



## Regional Training Support Grant Program

The Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN) delivers conservation based technical training, professional development, education, assistance, and networking opportunities to 150+ conservation district employees in Oregon. To date, the CONNECT Conference has been our main vehicle to providing trainings to Districts and Councils. This Regional Training Support Grant has been created to further our mission of conservation education by providing funds to Districts and Councils to bolster and/or enhance their work in creating and providing natural resources conservation education to the communities they serve.

The program provides small grants (up to \$2,000) to support conservation education, and events that promote natural resource conservation and education.

### I. Who is eligible?

In this inaugural year, the Regional Training Support Grant will accept applications from SWCD's and Watershed Councils only. Preference will be given to SWCD's that are not supported by a tax base or councils that are not able to receive council support grants.

### II. The types of projects/events that are eligible (in no specific order):

1. Professional development of local technical staff. Peer to peer support for job duties.
  - a. Local: Travel costs, salary, lodging
  - b. National: individual attending must provide training to other professionals at an OCEAN event.
2. On-the-ground restoration or conservation project.
  - a. OCEAN funds must be used to support an educational component associated with the proposed restoration or conservation project.
3. Education of youth and/or adults.
  - a. School field trip to learn about watershed health, outdoor school camp/facilities/educator support, informational booth with watershed conservation focus.
  - b. Demonstration projects that:
    - i. Showcase existing best management practices
    - ii. Introduce innovative technologies/practices
  - c. Interpretive signage at a restoration site, parking lot bioswale, constructed weir, etc.
  - d. Community event focused on improving public understanding of natural resource conservation.

### III. The project or event must meet one or more of the following criteria\*:

- Professional peer to peer training
- Practitioner professional development
- Community Education
- Be associated with established conservation criteria or best management practices- (preference will be given to projects that address soil erosion, soil quality, water quality, water conservation, or overall watershed health)

\*All projects and events must have a broad public benefit and/or educational component to them.

#### IV. Funding Levels, Schedule and Limits:

Three levels of grants are available. The planned number of grants is indicated below beside each level:

- \$2000 (1) - Large (Level 3)
  - \$1000 (1) - Medium (Level 2)
  - \$500 (2) - Small (Level 1)
1. If funded, the amount awarded for a particular application will be recommended by the OCEAN Regional Education Support Committee (Committee) and approved by the OCEAN Board - The Committee and OCEAN Board reserve the right to offer and award grant amounts different than the amount requested.
  2. If the available funds for a given fiscal year are committed before the fiscal year ends, additional applications may not be taken until the start of the next fiscal year.
  3. Payment will be made on a reimbursement basis after the project/event has been completed and after the applicant has submitted copies of invoices and/or receipts and a project summary to the OCEAN treasurer.
  4. For awards over \$600, the income may be taxable. OCEAN will send an IRS W-9 form to applicants to which this requirement may apply and will report the income on a 1099-MISC form. Recipients are responsible for any tax consequences associated with receipt of grant funds.

#### V. Instructions for applicants, terms of agreement:

1. The Application form must be filled out completely and signed. It may be sent electronically or mailed. Send completed application forms to [grants@oceanconnect.org](mailto:grants@oceanconnect.org).
2. Each signatory must be authorized to represent his/her organization and to sign contracts on its behalf.
3. The deadline for applications is **April 1, 2019**
4. Applicants must show that other grant opportunities have been exhausted or that another funding source doesn't exist for their particular project/event.
5. By signing the Application, the applicant certifies that:
  - a. These regional training funds will be used only for the purposes outlined in the grant application and approved by the OCEAN Board, and will not be used for lobbying, for attempts to influence voting or legislation, or for litigation of any kind.
  - b. The project/event will comply with OCEAN's nondiscrimination policy. (OCEAN prohibits discrimination in all of its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisals, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program.)
  - c. Subject to the limitations of the Oregon Tort Claims Act (ORS 30.260 through 30.300), the applicant organization agrees to be responsible for its own actions and for any damage or third party liability arising from the organization's activities related to its agreement with OCEAN. The applicant organization agrees to indemnify and hold harmless OCEAN and its officers, directors, agents, and employees from any and all losses, claims, damages, and

- expenses resulting from, or arising out of, the acts or omissions of the applicant and its officers, directors, agents, and employees under the agreement.
- d. The applicant agrees that obtaining permits, if needed, is the responsibility of the applicant. OCEAN is not responsible for the safety of organizers or participants in the project/event, or for providing insurance coverage. (The applicant organization is advised to check to ensure adequate insurance coverage is obtained for the project/event.)
  - e. Grantee will defend, save, hold harmless, and indemnify the Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN) and the Board and their officers, employees and agents from and against all claims, suits, actions, losses, damages, liabilities, costs and expenses of any nature resulting from or arising out of, or relating to the activities of Grantee or its officers, employees, contractors, or agents under this Agreement or in the implementation of the Project.
6. The applicant agrees to provide public recognition of OCEAN's support, which may include: Signage, mention on the applicant's website or newsletter, listing of OCEAN as a sponsor on brochures, verbal announcement at the event, or in another form as appropriate.
  7. Submit all correspondence, including bills, receipts, and reports, to the attention of Herb Winters.
  8. Applicants must submit requests for reimbursement no later than **60 days** after the project/event. Requests/documentation received after that time may not be processed.
  9. The applicant must send OCEAN a brief written report and **photos** following the project/event describing the activity, accomplishments, and how OCEAN funds provided support.