Collaborate closely with state partners to provide a unified voice to food and agriculture producers affected by regulations across multiple agencies. Work closely with partners such as the conservation districts and OSU to provide consistent and useful information that promotes stewardship and resilience in Oregon's food and agriculture systems and supports more resilient working lands across the state. Advance IT modernization to share more complete and timely information through Project OneODA. New work, pending staff capacity assessment. Reducing the cost of voluntary stewardship for the operators who deliver it is central to this work. Faster, clearer permitting could increase the number of producers willing and able to invest in practices that benefit	Conduct internal business process analyses, leveraging prior feedback from grantees and ODA staff. Additive to existing process improvement efforts under Project OneODA. ODA is coordinating with OWEB on SWCD and council capacity grant engagement and rulemaking. Both agencies are learning about each other's grant administration processes to reduce redundancy for shared grantees, and ODA will collaborate with OWEB to encourage projects that meet the spirit and intent of EO 25-26. Review grant criteria to align with the promotion of projects that advance resilience and restoration on agricultural working lands. Evaluate and implement scoring frameworks that reward resilience co-benefits, including soil health, water quality, water conservation, habitat function, and farm and ranch viability. ODA will administer the \$500,000 Agricultural Water Quality Restoration Partnership awarded by the Oregon Environmental Restoration Council on June 22, 2026 as a subgranted program delivered with the conservation districts and watershed councils, and will use its design as a test of resilience co-benefit criteria in a live award cycle.	Internally identify ODA's regulatory authority and technical assistance bandwidth in near-shore communities. Potential Actions: Prioritize existing program resources in the Noxious Weed and Plant Conservation Programs for estuarine and coastal zone work. These programs are largely driven by federal funds for specific uses that cannot be easily redirected to support near-shore resilience. Without additional general funds, reprioritizing this work reduces capacity in other regions. Incorporate resilience co-benefits into Ag Water Quality Area Plans during biennial review cycles in coastal management areas. Several existing Strategic Implementation Areas (SIAs) are in the coastal region, and partnerships with OWEB, SWCDs, and local land managers could help direct funds to practices that deliver resiliency co-benefits. This capacity keeps Oregon seafood competitive in domestic and export markets by ensuring product quality and consumer confidence. Healthy ocean and estuarine ecosystems sustain the high-quality shellfish, crab, and fish stocks that distinguish Oregon seafood in the marketplace. ODA's ecological restoration work in coastal zones and its food safety infrastructure serve the same goal: protecting seafood market access and stability by sustaining the conditions that make Oregon's working waters productive.

	facilitate weed management across 36 counties, providing the institutional capacity that county weed districts, SWCDs, watershed councils, and federal land managers depend on for comprehensive control and recovery. <u>Plant Conservation Program (T&E Species):</u> ODA monitors threatened and endangered plant species, including candidate species at risk. Through Oregon's Native Seed Strategy, ODA partners with Tribes, federal land managers, private property owners, and Oregon's network of world-class nurseries and seed producers to increase native seed supply for post-disaster recovery. <u>Insect Pest Prevention and Management Program (IPPM):</u> As the state's leading authority on invasive insect pests, ODA provides a layered approach to pest management: survey for early detection, rapid response to mitigate or eliminate establishment, and biological control agents that reduce long-term reliance on broad-spectrum pesticides. ODA may refine pest surveillance priorities to better address "climate migrants" that expand their range into Oregon because of changing conditions. <u>Agricultural Water Quality Program:</u> ODA partners with OWEB and 45 SWCDs to implement Area Ag Water Quality Management Plans. SWCDs serve as the primary local technical assistance and outreach providers. This framework provides the structural basis to scale EO 25-26 work across Oregon's communities, improving water quality, water use efficiency, and water retention and filtration on working lands. At its June 22, 2026, meeting the Oregon Environmental Restoration Council awarded ODA \$500,000 from the Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund's State Agency Program Fund for an Agricultural Water Quality Restoration Partnership, which funds	both their operations and the landscape. Achieving this across agencies may require coordinated process mapping and shared technology investments.		Both potential restoration actions would be new work, leveraging existing agency resources.
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	riparian restoration by small agricultural landowners that reduces stream temperature and the transport of sediment, nutrients, and chemicals into waterways. <u>Pesticides Program:</u> ODA licenses and trains roughly 14,000 pesticide applicators whose application decisions affect millions of acres, and training is the strongest lever ODA holds for on-the-ground compliance. At its June 22, 2026 meeting the Oregon Environmental Restoration Council awarded ODA up to \$1,500,000 from the State Agency Program Fund (ORS 541.867) for the Pesticide Applicator Training Modernization Initiative, contingent on the Council's action on the 2026 distribution at its September 16, 2026 meeting. The project rebuilds ODA's official applicator training and testing materials across license categories to reflect current federal label and certification standards, buffer zone requirements, endangered species protections, and integrated pest management; translates them into Spanish and additional priority languages; and delivers them in modern multimedia formats. Better training keeps regulated products on target and out of Oregon's waterways. <u>Ag Trade and Economic Development Program:</u> Provides full-scale technical assistance to producers of all sizes to reach local, regional, national, and international commodity markets. Through one-time grant funding, ODA is coordinating the formation of three locally led Regional Food and Ag Business Centers: one in Mid-Willamette Valley, one in the Rogue Valley, and one in Ontario. While their focus is currently on resiliency in the middle of the food supply chain, these centers could be instrumental catalysts for technical assistance and outreach efforts related to EO 25-26. USDA funding sunsets in December 2026.			
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Affected Attribute / Indicator	Each program advances all four draft attributes through a layered approach: noxious weed control and native plant restoration protect ecological processes and habitat diversity; the Ag Water Quality framework strengthens connectivity through riparian management on working lands; IPPM surveillance and biological control support ecosystem function while reducing producer reliance on broad-spectrum pesticides; and the SWCD network delivers tailored technical assistance that sustains the capacity of communities and working landscapes to adapt. Working land operators already deliver many of these outcomes through existing management practices. ODA's role is to recognize, support, and build on that stewardship. Diversified agricultural systems, including diversified cropping, silvopasture, and mixed enterprise operations, provide options for responding to climate variability. ODA's technical assistance programs support producers in maintaining this operational diversity, which strengthens both farm viability and landscape-level ecological resilience. ODA monitors the USDA Census of Agriculture to track whether Oregon's working lands are persisting, which is the test behind the fourth resilience attribute. The Census reports the number of farms, acres of land in farms, average farm size, producer age and tenure, and the market value of production, each broken to the county level. Read across editions, these series show whether agricultural land is staying in agricultural use, whether operations are consolidating or being succeeded, and where economic pressure on working lands is concentrating. ODA	Faster permitting reduces the cost of voluntary stewardship for producers who choose to act. Streamlined processes affect all four attributes by accelerating the pace at which restoration, habitat improvement, and water quality practices reach the ground. Project OneODA aims to modernize ODA's licensing and permitting processes, which could provide the platform for sustained process improvement beyond the current biennium.	Streamlined grant processes and coordinated scoring frameworks affect all four attributes by deploying funding faster and rewarding practices that deliver both productive and ecological value. Reduced redundancy across ODA and partner agencies frees capacity for on-the-ground technical assistance. Grant criteria that recognize resilience co-benefits reward producers already delivering ecological value through their management decisions, treating stewardship as an asset in the application process. Criteria may prioritize practices that generate both productive and ecological returns, such as cover cropping that builds soil health while reducing erosion, or riparian management that improves water quality while maintaining grazing capacity.	In coastal and estuarine zones, ODA's layered program approach supports all four draft attributes. Noxious weed control and native plant restoration in estuarine habitats protect the ecological processes that sustain water quality, shellfish productivity, and nursery habitat for commercially important species. These ecological conditions underpin the quality and reputation that keep Oregon's Dungeness crab, oysters, and other seafood products competitive in domestic and international markets. ODA's near-shore contribution is narrowly scoped but strategically positioned: ecological restoration protects the natural systems, food safety monitoring protects market access, and both together sustain the coastal working-water economies that depend on healthy ocean and estuarine function.
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	will report the trend at each new edition and use it to target technical assistance.			
Metrics / Anticipated Outcomes	Potential metrics (vary by program): - Stream/river feet restored or rehabilitated to improve fish and wildlife habitat - T&E plant species sites actively managed to promote native recruitment - Producers who received technical assistance through ODA-funded SWCD programs - Acres treated for noxious weeds, with sub-metrics for native species recovery - Biological control agents reared and released through the Wilsonville Lab Complex	Process improvement metrics: - Processing time from application to permit approval (decreasing trend) - Number of permits issued per period - Producer satisfaction with permitting process (via OneODA feedback tools)	Process improvement and co-benefit metrics: - Processing time from application to final grant decision - Scale by which project sizes increase through coordinated interagency collaboration (i.e. number of acres, stream miles, etc.) - Number of grant-funded projects incorporating identified resilience co-benefits	- Restoration acres and associated plant population trends - Number of listed A and T-rated noxious weeds with active response strategies deployed - Biotxin surveillance coverage and season-opening timeliness for commercial shellfish harvest Seafood market trends and harvest stability
Inter-Agency / External Collaborations	Internal: NR agencies to identify co-benefits and opportunities to scale restoration. Board of Agriculture to provide input on proposed actions. External: Tribes, federal partners, and local organizations to build synergy and harmonize state investments with federal resources to maximize ecological and economic benefits. OSU Extension, SWCDs, and producer organizations for technical assistance delivery.	Internal: NR agency collaboration on common permitting bottlenecks and information sharing. External: Tribes, federal partners, and local organizations, and partners to identify permitting areas of improvement.	Internal: NR agency collaboration on grant process bottlenecks; developing best practices to layer support from various programs to scale up projects. External: Tribes, federal partners, partners, and producer organizations for coordinated grant delivery.	Internal: NR agencies (ODFW, DLCD, DSL) to share resources and collaborate on coastal restoration. External: Tribes, federal partners (NRCS for coastal habitat improvement through RCPP), Oregon Dungeness Crab Commission, seafood processing industry.

Section I.3/I.4: Conserve Natural Lands and Waters / Lead by Example

	10% of Lands and Waters in 10 Years	Innovative Mitigation Solutions	Climate Resiliency as Co-Benefit
Anticipated Agency Action	The six programs described in Section I.2 provide the foundation for ODA's potential contributions to conservation directives. Three program areas specifically support progress tracking under the 10% in 10 years objective. ODA reports its contribution in acres, drawn from records the agency already maintains. Protect and Conserve: Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs): ODA permits CAFOs under a General National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit and a Water Pollution Control Facility (WPCF) permit. Both renewed general permits require nutrient management and water supply plans, which reduce the risk of nutrients and process wastewater reaching surface water and groundwater. ODA reports the acres of land covered by operations registered under the renewed permits rather than the number of permits issued. Acreage is drawn from the land application areas identified in each operation's approved animal waste management plan. These acres do not overlap the LUBGWMA acreage reported below: the LUBGWMA area rules apply only to agricultural land that is not already subject to an NPDES or WPCF permit issued by ODA or the Department of Environmental Quality (OAR 603-095-5005(1)). Restore: Agricultural Water Quality: ODA's Agricultural Water Quality program provides the statewide infrastructure to translate resilience frameworks into on-the-ground improvements in water quality, ecological function, and hydrological connectivity across Oregon's working farms and ranches. ODA develops plans and rules to prevent water pollution from agricultural activities across 38 Agricultural Water Quality Management Areas statewide and maintains collaborative relationships with the Soil and Water Conservation Districts that deliver technical assistance to working land stewards responsible for meeting federal and state water quality standards. Two sources supply the acreage. The first is the practice acres reported by the	While not currently resourced, ODA sees opportunities to incorporate innovative agricultural technology into statewide restoration efforts. Explore virtual fencing as a viable option for livestock producers as a post-disaster recovery tool to mitigate fence replacement costs and improve wildlife habitat connectivity. Pre-disaster, virtual fencing may support managed grazing for fuel load reduction and habitat management in high-risk areas where permanent or temporary fencing is infeasible. Support intergenerational transfer and succession planning through existing extension and education programs, including Oregon FFA and producer organizations. As this generation of land stewards begins transitioning operations, new farmers and ranchers need tools and resources to navigate that transition successfully. ODA, in partnership with OWEB, OSU Extension, Business Oregon, and other partners, could explore developing a comprehensive farm succession planning toolkit that leverages existing federal opportunities (such as USDA Beginning Farmer and Rancher programs), connects the next generation with appropriate legal, financial, and mental health resources, helps preserve valuable generational land management knowledge, and empowers new operators to continue stewarding land in ways that maintain the family farm's economic viability. This work would require additional resources and coordinated interagency support. Precision agricultural technology could also improve on-farm irrigation efficiencies, reducing water demand without sacrificing crop yields, or more efficiently control agricultural pests without relying on broad-spectrum pesticides. Any precision agriculture support maintains technology neutrality and protects producer data	Oregon's Native Seed Strategy and Native Plant Program could be advanced through expanded partnerships with Tribes and seed and nursery producers to grow the native plant and seed supply available for rapid post-disaster recovery, and to encourage the use of native plant products to create a more resilient landscape. Without additional resources, ODA would pursue funding in future budget cycles to support Strategy implementation. A robust native seed supply chain could ensure resources are available for rapid response recovery across all land types, which mitigates the establishment of noxious weeds in disturbed areas. Over time, this reduces widespread dependency on broad-spectrum pesticides and facilitates faster landscape recovery. This work leverages Oregon's existing world-class nursery and seed production infrastructure, positioning Oregon producers to supply the growing restoration economy and keeping the full scope of restoration revenue in Oregon. ODA plans to explore a phased approach: integrating 10-year seed demand forecasts into enterprise-wide planning for the 10% conservation goals, and supporting regional native plant partnerships with Tribes, Oregon nurseries, and Oregon seed producers to develop streamlined contracting mechanisms. Scaling this work would require sustained investment and coordinated interagency planning.

