



**Hybrid Commission Meeting
February 11, 2026**



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Meeting Agenda

February 11, 2026

[RECORDING](#)

Virtual Meeting

The public is welcome to attend all Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) meetings, and may access the meeting virtually through the following methods:

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Zoom: [Attend Meeting Virtually](#)

To call in to Zoom: Dial 1 669 900 6833, ID number 862 9611 3125, and passcode 650066

Meeting Materials

The meeting materials are available on the [February 11, 2026, meeting webpage.](#)

For each agenda item, the time listed is approximate. Anyone interested in a particular agenda item is encouraged to give ample time and listen in to the meeting at least 30 minutes before the approximate agenda item time.

Public comment

The OAHC welcomes written or verbal public comment on any agenda topic. All written comments and requests to make verbal comments to the commission should be submitted using [OWEB's Public Comment Form.](#)

The deadline for submitting written comments and requests is **5:00 pm, Monday, February 9, 2026.**

Written comments will be provided to the commission before the meeting. Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard in the public comment period listed on the agenda.

For additional information on [ways to provide public comment and tips for commenting in person.](#), please refer to our website.

More Information

If you have any questions about this agenda or the commission's procedures, please contact Taylor Larson, OAHP Program Coordinator, at 971-701-3248 or Taylor.Larson@OWEB.oregon.gov

Oregon's Public Meetings Law requires disclosure that commission members may meet for meals when OAHC meetings convene.

If physical, auditory, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please contact [Nicole Bettinardi](#) as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Agenda

Time	Agenda Item
3:00 pm	Welcome, Introductions, and agenda overview
3:10 pm	Item A. Public Comments This time is reserved for the commission to hear general public comments and review the written public comments submitted before the meeting. <i>Information item.</i>
3:20 pm	Item B. Review and Approval of Minutes Minutes from the December 15, 2025, OAHC meeting will be presented for Commission approval. <i>Action Item.</i>
3:25 pm	Item C. Chair and Co-Chair Elections The Commission will be asked to elect a new chair and co-chair. <i>Action item.</i>
3:45 pm	Item D. Scoring Rubric Staff will ground the commission in the history of the scoring rubric conversation, survey results, and facilitate a discussion around refinements to a draft scoring rubric. <i>Information item.</i>
4:50	Item E. Other Business
5:00 pm	Adjourn

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Membership

Daniel Bigelow
James Robert Collins
Ed Contreras
John Deck
Nancy Duhnkrack
Sara Evans-Peters, *co-chair*
Mark Labhart, *OWEB ex officio*
Jan Lee
Laura Masterson
John O'Keefe
Mark Vargas
VACANT

Contact Information

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Salem, Oregon 97301-1290
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OAHP Program Coordinator – Taylor Larson
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OAHP Conservation Easement Specialist –
Robin Meacher
Robin.M.Meacher@OWEB.oregon.gov

For online access to staff reports and other
OAHP publications, visit our website: [Oregon
Agricultural Heritage Program \(OAHP\)](#).



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
Submitted Written Public Comments
February 11, 2026

Written Public Comment

Name	Topic
Nellie McAdams	Comments on Item D - Scoring Rubric
Karsyn Kendrick	Comments on Item D - Scoring Rubric

Monday, February 9, 2026

RE: Draft Scoring Rubric for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

Chair Evans-Peters and Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commissioners:

My name is Nellie McAdams and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Oregon Agricultural Trust (OAT). We thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft scoring rubric for OAHP's working land conservation easement program. It is clear that significant effort went into aligning the scoring system with the program's goals and legislative requirements. We appreciate the thoughtful work by the Commission and OAHP staff to translate statutory criteria into an operational tool. Because we trust the Commission's expertise in determining the substantive content of the rubric, our comments focus on features that could improve its clarity, transparency, equity, and practical utility for both applicants and the technical review team.

We also request that the Commission consider extending the final discussion of these criteria to a future meeting to give OAT and other organizations more time to comment in greater detail.

Generally, given the limited funds available, the rubric is helpful in allowing applicants to assess the competitiveness of potential projects before submitting. A rubric that allows for some level of internal pre-scoring helps applicants avoid investing time in proposals that are unlikely to be competitive. It also allows for the Technical Review team to align their scoring with the Commission's priorities.

