



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

Agenda Item I

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

Board Meeting October 22-23, 2024



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



OREGON
WATERSHED
ENHANCEMENT BOARD

775 Summer Street NE, Suite 360
Salem OR 97301-1290
www.oregon.gov/oweb
(503) 986-0178

Agenda Item I supports OWEB's Strategic Plan priority #5: The value of working lands is fully integrated into watershed health and priority.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

FROM: Taylor Larson, *Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Coordinator*
Robin Meacher, *Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Easement Specialist*
Renee Davis, *Acquisitions and Special Programs Manager*

SUBJECT: Agenda Item I – Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program – Commission Appointments, Spending Plan Rebalance, and Rulemaking Update
[October 22-23, 2024, Board Meeting](#)

I. Introduction

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) aims to protect, maintain and enhance farming or ranching on working land throughout the state while enhancing wildlife habitat, water quality and other natural resources. This staff report requests two actions from the OWEB board related to OAHP:

- 1) The appointment of two new members of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission, one representing natural resources interests and the other representing the OWEB Board as an ex officio, non-voting member; and
- 2) The addition of recaptured funding into the OAHP line item of the board's 2023-2025 spending plan.

In addition, the report provides a brief update about the OAHP rulemaking process that is currently underway. At the October 2024 board meeting, staff will present information to the board about rulemaking and request the board actions as described above.

II. Background

House Bill 3249 established the OAHP and was signed into law on August 15, 2017. Among other changes, this new law created the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC), which oversees the OAHP and makes funding recommendations to the OWEB board for all applications funded through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund. In January 2018, the OWEB Board appointed the first 12 members to serve on the OAHC. Members represent diverse agricultural and habitat interests, in alignment with this dual-benefit program. Since then, the OAHC has drafted program rules, provided funding recommendations to the board, and provided input on OAHP structure and implementation.

In November of 2024, the OAHC will review the second round of grant applications received for the OAHP conservation easement and covenant grant offering and make funding recommendations to the OWEB board. Before that review, recaptured funds must be added

into the OAHP line item of the OWEB spending plan so that these funds will be available when the OAHC makes a funding recommendation at the commission’s November meeting.

III. OAHC Seats Directly Appointed by the OWEB Board

The current OAHC membership roster is provided in **Attachment A**. This list includes information about the interest represented and recommending body for each seat, along with commissioner location and term information. The OWEB Board directly appoints two seats for voting members of the OAHC: one representing Tribal Interests and one representing Natural Resources Interests. The commissioner appointed to Natural Resource Interests seat needs to have a good understanding of working lands and the integration of agricultural and natural resource values. Russell Hoefflich most recently served in the natural resources seat, from January 2023 until he was appointed to the OWEB Board in May 2024. The first term of this now-vacant seat is set to expire in January 2027. The term length for a voting member is up to 4 years, and they can serve no more than two consecutive terms.

Staff solicited applications earlier this year to fill the vacant Natural Resource Interests seat. Four individuals applied to this seat; their applications are included in **Attachment B**. These applications were reviewed by staff for eligibility. All four applicants have impressive expertise and offer valuable perspectives if appointed. Staff then considered the intent of the Natural Resources seat relative to the current make-up of the OAHC and developed a recommendation based on each applicant’s ability to bring needed and complementary expertise to the commission (Table 1).

Table 1: 2024 Applicants to OAHC Natural Resource Interests Seat

Name	Expertise	Residence County	Professional Geographies	Other Considerations
Sarah Evans-Peters	NRCS Conservation Programs, Conservation Easements, Conservation Partnerships and Governance, Grant Review, Ornithology, Wetland, Oak and Riparian Forest Habitats.	Polk	Willamette Valley, Coast, Umpqua Basin, Northeast Oregon	Letters of support from USFWS, NRCS, ODFW, IWJV, OAT. Applied for seat in 2023.
Jan Lee	NRCS and SWCD Programs, Watershed Councils, Irrigation Districts, State Legislator, Oregon Water Resources Commission.	Clackamas	Central Oregon, Willamette Valley, Statewide	Letter of Support from OAT, DRC, USFS, OACD.
Robin Vora	Forestry, Wildlife, Land Use Planning, SWCD Board member.	Deschutes	Central Oregon	Identifies as Asian or Pacific Islander. Applied for seat in 2023.
Kelly Warren	USFW Conservation Programs, Conservation Easements, OWEB Acquisitions, Tribal Partnership, SWCD Board, Family Farm, Wetland and Oak Habitat.	Benton	Willamette Valley, Coast, Umpqua Basin	Letters of support from CTWS, OHA, GBLT, MCWC, TRCP, TSWCD, COLT, OAT.

Given her extensive experience working across numerous natural resource initiatives in multiple parts of the state—including coastal regions—and her familiarity with innovative

applications of different conservation tools and approaches, staff recommend the board appoint Sarah Evans-Peters to fill the vacant OAHC seat representing Natural Resource Interests.

The commission also includes an ex-officio member appointed by the board. Unlike the other commissioners, this position does not vote or have a term limit and serves at the discretion of the board. The ex officio member should have a good understanding of the dual-benefit nature of OAHP and the needs of working lands owners and operators. Barbara Boyer has been the ex-officio member of the commission representing the board since 2019 and has recently expressed the desire to step down from the commission. Staff is recommending that Mark Labhart replace Barbara Boyers as the ex-officio member of the OAHC.

Three additional OAHC seats will become vacant in January 2025 due to term limits of current commissioners. These seats include a Fish and Wildlife Interest seat recommended by the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission, and two seats recommended by Oregon Board of Agriculture: an Agricultural Water Quality Interest seat and a Farmer/Rancher Interest seat. Staff have begun working with Oregon Departments of Fish and Wildlife and Agriculture to begin recruitments for these seats. Staff will encourage all applicants from this round who are not selected to consider applying for relevant open seats.

IV. OAHP Spending Plan Recapture

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program is included in the OWEB 2023-2025 board's spending plan in the Other Funds section. The board needs to approve adding funds to the Spending Plan before the OAHC can allocate funding to specific grant programs within the program. Funding in the amount of \$277,776 is available to add to the spending plan from recapture of a cancelled grant (223-7101-22522). See line 63 in the 23-25 Spending Plan included in the Agenda section of the Board book.

V. OAHP Rule Making Update

At the April 2024 meeting, the OWEB board authorized rule making for OAHP. Since that time staff have worked with the OAHC, which serves as the Rules Advisory Committee (RAC), to make needed updates to Divisions 5, 10, 15, 20 and 25 over the course of five meetings. A final RAC meeting will be held on November 7, 2024, to finalize draft rules that will go out for public comment. Staff will respond and incorporate any appropriate edits based on public comment before bringing the updated rule divisions to the board for adoption at the January 2025 meeting. At the October 2024 meeting, staff will briefly update the board about key areas of discussion to date during the OAHP RAC process.

VI. Recommendation

OWEB staff recommend the OWEB board appoint Sarah Evans-Peters to the Natural Resources Interest seat on the OAHC and Mark Labhart to represent the OWEB Board as an ex officio, non-voting member on the OAHC.

Staff recommend the OWEB board approve the addition of \$277,776 to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program line item of the Board's 2023-2025 spending plan.

Attachments

- A. CURRENT OAHC ROSTER
- B. 2024 OAHC Applications "Natural Resource Interests"

Name	Recommending Body	Residence County	Interest Represented	Term Ending
Bruce Taylor	Fish & Wildlife Comm.	Multnomah	Fish & Wildlife	Jan 2025
Lois Loop	Board of Agriculture	Marion	Ag. Water Quality	Jan 2025
Woody Wolfe	Board of Agriculture	Wallowa	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2025
Doug Krahmer	Board of Agriculture	Marion	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2026
Amanda Lowe	OWEB Board	Umatilla	Indian tribal	Jan 2026
Nancy Duhnkrack	Land Conservation & Development Comm.	Multnomah	Easements	Jan 2026
Ed Contreras	Fish & Wildlife Comm.	Klamath	Fish & Wildlife	Jan 2027
Laura Masterson	Board of Agriculture	Multnomah	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2027
	OWEB Board		Natural Resources	Jan 2027
James Robert Collins	Board of Agriculture	Wheeler	Farm/Ranch	Jan 2028
Daniel Bigelow	OSU Extension	Benton	OSU Extension	Jan 2028
Barbara Boyer	OWEB Board	Yamhill	Ex Officio, non-voting	*unspecified



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for "qualified members," defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

Applicant Information

Name Jan Lee

Affiliation Individual

Occupation

☐ Retired Retired

Mailing address [REDACTED]

Town/City Sandy **State** OR **Zip Code** 97055

Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** same **Fax Number**

Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☒ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board) X

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I am interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to be able to assist landowners and managers to effectively carry out natural and working lands practices on our agricultural lands with voluntary practices while also protecting the natural resource attributes on those lands.

My career and community experiences, as detailed in the attached resume and as referred to later in this application, have provided me with the ability to work with farmers and ranchers to carry out conservation practices, to provide education and training, and to assist them in seeking financial opportunities to develop those practices. I believe that experience and commitment would enable me to be a strong Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission member.

I worked with Nellie McAdams and others in lobbying for the 2017 legislation that enacted the OAHP program and have subsequently attended a number of the commission's meetings and provided testimony. Being able to assist in providing incentives through the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund to project implementers, both for conservation easements and covenants, as well as conservation management plans, is an important goal for me.

The 2022 enabling legislation for the state's Natural and Working Lands Program and the ability to support the reduction of greenhouse gases through conservation and carbon sequestration is a goal I have a strong interest in implementing as well. While serving as Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, I developed the content for the Soil Health and Carbon Sequestration website and the accompanying guidebook: <https://oacdcarbon.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Carbon-Sequestration-and-Soil-Health-Guidebook-v.1.1.pdf>. These tools outline practices, financing, and marketing related to sequestration and conservation work. I was also a member of the Oregon Global Warming Commission Advisory Council, appointed by the Commission to develop planning for a natural and working lands program. I believe this work will enable me to serve the OAHC with a knowledge background.

I have followed the development of OAHP's newly revised guidance for "Review & Feasibility Determination of Methodologies for Valuing Agricultural Conservation Management Actions". This will be an extremely helpful tool in valuing natural resource benefits from OAHP projects and rating project requests.

As a board member of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District I currently chair our Working Lands Committee. We hold both land acquisitions and easements as a district so I have had experience in working with those programs as well as working with a number of land trusts in that work. I would greatly appreciate the opportunity to bring my conservation and working lands experience to the OAHC to carry out its programs.

As a recent retiree, I am able to travel to serve on the commission and devote time to the commission's work on rulemaking and grant approvals. I have over my career both sought and implemented grants, as well as providing monitoring, so I can bring those skills.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

A resume of my work and service experience is attached.

Last fall I retired as Executive Director of the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD). During that time I worked with soil and water conservation districts and assisted in developing the programs we provided for the farmers and ranchers served. Part of that work included a large NRCS grant for restoration and protection of sage grouse habitat enabling me to work with district managers and their constituents in developing and monitoring habitat protection programs and individual farm/rancher plans.

I have served on the board of the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District for 16 years, in various officer roles and currently as the chair of our Working Lands Committee. I also participate as a member of the OACD Working Lands Committee and on the Working Lands Committee of the Oregon Conservation Partnership, headed by the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts. I have enjoyed my work on the conservation district board as it gives me the opportunity to work with landowners and managers in implementing conservation practices on the ground through workshops and other educational efforts.

In the 2000s I worked with the Clackamas River Basin Watershed Council (CRBC), as a board member and as board chair in part of that period. This was another opportunity to work with people on the land to accomplish conservation and natural resource protection. As CRBC was one of the founding members of the Network of Watershed Councils I had the ability to work with other councils in that role toward our common goal.

As my resume details, I also worked for two irrigation districts as well as serving as that state association's (OWRC) executive director. Between 2006 and 2009 as manager of the Swalley Irrigation District in Bend, I worked with the Deschutes River Conservancy, the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation, state and federal agencies and others to pipe 5 miles of canal, oversee construction of a hydro facility and lead our district to commit 20 cfs of 1890 water rights instream. One of the merits of working for the districts was to be able to assist our customers in taking part in various programs to better their conservation and natural resource efforts, including such programs as ODFW's habitat conservation wildlife programs, instream water right leasing, and NRCS and Bureau of Reclamation conservation practice trainings. While I am not myself a farmer, I have worked with farmers and ranchers over 25 years.