	45 districts under the proposed Key Performance Measure 12b. The second is the agricultural acreage brought under the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area (LUBGWMA) area rules, OAR 603-095-5000 to 5080, adopted in 2026 under ORS 561.191 and ORS 568.900 to 568.933 to implement the Umatilla and Willow Creek Area Plans. The rules cover agricultural land within the approximately 550 square miles in northern Morrow and northeastern Umatilla counties that the Department of Environmental Quality designated in 1990, and they carry annual tracking metrics that include the acres covered by a nitrogen management plan. First proof of certification is due to ODA by May 1, 2027. Rangeland Health Initiative, Native Plant, and Noxious Weed Control Programs: These three programs treat, seed, and restore land across all ownerships, and together they supply ODA's third acreage measure. The Noxious Weed Control Program reports net infested acres treated and acres treated through biological control releases. The Plant Conservation Program reports acres of native plant establishment and the threatened and endangered plant sites under active management. The Rangeland Health Initiative reports acres receiving technical assistance for invasive annual grass treatment, native seeding, and managed grazing, including managed grazing supported by virtual fencing. Acres are counted once and reported net of overlap where a single acre receives more than one treatment in a reporting period. Where a treated acre is also reported by another agency, ODA will report it and identify the co-reporting agency so the statewide rollup can attribute it once.	ownership and privacy. An in-lieu fee program could help fund adoption of these technologies and support technical assistance delivery. These innovations would require dedicated funding and partnerships with Oregon's agricultural technology community. Promote climate smart agricultural practices through water conservation and efficiency and support innovation in local and regional market opportunities for small and mid-size food and agricultural producers.	
Affected Attribute / Indicator	The programs listed in Section I.2 could advance each attribute through an integrated approach: controlling invasive species protects habitat diversity and ecological function, restoring native plants strengthens connectivity, and supporting working-land conservation easements sustains the capacity of communities to steward landscapes across generations. Conservation outcomes on working lands contribute toward the 10-by-10 goal where they maintain or enhance ecological function alongside productive use.	Virtual fencing: habitat propensity to withstand and recover from disturbance; capacity to sustain communities, lifeways, and livelihoods. Succession planning and FFA: capacity to sustain communities across generations; connectivity maintained through continued stewardship of working landscapes. Precision ag technology: diverse and complex systems that provide options for responding to change; capacity to sustain	A robust native seed supply chain supports all four attributes by ensuring Oregon can rapidly restore ecological function, habitat diversity, and landscape connectivity after disturbance events using locally adapted, Oregon-grown plant materials.

		the livelihoods of Oregon's farming families while reducing environmental pressure.	
Metrics / Anticipated Outcomes	- Acres mitigated through the Noxious Weed Control, Plant Conservation, and Rangeland Health Initiative programs, counted net of overlap - Acres covered by operations registered under the renewed General CAFO NPDES and WPCF permits - Acres reported under Key Performance Measure 12 and the new Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area rules - Denominator and trend source: ODA uses the USDA National Agricultural Statistics Service Census of Agriculture for the total acres of land in farms in Oregon. The 2022 Census is the current edition, and the 2027 and 2032 Censuses are the two editions that will publish inside the Executive Order's 2025 to 2035 window, with the 2032 Census the last available before the ten-year reassessment.	- Acres grazed using virtual fencing technology - Post-disaster fence miles avoided through virtual fencing adoption	- Pounds of native grass seed produced, stored, or utilized in restoration - Acres rehabilitated using Oregon-grown native plants/seeds - Revenue retained in Oregon as a result of the Native Seed Strategy - Longer term: population dynamics at recovery sites using existing monitoring protocols
Inter-Agency / External Collaborations	Existing work leverages partnerships with federal land management/technical assistance agencies, state NR agencies, and community partners. Business Oregon, Tribes, BLM, NRCS, OSU Extension, Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau, and other producer organizations.	Business Oregon, Tribes, BLM, NRCS, OSU Extension, Cattlemen's Association, Farm Bureau to explore virtual fencing. OWEB, OAHC, OSU Extension, NRCS, FSA to evaluate barriers to intergenerational farm succession and identify programs and resources to help ensure Oregon's families can keep farming and ranching.	Business Oregon, Tribes, OSU, and producer organizations to develop pathways to expand native species production, leveraging Oregon's existing nursery and seed infrastructure.

Section II: Community and Wildfire Resilience

	Plan for Resilient Oregon	20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan	Fire-Adapted Communities
Anticipated Agency Action	Connect regional leads with existing ODA resources addressing disaster preparedness, response, and post-disaster recovery. Action is ongoing. ODA brings a unique perspective to PRO development: the agency sits at the intersection of economic development and environmental stewardship. Resilience planning that accounts for agricultural and food supply chain continuity, producer disaster recovery capacity, and rural community economic stability produces stronger outcomes than ecological planning alone. ODA may advocate for the inclusion of working land economic indicators alongside ecological indicators in the PRO framework. Once PRO is finalized, ODA could integrate objectives and best practices into strategic planning efforts to align existing programmatic and regulatory mandates with EO 25-26 goals.	ODA could coordinate with NR agencies (ODF/OSFM) to identify communities at high risk of catastrophic wildfire and explore co-developing integrated management plans to mitigate fire risk. ODA's contributions would come through noxious weed control, native plant restoration, and its capacity to facilitate Good Neighbor Authorities for restoration across land ownerships. Could leverage other EO 25-26 work: virtual fencing, targeted habitat restoration through Ag Water Quality SIAs, Oregon's Native Seed Strategy. New work, requiring additional resources or coordinated interagency approaches.	Review the Noxious Weed Grant Program criteria to assess whether greater weight can be given to projects that reduce wildfire fuel loads. With additional funding resources beyond highly prescriptive federal funds, this adjustment could be more broadly applied. Additive to existing work. Adjusting grant scoring to prioritize wildfire fuel reduction, particularly targeting invasive grasses like cheatgrass in rangeland communities, could represent a high-impact, low-cost alignment with the 20-Year Landscape Resiliency Plan. This adjustment may be feasible within existing authority, though coordinating with partner agencies on shared priorities would strengthen the approach.
Affected Attribute / Indicator	ODA's regional engagement ensures resilience planning reflects the economic and ecological realities of individual communities. ODA's existing relationships with Local Advisory Committees, SWCDs, and producer organizations provide channels to deliver tailored technical assistance that strengthens the capacity of communities and working landscapes to adapt together.	ODA contributes to landscape resiliency through noxious weed, native plant, and rangeland programs. Controlling invasive grasses reduces wildfire fuel loads and protects rangeland ecological function. Restoring native plant communities after weed treatment supports habitat diversity, soil stability, and long-term forage quality for livestock operations. Fire risk reduction and productive rangeland health are integrated outcomes.	Adjusting Noxious Weed Grant criteria to prioritize wildfire fuel reduction targets invasive species that threaten both ecological function and the economic viability of rangeland communities. Grant-funded treatments generate measurable outcomes: acres treated, fuel load reduction, and native plant recovery rates. These investments reduce wildfire risk for rural communities while supporting the long-term productivity of surrounding working landscapes.
Metrics / Anticipated Outcomes	- Number of communities where ODA provided technical assistance - Individual program metrics aligned with PRO and EO 25-26 mandates - Revised Key Performance Measures to reflect EO 25-26 work, beginning with the proposed Agricultural Land Compliance and Stewardship measure set out in Section I.3/I.4	- Area of defensible space created around fire-prone communities - Acres treated for high-risk, flammable noxious weeds - Post-fire acres restored to native plants or proper ecological functionality	- Acres treated or managed to reduce wildfire fuel loads - Economic benefits at regional scales as a direct result of grant funding to rural communities
Inter-Agency / External Collaborations	Resiliency Officer and team, partners leading regional PRO work, and NR agencies for coordinated information sharing. Tribes and OEM for emergency event support.	ODF/OSFM to coordinate fire mitigation strategies for identified high-risk communities.	ODF/OSFM, SWCDs, county weed programs, Tribes.

Agenda Item 7 – USDA Farm Service Agency Updates

Board of Agriculture Meeting – September 2-4, 2026

Introduction

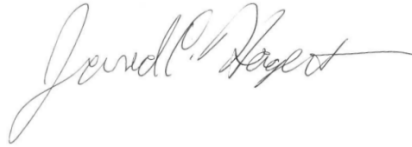
The USDA Farm Service Agency (FSA) will provide an overview of recent rule updates and changes to disaster relief programs for agriculture producers.

Background

The federal Working Families Tax Cuts Act made changes to many of FSA's disaster relief and agricultural safety net programs. Additional changes were enacted with HR 1. These changes affect all agriculture producers who participate in FSA's programs.

A copy of the USDA press releases detailing program changes is included for reference.

FSA will also provide updates on the USDA's Office of Seafood.

For: State and County Offices**Authorization of Virtual Fence as an Eligible Practice Under ECP****Approved by:** Deputy Administrator, Farm Programs**1 Overview****A Background**

ECP currently provides program payments for the repair or replacement of permanent fencing damaged by natural disaster events under ECP practice EC3. Following review of the conservation benefits, technical feasibility, and NRCS payment scenarios, virtual fence has been approved as an eligible supporting practice. Using virtual fence is optional for producers.

Virtual fencing provides a non-physical containment system for grazing livestock that compliments, but does not replace, the need for perimeter fencing. It provides an alternative to interior cross-fencing and functions by using GPS-enabled collars worn by adult livestock that communicate through cellular service or a satellite base station to a computer or smartphone. When livestock approach a virtual fence boundary, the collar produces an audio cue followed by a mild electrical stimulus to encourage them to remain within the designated area. Base stations and transmitters may be installed on trailers for a portable system.

Virtual fencing is an effective adaptive management tool that delivers ongoing conservation gains beyond its initial purpose. When suitable for the operation, it enables flexible forage and water management efficiently without creating physical barriers to wildlife movement.

Disposal Date	Distribution
February 1, 2027	State Offices; State Offices relay to NRCS State Offices and County Offices

1 Overview (Continued)

B Purpose

This notice provides:

- authorization, guidance, and instructions for determining suitability of virtual fence under ECP
- virtual fence payment scenarios
- decision tree for situations appropriate for use of virtual fence
- producer fact sheet on virtual fence.

2 Policy Provisions

A Authorization of Virtual Fence and Suitability

Support or installation of virtual fencing will be considered when it offers measurable financial advantages to USDA by reducing capital costs, minimizing long term maintenance obligations, or enabling land management outcomes that would otherwise require substantial infrastructure investment. County Offices will use the virtual fence decision tree (Exhibit 2) to determine if an operation is suitable for virtual fence authorization.

Virtual fence may be authorized when needed to address a resource concern caused by natural disaster events, provided the producer is interested and the operation is suitable. An operation is considered suitable when virtual fence is more cost-effective for USDA and includes the following:

- virtual fence was in use by the producer and was damaged by a disaster event
- replaces large amounts of interior fencing that would otherwise require significant material, labor, and maintenance costs
- the operation manages at least 125 head
- grazing area is large, remote, or rugged pastures where physical fence installation and upkeep are expensive or difficult
- used to manage livestock access to sensitive areas such as water bodies, wildlife habitat and locations prone to soil erosion
- avoids ecological, regulatory, or physical challenges posed by building fence in wildlife corridors, archeological areas, sensitive habitats, or wildfire-prone zones

2 Policy Provisions (Continued)

B Effective Date

Authorization of virtual fence is effective for all disasters occurring in FY 2025 and forward if requested by the producer and the operation is determined suitable under subparagraph A. Producers who have already installed permanent interior fencing are not eligible to switch to virtual fence for the pasture because the resource concern has already been addressed. When the land under an ECP agreement would benefit from a hybrid approach using multiple fence types, use the least-cost alternative for the evaluated land to ensure that updating to virtual fence does not increase the cost of the repair or replacement.

C Eligible Livestock for Virtual Fence

Virtual fence collars are only suitable for some livestock and will depend on the manufacturer the producer chooses. Eligible livestock generally include adult:

- cattle over 440 lbs. (can include weaned calves)
- sheep
- goats.

Ineligible livestock includes:

- calves, lambs, and kids (not recommended because of rapid growth and the need for frequent collar adjustments)
- horses, donkeys, mules, and other equids (movement patterns, size, and behavior make them less responsive to audio training)
- pigs and swine (require different containment and training methods).

D Eligible Integrated Payment Scenarios

Virtual fence payment scenarios will follow the FY 2026 NRCS EQIP payment schedules, including standards and specifications, for the conservation practice 382 - Fence. As such, applications found to be suitable for the use of virtual fence will include the integration and inclusion of the following scenarios:

- virtual fence, Startup Year 1, Base Cost – includes base station and two transmitters
- virtual fence, Startup Year 1, Implementation Cost – per head cost of collars

2 Policy Provisions (Continued)

D Eligible Integrated Payment Scenarios (Continued)

Notes: Each application must include at least one Base Cost and at least 125 Implementation Cost. An application may not have one or the other alone. Each application must include both scenarios. If producers will share the cost, their separate applications must reflect the total and indicate the producer's share of the total.

If the producer had virtual fence in use at the time of the natural disaster, the application will only include the damaged portions of the system needing replacement.

- additional Transmitters – if necessary, and will depend on topography, pasture configuration, and the vendor chosen to provide virtual fence technology.

A table of examples is provided in Exhibit 1.

E Land Under Which Virtual Fence May Be Approved

Virtual fence may be used on privately owned or leased federal lands (Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, etc.). If virtual fence will be on federally leased lands, applicants are responsible for communicating with the agency for approval and following the agency's requirements and restrictions.

F Producer Suitability

Virtual fence will not be a suitable solution for all producers and has benefits, challenges, and special considerations depending on the operation. Ensure producers are aware of the unique aspects of using virtual fence by providing them with the Producer Information Sheet (Exhibit 3). If a producer chooses to install virtual fence and later determines it does not work for their operation, they will not receive additional ECP program payments to install physical fence as a replacement. The producer is responsible for maintaining the virtual fence system, including purchasing any necessary replacement equipment, annual collar lease fees or data subscriptions (not required by all vendors). See the NRCS Virtual Fence Systems Fact Sheet at https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/sites/default/files/2024-11/NRCS_Virtual%20Fence%20Systems%20for%20Managing%20Livestock_Factsheet_111224_0.pdf for benefits, challenges, and key considerations associated with virtual fencing.

G Technical Requirements and NRCS Coordination

FSA may consult and coordinate with NRCS for technical documentation for State standards and specifications, and may include assistance to evaluate suitability and confirm practice performance is to standard.

2 Policy Provisions (Continued)

H GIS Representation

EC3 fence typically uses a line to represent fence repair or replacement on the ECP software map module. Virtual fence will be represented by a single point for each practice instance, which will be placed anywhere on agricultural land in the area of interest (AOI), which includes all selected farms and tracts on the application. Individual points for each scenario will not be required. Transmitters may need to be placed outside of the AOI to avoid signal shadow and maximize signal coverage on the pasture. This is acceptable if all required access is permitted by the landowner.

3 Action

A State Office Action

State Offices will:

- inform FSA STC, NRCS, and State Technical Committee of the provisions of this notice
- submit questions to either of the following:
 - Shanan Smiley, Acting ECP Program Manager
 - Michelle (Shelly) Berry, CRP/ECP Specialist.

B County Office Action

County Offices will:

- review and follow the provisions in this notice
- provide producers potentially interested in virtual fence with the Producer Information Sheet (Exhibit 3)
- review land and producer eligibility, determine operation suitability, consult with State Office and NRCS when necessary
- document COC determinations of approvals and disapprovals in software and provide justification and deliberation in COC minutes
- submit questions to the State Office.

Examples of Integrated Virtual Fence Payment Scenarios

The following table provides examples of the integrated approach for virtual fence payment scenarios.

Acres	# of Collars (Head)	# Transmitters Needed	Scenarios	Extent
500	125	2	Startup Year 1, Base Cost	1 each
			Implementation Cost	125 each (head)
			Transmitters	0 (because the base cost includes 2 transmitters, so no additional are necessary)
2,000	200	5	Startup Year 1, Base Cost	1 each
			Implementation Cost	200 each (head)
			Transmitters	3 each (because the base cost includes 2 transmitters, so 3 additional are necessary to provide a total of 5)
2,000	0 Virtual fence system was in use at time of disaster. No collars needed for replacement.	5	Startup Year 1, Base Cost	1 each
			Implementation Cost	0
			Transmitters	3 each (because the base cost includes 2 transmitters, so 3 additional are necessary to provide a total of 5)

Decision Tree for Suitability of Virtual Fence

Use the following decision tree to determine suitability of virtual fence.

