

Agenda Item No.:	3
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Presentation Title:	Climate Smart Award
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**SUMMARY**

This is an update on the development of the Oregon Department of Forestry’s Climate Smart award. This item is informational only.

**CONTEXT**

The Climate Smart Award is intended to recognize better climate and carbon practices as part of the department’s Climate Change and Carbon Plan (CCCP). This award meets the CCCP goal for “recognition of operators and organizations that innovate and work to implement climate-smart forestry practices, harvest, and utilization in a manner that advances climate aware, climate smart, and ecosystem conscious outcomes.” The Climate Smart Award recognizes landowners and land managers, researchers, and operators that are utilizing climate change-adapted practices or developing innovative methods of carbon capture, retention, or reduced release.

**BACKGROUND AND ANALYSIS**

In 2021, the department published the CCCP with the goal of helping Oregon’s forestry sector lead climate change mitigation and adaptation. The CCCP focused on climate smart forestry in silviculture, fire management, state forests management, climate resilience, urban and community forests, reforestation, conserving forests, and research and monitoring.

Staff formed a committee to discuss award criteria to recognize climate smart forestry. Staff have also presented the draft criteria to various groups including: the Committee for Family Forestlands, Regional Forest Practice Committees, and the agency’s executive and leadership teams for feedback. The committee incorporated the feedback into the criteria.

Once the award process is finalized, the award program will launch. The department will accept nominations, the committee will review nominations for meeting the minimum criteria, and the Forest Legacy and Stewardship Program Working Group will review nominations and recommend award winners to the State Forester. In this presentation, staff will provide an update on the progress of Climate Smart award development and welcome input to finalize the award.

**RECOMMENDATION**

This agenda item is informational only.

**NEXT STEPS**

Finalize award criteria and implement the program.

**ATTACHMENT**

- (1) Climate Smart Award structure and criteria draft



## CLIMATE SMART AWARD: NOMINATION FORM

*Draft January 2023*

### Climate Smart Award

Award structure and Criteria

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**PURPOSE:** Recognize landowners, land managers, researchers, operators, or other forestry professionals that use climate change-adapted practices, or develop innovative methods for carbon capture, retention, or reduced release. The goal is to encourage, improve, and recognize climate and carbon practices as part of the Department [Climate Change and Carbon Plan](#).

### **OBJECTIVES:**

- A. Climate Smart forestry in silviculture
- B. Fire management, response, and fire or smoke adaption
- C. Forestlands climate resilience and ecological function restoration
- D. Carbon reduction or capture in operations
- E. Innovative research or products that reduce emissions or increase climate resilience

**AUTHORITY:** Board of Forestry, State Forester

**SCOPE:** Statewide across non-federal forestlands. It may extend to universities, educators, consulting and research agencies, fabricators, operators, and private industry.

### **STANDARDS:**

- A. Two awards for the state, one from each nominee category.
- B. Nominee categories:
  - 1. Landowners and land managers
  - 2. Research and innovation
- C. Award winners may not be nominated again within three years after winning an award, even if nominated for different practices.
- D. Nominees may not come from members of the nomination committee.
- E. Organizations or joint collaborators will receive a single award.
- F. Award winners may mention their award in department grant and incentive program applications, but this does not give project preference or priority solely for receiving an award.
- G. Nominee categories:



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### 1. Landowner and Land Manager:

Minimum requirements:

- a. Activities will be weighed by amount of land ownership to ensure fairness among small and large landowners.
- b. No Forest Practices Act (FPA) rule violations in the two years prior to award nomination due date.
- c. Where applicable, explain how land use practices on a per acre basis where possible, have:
  - i. Enhanced carbon sequestration and storage.
  - ii. Reduced emissions or other carbon losses.
  - iii. Reduced forest industry waste, such as:
    1. Reduced slash production or burning
    2. Reduced transport mileage
    3. Using fuel and energy efficient equipment
    4. Development or use of biochar or biofuels
  - iv. Increased resilience of forest ecosystems, such as:
    1. Increasing tree species diversity
    2. Transitioning to more climate-adapted tree species
    3. Reducing stand stocking
    4. Balancing *total* carbon capture via longer rotations versus increased carbon capture rates via younger trees
    5. Exceeded FPA rules
- d. Bonus: has the nominee attained ongoing certifications that promote climate change resiliency, such as ATFS, OTFS, FSC, and STI. If applicable, list certification(s) and include actions taken to attain certification(s) in nomination form.

### 2. Research and Innovation:

Minimum Products and Strategies:

- a. Novel research results, products, strategies.
- b. When applicable, must show how they have:
  - i. Enhanced carbon sequestration and storage
  - ii. Reduced carbon losses
  - iii. Reduced emissions
  - iv. Reduced forest industry waste
  - v. Increased resilience of forest ecosystems
  - vi. Produced novel strategies, research, or products
- c. Future impact of research to improve climate adaptation and mitigation.
- d. Equity. Efforts that provide a greater benefit to underserved communities.