I have followed natural resource issues throughout my career. As a legislator in the early 2000s, I served on the Land and Water Committee and was Vice-Chair of the Stream Restoration and Species Recovery Committee which worked with agencies to provide ESA and other fish-related recovery programs and the Oregon Plan for salmon and watersheds. Earlier I had served on the ODFW Fish Passage Task Force so I understand the need for protection of our Oregon fishery resource. Water has also been a mainstay of my career, working with water quality, quantity and restoration issues over my career. I currently serve on the Oregon Water Resources Commission.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

I believe there are a number of issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the related natural resources, including fish and wildlife habitat protections, which could be mitigated by implementing OAHP programs.

First, we must protect the land base for agriculture--it is limited and irreplaceable. The OAHP easement and covenant program is a major tool toward that goal as well as OWEB's acquisition and easement protection programs and the NRCS programs that provide matching dollars. Our land use goals, and primarily the Farm and Forest Programs of the Department of Land Conservation and Development under statewide planning goal 3, provide a strong base for protection. I currently serve on the Farm/Forest RAC to assist in ensuring that program remains relevant to current needs. Incorporating protection from the continuing growth of exceptions for development on farmland is more necessary than ever to maintain the land base. From 1954 to 2022 we lost almost 6 million acres of farmland to other development and 5.5% of our farms.

We must at the same time assure economic viability for our agricultural base which brings substantial dollars into Oregon's economy. Agriculture has a \$28.9 billion footprint in Oregon. It provides 15% of our economy and 1 out of every 8 jobs. External issues such as material costs, labor, marketing pressures and other operational expenses continue to make it more difficult to achieve strong economic results.

And climate change impacts further aggravate the economics and viability and must be addressed. Drought and wildfire have created substantial losses in the farm economy. We Oregonians need the food and products our local farmers produce and we need to ensure they can continue operation to provide our needs and serve the export markets Oregon has developed.

An aging land ownership and management force internally requires a viable succession program, another tool that the OAHP program will implement. Over 64% of our farms will change ownership in the next 20 years. The average age of a farmer is now 60 and over and 81% of those farmers do not have a succession plan. This part of the OAHP program is badly needed.

Farmers and ranchers want to protect the natural resources that are important to our state as well as their needs and they require programs that will assist their voluntary efforts. With current federal funding that has been significant to Oregon we have been able to finance some of the needed tools and incentives. But with the Farm Bill lingering and federal dollars diminishing, it is incumbent upon our state to fill the gap to help maintain our agricultural economy. Any programs we can support and fund are strong tools for that effort.

People working the land want to do the right thing. Programs such as the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) tax exemption for providing wildlife habitat, the Oregon Water Resources Department instream leasing, funding through the ODFW Fish Passage Task Force, and many of the OWEB programs, are providing farmers and ranchers with programs and incentives to enhance protection of our natural resources.

The same development encroachments that can diminish our farmland can also bring harm to our natural resources. Protecting natural resources and farmland go hand-in-hand and Oregon's OAHP program will benefit both.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name Meta Loftsgaarden
Affiliation (if any) former OWEB Director; current Forest Supervisor, Mt Hood National Forest
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town Sandy
State Oregon
Zip Code 97055
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate # [REDACTED]
Fax # [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name Nellie McAdmas
Affiliation (if any) Oregon Agricultural Trust
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town Salem
State Oregon
Zip Code 97303
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate # [REDACTED]
Fax # [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name Kate Fitzpatrick
Affiliation (if any) Deschutes River Conservancy
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town Bend
State Oregon
Zip Code 97703
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate # [REDACTED]
Fax # [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or mailed (post-marked by August 25, 2024) in order to be considered for a position.

JAN LEE

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

POLICY WORK IN NATURAL RESOURCES
ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT
GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE AND ADVOCACY

WORK HISTORY

Executive Director, 03/2018 – 10/31/2023 Now Retired

Oregon Association of Conservation Districts, Salem, Oregon

- represent the 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts statewide
- building programs for districts to serve landowners
- providing communications
- conference and workshop implementation
- advocacy with state and federal agencies
- grant seeking and development

Executive Director, 04/2009 - 02/2018

Northwest Hydroelectric Association, Portland, OR

- providing services to Northwest utilities with hydropower projects
- supporting new small hydropower projects in irrigation districts/cities
- developing communications
- assisting members with regulatory issues
- implementing conferences and workshops
- developing grants with BPA and NW Power Council

Manager, 02/2003 - 03/2009

Swalley Irrigation District, Bend, OR

- manage irrigation system
- work with city of Bend, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs and 6 other irrigation districts in developing water conservation projects basinwide and a habitat conservation plan
- management of 5-mile pipeline project adding a small hydropower plant, including permitting, finance and construction management, confirming rights-of-ways through federal court process
- advocacy with state and federal agencies; grant and fiscal management of \$14 million investment
- managing land use actions on district lands at city/county level

State Representative, 01/2001 - 12/2002 Oregon

House District 51

- Member Water and Land Use Committee
- Vice-Chair Stream Restoration and Species Recovery Committee
- Health and Human Resources Committee

 **Sandy, OR 97055**



SKILLS

- **Natural Resource Policy**
- **Rulemaking**
- **Grant Management**
- **Advocacy**
- **Executive Leadership**
- **Land Use Review**
- **Agriculture/Forestry Services**

- ability to shepherd Oregon hydropower relicensing legislation and other natural resource policy

Executive Director, 05/1985 - 12/2000

Oregon Water Resources Congress (OWRC), Bend and Salem, OR
(irrigation districts of Oregon)

- advocate and develop programs for the state's irrigation districts
- working with the Water Resources Commission, the department, and other state and federal agencies
- advocating at the state and federal level
- board member National Water Resources Association

EDUCATION

Masters, Public Administration/Natural Resources, 05/1989

Lewis & Clark College - Portland, OR

Bachelor of Science, Management, 05/1983

Linfield College - McMinnville, Oregon

GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE

CURRENT

Board Member, Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District – 16 years
City of Sandy Planning Commission
Commissioner, Oregon Water Resources Commission
Budget Committee, Clackamas County

FORMER

Oregon State Representative, HD 51
City Council, City of Sandy
Chair, Clackamas River Basin Council
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Member
Oregon Global Warming Commission, member of Natural and Working
Lands Advisory Committee to OGWC on climate issues
Served on USFS NW Forest Management Plan Advisory Committee
Clackamas County Planning Commission



OREGON
AGRICULTURAL
TRUST

Monday, 8/26/2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to convey my strong support for Jan Lee as a candidate for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. I have worked with Jan for years in her roles at Oregon Association of Conservation Districts and have tremendous respect for her knowledge of conservation and agriculture in Oregon, her diplomacy, and her ability to understand and inform state programs.

Please let me know if you have any questions: 971.409.6806, nellie@oregonagtrust.org.

Best regards,

Nellie McAdams

Executive Director

OAHP

Kate Fitzpatrick <kate@deschutesriver.org>

Mon 8/26/2024 11:43 AM

To:janleewater@gmail.com <janleewater@gmail.com>

Hi Jan,

I enthusiastically support your service on the OAHP Commission. This program is critical to support both conservation goals as well as the state's goals to preserve working landscapes. Your depth of experience working on conservation issues in Oregon, your knowledge of carbon sequestration opportunities, and your level of understanding and vision about this program will add great value to the Commission. In addition, your balanced, even, and no-nonsense style and ability to get things done will serve this role well.

Please let me know if I can help further.

All the best,

Kate

Kate Fitzpatrick
Executive Director



www.deschutesriver.org

Check out our [2023 Impact Report!](#)

Re: Support for Jan Lee and OAHP nomination

Jan Lee <[REDACTED]>

Wed 8/28/2024 12:49 PM

To: Loftsgaarden, Meta - FS, OR <[REDACTED]>

Thank you so much for taking the time to add this to your list of all you already have to do!!

From: Loftsgaarden, Meta - FS, OR <Meta.Loftsgaarden@usda.gov>

Sent: Wednesday, August 28, 2024 12:48 PM

To: Jan Lee <janleewater@gmail.com>

Subject: Support for Jan Lee and OAHP nomination

Jan – please accept this note as my confirmation that I support your application for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. Given your extensive background and experience both directly in agricultural land conservation, and in many roles adjacent to this important work, I think you bring a perspective that is important to the success of the program. Please share this message as appropriate, and I'm glad to talk further if needed.

Meta



Meta Loftsgaarden (*she/her/hers*)

Forest Supervisor

Forest Service

Mt Hood National Forest



Sandy, OR 97055

www.fs.usda.gov/mthood



**Caring for the land and serving
people**

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Monday, 8/26/2024

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to convey my strong support for Jan Lee to serve on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. I have worked closely with Jan in her roles at Clackamas Soil & Water Conservation District and here at OACD. She has extensive knowledge and experience working with conservation and agriculture throughout Oregon. She also has invaluable experience working on commissions and on state policies. Finally, she is a very easy person to work with, her diplomacy and ability to collaborate, yet express her own opinions strongly would be a great asset to the OAHC.

Please let me know if you have any questions: 971-988-9929 or andrea.kreiner@oacd.org.

Best regards,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Andrea Kreiner", written over the "Best regards," text.

Executive Director

P. O. Box 10527, Portland, OR 97296



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for "qualified members," defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

Applicant Information

Name Kelly Warren
Affiliation Ducks Unlimited Inc.
Occupation
☐ Retired Western Oregon Regional Biologist
Mailing address [REDACTED]
Town/City Philomath State OR Zip Code 97370
Phone Number [REDACTED] Cell or Alternate # NA

Applicant Signature Kelly Warren

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
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- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☒ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

This position reflects who I am as a person. I am a landowner, fifth generation farmer/landowner, and natural resources professional who has dedicated myself to working with landowners and natural resources partners. Farmers know the land, the soil and the ecosystem on their lands. It is important to capture the knowledge and land management Oregon farmers can provide to our resources that they produce, including natural resources. Through my experiences in farming and being a part of the agricultural community, I recognize many of the agricultural challenges farmers face. It is important to protect agriculture and provide farmers with as many resources as possible to at a minimum sustain but hopefully succeed now and in the future. Between 2012 and 2017 Oregon lost 340,000 acres from production due to development, fragmentation and rural landowner succession challenges. OAHP prevents this through offering integral tools like management planning, easements and successional planning. I value OAHP's mission and will work to support it through my role as a commissioner, natural resources professional and a landowner.

My upbringing in the agriculture community and managing family land has led to my career in natural resources. There are significant overlaps in land management techniques and bridging the natural resources community with agriculture/landowners makes sense. This includes restoration techniques, working lands approaches and working with the ecosystem. OAHP provides integral resources that can be utilized by Oregon's agricultural community. I have been engaged with OAHP support since 2014. As a natural resource professional, I have seen firsthand how OAHP can provide farmers and landowners with options for how they can best manage their land. OAHP is a critical example and opportunity to break that mold and provide unity in managing the land to its best intended use and the farming and natural resources community can work together for the greater good. By default, OAHP also protects agricultural lands and keeps them in production for future generations.

I bring unique perspectives and skills to the commission as someone from the agricultural and natural resources community. Both my education and career have strengthened my abilities to bring more to programs like OAHP including active listening, self-awareness, empathy, and accountability. Coupled with a strong professional network, strong communication and relationship building. Relationships are critically important to the work I do as natural resource professional and/or landowner. If selected to this commission my goal will be to form collaborative relationships with OWEB staff, other commissioners, and landowners and natural resource entities that are interested or apply to the program. Being aware of a working with the beginning efforts of the OAHP and see it as a critical resource for natural resource agencies to utilize this program to assist landowners and the agricultural community. This also provides critical state funding to federal grants. In 2022 I worked on a grant that utilized OAHP as match for federal funding. Oregon has limited state funding sources and OAHP is essential. Recognizing that OAHP has not met desired funding goals through the legislature, and I can be a voice to increase funding. I can use my networks in agriculture and natural resources for bettering the program and the projects. Ducks Unlimited has strong partnerships across North American with the agricultural community including Farm Bill programs. We can draw from examples from other landscapes on how to strengthen state agricultural programs. I am passionate in helping programs and problem solving to strengthen the agricultural and natural resources communities. I will dedicate myself to working with staff, partners and fellow commissioners to use my skills and expertise to strengthen the OAHP program and its impact on Oregon's landowners, producers and fisheries and wildlife across the landscape.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

I have worked for state (OWEB), federal, and tribal entities. This diversity of experiences offers a unique perspective that many others may not have. I have seen the function of different agencies, their policies, how they work on conservation, and this gives me important perspectives and knowledge that I can use for this position. Working for a tribe I have gained knowledge of tribal sovereignty, rights, and tribal natural resource partnerships that have helped with a holistic perspective of conservation and working lands.