1. Was interior fencing, or an existing virtual fence system, damaged or destroyed by disaster event?
 - **Yes**-proceed to Question 2
 - **No**-virtual fence cannot be authorized.
2. Are producer and land eligible for ECP?
 - **Yes**-proceed to Question 3
 - **No**-Virtual Fence cannot be authorized.
3. Is virtual fence suitable for livestock type?
 - **If livestock are eligible**-proceed to Question 4. Eligible livestock are adult:
 - cattle over 440 lbs. (can include weaned calves)
 - sheep
 - goats.
 - **If livestock are ineligible**-virtual fence cannot be authorized. Ineligible livestock are:
 - calves/lambs/kids (not recommended due to rapid growth and the need for frequent collar adjustment)
 - horses, donkeys, mules, and other equids (movement patterns, size and behavior make them less responsive to audio treatment)
 - pigs/swine (require different containment and training methods).
4. Is virtual fence suitable for terrain and operation size (minimum 125 head of eligible livestock)?
 - **Yes**-proceed to question 5
 - **No**-Virtual Fence cannot be authorized.
5. Does the land meet at least one of the following conditions?
 - ☐ large, remote, rugged, or difficult to fence
 - ☐ sensitive areas needing livestock exclusion
 - ☐ producer needs to implement adaptive livestock management
 - **If Yes to any**-proceed to Question 6
 - **If No to all**-virtual fence cannot be authorized.

Decision Tree for Suitability of Virtual Fence (Continued)

6. Is the producer aware of the unique benefits and challenges of virtual fence?

- **Yes**-proceed to Final Decision
- **No**-virtual fence should not be authorized until awareness is ensured.

Final Authorization Decision: If **ALL** criteria above is answered **YES** — virtual fence may be authorized.



USDA Expands Payment Limitation and Payment Eligibility Provisions for Farmers

News Release | June 03, 2026

Update Farm Operating Plans by Sept. 15, 2026

WASHINGTON, June 3, 2026 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is expanding payment limitation and payment eligibility provisions that affect program payments including allowing for the equitable treatment of business entities. Additionally, producers will benefit from an increased payment limitation for certain programs, and a broader definition of farming income that will result in more exceptions to income limitations.

"The 2026 program year will be a monumental change for farmers and ranchers who can now structure their farm entities to benefit from the legal protections of certain business structures without limiting their access to the farm safety net," said Bill Beam, FSA Administrator. "Producers have had to make difficult decisions for far too long when it comes to structuring their operations. The administration is proud to give farmers and ranchers more options to build and protect their legacy for generations to come while receiving full support from USDA."

These changes were outlined in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act which provides a large investment in American agriculture by improving eligibility provisions, the farm safety net, disaster assistance, and price support programs. USDA previously announced that this fall, producers will benefit from increased reference prices for major commodities. Today's announcement gives producers more flexibility in structuring their operations and provides a stronger safety net.

Payment Eligibility

Starting with the 2026 crop year, for payment eligibility purposes, FSA will treat applicable limited liability companies (LLCs) and S-Corporations (S-Corps), and other similar entities, as "pass through entities." Each member of the qualified pass-through entity who meets actively engaged in farming criteria will help qualify the entity for expanded payments.

Previously, farm operations that were structured as an LLC or an S-Corp were limited to a single payment limitation, which varies by program. Now, partnerships, S-Corps, qualifying LLCs, and joint ventures or general partnerships will be treated the same.

For program year 2026 only, farm operations that are structured as LLCs or S-Corps or one of the new qualified pass-through entities must file updated farm operating plans with FSA for program year 2026 by Sept. 15, 2026. After program year 2026, FSA will continue to use June 1 as the date for determining ownership interest in an entity. Producers who have crop insurance or Noninsured Crop Disaster Assistance Program coverage should contact their crop insurance agent or local FSA office before restructuring their farm operation to ensure appropriate timing for restructuring without impacting current insurance coverage.

Members of qualified pass-through entities must provide contributions and be engaged in farming for the entity to be considered actively engaged in farming.

An additional change allows members of all entity types to receive compensation for labor and management contributions and use the same contribution to qualify as "actively engaged in farming." This update provides consistent treatment of member contributions across all entity types.

Payment Limitation and Attribution

Payment limitation changes include an increased payment limit for the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) program. Starting with crop year 2025, the ARC and PLC payment limit will increase from \$125,000 to \$155,000. This payment limit will be adjusted going forward annually based on inflation.

Payment limitations are the maximum amount that a person or legal entity can receive for any crop year, directly or indirectly, through certain USDA programs. The same maximum payment limitation that applied to joint ventures and general partnerships will apply to qualified pass-through entities.

The policy change to payment limitation calculations takes effect beginning with program year 2026 for all qualified pass-through entities.

Average Adjusted Gross Income

The Working Families Tax Cuts Act broadened the definition of farming income to be more reflective of modern agricultural business practices. As a result, diversified producers will not be penalized under USDA's requirements for average adjusted gross income (AGI).

Producers are exempt from the \$900,000 AGI cap for conservation and disaster programs if at least 75% of their average gross income is from farming, ranching, or silviculture, which now includes agri-tourism, direct-to-consumer sales, and certain equipment sales.

Additionally, qualified pass-through entities are not required to certify compliance with the average AGI limitation at the entity level. However, members individually must meet average AGI requirements,

which is the same requirement for joint operations.

More Information?????

Producers should contact their [local FSA county office](#) for more information or to update their farm operating plan by the Sept. 15, 2026, deadline for the 2026 program year.?

Farm Service Agency:

1400 Independence Ave.
SW Washington, DC 20250

Contact:

FPAC Press Desk

FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov



USDA Announces Base Acre Increase Opportunity for Agriculture Risk and Price Loss Coverage Safety Net Programs

News Release | May 26, 2026

Landowners to Review Base Allocation Summary by Aug. 31

SCOTT TOWNSHIP, Pa., May 26, 2026 - The U.S. Department of Agriculture's (USDA) Farm Service Agency (FSA) today announced eligible landowners have from June 1 until Aug. 31, 2026 to review and consider base acre increases on farms enrolled in the Agriculture Risk Coverage (ARC) and Price Loss Coverage (PLC) programs, as authorized by provisions included in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, also known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act.

Signed into law by President Donald J. Trump on July 4, 2025, the Act provides landowners with the opportunity to increase base acres in preparation for enrollment in ARC and PLC beginning with the 2026 and future crop years. Nationwide, up to 30 million new base acres can be added by eligible farms.

ARC and PLC are cornerstone commodity safety net programs that provide financial protection to farmers when market prices or revenues decline. These programs help producers manage risk and maintain the economic viability of their operations amid challenging market and weather conditions.

"This is the first chance for adding base acres since 2002. President Trump and Secretary Rollins continue to put Farmers First by ensuring USDA programs help producers protect their operations for generations to come," said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. "These base acre improvements will help strengthen the farm safety net for producers across the country and help them better manage risk by providing greater flexibility for operations that have expanded or diversified since the last time we revisited base allocations."

FSA began notifying eligible landowners, by direct mail, that Base Allocation Summaries outlining potential base acre increases will be available for review beginning June 1, 2026. These Base Allocation Summaries can be accessed online at fsa.usda.gov/arc-plc using a Login.gov account. Landowners who do not currently have a [Login.gov account](https://www.login.gov) are encouraged to contact their local FSA county office to obtain their Base Allocation Summary beginning June 1, 2026. The Base Allocation Summary should be reviewed and any necessary actions completed by Monday, Aug. 31, 2026.

Farm operators often maintain detailed historical planting records. Early communication between landowners and farm operators will ensure the Base Allocation Summary is accurate and all necessary actions are completed by the deadline.

To be eligible for new base acres, a current covered commodity must have been planted or prevented from being planted on the farm during the 2019 through 2023 crop years. The farm's average planted and prevented planted acres during that period must exceed the total existing base acres for all covered commodities in effect on Sept. 30, 2024, excluding unassigned base acres. FSA farm total base acres cannot exceed the farm's total cropland acres. If eligible requests exceed the nationwide cap of 30 million acres, USDA will apply an across-the-board, prorated reduction to all approved new base acres.

For additional information, producers should contact their local FSA county office or visit U.S. Department of Agriculture online at fsa.usda.gov/state-offices.

Farm Service Agency:

1400 Independence Ave.
SW Washington, DC 20250

Contact:

FPAC Press Desk
FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov



USDA Celebrates One Year Anniversary of the Working Families Tax Cuts Act, Delivers Final 'Farmers First' Program Improvements

News Release | July 08, 2026

Significant Enhancements to Disaster Assistance and Commodity Loan Programs

(Washington, D.C., July 8, 2026)—U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Brooke L. Rollins today announced that the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) is making significant improvements to its disaster assistance and commodity loan programs as outlined in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act to celebrate the one-year anniversary of President Donald J. Trump signing the Act into law on July 4, 2025. As part of the commitment to put Farmers First, USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is strengthening disaster assistance support for livestock producers, orchardists and nursery tree growers, increasing Marketing Assistance Loan rates, and expanding Marketing Assistance Loans to better help cotton and sugar producers.

"As we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday, we also celebrate our all-important farmers," said Secretary Rollins. "The Trump administration is committed to ensuring the economic success of farmers and ranchers who rely on a strong safety net when natural disasters impact their infrastructure or when market prices affect their profitability. These producers need and deserve assistance that works for them, not against them."

Cumulatively, the changes outlined in the Working Families Tax Cuts Act provide a significant investment in American agriculture. Last month, FSA announced expanded [payment limitation and payment eligibility provisions](#) and the opportunity to increase [base acres on eligible farms](#). FSA also previously announced that producers will benefit from increased reference prices for major commodities starting this fall. Today, additional policy enhancements for FSA disaster and commodity loan programs are taking effect.

Disaster Assistance Programs

USDA is expanding disaster assistance coverage and increasing benefits to help producers recover from eligible losses.

- Emergency Assistance for Livestock, Honeybees, and Farm-Raised Fish Program (ELAP): ELAP helps producers with losses due to disease, certain adverse weather events, and qualifying conditions that are not covered by other USDA disaster assistance programs. Retroactive to Jan. 1, 2026, ELAP is providing benefits to farm-raised fish losses due to birds that feed on fish and has established a payment rate of \$600 per acre of farm raised fish. Also, effective for 2026 losses, FSA will use a normal mortality rate of 15% for eligible honeybee colony losses.
- Livestock Forage Disaster Program (LFP): LFP provides financial assistance to livestock producers who suffer eligible grazing losses due to a qualifying drought or fire. Retroactive to Jan. 1, 2026, the threshold has been lowered for producers to qualify for a one-month payment with payments now triggering after four consecutive weeks of qualifying severe drought (D2 on the U.S. Drought Monitor) conditions instead of eight weeks. And producers may receive a two-month payment if D2 drought conditions continue for seven out of eight consecutive weeks during the normal grazing period.
- Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP): LIP helps livestock owners and contract growers who suffer livestock losses beyond normal mortality levels due to eligible adverse events. Starting this year, retroactive to Jan. 1, 2026, LIP rates increase to 100% for predation from animals listed as endangered or protected (compared with 75% of market value), and producers have the option to document regional price premiums that exceed the national average market price for eligible livestock losses. Additionally, LIP will also cover unborn livestock losses that occurred on or after Jan. 1, 2024. In most cases, the payment will be automatic for 2024 and 2025 losses based on LIP data on file with FSA with no action required by the producer.
- Tree Assistance Program (TAP): TAP helps orchardists and nursery tree growers replant or rehabilitate trees, bushes, and vines that were lost due to an eligible natural disaster. Retroactive to Jan. 1, 2026, FSA is removing the 15% normal mortality rate, increasing the reimbursement rate for activities like pruning and removal, and extending the implementation period to 24 months with an option to extend.

Marketing Assistance Loans?

[Marketing Assistance Loans \(MALs\)](#) help producers manage cash flow needs and provide marketing flexibility until market prices improve. Producers who choose to forego an MAL can receive a [Loan Deficiency Payment \(LDP\)](#) that provides immediate financial support without taking out a loan. Both are reauthorized through crop year 2031 and, starting in 2026, loan rates will increase for all eligible commodities. FSA is improving MALs for cotton and sugar producers by:

- Increasing cotton storage credit cap starting with the 2026 crop.
- Updating prevailing world market price for upland cotton, using the three lowest-price growth quotes instead of five. This change is retroactive to July 4, 2025.

- Calculating a new prevailing world market price for extra-long staple cotton, which will be announced weekly, similar to upland cotton.
- Authorizing refunds of upland cotton loan redemptions when the Adjusted World Price (AWP) declines within 30 days of the loan repayment date. Producers who request an LDP may be eligible for an additional LDP disbursement if a lower AWP is announced. This change is retroactive to July 4, 2025.
- Extending sugar program through 2031 and increasing raw cane and refined beet sugar loan rates. Additionally, sugar marketing allotments will be adjusted for beet sugar processors.

More Information?

For more information on these updates to FSA programs, visit the [respective program webpage](#) on fsa.usda.gov or this [Federal Register notice](#). Producers interested in applying for disaster assistance, Marketing Assistance Loans, or other FSA programs should contact their [local FSA office](#).

Farm Service Agency:

1400 Independence Ave.
SW Washington, DC 20250

Contact:

FPAC Press Desk
FPAC.BC.Press@usda.gov

Agenda Item 8 – Upcoming Rulemaking at the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD)

Board of Agriculture Meeting – September 2-4, 2026

Introduction

Kim Fritz-Ogren, OWRD's Field Services Division Administrator, will provide the Board of Agriculture with an overview of planned rulemaking by the Oregon Water Resource Commission.

More details will be provided the week of August 31st, 2026.



Staff Report

TO: Oregon Board of Agriculture

FROM: Kim Fritz-Ogren, Field Services Division Administrator, Oregon Water Resources Department

DATE: September 3, 2026

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 8, September 2026 Meeting

UPCOMING RULEMAKING AT THE OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

I. Introduction

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) will report on plans to update Divisions 250, 260, 300, and 340 of Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR) Chapter 690 following scoping efforts. This will include a summary of what was heard during the May and June 2026 open houses.

II. Integrated Water Resources Strategy Recommended Action

- 10.A – Improve Water-Use Efficiency and Water Conservation
- 10.F - Provide an Adequate Presence in the Field

III. Background

Oregon’s Legislature updated several statutes pertaining to water distribution, enforcement, and exempt uses. The bills passed include [House Bill \(HB\) 4061 \(2021\)](#), [HB 2010 \(2023\)](#), [HB 3372 \(2025\)](#), [Senate Bill \(SB\) 326 \(2023\)](#), and [SB 85 \(2023\)](#). Four divisions of the agency’s rules need to be updated to align with and/or implement these statute changes (Table 1). These rules are fundamental to water management. OWRD staff rely on them daily to enforce laws that protect water rights and address unlawful or unpermitted water use. Divisions 250, 260, and 340 were last amended in 1988, 1990, and 1996 respectively. In addition to aligning with statute, updates are necessary to modernize the OWRD’s processes, improve efficiency, and increase clarity.

Table 1. Rules Needing Updates

Rule	Topic
OAR-690-250	Water Distribution
OAR-690-260	Civil Penalties for Other Than Well Construction
OAR-690-340-0010	Exempt Uses
OAR-690-300	Definitions

IV. Scoping Results

To determine how to proceed in terms of the content and timing of rulemaking, the agency completed scoping through internal analysis, public engagement, and discussion with the Commission. During the months of May and June 2026, OWRD hosted nine in-person open houses across the state and one virtual open house to explain required rule changes from recent legislation and gather public input as part of rule scoping efforts. A summary of feedback received during the open houses is included in Attachment 1.

V. Path Forward for Rulemaking

During the open houses and discussion with the Commission, OWRD heard that additional engagement was needed on larger topics in Divisions 250 and 260 before beginning the official rulemaking process. Based on all the input received and our analysis of potential rule changes, OWRD evaluated scheduling options and plans to pursue two separate rulemakings. See Table 2 for a high-level and tentative timeline for the two rulemakings.