Since some of the criteria have larger ranges than others, it will be important to provide explicit, quantitative guidance on how points are awarded. This will ensure both applicant usability and reviewer consistency. The 0–5 scale is a strong foundation, but adding descriptors for each point level—such as what constitutes minimal, moderate, or strong evidence—would reduce variability in interpretation. This need is even more pronounced in categories with 10-point ranges, where the absence of defined metrics could lead to significant differences in scoring among reviewers.

In some cases, criteria that currently allow a wide point range could be simplified by using a binary structure—awarding full points when a clear, objective condition is met, and zero points when it is not. This approach would reduce ambiguity, streamline scoring, and help applicants understand exactly what is required to earn points.

Some criteria might also simply be threshold questions that must be answered or answered above a certain threshold before others are answered, such as: "The extent to which the Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement would protect, maintain, or enhance farming or ranching on the working land." Since this is an agricultural grant



program, properties should have a high agricultural score and should not be able to compensate for a low agricultural score with high scores elsewhere.

A transparent, well-defined rubric also plays an important role in maintaining public trust in the program. When applicants, landowners, and community partners can clearly see how decisions are made, it reinforces confidence that awards are based on consistent, objective standards rather than subjective interpretation. This clarity is especially important for a competitive program with limited funding, where transparency helps demonstrate fairness and accountability to the public.

Overall, the rubric is well-constructed and aligned with program intent. Adding clearer scoring definitions and reducing subjectivity where possible would strengthen its transparency, improve equity among applicants with varying levels of capacity, and support a more consistent and defensible review process. We can also offer more detailed comment on particular criteria if the decision is extended to a future meeting.

With appreciation,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nellie McAdams'.

Nellie McAdams



COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

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

February 9th, 2026

To: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

From: The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

RE: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Scoring Rubric

Chair Krahmer, Co-Chair Evans Peters, and Members of the Commission:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program draft scoring rubric. The Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT) represents 31-member land trusts, conservation organizations, and soil and water conservation districts working to protect and restore private lands in partnership with private landowners, Tribes, and local communities.

We want to thank OWEB staff and Commission members for their discussions to date regarding a scoring rubric for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. Program applicants have stressed the importance of a rubric to enhance program transparency and aid in their evaluation of projects that would fit within program goals and guidelines.

The draft scoring rubric provided to the Commission is a good starting point. We hope that there will be continued discussions and development to further refine the rubric for clear guidance and consistent evaluation.

Program Applicant Feedback

COLT worked with our OAHP applicant members to review the draft rubric, and would like to share some overarching feedback to aid in Commission discussion:

- *Point Range Development:* Many of the point ranges under the evaluation criteria are well developed, with clear guidance for reviewers. Other point ranges (for criteria #2 and #3) would benefit from further refinement. A range



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

of 1-10 points or 1-8 points does not provide the necessary clarity for applicants or reviewers. We hope the Commission will work to further develop the point ranges for these criteria to avoid any subjective scoring.

- In Washington, the primary state funder of agricultural conservation easements is the Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) through its Farmland Preservation Program, which has a clear, well-developed evaluation framework. RCO's scoring criteria ([linked](#)) clearly establishes point ranges for each category, allowing applicants to assess project competitiveness and enabling reviewers to consistently rank applications. The RCO model provides a strong template that OWEB could adapt to improve clarity and consistency.
- The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife's "Project Selection Criteria" document developed for evaluating the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program applications is also a helpful guide, with specific questions and review team guidance. The ability to "pre-score" potential applications is helpful for everyone involved and prevents submitting low-scoring projects.
- *Scoring for Match Funding:* Criteria #7 highlights benefits to the state, including leveraging grant funding from other sources. Our interest is that OAHF funds the highest-quality projects that meet the program's purpose, but we also recognize the importance of the program acting as a match funding source for the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and continuing to leverage federal investments in the state for working lands protection. Given the program was envisioned as a state match for the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program (ACEP-ALE), we question the low point range (1-3 points) given to match funding, and wonder if the Commission will consider additional sources of matching contributions as captured in program rules.
- *Remove or reduce scoring for including stewardship practices in easement deed terms:* Many land trusts do not include active stewardship requirements in easements because:
 - Easement provisions should be drafted to be as least prescriptive as possible. Easement deeds are often meant to be perpetual, difficult-to-amend, documents and must weather an uncertain future. Stewardship practices that are beneficial now, may not always be. Even Land Trust Alliance guidance dissuades land trusts from including prescriptive management actions in easement deed terms.
 - Stewardship practices on private lands are difficult to monitor,
 - Enforcing specific management actions is often impractical, and
 - Failure to maintain prescribed practices could create legal risk for easement enforcement or extinguishment.