I come from a unique personal background that includes, century farming, working lands, habitat management, family members with extensive conservation and farming backgrounds. This background has shaped who I am as an agricultural and conservation professional. I have built relationships in the agricultural community in the Willamette Valley through being a landowner and our connections with our neighboring landowners/farmers. I'm experienced in my position at Ducks Unlimited with building relationships and earning trust with the landowners by acquiring funding and assisting them with projects on their land to meet their goals.

I have worked across diverse landscapes and with a diversity of people including farmers, landowners, native American tribes in Alaska and Western Oregon, land trusts and a multitude of other partners. I have been an employee, grantee and worked with OWEB staff.

- A member of a fifth-generation farming family (6th with my daughter).
- Grew up and worked in the agricultural community in the Mid-Willamette Valley.
- Previously employed by OWEB as an easement compliance coordinator (NRS 2).
- Landowner that manages agricultural, timber and native landscapes on a family property.
- Project initiator, manager and lead for project delivery and partnerships in Western OR for Ducks Unlimited.
- Working on conservation easements with private landowners and agricultural producers.
- Working with Agricultural producers and landowners to provide options for leveraging their goals for their properties.
- Delivery of wet prairie, wetlands, flood plain, infrastructure replacement projects across western Oregon that help improve working lands.
- Was a member of a technical review team for six years that visited, scored and analyzed conservation easements in the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program. Responsibilities included; analyze the projects ecological and operation and administrative considerations and recommend projects for funding.
- Knowledgeable in environmental laws, regulations, permitting and guidelines for fish and wildlife including NEPA, ESA and Clean Water Act
- Collaborating and provided match funding with a land trust on an OAHP project in the Willamette Valley.
- Knowledgeable about OAHP projects statewide and specific to Ducks Unlimited in Oregon geographies.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate and collaborate with landowners, federal and state agencies, tribal governments and private stakeholder groups.
- Proven track record of successfully acquiring grants for capacity, acquisitions, easements and restoration.
- Experience in planning, implementation and management of acquisitions, mitigation and conservation easements
- Ability to communicate, collaborate and build relationships with a diversity of different entities, landowners or the public.
- Experience working with landowners, state, tribal, federal and NGO, technical and policy staff on natural resource issues
- Review and provide input on Willamette Basin and coastal plans, programs and policies.

- Board Experience:
 - Clackamas Basin Watershed Council Board
 - Clackamas Partnership FIP
 - Oregon Sportsman Conservation Partnership member
 - Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie partnership (Steering team)
 - Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program Technical Team
 - Willamette River FIP
 - COLT membership board
 - Restoring Resilience in two estuaries (FIP) Core Team
 - Oregon Back Country Hunters and Anglers Board

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

Society's knowledge and connection to the outdoors, agriculture and the associated impacts.

The majority of America lives in urban or suburban centers. Jobs and life's responsibilities can be demanding and allow for little time and opportunities for outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, hiking, etc. If people do not utilize nature and rural landscapes, it will decrease the likelihood that they will value and respect it. That value and respect carries over into supporting conservation and agriculture. If society does not connect with the outdoors and associated lands it would mean conservation is less likely to be a priority for action, funding, or policy at a local, state or federal level. There are examples of this in our work where conservation/agriculture takes a lower societal priority in state and federal funding and policies. This means conservation agencies and organizations must be innovative and strategic in our approach to reach our and landowners goals and missions. OAHP is an example of providing integral opportunities to achieve them. As communities grow, if there is limited appreciation of respect for the landscape, conservation and agriculture will lose as a priority and expansion will threaten critical habitats and farmland. It is up to us to connect people to the landscape and the work we are doing and how it benefits them.

Climate Change

Climate has changed throughout history due to many reasons. There is clear and growing evidence of climate change impacting our landscape and the species that utilize it. Impacts like fire and drought are two that threaten Oregon. Plants, birds, wildlife change or shift distribution to adapt to these changes to find suitable habitat. Agencies and organizations are incorporating climate change into action plans and restoration work to assist with staying ahead of these changes. Farmers are using their knowledge of the landscape to adapt to these conditions through crop and water management, and farming strategies. There are areas like Klamath that serve as an example of the issues facing farmers due to climate centered issues and resources. Other impacts caused by climate change include an increase in invasive species presence, sea level rise, water quality and quantity issues, loss of wetlands, increases in catastrophic weather events, and more. Through our work we can assist in decreasing climate risks and impacts, but it will take a united and collaborative effort from the conservation community to assist farmers through mechanisms we have through programs and funding sources like OAHP.

Water Availability and Management

Water is a key component of life for humans, agriculture, plants, fish, and wildlife. Current threats to water include climate change, consumption but also technological advancements for getting water off the landscape. Which directly takes away ecosystem benefit for what water does when it is left on the landscape, including invasive control, ground water recharge, increase water quality, increase water storage, increase soil quality, and providing essential elements to plants, fish, and wildlife. We use practices in towns, city and agriculture that prevent water on the landscape. It will flow from our cities to fields into creeks, then rivers and out to the ocean. This is having notable impacts on the landscape and there is no decrease in practices that would help with climate resilience and water conservation.

Generational Turnover

It is expected that 64% of working lands will change hands over the next 20 years. Many farming families do not have a succession or management plan for their land (80%). OAHP provides this critical element to prevent farms from being lost. I have seen this in my own experience on family farms in our area. Successional and management planning is a critical element to the sustainability of agriculture and working lands in Oregon.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name [Kate Iaquinto](#)
Affiliation (if any) [USFWS Acting Project Lead](#)
[Oregon Coast National Wildlife Refuge Complex](#)
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [Newport](#)
State [OR](#)
Zip Code [97365](#)
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name [Scott Erion](#)
Affiliation (if any) [Landowner](#)
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [Lebanon, OR](#)
State [OR](#)
Zip Code [97355](#)
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name [Mark Goracke](#)
Affiliation (if any) [Goracke Bros Farm](#)
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [Monroe](#)
State [Oregon](#)
Zip Code [97456](#)
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]
Email

Please send your completed application via email to nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or mailed (post-marked by August 25, 2024) in order to be considered for a position.

KELLY EDWARD WARREN

*Western Oregon Regional Biologist
Ducks Unlimited Inc.*

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EDUCATION

<i>Portland State University, Portland, Oregon</i>	<i>2010</i>
▪ Masters of Environmental Management (Focus: waterfowl management and habitat)	
<i>Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon</i>	<i>2007</i>
▪ Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies; minor in Biology and English	
<i>Philomath High School, Philomath, Oregon</i>	<i>2003</i>

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Project initiator, Manager and lead for project delivery and partnerships in Western OR for Ducks Unlimited.
- Previous management of tribal fish and wildlife program; restoration planning and implementation; management of habitat and restoration projects.
- Project management of Fish and Wildlife and restoration projects; developed scope, schedule, budgets, communication plans, data/information collection, management, contracting and procurement implementation and management.
- Experience in collaboration and specific work with agricultural and natural resources entities who's missions include promotion of initiating and managing wet habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration projects.
- Proven track record of working with landowners and farmers in Western OR on projects and acquisitions/easements.
- Knowledgeable on ongoing fish, wildlife and wildlife conservation issues in the state of Oregon.
- Experience working and implementing the Oregon Conservation Strategy
- Knowledge of agricultural history in Oregon.
- Knowledge of salmon, their ecology and management in Oregon.
- Knowledge of wetlands and wetland management (coastal and inland).
- Knowledge of water conservation, management and efficiency.
- Experience as a project initiator in mitigation, bird conservation, coastal marsh protection and resilience, floodplain restoration, salmon recovery, and working landscapes.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate and collaborate with landowners, federal and state agencies, tribal governments and private stakeholder groups.
- Proven track record of successfully acquiring grants for capacity, acquisitions and restoration.
- Experience in planning, implementation and management of acquisitions, mitigation and conservation easements.
- Knowledgeable in environmental laws, regulations, permitting and guidelines for fish and wildlife including NEPA,ESA and Clean Water Act.
- Development and assistance in development of documents and policies correlated to protection of wildlife and habitat.
- Well connected with landowners and duck clubs in the Willamette Valley.
- Experience working and supervising volunteers.
- Experience in management of acquisitions and restoration projects including working with contractors, modeling, and associated partners.
- Knowledge and experience in management plan and report writing.
- Development and management of federal, state, and local environmental grants.
- Data and database management and reporting experience.

- Ability to and experience in representing an agency at conservation venues, conferences, and meetings.
- Ability to communicate, collaborate and build relationships with a diversity of different entities, landowners or the public.
- Experience working with state, tribal and federal, technical and policy staff on natural resource issues
- Strong verbal and written communication skills

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Western Oregon Regional Biologist, Ducks Unlimited Inc. August 2018-Present (40hrs/week)

Serving as an independent representative for Ducks Unlimited Inc. in Western OR. Provides expertise on acquisitions, project delivery, leveraging capacity on partnerships and projects in the Willamette Valley and the Oregon Coast. Implementation of projects with a DU team of Engineers and permitting specialists along with local and regional partners. The team has delivered over a thousand acres of projects in his geography since 2018 in both the Willamette Basin and the Oregon coast on private and public land.

Specific examples include:

Regional Programmatic and Project Management: *Development of strategic plan for the North Pacific Coast Region which includes Western OR. Building a program around DU's and associated partners Missions and goals.*

Partnerships:

- Core partner of the OCECC and Restoring Resilience to Two Estuaries Funded by OWEB FIP.
- Steering team of the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (Action Plan funded by OWEB).
- MOA with Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Member of the Oregon Sportsman's Conservation Partnership (OSCP)
- Coalition of Oregon Land Trust Member
- Administrator of a North American Wetland Conservation Grant with sixteen Willamette Basin Partners including private lands.
- Participate in programs, committees, and boards that shape natural resource management in the Willamette Basin.
- Develop cooperative relationships with partners in the Willamette Basin and assist with program building, technical assistance, policy development and decision making process' which will benefit natural resource management throughout Western OR.

Project Delivery and Working lands:

- Working on conservation easements with private landowners and agricultural producers.
- Acquired funding through a diversity of funding sources for water and wetlands conservation, management and restoration for conservation partners and landowners.
- Work across a diverse landscape and habitat types including agriculture and working lands.
- Protection of high value farmland through advocacy and project area prioritization.
- Delivery of wet prairie, wetlands, flood plain, infrastructure replacement projects across western Oregon.
- Planning, development and Management of DU Western Oregon project and Program budgets.
- Managing a team of engineers and permitting staff to deliver projects in a timely manner.
- Working with Agricultural producers and landowners on options for leveraging their goals for their properties.
- Policy support and advocacy for Farm Bill and OAHP since 2013.
- Implementation of regional and local priorities and goals to implement in our projects. (Oregon Conservation Strategy and FIP action Plans)

Science:

- Using science-based information to inform proprieties in our regions.
- Climate and water-based data
- Bird Science data
- Strategic GIS Mapping

Willamette Basin Wildlife Mitigation Coordinator, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Tualatin Oregon
May 2012-August 2018(40 hours/week)

Served as an independent representative for Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWS) to protect, enhance and manage treaty resources, including wildlife, fish and their associated habitats, within the Willamette Basin of Oregon. Accomplished closing of three significant habitat-property acquisitions on land acquisitions, partnerships with other partner agencies and private entities, natural resource management and implementation programs. Coordinated numerous on-going restoration projects on CTWS and partners properties.

