

## OWEB seeks public comments on Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program grant applications

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) seeks public input on the first-ever round of grant applications submitted to the Oregon Agricultural Program (OAH). OAH is a grant program administered by OWEB that provides grants for farm and rangeland protection and stewardship. A public input opportunity is built into the grant-making process for OAH.

The Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) has received nine applications for two OAH grant offerings - Working Land Conservation Covenants and Easements, and Conservation Management Plans. Visit OWEB's [OAH Webpage](#) for an overview of the grant program. Grant applications can be accessed through OWEB's online grant management system (OGMS) using Log-In ID: grantee and password: oweb.

### Applications Received:

#### Working Land Conservation Covenants and Easements

1. *Aspen Valley Ranch*: 4,000 acres in Crook County southeast of Prineville. Applicant is Deschutes Land Trust.
2. *Pitchfork T Ranch*: 200 acres in Deschutes County between Sisters and Terrebonne. Applicant is Deschutes Land Trust.
3. *Wahl Ranch*: 850 acres in Curry County near Port Orford. Applicant is Wild Rivers Land Trust.
4. *Seeley Farm*: 385 acres in Columbia County along Columbia Rivthe er. Applicant is Oregon Agricultural Trust.
5. *O'keefe Ranch*: 6,511 acres in Lake County near Adel. Applicant is Oregon Agricultural Trust.
6. *Ferrell Ranch*: 514 acres in Lake County near Valley Falls. Applicant is Oregon Agricultural Trust.
7. *Hagen Farm*: 230 acres in Lane County west of Junction City. Applicant is McKenzie River Trust.

#### Conservation Management Plans

1. Baker and EOARC Wet Meadow Management Plans. Applicant is High Desert Partnership.
2. Branch Road Farm Conservation Management Plan. Applicant is Coast Fork Willamette Watershed Council.

### Public comment:

OWEB encourages written or verbal public comments on any application. All written comments should be sent to Nicole Bettinardi at [Nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:Nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov) no later than 4:00 p.m. Thursday, **March 4, 2023**. Written comments will be provided to the commission in advance of the meeting.

Individuals wishing to provide in-person verbal comments at the March 16, 2023, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission meeting will be requested to fill out a form at the meeting with their names and the topic they wish to comment on. Requests to provide comments virtually at the March 16 OAH meeting should be sent to Nicole Bettinardi by March 13. The OAH will make funding recommendations at the March 16 meeting. Grant awards will be made by the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board meeting on April 25-26, 2023; the OWEB Board will also accept public comment at this meeting.

### Verbal comments:

- Limited to three minutes
- Will be heard in the public comment period
- Provide the following information for virtual verbal comments:
  - Your first and last name,
  - The topic of your comment, and
  - The phone number you will use when calling the meeting. Also, note if the phone is a landline and you prefer to be scheduled for public comment early to avoid long-distance phone call charges.

### Questions?

If you have questions about OWEB's Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program grant offerings, visit the [Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program web page](#) or contact Taylor Larson at 971.701.3248, [taylor.larson@oweb.oregon.gov](mailto:taylor.larson@oweb.oregon.gov) . Taylor Larson, Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Coordinator.