- *Climate Criteria:* Conservation easements inherently protect carbon by preventing development, subdivision, and mining (the “Big Three”). We question allocating 9 points to the climate criteria in the rubric, and hope the Commission will work towards more clarity for the scoring metrics in each subcriteria. What information will reviewers look towards to determine if the criteria gets 1 point or 3 points in this section? As currently structured, this category does not appear to distinguish projects beyond protections that are already standard across all applications.
 - The Commission may want to investigate evaluating a project’s climate resiliency by utilizing climate resiliency tools available to land trusts such as The Nature Conservancy’s Resilient Mapping Tool.

Thank you all for your service to this Commission and the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program. We appreciate the opportunity to share our feedback as you build a scoring rubric that is transparent and objective.

Sincerely,

Joe Buttafuoco
Executive Director
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

Nellie McAdams
Executive Director
Oregon Agricultural Trust

Fraser Moore
Conservation Manager
Blue Mountain Land Trust

Kathleen Ackley
Executive Director
Wallowa Land Trust

Natasha Bellis
Conservation Director
Deschutes Land Trust





February 11, 2026 Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) Meeting Meeting Minutes: December 2025 OAHC Meeting Minutes

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION

December 15, 2025, OAHC meeting minutes

Virtual OAHC Meeting

Recording at: [December 15, 2025](#)

OAHC MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bigelow
Ed Contreras
Nancy Duhnkrack
Sara Evans-Peters
Doug Krahmer
Mark Labhart
Jan Lee
Amanda Lowe
Laura Masterson
John O'Keefe
Mark Vargas

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Nicole Bettinardi
Meg Birchfield
Renee Davis
Taylor Larson
Robin Meacher

OTHERS

Karsyn Kendrick
Natasha Bellis
Phoebe Autry
Max Beeken

Minutes

Timestamp	The meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm by Doug Krahmer: Recording Welcome and Introductions The commissioners and OWEB staff introduced themselves
0:03:58	Item A. Public Comment This time was reserved to hear public comments and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting. <i>Information item.</i> There were no written comments submitted. The following people provided verbal comments: • Karsyn Kendrick, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts • Natasha Bellis, Deschutes Land Trust
0:07:54	Item B. Review and Approve Minutes Minutes from the October 8, 2025, OAHC minutes were presented for approval. <i>Action item.</i> Jan Lee moved the commission approve the minutes from the October 8, 2025, OAHC meeting. Motion was seconded by Ed Contreras. Doug Krahmer, Sara Evans-Peters, Amanda Lowe, Dan Bigelow, Ed Contreras, Jan Lee, Mark Vargas, Nancy Duhnkrack, and John O'Keefe voted in favor. Laura Masterson and John Roberts Collins was absent. Motion passed.

0:09:01	Item C. Conservation Easement Grant Extension Requests The Commission reviewed a request to extend the grant deadline for one open OAHP conservation easement grant. <i>Action Item.</i> Doug Krahmer moved the Commission recommend the OWEB Board extend the grant deadline for Pitchfork T to March 31, 2027 [(Grant No. 223-7105-22611), with the condition that the Grantee provide an updated project schedule]. Motion was seconded by John O’Keefe. Doug Krahmer, Sara Evans-Peters, Amanda Lowe, Dan Bigelow, Ed Contreras, Laura Masterson, Jan Lee, Mark Vargas, Nancy Duhnkrack and John O’Keeffe voted in favor. John Roberts Collins was absent. Motion passed.
0:13:54	Item D. Scoring Rubric Background Staff grounded the commission in the history of the scoring rubric conversation. <i>Information Item.</i>
0:36:14	Item E & F. Applicant Panel regarding Scoring Rubric and Commission Discussion The Commission heard from previous grantees regarding their perspectives about development and use of a scoring rubric for OAHP. The Commission considered the use of scoring rubric and provided guidance to staff on the preference and methods to utilize in creating the points and point ranges for each criterion with a scoring rubric. <i>Information Item.</i>
	The meeting was adjourned at 3:05 pm by co-chair Doug Krahmer.