Specific examples include;

Regional Programmatic Management: Developed a strategic plan with CTWS, partners and other applicable agencies for the CTWS Willamette Basin Program.

- Solitary representative for the CTWS Willamette Basin Program.
- Planned, coordinated and lead meetings for planning and implementation of Willamette Basin Natural Resource management.
- Used independent judgment and creative thinking in implementing work plans, schedules, supervising, management, and policy issues with minimal supervision.
- Directed and/or assisting in the overall planning, development, and administration of CTWS Willamette Program.
- Supervised staff, volunteers, and contractors assisting with maintenance, monitoring and management of properties.
- Planning, development and Management of CTWS Willamette Program budgets (both the overall program and associated project budgets)
- Conducted procurement and contract development and management, ensuring requirements and obligations were met.
- Advocating for and making formal recommendations for CTWS and associated Tribal interests
- Lead formal evaluations with CTWS administration and technical on the Willamette Program to update program goals, objectives and strategies.
- Working with Tribal council and legal staff on policy issues and associated Willamette Basin tasks.

Mitigation: *Overseen all aspects of mitigation projects that focused on protection and enhancement for target fish and wildlife species and their required habitats, primarily through land acquisition, conservation easements and/or other management agreements.*

- Identified properties with high value habitats to CTWS and the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP) and identify strategic ecological goals
- Prepare habitat project proposals and applications including specific statements of work and budgets
- Supervision of restoration and associated tasks
- Conduct specific habitat project monitoring and reporting
- Writing and implementation habitat management plans
- Direct and manage operations, maintenance and restoration activities
- Implementation of public access and hunting on mitigation properties.
- From 2012-2018 acquired three properties totaling 600 acres that are currently under CTWS ownership
- Acquired grants for restoration of CTWS properties

Partnerships: *Develop cooperative working relationships with collaborating agencies and conservation groups as well as with private landowners to strengthen CTWS' presence and efforts in the Willamette Basin including:*

- Participate in programs, committees, and boards that shape natural resource management in the Willamette Basin. Develop cooperative relationships with partners in the Willamette Basin and assist with program building, technical assistance, policy development and decision making process' which will benefit natural resource management throughout the Willamette.
- Have partnered on over ten WWMP acquisitions.

WWMP Mitigation Program: *Assist Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and associated partners in acquiring, partnering and supporting projects that fulfill BPA's mitigation requirements under the Willamette Biological Opinion for the WWMP.*

- Work as a member of the WWMP monitoring team, technical review team, and Tribal partners and participate in scoring cultural significance for all WWMP projects.
- Provide strategic guidance and recommendations on strategic goals when appropriate and needed to strengthen or increase the likelihood of success of the WWMP.
- Participate in Identification of both technical and policy issues and conflicts that may impact the likelihood of success of the WWMP mitigation program and work collaboratively to resolve.
- Review and provide input on Willamette Basin plans, programs and policies.

***Natural Resource Specialist 2, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Salem Oregon
June 2007-September 2008, Feb 2012-May 2012 (40 hours/week)***

Assistance with data collection, documentation and management related to conservation easements, mitigation sites and acquisitions.

- Communication and interaction with landowners and other participating entities (federal, state and private)
Collaboration with OWEB staff to improve monitoring plans to be focus on priority habitat suitability data
- Conducted monitoring of land acquisitions and conservation easement projects.
- Assisted in mapping and data entry of acquisitions funded through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
- Monitored and wrote baseline reports for 25 acquisition sites.
- Data entry and analysis, GIS mapping
- Evaluated and provided documentation on acquisition sites including recommendations on habitat restoration actions
- Assisted with the initial launch of the Effectiveness Monitoring Program for the State of Oregon
- Communication and interaction with landowners and other participating organizations (federal, state, Tribal and NGOs)
- Provided education to landowners and partnering agencies and entities for the conservation easement process
- Assisted interested landowners with the OWEB grant application process.

Owner/Principal, Wild Spirit Resources, LLC, Philomath, Oregon 2006 to present (4 to 8 hours/week)

Business focusing on natural resource documentation and nature photography.

- Authored and published *Identification Field Guide to the Geese of the Willamette Valley and Lower Columbia River, 2nd Edition* in cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Development of training materials and presentations to meet client's requests and needs
- Provided education and outreach to state and federal agencies, the public and private hunting organizations
- Provided goose identification training and seminars to private entities and the public.
- Conducted needed business management needs including budgets.

Field Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

September 2009-July 2011

Conduct nest plot surveys for waterfowl on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta in Alaska. (Summer, Fall, Spring)

- Conducted remote field survey work in remote areas on a tightly scheduled, time dependent basis
- Collected migratory bird data and use data cards
- Analyzed and record collected data
- Organization and maintenance of field gear, equipment and supplies for conducting remote field surveys

- Provided training to volunteer support staff on methods and protocols for nest plot surveys.
- Supervised survey activities conducted by volunteer staff
- Use of boats and GPS in estuary areas to navigate to and from plots

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS AND EXPERIENCE

Streams, Wetlands, and Riparian Zones

- Conducted stream surveys for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Alsea, OR (2003)
- Helped with a riparian zone reconstruction for Mary's River Watershed Council, Philomath, OR (2003)
- Conducted an aquatic invertebrate collection for Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Philomath, OR (2003)
- Conducted stream surveys on Baker Creek, McMinnville, OR (2006)
- Provided support for a wetland analysis related to permitting a \$50 million development project, Philomath, OR (2005)

Wildlife and Upland Vegetation

- Completed a Roosevelt Elk survey and population study, William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, ODFW, Monroe, OR (2003)
- Conducted volunteer support for banding migratory birds at Fern Ridge Wildlife Refuge, OR (2003)
- Field Observer for annual migratory waterfowl surveys and data collection for US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Willamette Valley. (2007-present)
- Cackling goose collar surveyor and survey trainer in Yamhill County for ODFW. (2011-2014)
- Cackling goose banding on Sauvie Island in cooperation with ODFW and USFWS (2014).
- Significant duck banding experience in Oregon, Alaska, and Arkansas.
- Landowner representative negotiating with ODFW on changes to Roosevelt elk regulations for the Finley Subunit

Agriculture:

- From a fifth generation Oregon farming family
- Manages a family agricultural and wildlife management property.
- Assisted 35 farmers/landowners as a voice for damage on Elk in the Finley Subunit.

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Outstanding Linfield Environmental Science Senior, Linfield Environmental Science Department (2007)
- Team Captain, Cross Country, Linfield College (2006)
- Top Cat Award for Cross Country, Most Inspirational Team member, Linfield College (2004)
- KATU Channel 2 coverage of Identification Field Guide to the Geese of the Willamette Valley and Lower Columbia River, 2nd Edition by Kelly Warren
- KGW Channel 8 (Grants Getaways) coverage of Wild Spirit Resources and Identification Field Guide to the Geese of the Willamette Valley and Lower Columbia River, 2nd Edition by Kelly Warren
- Masters thesis: Climate change and its Impact on Migration Patterns of Cackling and White Fronted Geese and implications for Management.

ACTIVITIES

- Leisure activities include hunting, fishing, decoy carving, traveling, farming, wildlife/nature photography, bird watching and banding, and field dog training.
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THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON

BRANCH OF NATURAL RESOURCES

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
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August 15, 2024

To: OWEB Board

RE: Letter of Support for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Branch of Natural Resources (CTWSBNR) supports the application of Kelly Warren for appointment to the 12-member Oregon Agricultural and Heritage Commission as a representative for Natural Resource Value Interests. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) and the CTWSBNR's Conservation Lands Program are connected by the shared purpose of enhancing and protecting natural resources, including fish and wildlife habitat and water quality throughout Oregon. Kelly's professional and personal life experiences will serve him well in the role of an OAHP Commissioner. For example, we employed Kelly from 2012 – 2018 to be our Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Project (WWMP) Coordinator. The WWMP is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration and managed by the State of Oregon. While working for us, Kelly had several admirable accomplishments conducting work as follows: 1) finding, funding acquiring and managing land with high quality habitats for fish and wildlife under CTWS ownership; 2) forming working collaborative partnerships on other WWMP properties that were acquired by other tribes, state, and other non-governmental agencies; and 3) assisting partners in programmatic processes, policy, planning and natural resource management that impacted the entire Willamette River basin. Currently, Kelly works for Ducks Unlimited where he oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. Finally, Kelly was raised in Oregon's agricultural community by a Willamette Valley farming family, and he manages the working lands on the family property. I gladly support Kelly's application for a Commission Seat because he is a great advocate and has worked with and for the Tribes in the past with interests of CTWS in mind.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin L. Smith Jr.", is written over a series of horizontal lines.

Austin L. Smith Jr
General Manager - Branch of Natural Resources
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

oha@oregonhunters.org • oregonhunters.org

August 27, 2024

To: OWEB Board

RE: Letter of Support for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) to offer support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited for the Natural Resource Value Interests board position as a part of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

OHA is the largest state-centric hunter conservationist organization with a membership of over 12,000 sportsmen and women in the state. OHA's mission is to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunter heritage; to that end OHA supports science-based wildlife management and habitat protection. In both the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions, OHA testified in support of the funding requests for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

Kelly comes from a fifth generation Willamette Valley farming family and manages working lands on his family's property. Growing up in the agricultural community he understands the intricacies of farm management, has built trust in this community, and knows how to communicate and collaborate with farmers. Kelly also has seen and understands the hardships that agricultural communities face. This is why he has supported OAHP since 2013 as a critical tool for agricultural communities across Oregon.

As a natural resources professional, Kelly has a diverse background that will bring needed expertise to the Commission. He has worked for an Oregon Tribe as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley where he identified and implemented acquisitions which will provide important experience to the Commission. He partnered with many organizations including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations on programs and projects in the Willamette Valley.

In his current role at Ducks Unlimited, Kelly oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. He partners and implements many private lands projects including a past funded OAHP project. There is strong overlap in his work in working lands and agricultural (protection and advocacy), water management and quality and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Kelly has been a strong supporter of OAHP and recognizes its integral need as a match funding source for federal funding that can be leveraged to provide more opportunities and tools for private landowners. Ducks Unlimited has been a strong supporter of OAHP both in utilizing the program and advocating for the program and funding.

Kelly brings a strong commitment to protecting habitat while working in partnership with landowners. This approach is strongly supporting by OHA and we believe Kelly would be an incredible asset to the OAHP commission and program mission.

Sincerely,

Amy Patrick
Policy Director

Date: August 27, 2024

From: Land Trust Alliance



To: OWEB Board

RE: Letter of Support for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application

I am writing on behalf of the Land Trust Alliance to offer support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited, for the Natural Resource Value Interests board position as a part of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

The Land Trust Alliance is working with state and local partners to advance the conservation of Oregon's critical landscapes and resources, including our agriculture based. I have worked with Kelly for years through the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program managed by the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and, more recently, in his position at Ducks Unlimited.

Kelly comes from a fifth generation Willamette Valley farming family and manages working lands on his family's property. Growing up in the agricultural community he understands the intricacies of farm management, has built trust in this community, and knows how to communicate and collaborate with farmers. Kelly also has seen and understands the hardships that agricultural communities face. This is why he has supported OAHP since 2013 as a critical tool for agricultural communities across Oregon.

As a natural resources professional, Kelly has a diverse background that will bring needed expertise to the Commission. He has worked for an Oregon Tribe as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley where he identified and implemented acquisitions which will provide important experience to the Commission. He partnered with many organizations including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations on programs and projects in the Willamette Valley.

In his current role at Ducks Unlimited, Kelly oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. He partners and implements many private lands projects including a past funded OAHP project. There is strong overlap in his work in working lands and agricultural (protection and advocacy), water management and quality and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Kelly has been a strong supporter of OAHP and recognizes its integral need as a match funding source for federal funding that can be leveraged to provide more opportunities and tools for private landowners. Ducks Unlimited has been a strong supporter of OAHP both in utilizing the program and advocating for the program and funding.

I believe Kelly's personal and professional commitment to the viability of Oregon's agriculture base and the habitat values that agriculture can help protect make him an ideal candidate for the Natural Resource Value Interests board.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B. R.' followed by a stylized flourish.

