



**Hybrid Commission Meeting
January 21, 2026**

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Agenda

January 21, 2026

4:30 pm - 5:00 pm

[RECORDING](#)

Zoom: [Attend Virtual Meeting](#)

YouTube: [Watch Meeting Livestream](#)

Please note that there may be a slight delay when streaming the meeting live. The recording can be found on YouTube and linked on the [meeting website](#) after the meeting.

Agenda

- 1) Welcome and Introductions
- 2) Public Comment
- 3) Working Land Conservation Easement Grant Time Extension Request (Aspen Valley Ranch – 223-7106-22616)
- 4) Wrap-up and future topics

Public Comments

The committee welcomes public comment.

Written Comments

Written comments should be submitted by **5:00 pm on Tuesday, January 20, 2026**, using [OWEB's Public Comment Form](#) and will be provided to the committee before the meeting.

Verbal Comments

Verbal comments are limited to three minutes and will be heard during the public comment period (Agenda Item 2). Anyone interested in providing comments will be asked during the public comment period to alert organizers by using the raise-hand function on Zoom.

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

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Overview

The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission assists with the development of rules for the administration of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage program and provides grant funding recommendations to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board based on applications received and money available in the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund.



STAFF REPORT

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)

January 21, 2026, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission Meeting



Tina Kotek, Governor

ITEM C – Working Land Conservation Easement Grant Time Extension Request

To: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission (OAHC)

From: Robin Meacher, OAHP Conservation Easement Specialist

Taylor Larson, OAHP Program Coordinator

Introduction

Staff requests the Commission recommend the OWEB Board extend the closing date for one OAHP-funded Conservation Easement project: Aspen Valley Ranch – Rim Tract (223-7106-22616).

Background

Deschutes Land Trust (DLT) was awarded funds for Aspen Valley Ranch – Rim Tract in 2023 and required, per the administrative rules in effect at that time, to complete the transaction within 18 months of the board award. At the June 2024 OAHC meeting, staff presented the OAHC with a recommendation to extend all 2023 OAHP conservation easement grant awards by nine months to facilitate coordinated review and timelines with federal match partners. The OAHC concurred with staff's recommendation and forwarded it on to the OWEB Board, which approved the commission's recommendation. This extended the date for closing the Aspen Valley Ranch – Rim Tract project to July 28, 2025. This extended the date for closing for all FY 2023 OAHP conservation easement grants to July 28, 2025. This resulted in a 27-month timeline to close.

In February 2025, DLT requested an extension of the closing date for Aspen Valley Ranch – Rim Tract to March 31, 2026, which would bring the OWEB closing deadline in line with the project's NRCS deadline. At the time, OWEB staff had received and reviewed multiple due diligence items related to the project, including survey work documenting the boundaries for the conservation easement and environmental site assessments, easement drafts, management plans, and baseline reports. Based on the progress made and expenses incurred on due diligence items, staff recommended the project deadline be extended as requested by the grantee. The commission agreed, and ultimately the OWEB Board approved the timeline extension, resulting in the current project closing deadline of March 31, 2026.

Extension Request

DLT requests the deadline for the Aspen Valley Ranch – Rim Tract project be extended to March 31, 2027, which would bring the OWEB deadline consistent with the extended deadline on their NRCS grant for the project. DLT had anticipated closing early 2026 and originally believed there were no extensions left on their NRCS grant. However, DLT recently learned it has the ability to extend the NRCS grant for one year and is in the process of finalizing that extension with NRCS staff. Upon learning this, DLT made this request to OWEB staff to extend the OWEB deadline.

DLT has completed nearly all due diligence and review requirements with both OWEB and NRCS. DLT believes it is on track to close the transaction in April 2026. The easement appraisal is currently underway, which is the final due diligence item needed. The easement deed has been approved by OWEB staff and has been through one review with NRCS. The draft is back to NRCS for a second review. Final approval of the project package by NRCS and OWEB is still needed before DLT can initiate the closing process with OWEB.

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Commission recommend the OWEB Board extend the grant deadline for Aspen Valley Ranch - Rim Tract to March 31, 2027 (Grant No. 223-7106-22616).