February 11, 2026 Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC) Meeting Meeting Minutes: January 2026 OAHC Meeting Minutes

MINUTES ARE NOT FINAL UNTIL APPROVED BY THE COMMISSION

January 21, 2026, OAHC meeting minutes

Virtual OAHC Meeting

Recording at: [OAHC Meeting 1-21-26](#)

OAHC MEMBERS PRESENT

Dan Bigelow
Ed Contreras
Nancy Duhnkrack
Sara Evans-Peters
Mark Labhart
Jan Lee
Laura Masterson
John O'Keefe
Mark Vargas

OWEB STAFF PRESENT

Nicole Bettinardi
Renee Davis
Taylor Larson
Robin Meacher

OTHERS

Natasha Bellis

Minutes

Timestamp	The meeting was called to order at 4:31 pm by Sara Evans-Peters: Recording Welcome and Introductions The commissioners and OWEB staff introduced themselves
0:02:50	Item 2. Public Comment This time was reserved to hear public comments and review the written public comment submitted for the meeting. <i>Information item.</i> No written comments were submitted for this meeting. The following people provided verbal comments: Natasha Bellis, Deschutes Land Trust
0:05:14	Item 3. Working Land Conservation Easement Grant Time Extension Request (Aspen Valley Ranch – 223-7106-22616) Action Item The Commission recommended the OWEB Board extend the grant deadline for Aspen Valley Ranch - Rim Tract to March 31, 2027 (Grant No. 223-7106-22616). Sara Evans-Peters, Dan Bigelow, Ed Contreras, Jan Lee, Mark Vargas, Nancy Duhnkrack, and John O'Keefe voted in favor. John Robers Collins and Laura Masterson were absent. Motion passed.
0:10:09	Item 4. Wrap Up and Future Topics Program Coordinator, Taylor Larson, reminded the commission about upcoming meeting dates and topics. <i>information item</i>
	The meeting was adjourned at 4:50 pm by Sara Evans-Peters



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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February 11, 2026 Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Meeting

Staff report – Agenda Item C. Chair Election

MEMORANDUM

To: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC)

From: Taylor Larson, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Coordinator (OAHP)

Robin Meacher, OAHP Conservation Easement Specialist

Renee Davis, OWEB Acquisitions and Special Programs Manager

Background

OAHP's statute requires election of a chair and vice-chair, from among the commission's voting members, for terms and with duties and powers necessary for the performance of the functions of the offices as the commission determines. The OAHC's former chair, Doug Krahmer, has termed out of his commission seat in January 2026, leaving the chair seat vacant.

Process

The commission vice-chair, whose position is not up for election, will open the floor for nominations. With each nomination, the commission will determine if the nominee is eligible and willing to serve as chair. After nominations are closed and the discussions have ended, the commission will then vote for a new chair. The newly elected chair will begin their responsibilities immediately and if needed, facilitate the election of a new vice-chair as well.

Recommendation

Staff recommend the commission elect a new chair and if needed, a new vice-chair as well.



Oregon

Tina Kotek, Governor



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February 11, 2026 Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Meeting

Staff report – Agenda Item D. Draft Scoring Rubric

MEMORANDUM

To: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC)
From: Taylor Larson, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Coordinator (OAHP)
Robin Meacher, OAHP Conservation Easement Specialist
Renee Davis, OWEB Acquisitions and Special Programs Manager

Introduction

This staff report provides the commission background information pertaining to the potential adoption of an evaluation scoring rubric for use in future Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) Working Land Conservation Covenant and Easement Grant solicitations. This report also includes a description of the process to develop the draft rubric provided in Attachment A.

Conservation Covenants and Easements – Scoring Rubric

Grant applicants, the Commission, and some reviewers on the OAHP technical committee that reviews grant applications expressed interest in OAHP developing and utilizing a scoring rubric in coordination with the evaluation criteria in administrative rule to better communicate and understand why projects fall in a certain ranked order. At the December 2025 meeting of the OAHC, staff was asked to develop a draft scoring rubric that considers commissioner feedback provided in an anonymous survey (Attachment B) developed by staff to gauge commissioner opinion of the weight each evaluation criteria should bear on an application's success. These evaluation criteria are codified in administrative rules for the program (OAR 698-015-0090).