Western Division Director of Field Programs



greenbelt land trust

101 SW Western Suite #111 ♦ Correspondence to PO Box 1721 ♦ Corvallis, OR 97339

8/26/2024

Greenbelt Land Trust
PO Box 1721
Corvallis, OR 97339

To: OWEB Board

RE: Letter of Support for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application

I am writing on behalf of Greenbelt Land Trust to offer support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited for the Natural Resource Value Interests board position as a part of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

As a natural resources professional, Kelly has a diverse background that will bring needed expertise to the Commission. He has worked for an Oregon Tribe as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley where he implemented acquisitions which will provide important experience to the Commission. He partnered with organizations including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations on programs and projects in the Willamette Valley.

In his current role at Ducks Unlimited, Kelly oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. There is strong overlap in his work in working lands and agricultural, water management and quality and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Kelly has been a supporter of OAHP and recognizes its integral need as a match funding source for federal funding that can be leveraged to provide more opportunities and tools for private landowners.

Greenbelt Land Trust is a strong supporter and advocate of OAHP, and we feel that it is important for the OAHP Commission to include members that have direct experience in land acquisition, conservation and working lands. Kelly is a candidate that meets these marks and we endorse his application to serve on the OAHP Commission.

Sincerely,

Jessica McDonald
Executive Director, Greenbelt Land Trust





*Watersheds of the Salmon River, Siletz River,
Yaquina River, Alsea River, Yachats River, and
Ocean Tributaries*

Date: 8/9/2024

MidCoast Watersheds Council
Evan Hayduk, Executive Director

To: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

RE: Letter of Support for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application

I am writing on behalf of MidCoast Watersheds Council to offer support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited for the Natural Resource Value Interests board position as a part of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

MidCoast Watersheds Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of streams and watersheds of Oregon's central coast to produce clean water, rebuild healthy salmon populations, and support healthy ecosystems, communities, and economies. MidCoast administers and manages the OWEB funded Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) "Restoring Resilience in Two Estuaries". Kelly is a Core Partner on the FIP and we have been impressed with his active participation, input, in-kind support, and ability to leverage expertise from Ducks Unlimited to achieve project success from permitting to engineering support, and beyond.

Kelly comes from a fifth generation Willamette Valley farming family and manages working lands on his family's property. Growing up in the agricultural community he understands the intricacies of farm management, has built trust in this community, and knows how to communicate and collaborate with farmers. Kelly also has seen and understands the hardships that agricultural communities face. This is why he has supported OAHP since 2013 as a critical tool for agricultural communities across Oregon.

As a natural resources professional, Kelly has a diverse background that will bring needed expertise to the Commission. He has worked for an Oregon Tribe as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley where he identified and implemented acquisitions which will provide important experience to the Commission. He partnered with many organizations including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations on programs and projects in the Willamette Valley.

In his current role at Ducks Unlimited, Kelly oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. He partners and implements many private lands projects including a past funded OAHP project. There is strong overlap in his work in working lands and agricultural (protection and advocacy), water management and quality and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Kelly has been a strong supporter of



*Watersheds of the Salmon River, Siletz River,
Yaquina River, Alsea River, Yachats River, and
Ocean Tributaries*

OAHP and recognizes its integral need as a match funding source for federal funding that can be leveraged to provide more opportunities and tools for private landowners. Ducks Unlimited has been a strong supporter of OAHP both in utilizing the program and advocating for the program and funding.

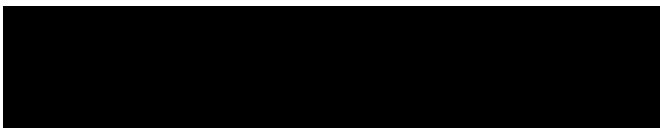
We highly recommend Kelly for the board position. He is engaged, enthusiastic, and well versed in the issues facing Western Oregon.

Sincerely,

Evan Hayduk

Evan Hayduk

Executive Director, MidCoast Watersheds Council



Date: August 23, 2024

From: Tristan Henry

Oregon Field Representative, Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership

To: The OWEB Board

775 Summer St NE, Salem, OR

RE: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application

Dear OWEB Board Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited, in his application for the Natural Resource Value Interests board position on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

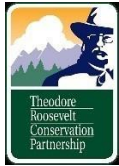
Kelly Warren is uniquely qualified for this position. Coming from a fifth-generation farming family in the Willamette Valley, Kelly has a deep understanding of the complexities involved in managing agricultural lands. His personal and professional experiences have earned him the trust of the agricultural community, enabling him to effectively communicate and collaborate with farmers. Kelly has witnessed firsthand the challenges that agricultural communities face, and has been an exemplar of stewardship in his vocation as in his personal life, driving his steadfast support for OAHP as a crucial resource for these communities.

As a seasoned natural resources professional, Kelly brings a wealth of experience that would be invaluable to the commission. His previous work as a coordinator for an Oregon Tribe in the Willamette Valley, where he identified and implemented critical land acquisitions, demonstrates his ability to work across a diverse array of stakeholders, including federal, state, tribal, and non-governmental organizations. In his current role with Ducks Unlimited, Kelly oversees Western Oregon programs and projects, many of which involve private lands. His strong advocacy for OAHP since 2013 and his involvement in securing funding and support for the program highlight his commitment to advancing conservation goals in Oregon.

Kelly's background, expertise, and passion for conservation make him an outstanding candidate for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. His understanding of both the agricultural and natural resources sectors equips him to contribute significantly to the commission's work in preserving Oregon's agricultural heritage.

Thank you for considering Kelly Warren for this important role. His appointment would be a tremendous asset to the commission and to the future of conservation in Oregon.

Sincerely,



Tristan Henry
Oregon Field Representative
Theodore Roosevelt Conservation Partnership



Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
7175 NE Evergreen Parkway, #400
Hillsboro, OR 97124

August 9, 2024

To: OWEB Board

RE: Letter of Support for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application

I am writing on behalf of Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District to offer support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited for the Natural Resource Value Interests board position as a part of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Tualatin SWCD services the residents of Washington County by providing technical, financial, and educational support for conserving and enhancing natural resources. Viable agriculture and forestry are central to our mission and conservation of those lands as well as support for the next generation of farmers and foresters is a key element in our strategic plan. We recognize the importance of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program in helping us, and other organizations across the state, to achieve those goals.

Kelly comes from a fifth generation Willamette Valley farming family and manages working lands on his family's property. Growing up in the agricultural community he understands the intricacies of farm management, has built trust in this community, and knows how to communicate and collaborate with farmers. Kelly also has seen and understands the hardships that agricultural communities face. This is why he has supported OAHP since 2013 as a critical tool for agricultural communities across Oregon.

As a natural resources professional, Kelly has a diverse background that will bring needed expertise to the Commission. He has worked for an Oregon Tribe as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley where he identified and implemented acquisitions which will provide important experience to the Commission. He partnered with many organizations including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations on programs and projects in the Willamette Valley.

In his current role at Ducks Unlimited, Kelly oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. He partners and implements many private lands projects including a past funded OAHP project. There is strong overlap in his work in working lands and agricultural (protection and advocacy), water management and quality and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Kelly has been a strong supporter of OAHP and recognizes its integral need as a match funding source for federal funding that can be leveraged to provide more opportunities and tools for

private landowners. Ducks Unlimited has been a strong supporter of OAHP both in utilizing the program and advocating for the program and funding.

Kelly thrives on partnership and is excellent at finding connection with people. He would bring the perfect balance between agriculture and wildlife habitat interests to this position. TSWCD strongly supports Kelly as a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lacey M. Townsend".

Lacey Townsend

Executive Director

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District



COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

2540 NE MLK JR BLVD, PORTLAND, OR 97212 • 503-719-4732 • OREGONLANDTRUSTS.ORG

August 22, 2024

To: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St. NE
Salem, OR 97301

From: Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
2540 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR 97212

RE: Support for Kelly Warren's Appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), I would like to share our strong support for the appointment of Kelly Warren to serve on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) to represent natural resource interests.

The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) is a network of 31 organizations working in Oregon to protect our natural world - our water, wildlife and open space - for all people, forever. Our coalition has been advocating for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) since its creation in 2017, and we have been instrumental in securing grant funding for the program in the 2022 and 2024 legislative sessions.

Kelly Warren has also been a long-time supporter of the OAHP, both personally and professionally. As a natural resource professional, Kelly brings important and diverse expertise to the Commission. He currently works as the Western Regional Biologist at Ducks Unlimited, implementing on the ground projects to conserve wetlands and waterfowl habitat. In the past,



24 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Blue Mountain Land Trust • Center for Natural Lands Management • Columbia Land Trust
Deschutes Land Trust • Ducks Unlimited • Forest Park Conservancy • Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust
Greenbelt Land Trust • Klamath Lake Land Trust • Lower Nehalem Community Trust • McKenzie River Trust
North Coast Land Conservancy • Northwest Rangeland Trust • Oregon Agricultural Trust • Oregon Desert Land Trust

Pacific Forest Trust • Southern Oregon Land Conservancy • The Conservation Fund • The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
The Trust for Public Land • The Wetlands Conservancy • Wallowa Land Trust • Western Rivers Conservancy • Wild Rivers Land Trust
8 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Black Oregon Land Trust • Cerro Gordo Land Conservancy • Clackamas Soil & Water
Conservation District • East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District • Helvetia Community Association
Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District • View the Future • Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District

he worked to identify and implement strategic acquisitions in the Willamette Valley in partnership with federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations.

Kelly also comes from a fifth generation Willamette Valley farming family and manages working lands on his family's property, bringing a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Oregon's agricultural communities. Growing up in the agricultural community, he understands the intricacies of farm management and knows how to communicate and collaborate with farmers. This is why he has supported OAHP since 2013 as a critical tool for agricultural communities across Oregon.

Kelly would be an excellent choice to serve on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. He would provide the Commission with expertise in transactions, natural resource management, and agricultural community needs. In addition, he brings a deep care and commitment to the mission and goals of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. We encourage you to approve his appointment and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karsyn Kendrick
Conservation Director
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts





Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission
775 Summer St NE
Salem, OR 97301

Tuesday, August 27, 2024

Re: Letter of Support for Kelly Warren to Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

To whom it may concern:

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Agricultural Trust to support Kelly Warren for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. OAT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust that serves the state of Oregon. We have partnered with Kelly on conservation efforts for years, first in his role at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and now in his role at Ducks Unlimited.

He is knowledgeable about conservation and agricultural needs, strategies, and grants across the state. He has extensive experience working with agricultural landowners and many relevant conservation partners. Kelly would be an excellent voice on the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nellie McAdams', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Nellie McAdams

Executive Director



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for "qualified members," defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

Applicant Information

Name Robin Vora

Affiliation

Occupation

☒ Retired Natural Resource Manager, Wildlife Biologist, Forester, Ecologist

Mailing address [REDACTED]

Town/City Bend **State** OR **Zip Code** 97701

Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number**

Email robinvora1@gmail.com

Applicant Signature /s/ Robin Vora

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- ☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- ☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- ☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- ☒ **Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I have long been interested in working farms and ranches that also maintain fish and wildlife habitat, and to some extent native natural communities. My mother's side of my family in Mississippi grew cotton dating back to the 1830s and later raised cattle while maintaining some native forest that provided the seed source for the forest there today, some of which I inherited. As a wildlife biologist with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service I worked with Farmers Home Administration to delineate important wetlands to be maintained on operational farms. I have submitted letters or emails to state governments developing policies on riparian buffers, hedge rows and conservation reserves. I presently serve on the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District Board and am in my 3rd elected term. I also serve on the Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission.

I also have an interest in history, am a member of the Deschutes Historical Society, and often participate in local history presentations. I served on the Bend Historic Landmarks Commission for 10 years. I was founder and President of the Mesabi Heritage Society in Aurora, Minnesota.

I am familiar with committee and Oregon State meeting procedures, and working within a committee to achieve common objectives. I have good analytical skills. I have worked on many teams, committees, commissions and boards as a volunteer with local government and in my professional career at work. I understand the need to work collaboratively on a committee, reaching consensus if possible and if time permits, and to develop viable recommendations. I recognize that reaching a consensus may mean not getting everything an individual committee member might want in a recommendation. I am soft spoken and try to listen to what others, including the public, are saying. I believe public involvement is important in developing good recommendations.