Table 2. Tentative Rulemaking Schedule

Rules to be Updated	Pre-rulemaking Engagement and Drafting	Rules Advisory Committee	Public Comment	Recommendation for Adoption
Division 340 and Division 300	August to mid-September 2026	Mid-September to November 2026	January to February 2027	June 2027
Division 250 and Division 260	Fall 2026 to summer 2027	Summer/fall 2027 to spring 2028	Spring 2028	Fall 2028

Splitting the scope into two rulemakings allows for more focused RACs and gives OWRD time to conduct more in-depth policy analyses on the larger topics proposed in Divisions 250 and 260 (e.g., waste of water, bulges in the system, and rotation agreements). Starting the Divisions 340 and 300 rulemaking process would sustain the momentum built since February 2026.

OWRD is working on a draft statement of need, draft rules, and draft fiscal and racial equity impact statements that will be distributed to the rules advisory committee in mid-September. OWRD plans to bring draft rules to the December 2026 Commission meeting for discussion prior to the public comment period. The anticipated scope for the exempt use rulemaking (Division 340 and 300) includes:

- Updating rules to align with statute changes from [HB 3372](#) and [SB 85](#)
- Clarifying the groundwater exemption for domestic purposes
- Clarifying the groundwater exemption for stockwater
- Clarifying that the standard of beneficial use without waste applies to exempt uses
- Completing administrative clean up

The additional time for the water distribution and enforcement rulemaking (Divisions 250 and 260) will allow for pre-rulemaking engagement and research that will inform what topics are addressed in the rulemaking. Topics currently in consideration based on legislative changes, open house feedback, policy feedback, and other scoping research include but are not limited to: changes associated with [HB 2010 \(section 26\)](#), [HB 4061](#), and [SB 326](#), improving the

definition of waste of water, defining bulges in the system, improving rotation agreement process/requirements, updating the civil penalty schedule, and re-affirming current policy in rule that a water storage right allows the water right holder to fill reservoir to the permitted amount once each fill season. Attachment 2 provides an overview of the rulemaking path forward.

VI. Conclusion

Updates are necessary for Divisions 250, 260, 300, and 340 rules to modernize the OWRD's processes, improve efficiency, increase clarity, and align the rules with recent statutory changes.

Attachments:

1. Summary of Comments: What We Heard during the Water Distribution, Enforcement, and Exempt Use Rulemaking Open Houses
2. Overview of Path Forward on Updates to Water Distribution, Enforcement, and Exempt Use Rules

Kim Fritz-Ogren
503-309-7980



Overview of Path Forward on Updates to Water Distribution, Enforcement, and Exempt Use Rules

The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) needs to update the rules for water distribution, enforcement, and exempt uses. After 10 public open houses across the state, OWRD determined that pursuing two separate rulemakings is preferred. The rulemakings would impact Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Chapter 690, Divisions 250, 260, 300 and 340. The first rulemaking will amend the exempt use rules in OAR 690-340-010 and corresponding definitions in OAR 690-300-0010 and begin in the fall of 2026. The second rulemaking will require some additional work to update water distribution and enforcement rules in OAR 690-250 and OAR 690-260. That rulemaking is expected to begin in the fall of 2027.

Why is rulemaking needed

Rule updates are needed due to changes in statute (see list below). Overall, four divisions of OAR Chapter 690 rules need updates: Divisions [250](#), [260](#), [300](#), and [340](#). Divisions 250, 260, and 340 were last amended in 1988, 1990, and 1996 respectively. OWRD is also interested in making other improvements while the rules are open to modification. The new or amended rules would seek to better:

- Align rules with current statutory authority
- Ensure fair distribution of water according to water rights
- Build regulatory consistency
- Add and clarify definitions

Summary of legislative changes to statute

A statute is a law enacted by the Oregon Legislature that provides, directs, or authorizes OWRD activity. Since 2022, several legislative bills have changed statute, requiring OWRD to amend its rules.

- **[House Bill \(HB\) 4061 \(2022\)](#)**: Requires those who sell water for hauling and those purchasing hauled water for irrigation or nursery purposes to retain records of purchases and deliveries. Prohibits hauling water to an unregistered cannabis site. Increases criminal penalties for using water without a water right and adds penalties for hauling water to an unregistered cannabis site. Increases the time allowed for the issuing of a Notice of Violation from 5 days to 10 days.
- **[HB 2010 \(2023\)](#)**: Allows OWRD to require water right holders to report water use if water right holders are required to measure water use. Note, this bill does not apply to exempt uses.
- **[Senate Bill \(SB\) 85 \(2023\)](#)**: Requires OWRD to review confined animal operations (CAFO) water supply plans. Caps the stockwater exemption at 12,000 gallons/day for new or some expanding CAFOs.
- **[SB 326 \(2023\)](#)**: Prohibits use of water to grow cannabis at a location not licensed or registered. Grants OWRD authority to impose civil penalties and increases criminal penalties for this violation.
- **[HB 3372 \(2025\)](#)**: Allows groundwater use up to 3,000 gallons per day to irrigate a half-acre of lawn, personal garden, or commercial garden. Caps the total use when combined with commercial or industrial exempt uses at 5,000 gallons per day. This exemption does not apply to cannabis.

Divisions of rules needing updates

What is a rule? Any agency directive, standard, regulation, or statement of general applicability that implements, interprets, or prescribes law or policy, or describes agency procedure or practice requirements.

- **OAR Chapter 690 [Division 250](#)**: guides Watermaster field regulation, including how to respond to unlawful use, waste, and measurement problems.
- **OAR Chapter 690 [Division 260](#)**: explains enforcement, including the types of violations, how penalties are assessed, and notice requirements.
- **OAR Chapter 690 [Division 300](#)**: contains definitions for water permits, certificates, transfers, and limited licenses.
- **OAR Chapter 690 [Division 340](#)**: explains exempt uses of water, which do not require a water right.

What OWRD heard and how we incorporated feedback

To determine how to proceed and identify additional opportunities for potential rule improvements the Department hosted nine in-person public open houses across the state and one virtual open house in May and June 2026 to explain the required changes from recent legislation. In addition, OWRD gathered input on other potential topics to address as we update the rules. A summary of feedback received during the open houses is available on the [rulemaking website](#).

Informed by the public input received, our analysis of potential rule changes, and after discussions with the Water Resources Commission, OWRD will split the topics into two separate rulemakings to allow for an extended engagement and drafting timeline. In particular, OWRD heard that additional engagement was needed on topics included in Divisions 250 and 260 prior to the beginning of the legal rulemaking process. Therefore, the agency will initiate a rulemaking on exempt uses to update Division 340 and any corresponding definitions in Division 300 first beginning in the fall of 2026. OWRD will initiate a separate rulemaking to update Divisions 250 and 260 which would be expected to begin in late summer or fall 2027 after additional research and engagement. See Table 1 for a high-level and tentative timeline for the two rulemakings.

Table 1. Tentative Rulemaking Schedule

Rulemaking	Pre-rulemaking Engagement and Drafting	Rules Advisory Committee	Public Comment	Present for Adoption
Exempt Use Rulemaking (Division 340 and Division 300)	August to mid-September 2026	Mid-September to November 2026	January to February 2027	June 2027
Water Distribution and Enforcement Rulemaking (Division 250 and Division 260)	Fall 2026 to summer 2027	Summer/fall 2027 to spring 2028	Spring 2028	Fall 2028

Anticipated updates in the exempt use rulemaking (Divisions 340 and 300) are:

- Updating rules to align with statute changes from HB 3372 and SB 85;
- Clarifying the groundwater exemption for domestic purposes;
- Clarifying the groundwater exemption for stockwater;
- Clarifying that the standard of beneficial use without waste applies to exempt uses; and
- Completing administrative clean up.

The additional time for the water distribution and enforcement rulemaking (Divisions 250 and 260) will allow for pre-rulemaking engagement and research that will inform what topics are addressed in the rulemaking. Topics currently under consideration are based on legislative changes, open house feedback, and other scoping research include but not limited to: definition of waste of water, bulges in the system, rotation agreement process/requirements, and re-affirming current policy in rule that a water storage right allows the water right holder to fill up a reservoir to the permitted amount once each fill season.

Next steps

The agency is forming a Rules Advisory Committee (RAC) for the exempt use rulemaking. We anticipate posting draft rules and other materials and hosting the first RAC meeting in September 2026. To keep up to date on the rulemaking, sign up for GovDelivery using the link below.

Stay Engaged

Sign up for email updates on this and other rulemakings:
<https://owrd.info/rulemakingupdates>

Learn more visit our rulemaking website by scanning the QR code (on right) or visiting <https://owrd.info/rulemaking>



Summary of Comments

What We Heard During the Water Distribution, Enforcement, and Exempt Use Rulemaking Scoping Open Houses

The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the comments received during the spring 2026 open houses hosted by the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). These events were held throughout the state as part of scoping updates to OWRD's water distribution, enforcement, and exempt use rules. Comments are grouped into six topic areas:

1. Waste of water
2. Bulges in the system
3. Exempt uses
4. Violations and penalties
5. Rotation agreements
6. Broader comments on rulemaking

Additionally, this document discusses next steps for the rulemaking(s) and how the comments were incorporated into the scoping and scheduling decisions.

Background

Rule updates are needed due to changes in statute resulting from [House Bill \(HB\) 4061 \(2021\)](#), [HB 2010 \(2023\)](#), [HB 2929 \(2023\)](#), [HB 3372 \(2025\)](#), [Senate Bill \(SB\) 326 \(2023\)](#), and [SB 85 \(2023\)](#). Four rule divisions need updates; Divisions [250](#) (water distribution), [260](#) (enforcement), [300](#) (definitions) and [340](#) (exempt uses). Divisions [250](#), [260](#), and [340](#) were last amended in 1988, 1990, and 1996 respectively. While these rules are open to revision, OWRD is also interested in making other improvements within those divisions. The contemplated rule changes seek to:

- Align rules with current statutes
- Ensure fair distribution of water according to water rights
- Build regulatory and enforcement consistency
- Add and clarify definitions

To determine how to proceed and identify other potential rule improvements, OWRD completed scoping through internal analysis, public engagement, and discussion with the Oregon Water Resources Commission.

How Input Was Collected

During May and June 2026, the Department hosted nine in-person open houses across the state and one virtual open house to explain required changes from recent legislation and gather input on other potential topics to address in amending the rules. Participants provided feedback on potential rulemaking topics by answering a series of questions posed by OWRD. Answers were collected using sticky notes and online survey submissions. Table 1 lists the questions asked for each topic. Public input was collected from May 19 through June 26, 2026. Attendance at the open houses ranged from 6 to 50 individuals, with a total of 190 participants.

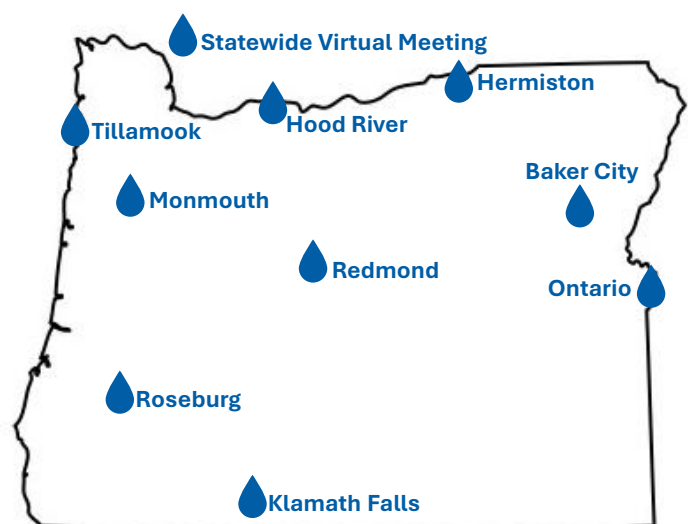


Figure 1: Map displays the locations of the nine in-person open houses in Baker City, Hood River, Hermiston, Klamath Falls, Monmouth, Ontario, Redmond, Roseburg, and Tillamook. OWRD also hosted an additional virtual open house.

Table 1. Survey Questions

Topic	Questions
Waste of water	How would you define waste?
Bulges in the system	- How frequently is water delivered or is your system designed to pump? - What are the problems or challenges with bulges? - What are the benefits and values of bulges? - When, how frequently, and at what rate does your bulge empty?
Exempt uses	- As defined in OAR 690-300-0010(14), "Domestic Water Use" means the use of water for human consumption, household purposes, domestic animal consumption that is ancillary to residential use of the property or related accessory uses." What do you consider "ancillary to residential use of the property or related accessory uses?" - Are there other improvements to the exempt use rules (OAR 690-340-0010) and corresponding definitions in OAR 690-300 that you would like OWRD to pursue?
Violations and civil penalties	- What aspects of violations or penalties feel unclear or confusing? - What types of enforcement issues do you see in your community? - What makes enforcement feel fair and consistent to you? - What information would help water users better understand their responsibilities?
Rotation agreements	- How far in advance do you or would you set up a rotation agreement? - How would you improve the rotation agreement process?



Figure 2: OWRD presenting why rulemaking is needed at the open house in Roseburg.



Figure 3: Table displaying information on exempt uses and bulges in the system and the set up for providing feedback using an online survey tool during the open houses.



Figure 4: Open house participants provide input on rulemaking scope and talk with OWRD staff at open house in Monmouth.



Figure 5: OWRD staff respond to questions at the open house in Redmond.

Summary of Feedback Received

In total, OWRD received 669 responses through the open house engagement process. The sections below include an introduction of each topic and are followed by summarized bulleted themes based on comments received. Bullets are further organized by question, feedback not tied to a specific question is listed as “other comments.” The bullets below represent the various views of those who submitted comments and do not reflect the independent views of OWRD.

Waste of Water

In Oregon, all water is publicly owned. Those who use water in Oregon must use their water for a beneficial purpose and not waste it. Waste of water results in water that could have been used beneficially by junior users downstream not being available in the system. As Oregon continues to see warmer and dryer years, with less winter snowpack, it is ever more important that OWRD ensures water is not wasted. OWRD’s rules contain multiple definitions of waste of water and some definitions are very broad. A clearer definition would help water users, those interested in water management, and OWRD better manage this resource. More information of waste of water can be found [HERE](#).

Question: How would you define waste?

Themes of what a definition of waste should include

- Inefficient manner or timing of use (e.g. midday and excessive watering, watering of non-porous surfaces, run-off)
- Not using the most efficient methods and best available technologies of today
- Not using water in a reasonably efficient and necessary manner
- Water not put to beneficial use or not used for intended use
- Use that damages landscapes (e.g., erosion)
- Negligent, willful, or intentional misuse and illegal use
- Aesthetic uses that do not serve a public benefit (e.g., watering ornamental lawns, landscaping, or golf courses and other recreational purposes during drought)
- Use that does not benefit people, ecosystem, wildlife, recreation, and other public values
- Use causing return flows of polluted water
- Returning excess water to the system

Themes that were identified as both waste and NOT waste

- Normal system losses (ditch seepage, operational releases, return flows, canal evaporation)
- Losses associated with aging or damaged infrastructure
- Customary industry practices
- Water left instream to support ecological needs
- Return flows to rivers, streams, and aquifers

Other comments on considerations for developing a definition of waste

- Tailor definition to specific basin conditions (e.g. population, industry, topography, climate)
- Incorporate drought-responsive criteria or allow for drought-specific definitions
- Develop and require use of efficiency standards and best available technology
- Include industry-specific considerations or definitions (e.g., data centers)
- Modernize outdated concepts of waste and beneficial use to meet needs and conditions of today
- Close waste loopholes (e.g., landscape irrigation categorized as nursery use)
- Evaluate beneficial use and waste together, given their interdependence
- Balance current needs with future water availability
- Consideration of primary use and secondary benefits (e.g. recharge, wetland watering, ecosystem and wildlife benefits)
- Define in manner which is free from local or political pressures

Other comments on waste

- Address the “use it or lose it” principle within water rights, current water law pushes users to use all their water, even if they do not need it, just to keep their rights
- Rulemaking is not needed as existing processes such as the courts, contested case procedures, and watermaster determinations already address waste issues and may be better suited for case-by-case evaluation
- Address public education needs related to water waste, conservation, and available technology
- Encourage waste reduction through incentive-based programs
- Consider metering and reporting requirements for permitted and exempt uses for monitoring and deterrence

Bulges in the System

A bulge in the system is an off-channel temporary storage facility or holding area that is not associated with a storage water right. Bulges, also called BIS's, are intended to address irrigation and agricultural system needs while allowing the water user to stay within the terms of their water right. Bulges are not intended to prolong an irrigation season, accommodate year-round storage, be in-channel, capture groundwater, use as a statutory dam, or injure other instream or consumptive water rights or wetlands. Bulges in the system are not addressed in rule, only internal OWRD guidance. Creating rules may clarify how this tool can be used lawfully. More information on bulges in the system can be found [HERE](#)

Question: How frequently is water delivered or is your system designed to pump?