In developing the scoring rubric, staff also considered the program's statute and rules. The program's statutes provide the authority to use Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program funds to fund the purchase of working lands conservation covenants or easements for the "purpose of ensuring the continued use of the land for agricultural purposes while maintaining or enhancing fish or wildlife habitat, improving water quality or supporting other natural resource values on the land." (ORS 541.982(1)). This purpose is reflected in the evaluation criteria described in statute and further developed in administrative rule, that require applications to address how the project will benefit agricultural needs and fish and wildlife benefits.

Similarly, staff considered the OWEB Board's climate evaluation criteria that apply to all OWEB administered programs including OAHP. These climate criteria also are codified in administrative rule and were adopted by the board after a multi-year process to create a climate resolution and, subsequently, rules (OAR 698-005-0045).

Part of the OAHC's role is to recommend policies and priorities for use by the OWEB board in evaluating both the farm or ranch values and the fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other

natural resource values on working lands in applications for funding under the working lands conservation easement and covenant offering (ORS 541.989(1)(c)). In addition, the commission is charged with recommending to the OWEB Board rules for the administration of all OAHP programs. The proposed scoring rubric is intended to provide greater clarity and transparency about weighting of the evaluation criteria that are adopted in rule.

At the February meeting, commission members and staff will discuss the importance of creating a throughline from statute to rule to the proposed scoring rubric to ensure alignment with program intent and OWEB grantmaking expectations. The commission will provide input and feedback on the draft scoring criteria, and staff will outline anticipated next steps to finalize the scoring rubric for commission consideration.

Recommendation

This is an information item only.

Attachment(s)

- A. Draft Scoring Rubric
- B. Survey Results

Draft Scoring Rubric

Staff Note:

Application review criteria that are directly in statute are highlighted. Many evaluation criteria were developed with sub-criteria that provided additional detail to consider in evaluation. For those evaluation criteria, applications will be reviewed on how well the applicant addresses the sub criteria.

For those criteria that do not have sub-criteria that elaborate on the factors to consider in evaluation, staff developed score ranges based on previous feedback from technical review team members, general understanding of the meaning behind the criteria, and commissioner comments.

All applications will be evaluated on how much specific detail and evidence is provided to support assertions made by applicants and the extent those assertions are specific to the property and the project proposed.

1) The regional significance of the agricultural, natural resource, and related social values of the working land that will be subject to the Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement **(20 points)**

(a) The potential viability of the property for agriculture, including but not limited to soil types, suitability for producing different types of crops, and water availability; **(1-5 points)**

(b) The land's contribution to long-term conservation of the region's agricultural land base; **(1-5 points)**

(c) The regional significance of the agricultural operation based on location, its associated infrastructure, and other relevant factors including supporting agricultural values important to the region; **(1-5 points)**

(d) Supporting implementation of local, regional, state, federal or Tribal priorities and plans that support fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values. **(1-5 points)**

(2) The extent to which the Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement would protect, maintain, or enhance farming or ranching on the working land **(20 points)**

(a) Reducing the potential for future conversion or fragmentation of the property and surrounding working land; **(1-10 points)**

(b) Maintaining or enhancing the ability of the land to be in productive agricultural use that supports a viable agricultural operation. **(1-10 points)**

(3) The extent to which the Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement would protect, maintain or enhance significant fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values (16 points)

(a) Protecting, maintaining, or improving the quality and connectivity of plant or wildlife habitat on and around the working land; **(1-8 points)**

(b) Utilizing land stewardship practices that maintain or enhance soil health. **(1-8 points)**

(4) The extent to which the project supports the integrated management, maintenance or enhancement of the agricultural and natural resource values on the working land. (9 points)

1- 4 points There is some discussion of the specific approaches the project will address integrated management, maintenance or enhancement of the specific resources that support the stated agricultural and natural resource values on the property.

4-8 points There is extensive discussion and evidence provided of the specific approaches the project will utilize to address integrated management, maintenance or enhancement of the specific resources that support the stated agricultural and natural resource values on the property.