□

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

I have participated in local land use policy development and planning everywhere I have lived as an adult and in my professional work. I had substantial natural resource management experience with the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service over a total of 39 years in seven U.S. states, and completed short-term natural resource planning assignments in seven other countries. I worked as a manager, forester, wildlife biologist, ecologist and hydrologic technician. I published 30 technical articles in peer-reviewed journals on subjects such as applied ecology, ecological restoration, ecological classification, land use planning, timber harvest effects, wildlife habitat & populations, climate change effects and adaptation, and watershed management. I made several presentations at national and regional meetings, public meetings and workshops, and to college classes. I have Masters degrees in wildlife and forestry from the University of Idaho, and a Bachelors degrees in natural resource management from the University of California at Berkeley. I graduated with honors from both universities.

Recently, as a member of the Deschutes County Solid Waste Advisory Committee, I successfully advocated for a new landfill site that less impact on sage-grouse habitat than other choices. I have served on several city of Bend committees, boards or commissions over the past 15 years: historic landmarks commission, core area urban renewal and earlier central area planning, urban growth area expansion, transportation, public transit, parks and recreation citizens advisory committee, and my local neighborhood association (Vice President). As I mentioned, I am presently serving in my third term on the Deschutes Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) Board. I led the development of the Deschutes SWCD Long Range Plan. I also serve on the Oregon Soil and Water Conservation Commission. I have been involved with local conservation groups everywhere I've lived.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

As the owners of farms, ranches and forests age, and younger generations move elsewhere for other kinds of work, the state (and nation) is in danger of losing this important family heritage, its contribution to meeting the nation's resource needs, and the local community. Many of these properties that are larger or in key locations maintain fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resource values. Fragmentation of the properties for other purposes, such as residential or other urban development, reduces their natural resource values. Many farms provide habitats in floodplains or along rivers that are not well represented on National Forest, Bureau of Land Management or other public lands. Local communities may lose when family farms, ranches and forests are sold to national or regional corporate interests.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name Heidi Kennedy
Affiliation (if any) Senior Planner with Landmarks Commission,
City Bend,
Mailing Address
City/Town Bend
State OR
Zip Code 97701
Phone Number
Alternate #
Fax #
Email

Reference #2

Name Jerry Sebestyen
Affiliation (if any) Chair Bend Landmarks Commission
and former La Grande City Councilor
Mailing Address
City/Town Bend
State OR
Zip Code 97702
Phone Number
Alternate #
Fax #
Email

Reference #3

Name Glen Ardt
Affiliation (if any) Oregon Dept. Fish & Wildlife, wildlife biologist, retired
Mailing Address
City/Town Bend
State OR
Zip Code 97703
Phone Number
Alternate #
Fax #
Email

Please send your completed application via email to nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or mailed (post-marked by August 25, 2024) in order to be considered for a position.



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for “qualified members,” defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

Applicant Information

Name Sara Evans-Peters
Affiliation Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture
Occupation
☐ Retired US Assistant Coordinator
Mailing address [REDACTED]
Town/City Independence **State** OR **Zip Code** 97351
Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number** [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- ☐ **Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
☐ **Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
☐ **Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
☐ **Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
☐ **Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
X. Natural Resource Value Interests (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

Please consider this application as my letter of interest in filling the seat on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to represent natural resource interests.

I believe the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program is a critical component to Oregon's economic viability, resilience of Oregon's agricultural operations and local communities, and to maintaining Oregon's natural resources. These are core tenants to Pacific Birds work over the last 30 years. I joined Pacific Birds in 2010. In my current role as U.S. Assistant Coordinator my emphasis is on building strategic partnerships and initiatives and incorporating working lands concepts into how we plan for and implement conservation across Oregon and the West. I lead the development and implementation of Pacific Birds' conservation programs and work to thoughtfully bridge the gap between science and delivery. Through my work I strive to preserve our natural resources while meeting the needs of people including local communities and tribes, farmers, producers, ranchers, hunters, birders, and recreationists.

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program advances Pacific Birds mission as well as my personal commitment to multiple benefit conservation and farmland preservation. I believe providing voluntary incentives to farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain both agriculture and natural resources is one of the most effective tools to advance conservation today. I bring a ground-up, landscape scale, solution-oriented approach to my work and feel this skillset will be valuable to the program and the Commission. I am dedicated to finding solutions that move conservation forward by making conservation the rational choice, strengthening conservation through a lens of relevancy to people, by catalyzing conservation actions, and by leveraging resources across partners to find economies in scale. My career is about making conservation the rational choice—for generations of families, nature-lovers, hunters, and farmers to come.

As a Commissioner I would bring a high-level non-bias understanding of the natural resource issues in Oregon and a strong connection to partners across the state. Partnerships are the backbone to the Joint Ventures and central to my work experience. Pacific Birds is a collaborative, international partnership of hundreds of organizations and individuals implementing strategic conservation actions across private and public lands in Oregon and across the Pacific Northwest, British Columbia, Alaska and the Pacific Islands. As a Joint Venture, we work to accelerate conservation through our partners which takes a landscape level understanding of the conservation landscape and the natural resources issues we face. My work is guided by diverse partners including local producers, conservation and recreation-based non-governmental organizations, local government, tribes, and state and federal agencies. Because we advance conservation through partnerships, over the last decade, I have formed strong relationships with many key natural resource groups in Oregon and work to understand their missions and ways we work to make conservation happen including Tribes, land trusts, conservation districts, watershed councils, forest collaboratives, University Extension Offices, Ducks Unlimited, Pheasants Forever, Oregon Agricultural Trust, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts, and many other natural resource based NGOs.

Part of the mission of Joint Ventures is to step down the habitat priorities of state and federal agencies to on-the-ground actions, and it is key to maintain relationships and strong connections to program staff and the Director Offices of key federal and state natural resource agencies across the region, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resource Conservation Service, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, OWEB, US Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management, Oregon Department of Forestry, and Oregon Department of Land and Development as well as local government entities. Understanding the diversity of partners and missions has helped shape the context for how I work and understand the issues in this state and beyond.

I own a small farm in the heart of the Willamette Valley, hunt, fish, and recreate across the state, and have a deep appreciation for the natural resources of Oregon and the communities and farmers that make Oregon, Oregon. I surround myself with farmers and ranchers both in work and in my personal life. My daughters are a part of the Polk County 4-H Cloverbuds Program. I support the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program goals and view conversion of farmland to non-farm uses, complex regulations, and generational transfers as three of the biggest threats to land use and our natural resources in Oregon.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

My work experience, personal interests, and connection to Oregon's landscapes provide me with a unique skillset to successfully represent the natural resource interests on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Please see attached résumé for additional background. Please see Pacific Birds post to [learn about my conservation ethic](#).

Currently, I officially serve on many committees that connect me to Oregon working lands programs, conservation challenges, and partners across the state. I serve on the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program Wildlife Advisory Group, The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Oregon Technical Advisory Committee, NRCS Washington State Advisory Committee, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development's Coastal Zone Management BIL Grant Review Committee, Oregon Wildlife Foundation's Project Committee, the Trinational Partners in Flight Western Working Group Executive Team, and the Western Forest Birds Leadership Team. I have led the development of over 6 formal governance agreements for partnerships across the state and serve on the Steering Committee of each. I co-developed the Pacific Birds International Board Bylaws and Operating Procedures. In my local community, I serve on a Polk County Cemetery Board, the Monmouth-Independence Community Preschool Board, and Central School District's Partner Teacher Association.

I have experience in the collaborative process of strategic group decision making around land transaction project ranking. I understand how to use set ranking criteria as well as unranked social factors that may be relevant on a case-by-case basis. My participation on the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program Wildlife Advisory Group and the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development's Coastal Zone Management BIL Grant Review Committee have built this skillset. I have led and facilitated many strategic planning processes within our own organization and for external partners and partnerships. Because we are rooted in partnerships, a core component of my position is leading and participating in group decision making. I am an effective communicator and facilitator and an active group participant in decision-making processes. I have participated in many formal decision-making processes including making formal recommendations to state and federal agency Directors.

Though Pacific Birds geographic scope does not cover the entirety of Oregon, I work across issues and boundaries through numerous facets of my work. I have been working in close partnership with the Intermountain West Joint Venture to develop a joint Western Forest Bird Initiative that takes into consideration all western forest types, land uses, and ownerships, and the issues that face them. For 15 years, I have participated in, and engaged with, the Pacific Flyway Council. The Pacific Flyway Council is an administrative body that forges cooperation among public wildlife agencies for the purpose of protecting and conserving migratory birds that inhabit western North America. The Council addresses largescale natural resource concerns across the Pacific Flyway, with a focus on water resources, drought, and energy development in Oregon, including the Klamath Basin and the Intermountain West. By serving on both the NRCS Oregon Technical Committee and the NRCS Washington State Advisory Committee I engage with producers and conservation partners from across the state to provide advice for technical considerations and technical guidelines necessary to implement conservation provisions of USDA legislation.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

The main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources is loss of habitat and agricultural land due to conversion (development, generational turnover, sea-level rise, energy development), water availability and water quality, catastrophic wildfire, soil health, invasive species and pests, and the decline of pollinators. And, with expected climate change, all these existing issues are expected to be exacerbated in coming years.

Equally important, is the ability of farmers and ranchers to keep farms in production, while simultaneously providing co-benefits for fish and wildlife. This is critical to how we increase the economic viability of agricultural operations and support the next generation in being successful through generational land transitions. A variety of strong incentive programs for farmers and ranchers to support practices that maintain or enhance both agricultural and natural resources on agricultural lands are needed to address these issues. About 45%, or 27.7 million acres, of Oregon's land base is in private ownership. Of that, 15.5 million acres are in Exclusive Farm Use. Supporting farmers and ranchers for the benefit of communities, economies, and natural resources is a critical issue facing the future of Oregon agriculture and natural resources.

Oregon Agricultural Trust summarizes the issue well, 25% of Oregon is in farming and ranching and 64% of that land will change hands in 20 years. The average age of Oregon farmers and ranchers is 60 and unfortunately, 81% of Oregon farmers and ranchers don't have succession plans. The threat of land conversion and development and subdivision of farmland remains the highest conservation concern in Oregon.

Water: Now, more than ever, drought and climate change are fundamentally altering the valuable wetland and irrigated agricultural lands in Eastern Oregon, Southwest Oregon, and the Willamette Valley. These lands provide vital habitat for migratory birds, sustain floodplain function, and recharge aquifers, but are at risk from competing water demands, fragmentation from rural subdivision, and climate change. Additionally, Oregon is home to approximately 30 million acres of forestland which is deeply rooted in Oregon's history and current economy. Beyond the economic, social, and wildlife benefits of forests, an estimated 2.8 million Oregonians rely on water that comes from forested landscapes.

The Coast: Oregon's coastal communities are already seeing the effects of climate change. Rising sea level is already inundating low-lying lands, eroding coastline, and exacerbating coastal flooding. Tide gates are failing making it difficult for family farms to economically sustain themselves into the future. Along the West Coast, tidal and freshwater wetlands and adjacent agricultural lands, provide important habitats for Pacific Flyway bird species and maintaining agricultural uses on lands vulnerable to sea level rise, as long as feasible, benefits family farms and increases the resiliency of coastal communities.

Forests: Landward, an estimated 80% of western forests have been lost since European settlement and most forest dependent species are rapidly declining. Birds dependent on Western forests have plummeted nearly 20% since 1980, and almost half have declining populations. Across the Western U.S., approximately 4.5 million homes and millions of acres of forested watershed are at high or extreme risk of wildfires. While the causes of increased catastrophic wildfires are complex, climate change and declining forest health are at the core of these trends. Climate change and 100-years of fire suppression in Western forests are yielding bigger, more frequent, and more severe wildfire. The benefits of resilient forests and watersheds extend beyond forest-dependent birds and healthy fish populations –healthy forests result in clean air, increased freshwater availability, more resilient rural communities, recreation and tourism opportunities, more durable and stable carbon storage and sequestration, and biodiversity and habitat for species.