- How often and how much water is delivered depends on the water right, system, and local practices
- Delivery can be every two to three weeks, daily, or hourly
- Climate change is making delivery patterns less predictable

Question: When, how frequently, and at what rate does your bulge empty?

- Some are never empty as water use occurs year-round for irrigation, frost control, heat control, pesticide application, fertilizer application, etc.
- Some empty at varied rates based on factors such as heat, fire needs, rainfall, etc.
- Some are designed to store only enough water

Question: What are the problems or challenges with bulges?

- Lack of clear definition creates confusion, raising questions about if/when bulges are allowed, and when a storage right is required, if/how rainwater capture is allowed, and if/when dam safety requirements may apply
- Water loss due to leaks, comingling of legally diverted surface water and illegal groundwater, and evaporation
- Bulges can enlarge the amount and timing of diversions/water use to the detriment of other water users, instream flows, and water quality
- The timing of filling bulges can be unpredictable
- Lack of clarity in how bulges in the system are regulated when the water rights have year-round use thus the bulge may never be empty

Question: What are the benefits and values of bulges?

- Increase water supply reliability, overcome delivery limitations, provide backup supply during pump failures or shortages, allow beneficial use of water under a water right with a deficient rate, act as a buffer between delivery limits and irrigation needs
- Improves flexibility for water users and managers, allows for use of variable irrigation systems
- May lead to more efficient use of water and improved collection and management of tailwater
- May offer secondary benefits for wildlife, flood control, and fire suppression
- For groundwater they may allow for a lower rate of diversion/pumping and a smaller cone of depression

Other comments on bulges in the system

- Need for clearer definition that focuses on bulge function and seasonality
- Definition should explicitly exclude structures that capture groundwater
- Rules should be simple, avoid a one-size-fits-all approach, and not add new storage permitting requirements beyond what already exists
- Bulges need to be clearly separated from reservoirs in both how they are defined and regulated to prevent confusion and unnecessary water-right requirements
- Bulges are water-storage ponds and reservoirs that are not allowed by law and should not be used as a loophole for storing water and should require a water right
- Bulges should offer practical flexibility (e.g. allow small amounts of water in lined structures to prevent UV damage or use groundwater to fill them and reduce diversion rates and cone impacts)
- Bulges should not be used for recreation or aesthetics (e.g. lakes, ponds, resorts)
- Diversion of water into a bulge is not a beneficial use and should not be included on a claim of beneficial use
- The current OWRD policy which sets a 10-day limit for holding water lawfully diverted under a water right is not sufficient for irrigation system needs
- The amount of water held should match what crops need, not just what is authorized
- Bulges should be considered for uses other than irrigation, like stockwater, municipal and industrial needs, and exempt uses
- Using bulges beyond the allowed holding period unlawfully enlarges a water right and harms other users
- Consider bulge impacts on restoration projects when writing the rules
- Bulges could be a tool to help endangered species

Exempt Uses

Using water in Oregon requires a permit or water right, except for specific situations exempted by Oregon law. These are called “exempt uses” of water as they are exempt from the water right permitting process. Different exempt uses have specific limitations or conditions for the exemption to qualify. More information on exempt uses can be found [HERE](#).

Question: As defined in OAR [690-300-0010\(14\)](#), "Domestic Water Use" means the use of water for human consumption, household purposes, domestic animal consumption that is ancillary to residential use of the property or related accessory uses." What do you consider “ancillary to residential use of the property or related accessory uses?”

- Ancillary to residential use refers to water uses that typically occur on residential property and support normal daily living
- Uses commonly considered ancillary: household needs, personal gardens or other personal food production, maintaining vegetation for property care, providing water for pets or non-commercial livestock, fire suppression or resiliency, car washing, and basic wildlife access
- Uses with mixed feedback: ponds, landscape watering, commercial irrigation, livestock watering (commercial and non-commercial, removal or limitations suggested), commercial boarding kennels or stables, pools, spas, decorative water features, reservoirs, and conservation and restoration activities

Question: Are there other improvements to the exempt use rules (OAR 690-340-0010) and corresponding definitions in OAR 690-300 that you would like OWRD to pursue?

- Exempt uses should be defined with flexibility for each region to reflect local water needs and conditions
- Rules should make it clear that exempt uses, including the new commercial garden exemption, can be regulated off if they interfere with instream water rights or senior rights
- The amount of water allowed for exempt well uses should be reduced, current daily limits are higher

than necessary

- Exempt use should be paired with incentives for increased water efficiency and reporting
- Exempt use should include measurement or metering and reporting
- Exempt uses should be expanded by statute to include walking wetlands, beaver dam analogs, ponds for fire suppression, wildlife water sources, stream and wetland enhancements, and conservation or restoration projects
- Clarification on whether exempt use is per tax lot or per parcel
- Limitations or conditions on exempt uses should be applied when wells are located near streams, in areas with declining aquifers, or in hydraulically connected and over-appropriated basins
- Basin classification should be used to determine when and how exempt wells are limited

Other comments on exempt uses

- Exempt uses should be narrowed by statute
- Funding is needed for expanded monitoring of exempt uses
- Exempt use education
- Overall need for more information on exempt use for informed decision making

Violations and Penalties

OWRD is charged with fair distribution of water according to water rights and protection of existing rights. Unlawful water use, unsafe practices, or ignoring regulatory orders can injure other water right holders and harm streams and aquifers. When someone uses water without authorization, fails to maintain required infrastructure, or does not follow a watermaster's regulation, OWRD may take enforcement action. With increasing drought and changing water demands, it is essential that OWRD's enforcement tools stay clear, current, and aligned with statute. More information on violations and penalties can be found [HERE](#).

Question: What aspects of violations or penalties feel unclear or confusing?

- Current rules are unclear, should use easy-to-understand language and avoid unnecessary red tape
- It is unclear how OWRD monitors water use and enforces the rules
- What leads to an investigation for non-compliance and triggers enforcement action versus education or opportunity to voluntarily comply
- How civil penalty amounts are determined and assessed against those found to be in violation
- What constitutes unauthorized use of water or violation of the water right
- Changes to reporting methods
- No aspects of violations or penalties are unclear or confusing

Question: What types of enforcement issues do you see in your community?

- Use without a water right (e.g. Illegal cannabis, mining/dredging, ponds/pools and taking water at night)
- Taking more water than needed and wasting water
- Illegal cannabis use
- Pumping above permitted rates
- Changing a point of diversion without approval
- Using wells that have not been active for years
- No enforcement issues
- Lack of, inconsistent, or insufficient enforcement by OWRD, including an overreliance on seeking voluntary compliance
- Insufficient staffing or capacity at OWRD
- Insufficient penalties or consequences for not following water law
- Not metering use or reporting water use as required
- Resurrection of water rights subject to forfeiture

- Using water out of fear of losing it but not really putting it to beneficial use
- Unfounded complaints against water users
- Challenges associated with unclear rules and key terms in the law

Question: What makes enforcement feel fair and consistent to you?

- A standard policy, applied across all water users, that holds accountable the use of the public resource
- Monitoring and metering of water use to better enforce
- Immediate fines should be issued after a notice of violation, no warnings should occur
- Enforcement starts with corrective actions or education before issuing fines
- Everyone is held accountable or is treated the same regardless of who they are or what power they hold
- Ensuring violations result in meaningful consequences rather than only notices of violation
- Adequate data and personnel to ensure OWRD monitors and enforces rules
- Pursuing enforcement like other OWRD efforts where they work to holistically address a full set of similar violations

Question: What information would help water users better understand their responsibilities?

- Increased outreach to help the water-using community understand water laws and avoid violations
- Updated educational materials written in plain, accessible language; this includes updating the Aquabook, offering water use 101 seminars, and developing fact sheets on topics such as available efficiency programs and how to lease water instream
- Communication with local staff should be improved, provide easy to locate contact information
- Clear definitions of terms and violations, including waste of water and bulges in the system, are essential for fair and consistent enforcement
- Programs to help people buy and install flowmeters to better understand their water use
- Requiring permit holders sign a sworn statement affirming that they understand the conditions in their permit and the statutes and rules regarding violations and enforcement

Other comments on violations and penalties

- Penalties for illegal water use should be strengthened, including increasing civil fines to the maximum allowable level and considering criminal penalties such as jail time. Current penalties do not provide adequate deterrence, and OWRD should evaluate stronger approaches used in other states
- Opposition to increasing civil penalties
- Rules should clearly define illegal use and raise civil penalties as much as possible
- Enforcement efforts should prioritize intentional, repeated, or harmful violations to serve as a deterrent for efficient water use, especially during drought conditions
- OWRD should focus on addressing unreported water use, abandoned rights, illegal withdrawals, illegal cannabis operations, and other ongoing non-compliance
- Division 250 and 260 should be updated and clarified; the process should be simpler to make sure there is accountability for non-compliance

Rotation Agreements

Oregon law allows landowners to enter into written agreements with OWRD to rotate use of a collective set of water rights they hold. The rotation agreement allows the water users to make the most out of limited supplies of water and address system needs by providing water to certain permitted parties at certain times. This could be upstream users passing water when not their turn in rotation so that downstream users may pick up or play out on a jointly owned ditch system similarly. The watermaster will distribute water in accordance with the submitted rotation agreement for the set time of that agreement which must be for one irrigation season, at minimum. Water rotation agreements provide water right holders the flexibility to navigate changes in water supply by working with other water users. As water becomes scarcer, they may be an increasingly important tool for meeting water needs. OWRD is interested in making sure our rules are set up to support potential increased use of the tool. More information on rotation

agreements can be found [HERE](#).

Question: How far in advance do you or would you set up a rotation agreement?

- Responses included 4 to 6 weeks, 3 to 6 months, and one year in advance
- Rotation agreements may be established annually or set up to last for several years
- The timing for filing a rotation agreement depends in part on the specific water year conditions

Question: How would you improve the rotation agreement process?

- Provide templates or model agreements
- Agreements and any requirements should be simple, less formal, flexible and easily renewable
- Rotation agreements should include a way to alternate between instream and out-of-stream water use and include forbearance agreements for conservation
- Require agreement provisions as requirements when dividing water rights.
- Carry water should not be included in rotation agreements and should not apply to overseeing Intergovernmental Agreements
- Include rotation agreements in the official water right file

Broader Comments on Rulemaking

During outreach, OWRD received broader feedback on the scope of rule updates.

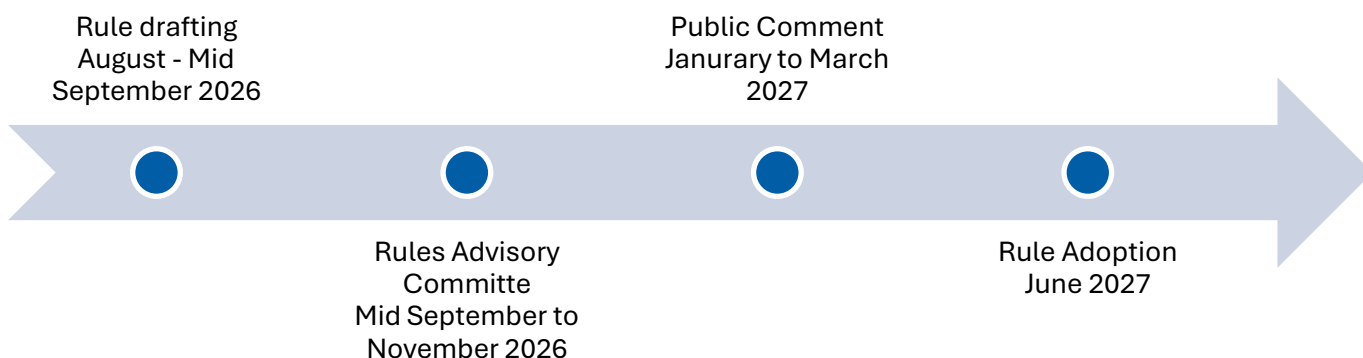
Other comments on rulemaking generally

- OWRD should not pursue updates to statewide rules but should do regional rules or set rules basin-by-basin
- Do not rush rulemaking, consider extending the timeline to provide sufficient time for engagement and rule refinement
- Rules Advisory Committees should have representation from all regions of the state
- Original owners and stewards of this land- indigenous, native, and tribal peoples are the ones who should be making these decisions and elected as the guardians and leadership
- More comprehensive rule updates are needed to better manage water in Oregon
- Rule updates should be limited to those required due to changes in statute
- The Department should prioritize reducing existing backlogs in contested cases and water right processing rather than initiate new rulemaking

Next Steps

Based on the input received, OWRD determined it would be best to split the topics into two rulemakings. One theme that the Department heard was that additional engagement is needed on larger topics in Division 250 and 260 before beginning the official rulemaking process. In response, OWRD will address the Division 340 and any corresponding definitions in Division 300 through rulemaking starting in fall 2026. Afterwards, a separate rulemaking process to update Divisions 250 and 260 in the late summer or fall 2027 after additional research and engagement will occur. More rulemaking specific information can be found below. See figures 6 and 7 for the anticipated timeline for the two rulemakings.

Figure 6. Anticipated Rulemaking Schedule for Division 340 and 300



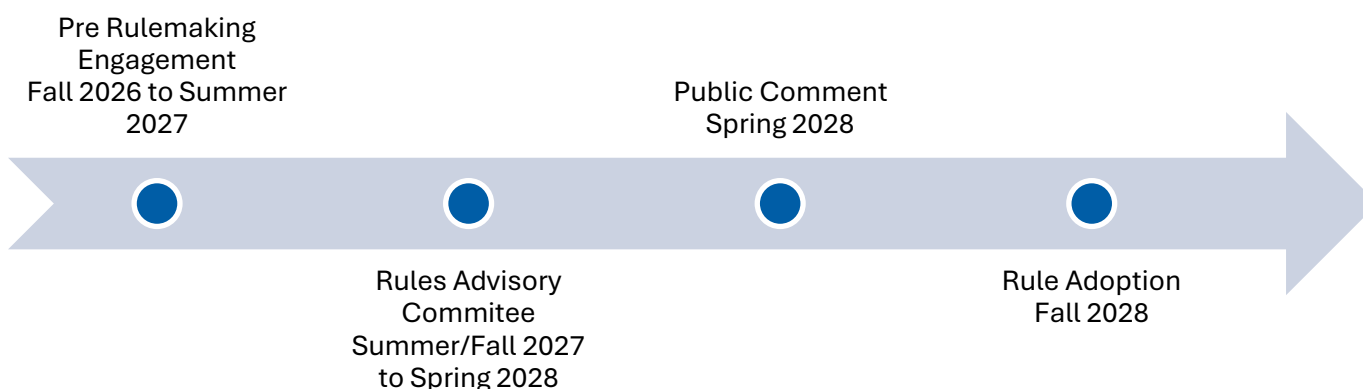
Anticipated scope for the Division 340 and 300 rulemaking

- Updating rules to align with statute changes from HB 3372 and SB 85
- Clarifying groundwater exemption for domestic purposes
- Clarifying the groundwater exemption for stockwater
- Clarifying that the standard of beneficial use without waste applies to exempt uses
- Completing administrative clean up

Anticipated Timeline for Divisions 250 and 260

The additional time for the water distribution and enforcement rulemaking (Divisions 250 and 260) will allow for pre-rulemaking engagement and research that will inform what topics are addressed in the rulemaking. Topics currently in consideration based on legislative changes, open house feedback, policy feedback, and other scoping research include but are not limited to; changes associated with [HB 2010 \(section 26\)](#), [HB 4061](#), and [SB 326](#), improving the definition of waste of water, defining bulges in the system, improving rotation agreement process/requirements, updating the civil penalty schedule, and re-affirming in rule that Oregon is a one-fill state when it comes to stored water.