9 points There is extensive discussion and evidence provided of the specific approaches the project will utilize to address integrated management, maintenance or enhancement of the specific resources that support the stated agricultural and natural resource values on the property **AND** the applicant will include the specific stewardship practices in the terms of the conservation easement.

(5) The extent to which the Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement would protect agricultural outcomes or benefits from other related investments. (9 points)

1-3 points Benefits or outcomes are mentioned, but not described in any specific detail

3-5 points Benefits or outcomes are described and applicant makes reference to specific detail supporting the assertion of the outcomes

5-9 points Multiple benefits or outcomes are well described, applicant makes specific reference to the detail supporting the assertion of the outcomes AND provides supporting evidence relative to the proposed or demonstrated benefits

(6) The capacity and competence of the applicant and the proposed Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement holder to purchase, accept, implement, hold, monitor, steward, and enforce a Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement (15 points)

(a) Accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, or implementation of standards and practices that are similar to an organization that is eligible for accreditation; **(1-4 points)**

(b) Inclusion of working land preservation in the organization's mission, vision or other organizational documents; **(1-3 points)**

(c) The financial capability of the organization to steward conservation Working Land Conservation Covenants or Working Land Conservation Easements over time; **(1-3 points)**

(d) Demonstrated relevant commitment, ability, expertise, and track record to purchase, accept, implement, hold, monitor, steward, and enforce Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement or other relevant projects. **(1-5 points)**

(7) The extent to which the benefit to the state from the investment may be maximized (10 points)

(a) The ability to leverage grant moneys with other funding sources; **(1-3 points)**

(b) The duration and extent of the agreement, with a preference for longer term agreements; **(1-3 points)**

(c) The cumulative effect of similar conservation or agricultural investments in the community, including other OAHP funded plans, covenants, or easements; **(1-2 points)**

(d) Consistency with local comprehensive plans and statewide planning goals. **(1-2 point)**

(8) The extent and nature of the impacts of the Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement on owners or operators of neighboring lands. (3 points)

1 point The application states whether there will be impacts and the extent of those impacts to owners and operators of neighboring lands

2 points The application provides evidence to support the characterization of the impacts and nature of the impacts to owners or operators of neighboring lands

3 points The application provides evidence of positive impacts to owners or operators of neighboring lands

(9) The extent to which project will benefit the local area, as evidenced by engagement with and support from the local community and Tribes. **(7 points)**

1-3 point The application includes statements of benefits from the community and Tribes.

3-5 points The application includes a description of the engagement with local communities and Tribes and specific details on the anticipated benefits

5-7 points The application includes detailed description of the engagement with local communities and Tribes and specific details on the anticipated benefits *directly* related to the *specific project*

(10) The level of threat of conversion or fragmentation of the working land. **(12 points)**

1-3 points Low likelihood it will be converted to a use other than agriculture or fragmented from its existing configuration in a manner that degrades its suitability for agriculture and natural resources within the next five to ten years.

3-5 points Medium likelihood it will be converted to a use other than agriculture or fragmented from its existing configuration in a manner that degrades its suitability for agriculture and natural resources within the next five to ten years AND specific detail is provided to demonstrate that likelihood, such as specific land use trends in the immediate vicinity, potential sale of the property, succession planning needs

5-10 points Strong likelihood it will be converted to a use other than agriculture or fragmented from its existing configuration in a manner that degrades its suitability for agriculture and natural resources within the next five to ten years AND specific detail is provided to demonstrate that likelihood, such as specific land use or development proposals directly affecting the specific property, immediate potential sale of the property to a non-agricultural landowner, immediate succession concerns

(11) The soundness of the legal and financial terms of the proposed real estate transaction. **(15 points)**

1-5 points Application materials lack evidence to support the transaction details are thoroughly mapped out, vetted, and will result in the successful completion of the proposed project within the 24-month timeline required in administrative rule

6-10 points Application materials reasonably identify issues that need additional resolution and appropriately maps the path toward resolving issues within the 24-month timeline required in administrative rule

11-15 points Application materials demonstrate there few outstanding issues to resolve and the typical transaction steps can be completed within the 24-month timeline required in administrative rule

Climate Criteria from 698-005-0045 (9 points)

(1) How engagement with, and input from, local communities disproportionately impacted by climate change has informed or will inform the project. **(1-3 points)**