Sagebrush: Sagebrush rangelands drive our nation's economy through energy and livestock production and provide critical regional water resources. Equally important, sagebrush provides important wildlife values for many species including sage grouse, mule deer, and migratory birds. These valuable rangelands are at risk from encroaching trees that displace native birds and other wildlife and reduce livestock forage. Deep-rooted western livelihood, from Native American cultural traditions to ranching to big game hunting, all rely on healthy sagebrush rangelands (IWJV 2022). Sagebrush once covered roughly 247 million acres in western North America and although some sagebrush habitats are still common and widespread in eastern

Oregon, some sagebrush habitat types are of conservation concern due to large-scale threats like catastrophic wildfire and cheatgrass.

I have helped shaped Pacific Birds programs over the last decade and led program development. Pacific Birds is focused on the highest-priority conservation needs in the West, in habitats where investments in private and public lands will accelerate bird habitat conservation and benefit local communities: resilient coasts and healthy forests. Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture focuses on three core areas of work,

- Protect, restore, and manage resilient intertidal and freshwater wetlands and adjacent farmlands in coastal watersheds to benefit wetland-dependent birds.
- Halt the loss of oak and prairie habitat and reverse the declines of oak-dependent species through oak-friendly conservation options for private landowners and producers.
- Halt and reverse declines of Western Forest birds by informing active forest management on small family forests, private industrial, and state and national forests that aligns multiple benefits for our most imperiled birds and people.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name [Monica Iglecia](#)
Affiliation (if any) [Pacific Birds US Coordinator](#)
Mailing Address
City/Town [Portland](#)
State [Oregon](#)
Zip Code [97221](#)
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name [Steve Denney](#)
Affiliation (if any) [Landowner. Retired: ODFW SW Oregon Watershed Manager, TNC South Coast Conservation Director, Umpqua Oak Partnership Coordinator](#)
City/Town [Roseburg](#)
State [Oregon](#)
Zip Code [97471](#)
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name [Ken Bierly](#)
Affiliation (if any) [Bierly & Associates LCC](#)
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [Salem](#)
State [Oregon](#)
Zip Code [97304](#)
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Alternate #
Fax #
Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or mailed (post-marked by August 25, 2024) in order to be considered for a position.

SARA EVANS-PETERS

PACIFIC BIRDS US ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

CONTACT



Independence, OR 97351

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

- Build cooperative partnerships
- Working lands, compatible land use
- Collaborative landscape conservation
- Migratory bird management
- Strategic planning
- Conservation policy
- Land protection and acquisition
- Restoration ecology
- Human dimensions, social science

PASSIONS AND PERSUITS

- Backcountry hunting
- Family values
- Waterfowl hunting
- Gardening and canning
- Horsemanship and trail riding
- YMCA youth sports, coaching
- 4H Cloverbuds

EDUCATION

M.S. Wildlife Ecology
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Oregon State University
2009 - 2012
Advisor: Dr. Bruce Dugger, GPA 3.8

Bachelor of Science
University of Montana
Southern Oregon University
1998-2003

SKILLS

- Cross-Boundary Collaboration: Skilled in working across diverse political and social lines to achieve common goals.
- Relationship Builder: Experienced in establishing and nurturing partnerships and alliances to drive collaborative efforts.
- Conservation Advocate: strong passion for conservation with a focus on working lands, sustainable practices, and environmental stewardship.
- Strategic Conservation: comprehensive, landscape-level perspective for strategic, effective conservation planning and implementation.
- Policy Expertise: In-depth knowledge of state and federal policies and programs related to conservation and natural resources.
- Leadership in Hiring and Supervision: Proven ability to recruit, hire, and supervise teams, ensuring alignment with organizational goals.
- Financial Stewardship: Expertise in budget management and securing and administering grants to fund conservation initiatives.

WORK EXPERIENCE

US ASSISTANT COORDINATOR

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture | 2010 - Present

Supervisor: Monica Iglecia, U.S. Coordinator

I am dedicated to finding solutions that move conservation forward by making conservation the rational choice, by building strategic partnerships, by catalyzing conservation actions, and by leveraging resources across partners to find economies in scale. I prioritize forging relationships across sectors with conservation and agriculture leaders, local community, legislators, and tribal leaders to promote strategic conservation. I am an advocate and leader for the conservation and sustainability of western landscapes and ways of life.

Program Development and Strategic Conservation

Develop and implement Pacific Birds Conservation programs, lead strategic and adaptive management planning for partners. Bridge the gap between science and delivery by advancing and promoting solution-based science.

Partnership Development

Advance strategic conservation through partnerships, develop common ground and trust across sectors including agriculture, private landowners, communities, tribes, federal and state agencies, and NGOs. Enhance local partnerships for conservation, coordinate among local partnerships in support of collective priorities, including shared policy objectives, regional capacity gaps, and joint funding strategies

Policy Development and Outreach

Work with state and federal partners to shape policies, serve on grant review committees, and engage state representatives.

Grant Development and Administration

Manage Oregon NRCS-Pacific Birds interagency agreement, administer grants, and provide consultation on project and grant development.

MAJOR PROJECTS

PACIFIC BIRDS - NRCS PARTNERSHIP (Lead, 2022-current)

Lead partnership development, manage Pacific Birds-NRCS interagency agreement, and manage sub-contracts and contractors under multi-year agreements. Managed partnership development and interagency agreements and supported and supervised various positions and contracts including shared Farm Bill biologist positions, science-to-implementation support staff, liaisons, and agricultural easement specialists.

PACIFIC BIRDS OAK AND PRAIRIE PROGRAM (Lead, 2014-current)

Coordinated program development, strategic direction, partnerships, and funding for regional partnerships. Coordinate the Pacific Northwest Oak Alliance. Since 2020, Pacific Birds partnerships have secured more than \$52,000,000 in funding for restoration and protection and influenced many agency program funding priorities.

PRAIRIE, OAKS, AND PEOPLE – AN INVESTMENT STRATEGY (Lead, 2022-current)

Developed and lead implementation of the 5-year investment plan for oak and prairie systems. The plan was a large collaborative effort, with meaningful contributions from Tribes, land trusts, state agencies, and other organizations including NGOs, conservation districts, and university staff. [Prairie, Oaks, and People – An Investment Strategy](#).

WESTERN FOREST INITIATIVE (Leadership Team 2021-current)

Coordinate program development. Co-led development of shared conservation initiatives between Joint Ventures.

GRANT DEVELOPMENT AND ADMINISTRATION (Lead, 2017-current)

Oversee project, ensure success, and administer funds of Upper Rogue Oak Initiative, a National Fish and Wildlife Foundation funded Grant Agreement (\$2,700,000). Liaison to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (passthrough entity). Assist Oregon Wildlife Foundation with grant administration, compliance, and reporting.

COASTAL WETLANDS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT (Co-lead, 2020-current)

Co-lead Pacific Birds coastal wetland program and development of the [2024-2034 Coastal Wetland Strategic Plan](#). Leading Pacific Birds working land program development.

PACIFIC BIRDS AND PEW JOINT COASTAL WETLAND LISTENING SESSIONS (Co-lead, 2019-2020)

Conducted interviews and meetings to identify gaps in coastal conservation. Meetings were co-hosted with Pew Charitable Trusts.

CANADA JOINT VENTURE STRATEGIC PLANNING (Co-lead 2018)

Led strategic planning workshops and data analysis. Trained Canadian Wildlife Service staff on Open Standards methodology and provided online training for participants. Provided guidance and assistance in data analysis and workshop outcomes.

PACIFIC BIRDS HABITAT CONSERVATION PRIORITIES (Lead, investigator and author 2015)

Evaluated existing international, national and state bird conservation plans and identified key habitat conservation needs. Presented proposed conservation initiatives to International Management Board for approval.

COMMITTEES AND LEADERSHIP

Partnership In Flight – National Executive Committee, Western Forest Working Group - Leadership Team

Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program - Wildlife Advisory Committee

Natural Resource Conservation Service - Oregon Technical Advisory Committee

Natural Resource Conservation Service - Washington State Technical Advisory Committee

Pacific Flyway Council – Pacific Birds Liaison

Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development - Coastal Zone Management BIL Grant Committee

Oregon Wildlife Foundation – Projects Committee

Pacific Birds - Policy Committee, Oak and Prairie Committee Lead, Western Forest Committee Lead

East Cascades Oak Partnership - Steering Committee

Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network - Steering Committee

Umpqua Oak Partnership - Steering Committee

Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative - Steering Committee

Portland Vancouver Oak and Prairie Working Group - Steering Committee

South Sound Prairies Sentinel Landscapes - Steering Committee

WORK EXPERIENCE (2003–2011)

GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Oregon State University | 2009 - 2011

Supervisor: Dr. Bruce Dugger, Professor and Associate Department Head

Worked across Oregon and Washington with landowners, hunters, and state agency staff on large scale collection effort. Designed primary scientific research project, collected and analyzed data and reported results, both written and orally. Hired, supervised and trained research technicians, led field crews, and advised an undergraduate capstone project. Wild Turkey Foraging Ecology in the Pacific Northwest: Characterized the diet of wild turkeys in Oregon and Washington by examining the crop contents of wild turkeys. Organized a widespread collection effort targeting hunters through state agencies. Used relatively new and advanced non-parametric statistical procedures to test the null hypothesis of no difference in diet composition between region and season. Wild Turkey Seed Dispersal in the Pacific Northwest: Evaluated the ability of turkeys to disperse plant seed by examining viability of fecal samples collected during the fall/winter in Oregon and Washington.

WILDLIFE BIOLOGIST

Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife | 2005 – 2008

Supervisor: Don Kraege, State Waterfowl Coordinator

Assisted State Waterfowl Coordinator in the implementation of Wildlife Program goals and objectives. Key responsibilities included conducting various wildlife surveys, managing wildlife populations, managing wildlife related recreation (hunter access and land acquisition), managing wildlife habitat public uses, and conducting various wildlife management tasks (direct volunteers, communicate with public, participate in public meetings).

RESEARCH TECHNICIAN POSITIONS

Southern Oregon University | 2004 – 2005, Supervisor: Dr. Karen Stone, Department Head. Coordinated and directed fisher (*Martes pennanti*) survey effort. Trained and managed staff and volunteers, managed budget and assigned project area goals.

Bureau of Land Management | 2003 – 2004, Supervisor: Jeff Stephens, Wildlife Biologist. Compiled and tabulated wildlife inventory data and conducted field surveys on proposed actions for federally listed and sensitive wildlife species.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

ORNITHOLOGY - FW311 (2011-2013). Winter, spring and summer terms. The goal of the course is to introduce students to the field of ornithology by providing an overview of the avian body plan, the biology of birds and the challenges faced when trying to conserve and manage birds in North America.

VOLUNTEER

BASKET SLOUGH NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE YOUTH WATERFOWL HUNT (2017-2022). Youth waterfowl hunt - assist with program delivery and hunt day.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY, CAMP UKANDU (2002-2012). Lead counselor for camp of over 200 children affected by childhood cancer.

WA OUTDOOR WOMEN; INTRODUCTION TO WATERFOWL (2012) Worked with Ducks Unlimited staff to teach other women about the tradition, techniques and ethics of hunting waterfowl with shotgun patterning, shooting moving clays, setting decoys, duck calling, the use of blinds, and the importance of dogs.

OREGON YOUTH OUTDOOR DAY (2011-2018) Helped teach children about conservation of habitat, hunting, fishing, camping and other outdoor activities.

NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION (2011-2013) Presented on wild turkey biology and assisted with activities at youth hunt day programs.

PUBLICATIONS AND TECHNICAL REPORTS

2024. Evans-Peters, S., N. Maness, J. Stephens, L. Cornelius, E. Kim, B. Taylor, B. Altman, N. Myers, T. Kaye, and R. Terrill. Produced for Pacific Northwest Oak Alliance. Salem, Oregon.

2024. Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture Coastal Wetlands Strategic Plan 2024-2034. Prepared by Laura Farwell, Monica Iglecia, and Sara Evans-Peters.

2020. East Cascades Oak Partnership Strategic Action Plan 2020-2030. Lindsay Cornelius, Evans-Peters, S., Bushman, M. et al. Columbia Land Trust.