Award Criteria:



## CLIMATE SMART AWARD: NOMINATION FORM

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1. Consistency. Give more weight to a nominee with a history of good climate and carbon practices versus a single year's effort.
2. Degree of difficulty. The nominee endured some difficulty in employing strategies or overcoming research difficulties following sound science.
3. Risk. The nominee assumed some higher risk of money, time, or equipment to advance Climate Smart Forestry practices or research.
4. Innovation and extra effort. The nominee pursued innovative techniques or research, developed new strategies or products, or incorporated collaborative efforts.
5. Overall good practices. For example, nominees may have done an excellent job with one project or managing and harvesting part of one or some properties, but adequate at other times. In such cases, more weight would go to those whose work in total meets the objectives of the Climate Smart Award.

### **PROCEDURES AND RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- A. In October through January, Climate Smart leads will advertise the opening of nominations and instructions to Department area offices and Public Affairs, Forest Practice foresters, universities, OSWA, Association of Oregon Loggers, Society of American Foresters to start the nominating process. Entities can nominate themselves.
- B. Nominate entities by January on a form like Attachment A. Photographs, maps, and other documents should accompany the application for illustrating the research, operation, or practice.
- C. By February, the department's Climate Smart committee will provide the first screening of nominations to determine who qualifies.
- D. By March, the Forest Legacy and Stewardship Program Working Group will provide the final screening to select nominees for field tours.
- E. By April, Climate Smart committee members will attend a field tour or meeting with the top nominees from each category to review criteria. Photographs will be taken for future publicity.
- F. By April, the Climate Smart committees should make their selection for each category. Attachment B is a sample rating form that the committee can use to help rank nominees.
- G. By May, the Climate Smart Award plaques will be ordered by the Climate Smart committee.
- H. By July, the Climate Smart committee will prepare and mail letters to the final nominees for the Climate Smart Awards indicating award winners. The Climate



## CLIMATE SMART AWARD: NOMINATION FORM

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Smart committee will also coordinate with award winners to prepare narratives to be read at the awards ceremony.

- I. By August, the Climate Smart committee in consultation with the Department's Public Affairs staff, will develop a publicity plan that can be implemented annually to recognize award winners. Public Affairs arranges to take pictures of Climate Smart presentations and make statewide news releases. Public Affairs will also collaborate with OSU-Extension Forestry to advertise efforts to others via OSU blogs, Tree School, and landowner field days.
- J. In September, the Board of Forestry will present the Climate Smart Awards at its regular meeting.

Attachment A.

## CLIMATE SMART RECOGNITION NOMINATION FORM

### Section A. NOMINATION INFORMATION

Nominated by:

Nominee Name:

Company, agency, etc. name (if applicable):

Address:

Phone:

Email:

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### Section B.

#### Landowner Award Nomination

Activities (*where applicable explain and list date(s) and location(s) for each below*):

( ) Enhanced carbon sequestration and storage

( ) Reduced emissions or other carbon losses

( ) Reduced forest industry waste

( ) Increased resilience of forest ecosystems

( ) Attained ongoing certifications

( ) Other strategies associated with climate resilience and/or carbon reduction or capture

Research / Innovation Nomination

Activities (*where applicable explain and list date(s) and location(s) for each below*):

- ( ) Novel research results, products, strategies
  
- ( ) Enhanced carbon sequestration and storage
  
- ( ) Reduced carbon losses
  
- ( ) Reduced emissions
  
- ( ) Reduced forest industry waste
  
- ( ) Increased resilience of forest ecosystems
  
- ( ) Future implications for climate adaptation and mitigation
  
- ( ) Equity
  
- ( ) Other strategies associated with climate resilience or carbon reduction or capture

**Section C.** Nominating Criteria (applies to both landowner and research/innovation nominee)

1. Describe the nominee's consistency in performance over the years (use examples and list dates).



2. Describe the difficulty and complexity of the activities regarding climate resilience or carbon reduction or capture.
3. Describe how the nominee was innovative or is contributing to current or future strategies.
4. Describe and quantify benefit to climate resilience or carbon reduction or capture.
5. Describe the financial risk or time commitment assumed by the nominee.
6. Other considerations not covered in 1-5.

Please Attach if Available/Applicable:

- Aerial Photo(s)
- Site Map or Diagram
- Before and After Field Photo(s) with Photo Points
- Product/Research Photo(s)
- Scientific Publication(s)

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Nominator

Attachment B.

ANNUAL CLIMATESMART AWARD  
NOMINEE RATING FORM

<b>CRITERIA</b>	<b>POINTS POSSIBLE</b>	<b>SCORE</b>
CONSISTENCY	20	
DIFFICULTY	15	
IMPACT ON CLIMATE RESILIENCY AND/OR CARBON REDUCTION OR CAPTURE	30	
INNOVATION/EFFORT	20	
RISK	15	
TOTAL SCORE	100	