Figure 7. Anticipated Schedule for Divisions 250 & 260



UPCOMING RULEMAKING AT THE OREGON WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT

Kim Fritz-Ogren

Field Services Division Administrator, OWRD

September 3, 2026



Why rulemaking is needed

- [House Bill \(HB\) 4061 \(2022\)](#)
- [HB 2010 \(2023\)](#)
- [Senate Bill \(SB\) 85 \(2023\)](#)
- [SB 326 \(2023\)](#)
- [HB 3372 \(2025\)](#)

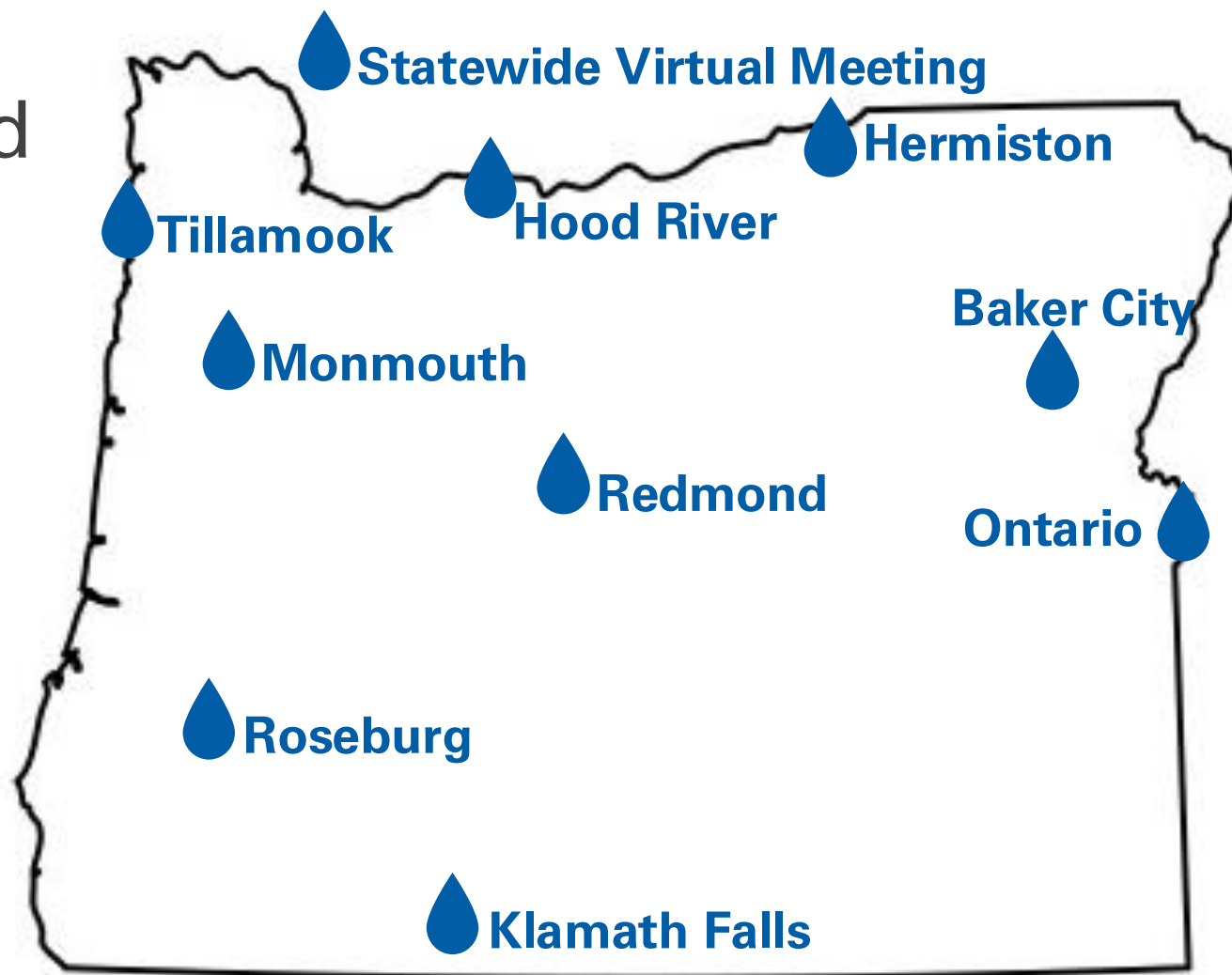


OWRD rules needing updates

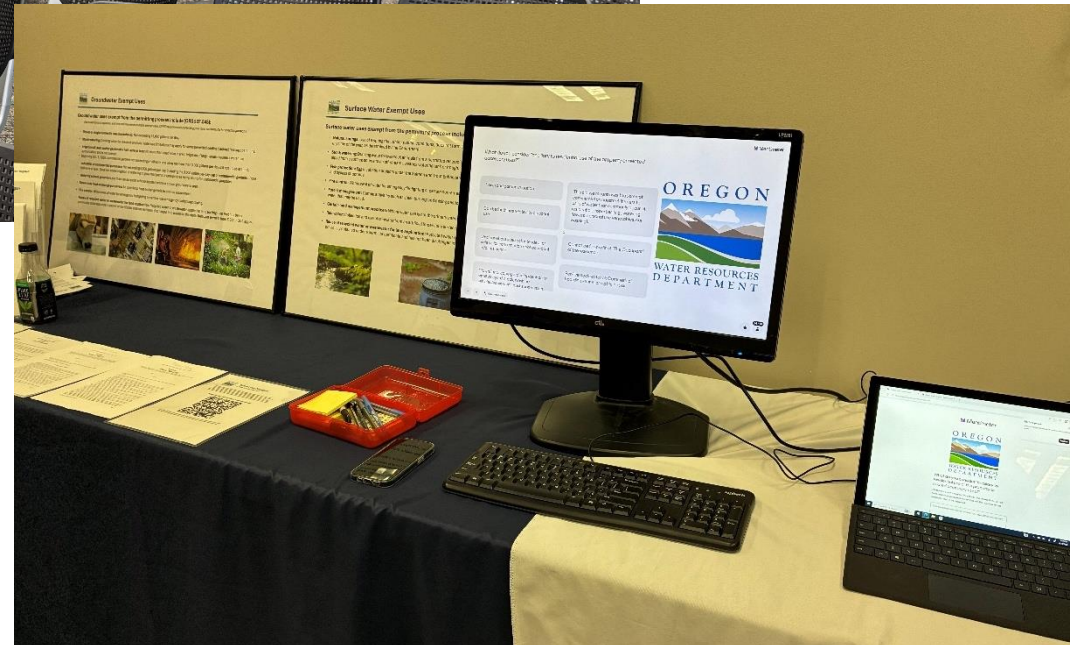
- Oregon Administrative Rule (OAR), Chapter 690:
 - [Division 250](#) – Water Distribution
 - [Division 260](#) – Civil Penalties in Other Than Well Construction
 - [Division 340-010](#) – Exempt Uses
 - [Division 300](#) – Definitions
- 250-260-340 rules last updated in 1988, 1990, and 1996

Open houses

- Inform the public and tribes of statute changes
- Gather and consider input on potential rulemaking topics



Ways to engage



How feedback was used



Understand community concerns



Identify potential impacts



Determine scope and content of rules



Consider this input alongside legal requirements, scientific data, and policy goals

Waste of water

- In the state of Oregon, water must be used beneficially without waste
- The multiple definitions of waste in our rules are broad and open to interpretation
- May be beneficial to amend the definition of waste to make it clearer for consistent enforcement

Bulges in the system

- Rules do not clearly define what qualifies as a bulge in the system (BIS)
- May be beneficial to define in rule for clarity and consistency



Example of a bulge in the system

Exempt uses

- HB 3372 (2025) made changes to exempt uses
- May be beneficial to clarify
 - the definition of “domestic water use.”
 - how exempt use is limited to beneficial use



Stockwater

Violations and penalties

- HB 4061 (2022) and SB 326 (2023) added new civil penalties for illegal cannabis water use
- May be beneficial to update the civil penalties schedule (i.e., dollar amount per violation) last set in 1990



Rotation agreements

Rotation agreements can be a valuable tool during periods of water scarcity

May be beneficial to clarify:

- Rotation agreement requirements
- How agreements are reviewed and enforced



Summary of Comments

What We Heard During the Water Distribution, Enforcement, and Exempt Use Rulemaking Scoping Open Houses

The purpose of this document is to provide a summary of the comments received during the spring 2026 open houses hosted by the Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD). These events were held throughout the state as part of scoping updates to OWRD's water distribution, enforcement, and exempt use rules. Comments are grouped into six topic areas:

1. Waste of water
2. Bulges in the system
3. Exempt uses
4. Violations and penalties
5. Rotation agreements
6. Broader comments on rulemaking

Additionally, this document discusses next steps for the rulemaking(s) and how the comments were incorporated into the scoping and scheduling decisions.

Background

Rule updates are needed due to changes in statute resulting from [House Bill \(HB\) 4061 \(2021\)](#), [HB 2010 \(2023\)](#), [HB 2929 \(2023\)](#), [HB 3372 \(2025\)](#), [Senate Bill \(SB\) 326 \(2023\)](#), and [SB 85 \(2023\)](#). Four rule divisions need updates; Divisions [250](#) (water distribution), [260](#) (enforcement), [300](#) (definitions) and [340](#) (exempt uses). Divisions [250](#), [260](#), and [340](#) were last amended in 1988, 1990, and 1996 respectively. While these rules are open to revision, OWRD is also interested in making other improvements within those divisions. The contemplated rule changes seek to:

- Align rules with current statutes
- Ensure fair distribution of water according to water rights
- Build regulatory and enforcement consistency
- Add and clarify definitions

To determine how to proceed and identify other potential rule improvements, OWRD completed scoping through internal analysis, public engagement, and discussion with the Oregon Water Resources Commission.

How Input Was Collected

During May and June 2026, the Department hosted nine in-person open houses across the state and one virtual open house to explain required changes from recent legislation and gather input on other potential topics to address in amending the rules. Participants provided feedback on potential rulemaking topics by answering a series of questions posed by OWRD. Answers were collected using sticky notes and online survey submissions. Table 1 lists the questions asked for each topic. Public input was collected from May 19 through June 26, 2026. Attendance at the open houses ranged from 6 to 50 individuals, with a total of 190 participants.

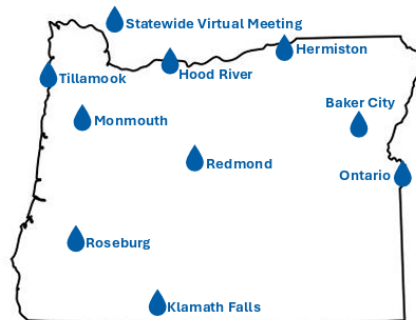


Figure 1: Map displays the locations of the nine in-person open houses in Baker City, Hood River, Hermiston, Klamath Falls, Monmouth, Ontario, Redmond, Roseburg, and Tillamook. OWRD also hosted an additional virtual open house.

Summary of Comments

- [Summary online](#)
- Impact of feedback collected:
 - Split into two rulemakings
 - Exempt Use Rulemaking ([Division 340](#) and [Division 300](#))
 - Water Distribution and Enforcement Rulemaking ([Division 250](#) and [Division 260](#))
 - Take more time for research and discussion for Div 250 and 260

Anticipated rulemaking scopes

Exempt Use Rulemaking (Division 340 and Division 300)

- Updating rules to align with statute changes from HB 3372 and SB 85
- Clarifying groundwater exemption for domestic purposes
- Clarifying the groundwater exemption for stockwater
- Clarifying that the standard of beneficial use without waste applies to exempt uses
- Completing administrative clean up

Water Distribution and Enforcement Rulemaking (Division 250 and Division 260)*

- Definition of waste of water
- Bulges in the system
- Rotation agreement process/requirements
- Re-affirming current policy in rule that a water storage right allows the water right holder to fill up a reservoir to the permitted amount once each fill season

tentative scope, more time will allow further scope refinement

Rulemaking Timelines

Rulemaking	Pre-rulemaking Engagement and Drafting	Rules Advisory Committee	Public Comment	Recommendation for Adoption
Exempt Use Rulemaking (Division 340 and Division 300)	August to mid-September 2026	Mid-September to November 2026	January to February 2027	June 2027
Water Distribution and Enforcement Rulemaking (Division 250 and Division 260)	Fall 2026 to summer 2027	Summer/fall 2027 to spring 2028	Spring 2028	Fall 2028

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WATER RESOURCES
DEPARTMENT

Thank you! Questions?

Kim Fritz-Ogren

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Oregon.gov/owrd



[@OregonGovWRD](https://www.youtube.com/@OregonGovWRD)



[Linkedin.com/company/owrd](https://www.linkedin.com/company/owrd)

Agenda Item 9 – General Public Comment

Board of Agriculture Meeting – September 2-4, 2026

Introduction

The Board will hold a 15-minute public comment period on general topics. Additionally, the Board may review written comments submitted prior to the Board meeting.

To sign-up to provide verbal comments or to submit written comments, visit the Board's website at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture>

To date, the following individuals have signed up to provide verbal public comment:

- Kris Schaedel, Hood River SWCD – ODA Pesticides Program

Agenda Item 11 – Board Business

Board of Agriculture Meeting – September 2-4, 2026

Officer Elections

The Board will vote for leadership positions of Chair and Vice-Chair.

OWEB Report

Chad Allen was appointed as the Board of Agriculture's representative on the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) at the last meeting. Chad will provide a high-level update of the last OWEB meeting.

2027 Meeting Dates, Locations, and Topics

March 3-5, 2027: Holiday Inn, Salem, OR

June: TBD (Medford/Rogue Valley)

September: TBD (Boardman)

December 9-11, 2027: Joint with the Fish and Wildlife Commission in Salem, OR

Biennial Report to the Legislature

The Board will revisit their biennial report to the Legislature.

Future Resolution Review

The Board will review the list of resolutions and identify potential topics to review in the next year. A list of current active Board Resolutions is included for review.