2020. Alexander, JD, Gillespie CR, Evans-Peters, S. Brown B. Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network strategic conservation action plan version 1.0. Klamath Siskiyou Oak Network and Klamath Bird Observatory, Ashland, OR.

2020. Krueger, J. Menske, C. and Evans-Peters, S. Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative strategic action plan. Corvallis OR.

2018. The Intertwine Alliance Oak and Prairie Working Group Steering Committee. The Intertwine Alliance Oak and Prairie Strategic Action Plan. Portland OR.

2017. Altman, B., S. Evans-Peters, E. H. Kim, N. Maness, Stephens J. L., and B. Taylor. Prairie, oaks, and people: A conservation business plan to revitalize the prairie-oak habitats of the Pacific Northwest. Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, Portland, Oregon.

2016. K. V. Rosenberg, J. A. Kennedy, R. Dettmers, R. P. Ford, D. Reynolds, J.D. Alexander, C. J. Beardmore, P. J. Blancher, R. E. Bogart, G. S. Butcher, A. F. Camfield, A. Couturier, D. W. Demarest, W. E. Easton, J.J. Giocomo, R.H. Keller, A. E. Mini, A. O. Panjabi, D. N. Pashley, T. D. Rich, J. M. Ruth, H. Stabins, J. Stanton, T. Will. 2016. Partners in Flight Landbird Conservation Plan: 2016 Revision for Canada and Continental United States. Partners in Flight Science Committee. 119 pp.

2016. Evans-Peters, S., K. Bierly, and T. Mielwald. Cascades to Coast Landscape Collaborative Conservation Plan Synthesis. Report for North Pacific LCC.

2015. Evans-Peters, S. T. Pacific Birds Habitat Conservation Priorities. Report for Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture.

2014. Evans-Peters, S. T., and B. B. Bales. Pacific Coast Joint Venture Operational Review Process and its Future in Bird Conservation. Report for Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture.

2011. Paroulek, S. T. Foraging Ecology and Seed Dispersal of Wild Turkeys (*Meleagris gallopavo*) in the Pacific Northwest. Annual Report to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 33pp.

2010. Paroulek, S. T. Diet and Seed Dispersal Capabilities of Wild Turkey (*Meleagris gallopavo*) in the Pacific Northwest. Annual Report to Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 29pp.

Samuel A. Iverson, John Y. Takekawa, Steven Schwarzbach, Carol J. Cardona, Nils Warnock, Mary Anne Bishop, Greg A. Schirato, Sara Paroulek, Joshua T. Ackerman, Hon Ip, and Walter M. Boyce. 2008. Low Prevalence of Avian Influenza Virus in Shorebirds on the Pacific Coast of North America. *Waterbirds* 31: 602-610.

2008. Paroulek, S. T. Western Pond Turtle Head-Starting and Reintroduction at Goat Ranch Pond, WA. Progress Report for Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife. 8pp.

August 16, 2024

Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE #360
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Agriculture Heritage Commission Seat - Natural Resources Interests

Dear Mrs. Bettinardi and OWEB Board Members,

I am writing to offer strong support for Sara Evans-Peters for the seat on the Oregon Agriculture Heritage Commission to represent Natural Resources Interests. Sara has been a vital force for conservation through her work with the Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, particularly at the intersection of natural resources and working lands across Oregon.

Sara's leadership and dedication to conservation have been instrumental in catalyzing a regional movement to protect and restore oak and prairie ecosystems—critical habitats that have suffered significant losses over the past 150 years. Her work through the Pacific Birds Oak and Prairie Program has not only enhanced biodiversity and resilience in these ecosystems but has also strengthened partnerships among public, private, and tribal stakeholders, ensuring that conservation efforts are sustainable and far-reaching.

Pacific Birds works to catalyze habitat conservation to benefit birds, other wildlife, and people, informed by the best available science and knowledge. The foundation and driving engine of the Joint Venture is the partners and partnerships that leverage diverse skill sets, perspectives, and missions to achieve more than is possible alone. Through Pacific Birds partnerships, Sara has worked with many natural resource organizations across Oregon. These efforts have both benefited bird habitats and contributed to the resilience of rural communities and landscapes in Oregon. Her ability to engage producers, partners, and the broader community in collaborative conservation initiatives has been invaluable.

Sara Evans-Peters would be a valuable addition to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Her extensive experience, strategic vision, and collaborative approach to natural resource conservation make her an ideal fit for this role. I am confident that she will bring valuable insights and a strong commitment to advancing the Program's goals.

Thank you for considering her application. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions.

Sincerely,

Ronald Alvarado

NRCS Oregon State Conservationist, retired



United States Department of Agriculture

Natural
Resources
Conservation
Service

August 26, 2024

31978 N.
Lake Creek
Dr.
Tangent, OR
97389
Ph.: 541-967-
5925

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE #360
Salem, OR 97301

Dear Mrs. Bettinardi and OWEB Board Members,

This is a letter of intent for Sara Evans-Peters' application for the Seat to represent Natural Resources Interests on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Commission. As the U.S. Assistant Coordinator for Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, Sara has demonstrated a commitment to the conservation and sustainable management of natural resources, particularly in the realm of working lands and agriculture.

Sara is successfully fostering collaboration, advancing strategic conservation, and driving impactful policy initiatives. She has extensive experience in building cooperative partnerships across sectors to promote conservation initiatives that are compatible with working lands. This ability to balance agricultural productivity with environmental stewardship is critical to the mission of the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS).

Sara manages the work of significant NRCS interagency agreements and oversees numerous projects that support conservation efforts on working lands. One of the key aspects of Sara's work is her ability to align conservation efforts with agricultural practices and local NRCS priorities, following Oregon NRCS's Strategic Approach to Conservation. She has worked closely with the NRCS staff to integrate oak habitat conservation into working lands, providing direct economic benefits to landowners while advancing broader conservation goals. Her efforts have resulted in significant funding being directed toward restoration projects, such as the \$6.6 million secured for restoring oak and dry forest habitat across Oregon. This accomplishment is a testament to her ability to leverage partnerships and resources effectively.

Thank you for considering her application. Please feel free to contact me if you require any further information.

Sincerely,

Heather Y. Medina Saucedo

Assistant State Conservationist for Field Operations – Southwest Oregon



INTERMOUNTAIN WEST
JOINT VENTURE

August 15, 2024

Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE #360
Salem, OR 97301

RE: Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Commission Seat

Dear Mrs. Bettinardi and OWEB Board Members,

I am writing on behalf of Intermountain West Joint Venture to highly recommend Sara Evans-Peters for appointment to Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. I have had the privilege of working closely with Sara in her role as the U.S. Assistant Coordinator for Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, and I am confident that her extensive experience, strategic vision, unwavering commitment to working lands, and her deep understanding of Oregon's natural resources make her an outstanding candidate for this position.

Sara has been a driving force in landscape-scale conservation efforts across Oregon and the broader Pacific Northwest since joining Pacific Birds in 2010. Her work at Pacific Birds has been instrumental in integrating working lands concepts into conservation planning and implementation across Oregon and the broader Pacific Northwest. Sara's commitment to preserving natural resources while addressing the needs of local communities, farmers, ranchers, and other stakeholders is evident in the programs she has developed and currently leads.

Her approach to conservation is both innovative and practical. Sara is known for her ability to bring diverse groups together to achieve common goals. Her work is focused on building strong relationships with a diverse array of partners, including local producers, conservation organizations, local government entities, tribes, and state and federal agencies, and has equipped her with a unique perspective that is critical for addressing the complex challenges facing Oregon's agricultural and natural resource sectors.

Sara's deep personal connection to Oregon's landscapes further enhances her suitability for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. As a small farm owner in the Willamette Valley and an active member of her local community, Sara possesses a unique, firsthand understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing Oregon's agricultural lands and natural resources. Her commitment to the preservation of these resources is reflected in her work to support and promote voluntary incentive programs that support sustainable practices on working lands.

Sara Evans-Peters is a natural resource leader whose work aligns perfectly with the goals of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. I have no doubt that her appointment to the Commission will contribute significantly to the continued success and resilience of Oregon's agricultural and natural resource heritage. I wholeheartedly endorse her candidacy and encourage you to give her application your fullest consideration.

Sincerely,
Dave Smith

IWJV Coordinator



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor

Department of Fish and Wildlife

Springfield Field Office
3150 East Main Street
Springfield, OR 97478
(541) 726-3515
FAX (541) 726-2505
odfw.com

August 21, 2024

Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer St NE #360
Salem, OR 97301



RE: Support for Sara Evans-Peters to represent Natural Resources Interests on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Dear Ms. Bettinardi and OWEB Board Members,

I am writing to recommend Sara Evans-Peters for consideration as a candidate to represent Natural Resources Interests on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Sara has served as a member of Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's Wildlife Advisory Committee for the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP) since 2021. Her contributions to this committee have been both significant and impactful.

Throughout her time on the Wildlife Advisory Group Committee (WAG), Sara has consistently demonstrated a commitment to active engagement and collaborative decision-making. She plays a crucial role in building consensus on the WAG, using skills honed from her role as the U.S. Assistant Coordinator for Pacific Birds, where she brings together diverse stakeholders, including state and federal agencies, tribal representatives, conservation organizations, and private landowners to develop pragmatic solutions. Her ability to navigate the complex challenges of balancing ecological priorities with human needs has made her an essential voice on the committee.

Sara's active participation in the WWMP has also been marked by her proactive approach to addressing emerging conservation challenges. She has been instrumental in reviewing and prioritizing projects that align with the program's mission. Her insights have helped to ensure that the program's investments are both strategic and effective in achieving long-term conservation goals.

Sara is a natural leader who fosters collaboration and innovation. Her work on the committee has been characterized by her ability to synthesize complex information, consider contributions of others, propose practical solutions, and advocate for policies that promote sustainable management of natural resources. Sara has a deep understanding of state and federal conservation policies, programs, and natural resource partners across the Pacific Northwest, which she has leveraged to influence and shape effective strategies for natural resource management. The WAG has greatly benefited from Sara's involvement. Her experience, dedication, and leadership, combined with her passion for conservation, make her an exceptional candidate for the OAHPC Commission.

Sara's strategic vision, collaborative approach, and knowledge of the issues and perspectives align perfectly with the purpose of OAHP. I am confident that Sara Evans-Peters will be an excellent addition to the Commission.

Please contact me if you would like to further discuss my support for Sara in this role. I can be reached at 541-517-2228 or kelly.e.reis@odfw.oregon.gov.

Sincerely,



Kelly Reis

Willamette Fish and Wildlife Policy and Program Manager
WWMP Wildlife Advisory Committee Chair



United States Department of the Interior



FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

Oregon Fish and Wildlife Office

2600 SE 98th Avenue, Suite 100

Portland, Oregon 97266

Phone: (503) 231-6179 FAX: (503) 231-6195

August 25, 2024

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Re: Letter of support for Sara Evans-Peters interest in Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board's (OWEB) Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Commission Seat, representing Natural Resources Interests

Dear Nicole:

I am writing to provide the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program's support for Sara Evans-Peters towards her interest in representing Natural Resource Interests on OWEB's Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program's Commission. In her role as the Pacific Birds Joint Venture U.S. Assistant Coordinator, Sara has been an amazing partner and huge advocate for all the private lands habitat conservation work we've been able to undertake across the State of Oregon, restoration work whose end results have had an indelible benefit for a wide array of migratory birds across the upland, wetland, riparian and estuarine habitats in the state. In the many years I've known Sara, she's worked passionately with many conservation and agriculture partners with across the state to identify, restore, and preserve, some of the most valuable bird habitats across a wide array of working lands, seeking to achieve a true "win-win" for bird conservation and for continued agricultural prosperity on many privately owned farms, ranches, and timberlands in the state. She's been instrumental in working with partners to develop several conservation strategies, as well as finding funding sources to achieve long lasting on-the-ground results. The intersection of Sara's passion for collaboration to weave bird habitat conservation across Oregon's agricultural settings would certainly make her a great representative for natural resource issues on the OAHP. She has the Service's Partners Program's wholehearted support in her interest to be on the commission. If you have any questions, or wish to visit directly, please do not hesitate to contact me, via email at callee_davenport@fws.gov, or via telephone at (503) 231-6924.

Thank you,

CalLee Davenport

Oregon State Coordinator,

Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program