(2) How changing climate conditions are incorporated into the project and how the project will contribute to durable adaptation and resilience for ecosystems, including human communities. **(1-3 points)**

(3) How consideration of greenhouse gas emissions or long-term carbon sequestration or storage has informed the project. **(1-3 points)**

Responses Overview Active

Responses

8

Average Time

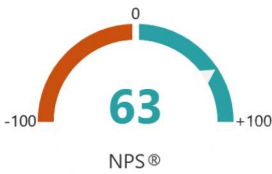
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Duration

23 Days

1. (1) The regional significance of the agricultural, natural resource, and related social values of the working land that will be subject to the Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement, including:(a) The potential viability of the property for agriculture, including but not limited to soil types, suitability for producing different types of crops, and water availability;(b) The land's contribution to long-term conservation of the region's agricultural land base;(c) The regional significance of the agricultural operation based on location, its associated infrastructure, and other relevant factors including supporting agricultural values important to the region; and (d) Supporting implementation of local, regional, state, federal or Tribal priorities and plans that support fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values.

Promoters	5
Passives	3
Detractors	0



2. (2) The extent to which the Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement would protect, maintain, or enhance farming or ranching on the working land, including:(a) Reducing the potential for future conversion or fragmentation of the property and surrounding working land; and(b) Maintaining or enhancing the ability of the land to be in productive agricultural use that supports a viable agricultural operation.

Promoters	8
Passives	0
Detractors	0



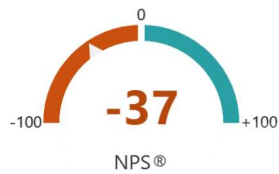
3. (3) The extent to which the Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement would protect, maintain or enhance significant fish or wildlife habitat, water quality or other natural resource values, including:(a) Protecting, maintaining, or improving the quality and connectivity of plant or wildlife habitat on and around the working land; and(b) Utilizing land stewardship practices that maintain or enhance soil health.

Promoters	2
Passives	3
Detractors	3



4. (4) The extent to which the project supports the integrated management, maintenance or enhancement of the agricultural and natural resource values on the working land.

Promoters	1
Passives	3
Detractors	4



5. (5) The extent to which the Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement would protect agricultural outcomes or benefits from other related investments.

Promoters	2
Passives	2
Detractors	4



6. (6) The capacity and competence of the applicant and the proposed Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement holder to purchase, accept, implement, hold, monitor, steward, and enforce a Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement, including:(a) Accreditation from the Land Trust Accreditation Commission, or implementation of standards and practices that are similar to an organization that is eligible for accreditation;(b) Inclusion of working land preservation in the organization's mission, vision or other organizational documents;(c) The financial capability of the organization to steward conservation Working Land Conservation Covenants or Working Land Conservation Easements over time; and(d) Demonstrated relevant commitment, ability, expertise, and track record to purchase, accept, implement, hold, monitor, steward, and enforce Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement or other relevant projects.

Promoters	2
Passives	5
Detractors	1



7. (7) The extent to which the benefit to the state from the investment may be maximized, based on:(a) The ability to leverage grant moneys with other funding sources;(b) The duration and extent of the agreement, with a preference for longer term agreements;(c) The cumulative effect of similar conservation or agricultural investments in the community, including other OAHF funded plans, covenants, or easements; and(d) Consistency with local comprehensive plans and statewide planning goals.

Promoters	2
Passives	2
Detractors	4



8. (8) The extent and nature of the impacts of the Working Land Conservation Covenant or Working Land Conservation Easement on owners or operators of neighboring lands.

Promoters	0
Passives	0
Detractors	8



9. (9) The extent to which project will benefit the local area, as evidenced by engagement with and support from the local community and Tribes.

Promoters	0
Passives	3
Detractors	5



10. (10) The level of threat of conversion or fragmentation of the working land.

Promoters	3
Passives	3
Detractors	2



11. (11) The soundness of the legal and financial terms of the proposed real estate transaction.

Promoters	4
Passives	3
Detractors	1



12. (1) How engagement with, and input from, local communities disproportionately impacted by climate change has informed or will inform the project.



13. (2) How changing climate conditions are incorporated into the project and how the project will contribute to durable adaptation and resilience for ecosystems, including human communities.



14. (3) How consideration of greenhouse gas emissions or long-term carbon sequestration or storage has informed the project.