Active Board Resolutions – Oregon State Board of Agriculture

#	Title	General Description
000	Policy & Procedures for Resolutions	Outlines the general process the Board uses to create, review, adopt, and make publicly available its policy resolutions
024	Pesticide Use for Pest Control	Supports the use of pesticides as a necessary tool within an integrated pest management system when applied per federal law to protect people and the environment
029	Reservation of Columbia River Water for Irrigation	Recommends reserving water from the Columbia River for future irrigation and agricultural needs
107	Priority for Agricultural Use of Water	Asserts that agricultural water needs should be equitably considered in statewide water planning and supports water infrastructure investments that benefit agriculture
124	Trade Policy that Promotes Free and Reciprocal Access	Endorses US trade policies that reject protectionism and ensure fair, reciprocal market access for Oregon agricultural products
155	Position on Farm Tax Deferral & Urban Growth Boundaries	Advocates for maintaining farm-use tax deferrals within urban growth boundaries and limiting boundary expansion until urban densities are reached
162	Buildable Lands Inside Urban Growth Boundaries	Opposes mandates for a fixed 20-year supply of buildable lands within urban growth boundaries, favoring local control to protect farmland
169	Need for Documented Agricultural Workforce	Calls for immigration reform that provides paths to legal status for agricultural workers and improvements to guest worker programs
266	Collective Bargaining for Agricultural Workers & Employers	Supports extending collective bargaining protections to Oregon's agricultural workers under equitable rules
274	Collaboration with Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board	Encourages continued partnership between the Board/ODA and the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board to support watershed health and water quality
275	Cougar Management Plan	Supports Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife's cougar management plan to address predator threats to livestock
281	Conservation Plan for the Oregon Coast Coho	Endorses efforts to help recover Oregon Coast coho salmon populations and coordinate agricultural contributions
295	Protection of Oregon Agriculture	Reaffirms support for protecting viable farming operations and agricultural land from certain development and land-use changes
298	Coexistence of Wolves & Livestock	Supports science-based wolf management that includes nonlethal deterrents and, when necessary, lethal control to protect livestock, plus full funding for compensation programs
300	Siting of Aggregate Mining in the Willamette Valley	Sets conditions for siting aggregate mining to avoid conversion of prime agricultural soils and require meaningful mitigation and reclamation if unavoidable

Active Board Resolutions – Oregon State Board of Agriculture

301	Minimizing Conflicts of Coexistence in Agriculture	Promotes stewardship, communication among producers, choice of legal technologies, and best management practices to reduce conflicts across farming systems
305	The Native Plant Conservation Program	Recognizes the importance and statutory authority of the ODA Native Plant Conservation Program in protecting threatened and endangered plants
307	Farmworker Housing	Emphasizes the need for adequate, affordable housing for agricultural workers, urges flexible implementation of housing rules, and supports increased funding and collaboration on housing solutions
309	Coordinated Streamside Management Approach to Water Quality	Affirms the Board's support for strategic, multi-agency streamside managements to improve water quality and habitat through coordinated implementation areas
310	Siting of Agri-tourism and Entertainment Activities	Provides policy guidance on siting agri-tourism and related activities on agricultural lands to support farming viability (generally aimed at balancing economic use with agricultural land protection)
313	Water Quality Strategic Implementation Areas & SWCD Focus Areas	Supports the use of strategic implementation and focus areas to address serious water quality issues on agricultural lands and recommends periodic MOA review
314	Permitted Uses on Lands Zoned Exclusive Farm Use & High-Value Farmland	Offers the Board's stance on permitted land uses to preserve the purpose of exclusive farm use and protect high-value farmland
315	Workings Lands Conservation Easements	Advocates for conservation easements that protect productive working lands from conversion
316	Federal Minimum Wage Parity	Supports aligning federal minimum wage provisions with conditions in Oregon to ensure parity and fairness for agricultural workers
317	ODA's Role in FSMA Produce Safety Rule	Affirms ODA's role in implementing the federal Food Safety and Modernization Act (FSMA)
318	Siting of Energy Transmission & Generation Facilities on Agricultural Land	Provides guidance to minimize impacts when locating energy infrastructure on agricultural land
319	Climate Change Policy Considerations	States the Board's position on considering climate change impacts in agricultural policy and planning
320	Agriculture Overtime	Addresses the Board's position on overtime pay policies as they apply to agricultural workers

Agenda Item 12 – Oregon Land Use System

Board of Agriculture Meeting – September 2-4, 2026

Introduction

The Board of Agriculture will hear from staff at the Department of Land Conservation and Development and the Association of Oregon Counties to learn about how Goal 3 of Oregon's Land Use Planning System is implemented across the state. The Board will then review its suite of land use related Resolutions. The goal of this set of presentations is to provide the Board with a fundamental understanding of how agricultural lands are protected under Goal 3 of Oregon's land use planning system.

Oregon Land Use System Overview – Oregon Dept. Of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)

The Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) will provide the Board with an overview of Oregon's land use planning system, the state's role in regulating and educating local land use planners, and how Goal 3 (Protection of Agricultural Lands) fits into the overarching land use planning system.

Oregon Land Use in Practice – Association of Oregon Counties

A representative from the Association of Oregon Counties will meet with the Board to discuss how Goal 3 protections are implemented at the local level throughout the state. It is anticipated that urban growth boundaries (UGBs), county economic development planning, and other similar land use issues will be discussed.

Public Comment – Agricultural Land Use (10:00 AM – 9/4/2026)

The Board will hear public comments related to agricultural land use. To provide verbal comments or to submit written comments ahead of the meeting, visit the Board's website at <https://oda.direct/BoardAgriculture> for details.

Land Use Resolution Review Process

The Board will review its land use resolutions attached to this memo. The Board will discuss a plan to review and potentially revise its land use resolutions. Below is a potential timeline for resolution review consideration:

The Board will start with **Resolution 295**, which captures the Board's broad land use themes. The goal is to ground the discussion in current agricultural and working-lands needs—what's working, what needs improvement, and where the Board can add value. These questions will be used to guide the conversation with the Board:

What lands need protection, and how should that be defined?

- Clarify messaging around EFU, high-value farmlands, AVA-designated lands
- Discuss current statutory protection mechanisms
- Touch on historical EFU designations (e.g., broad-sweep mapping in some counties)
- Consider land characteristics beyond soils (e.g., water availability, infrastructure needs)

How should communities incorporate agricultural land protection into long-term planning?

- Explore how UGB planning and 20-year development needs intersect with ag land preservation

Proposed Review Timeline

- **September 2026:** Land Use 101 and refine high-level land protection priorities
- **December 2026:** Discuss allowable uses of EFU/HVF lands and refine Board messaging
- **March 2027:** Incorporate relevant legislative updates; review consolidated draft resolution(s) and gather public input
- **June 2027:** Finalize and adopt consolidated land use resolution(s)

Land Use Resolution Review

*Board of Agriculture
September 2026*

*Lindsay Eng, Deputy Director
John Boyes, Policy Advisor and
Tribal Liaison*



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Setting the Stage



- 8 Board Resolutions related to land use
- Some tied to single topic areas, others more general
- Common asks across resolutions
- Comprehensive impacts analysis
- Can we consolidate and clarify messaging?



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Existing Resolutions

Comprehensive overview of
land-use related Board
Resolutions

Resolution Overview

- General Land Use Considerations
 - Resolution 295 – Start the discussion here
- Urban Growth Boundaries (UGBs) and Property Taxes
 - Resolutions 155 & 162 – tax deferral within UGBs, and UGBs in general (20 yr supply of buildable lands)
- Permitted Uses of Ag Lands
 - Resolutions 310 & 314 – Agritourism, review of existing permitted uses, calls for cumulative impact analysis and better definitions
- Energy Development and Mining
 - Resolutions 300 & 318 – mining and energy transmission



Connection to ODA's Mission

- ORS 197.180: establishes State Agency Coordination Program (SACs)
 - Requires state agencies to carry out land use related duties in a manner compatible with acknowledged plans
 - Acknowledged plans were last updated in the 1990s
 - Potentially renewing these plans to reflect modern programs
 - ODA programs from initial SAC: Oyster Plat Leasing and SWCD Conservation Grants

Board Land Use Resolutions

- What lands need conserved and how?
- How do we consolidate land use resolutions to maximize utility?
- Clarify messaging
- Review again in December

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Position on Farm Tax Deferral and Urban Growth Boundaries	Number: 155 Effective Date: 06/15/2023
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Johnson, Miller, Svaty ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/15/2023 Original Resolution Date: 12/09/1994
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file, 06/15/2023

Background

Whereas the State Board of Agriculture recognizes that it is not uncommon to find commercial farming operations located inside of many urban growth boundaries throughout Oregon;

Whereas, while awaiting future urbanization, many “vacant” urban lands are rented and leased by farmers and ranchers and put into production;

Whereas farm use special assessment is currently available for all lands in Oregon regardless of zoning designation;

Whereas, lands not zoned for exclusive farm use (EFU) must meet the same requirements as those zoned EFU and meet minimum income requirements established in ORS 308A.056.;

Whereas, unlike EFU lands which qualify automatically when they meet the definition of “farm use,” non-EFU lands may qualify only after justification through application;

Whereas regardless of tax status, all lands located within an urban growth boundary (UGB) are considered to be urban land and must be considered in any evaluation of available “buildable land” before justification of an expansion of any UGB and upon a “change of use,” the subject land is disqualified from farm value assessment;

Whereas, elimination of farm property tax deferrals within Urban Growth Boundaries could place legitimate farming operations on land not yet needed for development at a competitive disadvantage potentially leading to the dissolution of these operations and resulting in premature low-density development in conflict with land use planning goals;

Whereas the location of many important components of Oregon’s agricultural industry are found in and near urban areas and specifically, inside urban growth boundaries.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the State Board of Agriculture supports the Farm Use Special Assessment (Tax Deferral) program remaining available and being maintained within Urban Growth Boundaries.

Be it further resolved that expansion of urban growth boundaries be considered only after desirable urban densities have been reached on lands within existing boundaries.

Summary

Asserts the farm-use tax deferral should be maintained within urban growth boundaries. Expansion of urban growth boundaries should only be considered after urban density has been reached on land within existing boundaries.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: The Supply of Buildable Lands Inside Urban Growth Boundaries	Number: 162 Effective Date: 06/15/2023
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Johnson, Miller, Svaty ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/15/2023 Original Resolution Date: 12/11/1998
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file, 06/15/2023

Background

Whereas Oregon agriculture produces a farm gate value in excess of \$5 billion dollars annually.

Whereas the Willamette Valley produces approximately one-half of Oregon's \$5 billion-dollar market value production.

Whereas Oregon's population growth is projected to increase by nearly 5% by 2023, primarily in the Willamette Valley.

Whereas Oregon cities are required by state law to maintain a 20-year supply of buildable lands within their established urban growth boundaries.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the State Board of Agriculture finds that mandating a 20-year supply of buildable lands inside the urban growth boundaries is incompatible with the conservation of farmland for future generations.

Be it further resolved the Board of Agriculture supports the concept of cities and counties regaining local control by making the 20-year supply of buildable lands inside the urban growth boundary optional.

Summary

Supports local control (by cities and counties) to optional development on 20-year land supplies within urban growth boundaries.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Protection of Oregon Agriculture	Number: 295 Effective Date: 08/17/2023
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Johnson, Miller, Svaty ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 08/17/2023 Original Resolution Date: 02/13/2009
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file

Background

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture is committed to supporting viable operations of agriculture throughout Oregon;

WHEREAS, the establishment of Exclusive Farm Use Zones (EFU) have supported the viable operation of farming in Oregon;

WHEREAS, waivers and exemptions of the land use laws developed to protect agricultural lands will most likely lead to location of large-scale developments, new subdivisions, and other nonfarm uses in and amongst ongoing farm and ranch operations; and

WHEREAS, deliberations regarding designation and treatment of agricultural lands under the statewide land use planning program have included the consideration of actions that could designate or treat differently many lands currently zoned exclusive farm use based on soil quality without accounting for land important to the state's livestock, dairy and winegrape industries;

WHEREAS, the USDA NRCS agricultural capability classification system (Class I-VII) does not always adequately address the special and unique needs of certain high-value crops such as vineyards and orchards and is not designed to provide analysis on the value of range and pasturelands; and

WHEREAS many provisions currently found in state law provide opportunities to re-evaluate land use designations, and "rezone" lands when determined to be appropriate, and

WHEREAS irrigation is key element in maintaining the viability of the state's agricultural industry.

WHEREAS decisions involving urban growth, the development of transportation and other infrastructure can impact the long-term viability of agriculture, and

WHEREAS the state land use system can be complex and difficult to understand in many areas.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Reaffirms its commitment to protect viable farming operations in Oregon as a valuable natural and economic resource for our state.

2. Urges that waivers and exemptions to land use regulations not be granted without giving due consideration to need and reasonable alternatives to impacting agricultural lands and operations.
3. Urges that programs dealing with compensation for land use limitations, such as the use of conservation easements supported by the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, purchase of development rights and transfer of development rights, be developed to compliment the state land use program.
4. Supports protection of the state's viable grazing and vineyard lands and urges their continued protection as exclusive farm use lands and consideration as high-value farmland;
5. Urges consideration of other factors in addition to soils capability classification, when determining the value of land for high-value and specialty crops and range and pasture forage production.
6. Urges consideration of the impacts of nonresource related development on adjacent agricultural lands, including the sustainability of existing water rights in, any deliberations related to the definition, inventory, and designation of agricultural lands.
7. Supports the evaluation, through the periodic review process, of the adequacy of county agricultural lands inventories and agricultural land zoning.
8. Supports the development of a state strategic plan that integrates land use, transportation water supply and economic development priorities.

Summary

Reaffirms commitment to protect viable farming operations in Oregon as a valuable natural and economic resource for the state.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Siting of Aggregate Mining Operations in the Willamette Valley	Number: 300 Effective Date: 06/15/2023
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Johnson, Miller, Svaty ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/15/2023 Original Resolution Date: 03/10/2011
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file, 06/15/2023

Background

Whereas 45% of the total value of Oregon’s gross farm and ranch sales is produced in the Willamette Valley;

Whereas 49% of Oregon’s high-value farmland soils and 80% of the state’s prime farmland is located within the Willamette Valley;

Whereas prime farmland soils compose less than three percent of Oregon’s lands;

Whereas aggregate sand and gravel mines are consuming about 350 acres of largely high-value farmland soils a year in the Willamette Valley;

Whereas viable aggregate resources can be and are currently found on lands deemed less valuable to agriculture and other natural resources such as from “hard rock” quarries that are often located on soils less valuable to agriculture and other lands containing poorer quality agricultural soils;

Whereas farming poor soil is not an option for agriculture because agriculture is both land and soil dependent;

Whereas according to Oregon land use law it is only within the Willamette Valley that exceptions are provided to mine Class I and II agricultural lands;

Whereas state law permits reclamation of mining operations on lands zoned for exclusive farm use to either wildlife habitat or agricultural land;

Whereas most typical reclamation of mining operations is to wildlife habitat or “farm use” in the form of open ponds (for irrigation purpose) instead of to useable agricultural ground;

Whereas it is recognized that aggregate resources are important to many aspects of Oregon’s economy.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Does not support, in the Willamette Valley, the use and conversion of Class I, II prime or unique agricultural soils (as defined by the USDA Natural Resources Conversation Service) on lands zoned for exclusive farm use for the mining of aggregate unless it is shown that no reasonable alternative lands exist:

- (a) On land that is identified in an acknowledged comprehensive plans as an exception area or as non-resource land;
 - (b) On resource land that is determine to be irrevocably committed to non-resource uses;
 - (c) In an urban growth boundary; or
 - (d) On resource land or lower capability for agricultural production as classified by USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service.
2. When reasonable alternatives do not exist and Willamette Valley Class I, II prime and unique soils are required for needed aggregate production, the Board supports aggregate mining on agricultural land only upon a determination that the proposed mining and associated operations do not or can be mitigated to not adversely impact other farming operations in the area; and
3. When it is determined that mining operations are appropriate for siting on Willamette Valley Class I, II prime and unique soils, the Board supports requiring the reclamation of the subject lands back to farmland at the same quality as existed prior to mining activities.

Summary

Relates to aggregate mining on Class I & II soils in the Willamette Valley.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution

Title: Siting of Agri-tourism, Entertainment Activities and associated activities on Agricultural Lands	Number: 310 Effective Date: 08/17/2023
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Johnson, Miller, Svaty ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2026 Date of Last Review/Revision: 08/17/2023 Original Resolution Date: 09/19/2012
Board Chair: Luisa Santamaria	Signature on file

Background

Whereas the appropriate siting of commercial activities associated with farm use can be beneficial to operators and help to educate the public about Oregon agriculture;

Whereas there is increasing interest in the development of rural tourism and entertainment activities, many times in relation to agriculture;

Whereas increasingly there are many cases of such activities presenting compatibility issues with farming practices and presenting implications to rural infrastructure and services

Whereas issues have been raised relating to the uneven application of the laws dealing with the siting of agri-tourism, rural entertainment and commercial facilities related to farm use which may provide unfair competitive advantages to like operations;

Whereas "agri-tourism" related land uses are being authorized in the exclusive farm use (EFU) zone by several ways including: farm use (u-picks), room and board facilities, commercial use in conjunction with farm use, home occupations, wineries, restaurant in conjunction with winery, agri-tourism events, farm stands, eastern Oregon guest ranch, cider business, farm brewery and outdoor mass gatherings. Unlike the detailed provisions developed for wineries, most of these land uses are poorly or not defined at all in statute or administrative rule.

Whereas the 2011 Legislature established land use laws dealing with some of these issues including SB 960 [ORS 215.213(11), (12) and (13) and 215.283(4), (5) and (6)] , and HB 3280 [ORS 215.452, 215.213(1)(p) and 215.283(1)(n)] issues remain relating to uneven application, definition and context of specific land uses and the continued use of laws that are set to sunset:

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Supports the use of agricultural lands for activities related to entertainment and tourism and other events only under strictly defined circumstances.
2. When defining circumstances, the Board supports the following considerations:

- a. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be directly related to commercial farm use or processing activities occurring on the subject farm or ranch operation;
 - b. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be incidental and subordinate to the farm use of the subject operation. An activity should be considered to be incidental and subordinate if found to be accessory to, supplement or be adjunct to the farm use (as defined in state statute) of the subject farm operation and if it supports farm use. Such a determination should be made on the basis of standards established that are similar to those enacted by the Legislature in SB 960 (2012) codified in ORS 215.213(4) and 215.283(4) and “defined by the Oregon Court of Appeals in *Friends of Yamhill County v. Yamhill County*, 301 Or App 726 (2020).
 - c. The proposed agri-tourism use is determined to be compatible or can be made compatible with other area farming and ranch operations. Compatibility evaluation should include all activities and events, including those that are not considered a “land use” under Oregon law. Such an evaluation needs to recognize the diversity of Oregon agriculture and the associated agricultural practices that are or may become common to area farms and ranches. Compatibility should also be based on an analysis of the cumulative impacts that existing and proposed activities could have on area farm and ranch operations.
3. Supports better definition of what comprises certain land uses established by law in the exclusive farm use zone that are currently being used to authorized agri-tourism related activities. Examples include “commercial use in conjunction with farm use,” “home occupation,” “private parks” and “mass gatherings.”
 4. Supports land use standards that assure that any food service related to bonafide, regular and ongoing agri-tourism events compliment and are accessory to the agri-tourism activity and associated farm use.
 5. Urges the department to work with community partners to better define the circumstances when commercial activities are appropriate on agricultural lands. The board recognizes that the development of criteria that best protects agriculture and the general public involves many complicated issues. The board advises a comprehensive evaluation and analysis, including an analysis of the cumulative impacts to agricultural operation, before any proposed actions are taken.
 6. Recommends that the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) consider the development of a detailed definition of what “agri-tourism” entails.
 7. Supports consistent and even application of land use standards relating to agri-tourism to and for all types of agricultural operations, similar to what was enacted by the Legislature in SB 960.
 8. This action repeals and replaces Resolution No. 304.

Summary

Siting of agri-tourism, entertainment activities and associated activities on agricultural lands.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Permitted Uses on Lands Zoned Exclusive Farm Use and on High-Value Farmland	Number: 314 Effective Date: 12/19/2024
Work group B: Boyer, Harper, Kliewer, Miller, Orem ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2024 Date of Last Review/Revision: 12/19/2024 Original Resolution Date: 12/04/2014
Board Chair: Elin Miller	Signature on file

Background

Whereas in 1973 Oregon’s unique land use planning law was enacted to protect farmland by establishing exclusive farm use zones (EFUs);

Whereas since the law was enacted, the number of land uses permitted in EFUs has risen from the original five established by state law to over fifty;

Whereas an increasing number of nonfarm land uses and related activities present compatibility issues with farming practices and have implications for rural infrastructure and services, and such nonfarm uses are being permitted on lands zoned EFU and approved without adequate consideration of compatibility with surrounding farm practices;

Conversion of agricultural lands into nonfarm uses such as aggregate mining, wetlands development, public and private parks, short-term rental housing (STRs), schools, energy generation, and urban infrastructure like sewer and water treatment facilities creates urban expansion pressures and impacts farming viability, irrigation access, and local food systems.;

Whereas litigation is increasingly being used to define otherwise undefined land uses within EFU’s;

Whereas the 2022 Census of Agriculture shows that Oregon lost 4.17% (666,543 acres) of land in farms since 2017, for the first time a higher percentage than every western state except Washington state;

Whereas high-value agricultural soils compose less than 8% of Oregon’s total lands and less than 6% of the lands located outside of urban growth boundaries that are designated for agricultural use under state land use planning goals;

Whereas the total area of irrigated, agricultural land in the state comprises 10.3% of the total land in farms yet accounts for 74.3% of the total market value of agricultural products sold;

Whereas irrigation and the necessary delivery infrastructure is key to maintaining and growing the state’s agricultural industry;

A coordinated statewide policy is essential to balance the preservation of agricultural lands with supporting diversified rural economic and on-farm opportunities;

Whereas the Oregon Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) has initiated a multi-year effort to review the effectiveness of existing laws designed to protect agricultural lands and implement Exclusive Farm Use (EFU) zoning with a focus on improving consistency of application of standards and criteria to land use decisions across the state, reducing unnecessary appeals and identifying any policy improvements needed to achieve the objectives of Statewide Planning Goal 3 and ORS 215.243.

Resolution

Be it resolved, the Oregon State Board of Agriculture supports careful siting of nonfarm uses on high-value agricultural land, ensuring they complement rather than conflict with local farming operations, and that adverse impacts are effectively mitigated;

Be it resolved that the Board recommends that a comprehensive analysis of the impacts of nonfarm development within the exclusive farm use zone on agricultural lands be conducted to include:

1. A reexamination of land uses currently permitted within EFUs determining which land uses should be permitted outright versus those that should be permitted subject to land use review;
2. Developing criteria to evaluate and ensure compatibility of nonfarm land uses, with a focus on minimizing disruptions to agricultural practices and infrastructure.
3. Better define nonfarm land uses, ensuring they align with the overarching goal of preserving agricultural production and supporting the economic viability of Oregon's agriculture.
4. Establishing land use regulations that provide for the recognition of high value agricultural areas, potentially including areas, such as productive rangelands, that currently are not considered to be high-value farmland under Oregon land use law and establishing requirements that provide a greater degree of protection for identified areas.
5. Conduct a comprehensive cumulative impact analysis of nonfarm uses on EFU-zoned lands, focusing on agricultural land conversion, irrigation access, and operational sustainability for surrounding farms and ranches.
6. Include long-term monitoring and an evaluation of the effectiveness of the land use laws established to implement Goal 3, Agricultural Lands.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Working Lands Conservation Easements	Number: 315 Effective Date: 09/12/2024
Workgroup B: Boyer, Harper, Kliewer, Miller, Orem ODA Staff Contact: Jim Johnson	Next Review Date: 00/00/2027 Date of Last Review/Revision: 09/12/2024 Original Resolution Date: 04/30/2015
Board Chair: Elin Miller	Signature on file

Background

Whereas, agricultural land is a finite natural resource that is threatened in Oregon by increasing urban expansion and by the cumulative conversion by nonfarm land uses.

Whereas, Oregon’s Statewide Planning Program has provided substantial protection to agricultural lands from development since its establishment in 1973 yet according to Oregon Department of Forestry data, between 1984 and 2009, approximately 147,000 acres of farm and rangeland was converted to nonfarm development. Continued threats to the conversion of agricultural land include expansion of urban growth areas and the cumulative impacts to agricultural lands from nonfarm uses authorized by exclusive farm use zoning.

Whereas, there is increasing interest from farmers, ranchers, land trusts and soil and water conservation districts in the use of working lands easements to *compliment* the statewide planning program to protect working agricultural lands from conversion.

Whereas, there is increasing concern about the succession of farmland to the next generation of farmers and ranchers and working lands easements can provide a tool that can help facilitate effective land succession.

Whereas, the use of working lands easements is voluntary, keeps land in private ownership and on the tax rolls.

Whereas, working lands easements can provide landowners with various financial incentives such as federal and state tax deductions, estate tax benefits and purchase of easement values.

Whereas, the U.S. Department of Agriculture has established a working lands easement program known as the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP) that provides funding to states for acquisition for working lands easements. The ACEP program requires matching funds from a local source.

Whereas, there still is concern expressed by many farmers and ranchers as to who would be the best holder of an easement involving working agricultural lands. Entities with a history of working with farmers and ranchers to maintain viable agricultural operations are preferable in many cases. This has led several soil and water conservation districts to become active in promoting the use of easements either by the district itself or by another agency or nonprofit organization with funding support from the subject district. There is increasing interest in examining the ability of the Department of Agriculture to become an active player in the attainment and holding of agricultural lands easements.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture:

1. Recognizes that the protection and conservation of active agricultural operations and the land base and associated infrastructure needed to support them is a benefit to Oregon's social, ecological and economic health.
2. Supports a focused use of conservation easements that protect working agricultural lands and complement the Oregon Statewide Planning Program. Easements should protect lands that afford the following assets:
 - a) Are or may become highly productive agricultural lands.
 - b) Are significant to a region's agricultural industry
 - c) Have the ability to conduct long-term viable commercial agricultural operations.
 - d) Are under threat of conversion from agricultural use by urban and/or other nonfarm development.
 - e) As a complement to primary protection of working agricultural lands, help facilitate the protection of other natural resources such as water quality, fish and wildlife habitat and other natural areas.
3. Encourages state government, including the Department of Agriculture, to play a more active role in understanding and protecting agricultural lands through the use of working lands conservation easements.
4. Supports the establishment of a fund in state government that could be utilized to help maintain working agricultural lands through the attainment of conservation easements.

Oregon State Board of Agriculture Resolution	
Title: Siting of energy transmission and generation facilities on agricultural land	Number: 318 Effective Date: 06/06/2025
Board members: Allen, Boyer, Dill, Kliewer, Lopez, Maag, Miller, Norris, Orem, Zielinski ODA Staff Contact: Jonathan Sandau	Next Review Date: 00/00/2028 Date of Last Review/Revision: 06/06/2025 Original Resolution Date: 06/07/2018
Board Chair: Elin Miller	Signature on file

Background

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture has heard from the agricultural community about concerns related to the location and development of power transmission facilities through agricultural lands, including underground and above ground transmission lines and land intensive generation facilities on highly productive agricultural lands.

WHEREAS, energy produced from renewable sources is an important part of the future for our state and nation.

WHEREAS agriculture is both land and soil dependent, while the siting of energy related facilities does not require soils with a high capability for agricultural production.

WHEREAS, deliberations regarding designation and treatment of agricultural lands under the statewide land use planning program have included consideration of actions that designate or treat differently lands zoned exclusive farm use based solely on soil quality without accounting for other factors that are conducive to the production of high-value agricultural products, including livestock.

WHEREAS numerous applications to develop solar energy generation have been approved or are under review throughout the state on highly productive agricultural lands.

WHEREAS the existing state “exceptions process” provides for the consideration and location of land uses otherwise not permitted when reasons merit

WHEREAS, the State Board of Agriculture has in the past been contacted by the State Soil and Water Conservation Commission regarding concerns it has related to the increased development of agricultural lands by solar energy generation facilities. In response to the letter from the Soil and Water Conservation Commission the Board discussed issues related to the siting of solar energy generation facilities on productive farmland and expressed several concerns related to location on productive agricultural lands. The discussion by the Board resulted in a written request to the Land Conservation and Development Commission (LCDC) asking that LCDC initiate an evaluation of the current administrative rules related the siting of solar facilities on lands zoned exclusive farm use.

WHEREAS the Department of Land Conservation and Development has since developed rules (see [OAR 660-033-0130\(37\)](#) and [\(38\)](#)) for solar energy siting on designated agricultural lands. These rules are intended to direct energy development to lands that have limited value to wildlife and farming. For example, in the

Willamette Valley solar panels are allowed up to 12 acres in areas with the best soil for farming. Up to 320 acres of land may be used for solar in areas with poor soils and no water rights. While these rules have had some impact in discouraging placement of large facilities in the Willamette Valley, they have not precluded the serial development of solar facilities. They have also not precluded the placement of solar facilities on productive irrigated cropland in Oregon outside the Willamette Valley.

WHEREAS the Oregon Legislature has directed LCDC to conduct rulemaking to identify suitable lands for utility-scale solar development in Eastern Oregon and adjusted the jurisdiction of the Energy Facility Siting Council (EFSC), increasing the acreage threshold for solar development on high-value farmland from 160 to 240 acres, thereby shifting more decision-making authority to counties.

WHEREAS the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has issued new guidance on solar facility development, emphasizing the need for early consultation to avoid and minimize adverse impacts to wildlife habitat.

Resolution

Be it resolved that the Oregon State Board of Agriculture is concerned about the conversion of high-value and productive farmland and the implications to ongoing and future agricultural operations by energy facility development on lands zoned exclusive farm use.

The Board:

1. Recognizes that energy produced from renewable sources is an important part of the future for our state and nation. We support developing renewable energy facilities in locations that avoid the conversion of highly productive farmland and minimize disruption to working farm operations. .
2. Recommends the Land Conservation and Development Commission continue to evaluate and monitor the effectiveness of existing administrative rules related to the siting of energy facilities on land zoned exclusive farm use.
3. Supports establishing review criteria to evaluate not only the individual impact of proposed energy development on agricultural lands, but also the cumulative impacts of existing and potential similar nonfarm land use on agricultural operations.
4. Supports the evaluation of the impacts of proposed linear energy transmission facilities on agricultural operations that focuses on individual segments of a linear facility that are comprised of similar agricultural characteristics.
5. Supports better definition of highly productive farmland (instead of “high-value farmland”) based on multiple factors such as soils, crop types, operational characteristics, and developed agricultural infrastructure.
6. Supports land use regulations that afford greater protection for highly productive farmland including, land use requirements that preclude the location of energy facilities on highly productive or less valuable farmland when otherwise reasonable alternatives exist.
7. Supports evaluation and reconsideration of existing land use regulation that promotes serial development of energy facilities to skirt other more stringent review standards.
8. Encourages early and ongoing coordination between counties, DLCD, ODA, ODFW, and agricultural partners to improve the siting process and protect both agricultural production and ecological resources.