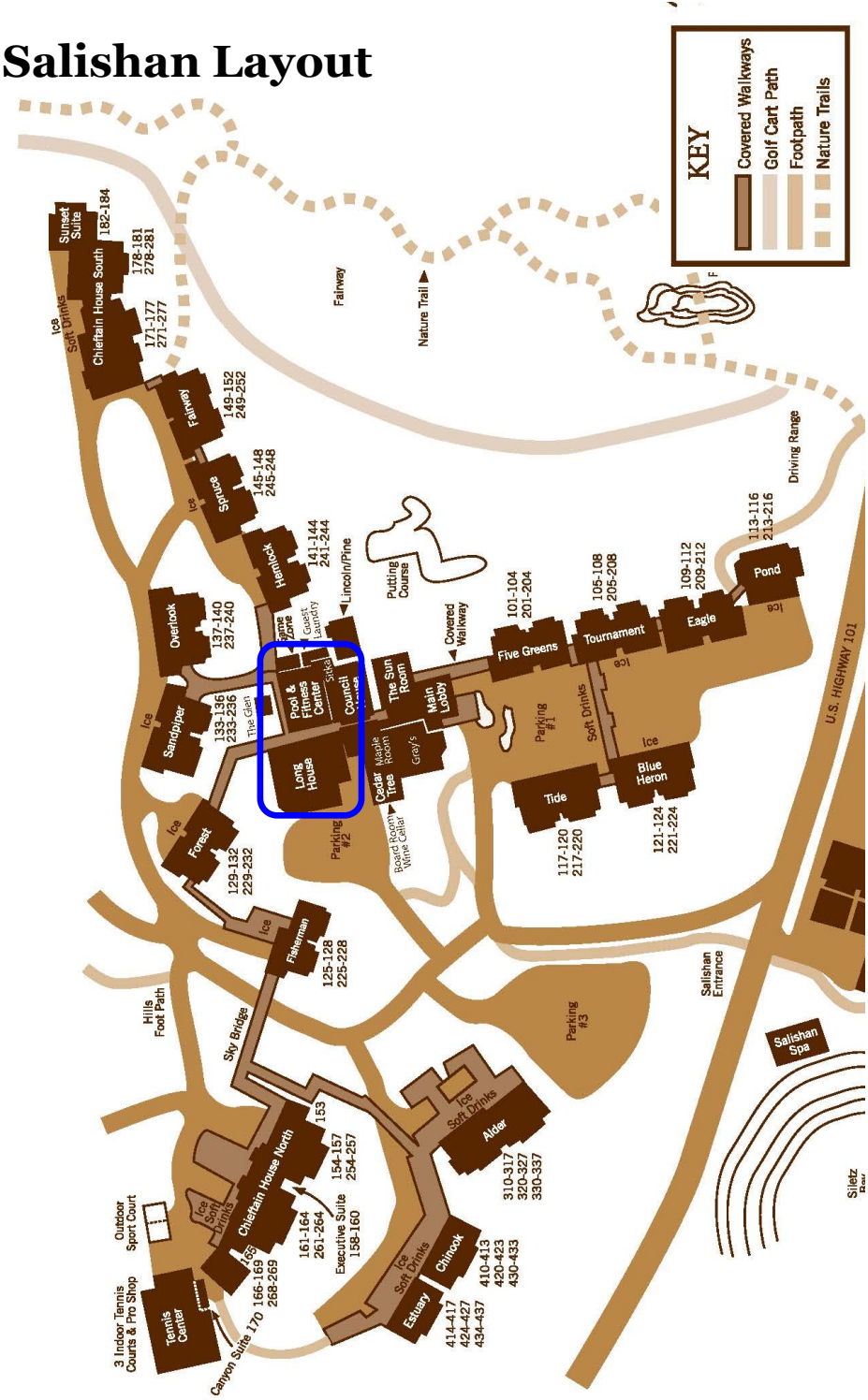


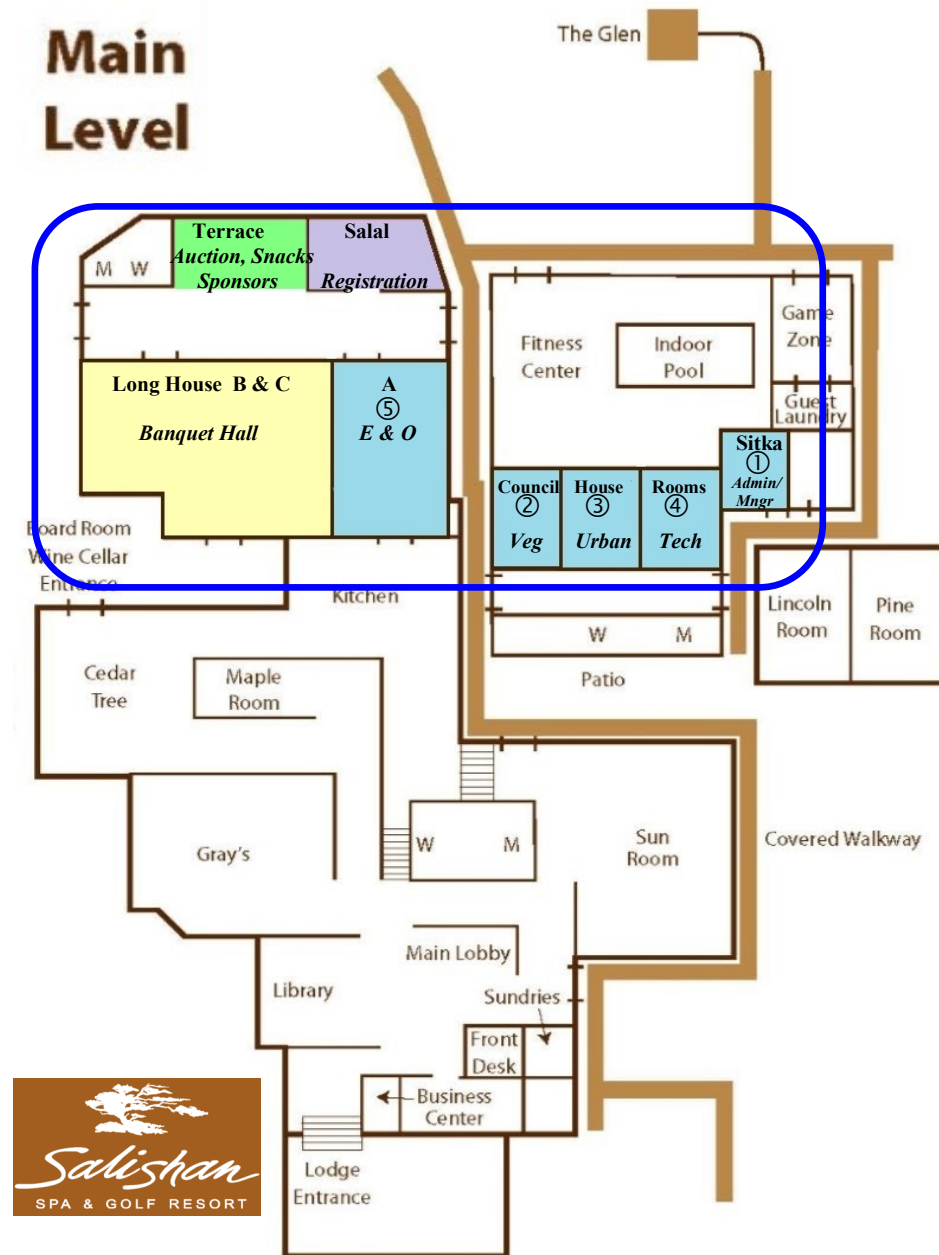
# 8th Annual CONNECT 2016



# Salishan Layout

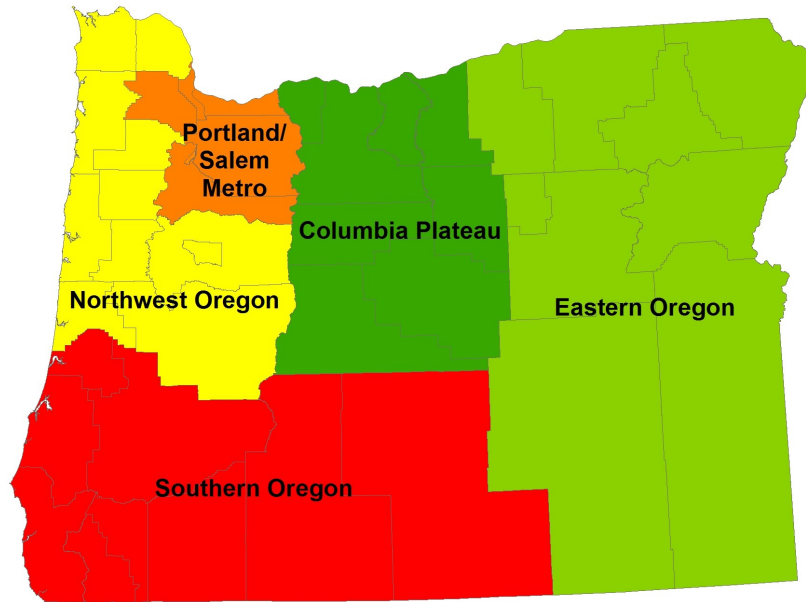


# CONNECT Meeting Rooms



# **OCEAN Officers & Representatives**

## **OCEAN Regions**



## **Officers**

President: Jason Faucera, At-Large Rep, Clackamas SWCD

Vice-President: Shilah Olson, Columbia Plateau Rep, Wasco SWCD

Secretary: Lisa Mahon, Eastern Oregon Rep, Wallowa SWCD

Treasurer: Janet Greenup, Eastern At-Large Rep, Morrow SWCD

## **Regional and At-large Representatives**

Rhonda Black, Eastern At-large Rep, Umpqua SWCD

Jeremy Baker, Western At-large, East Multnomah SWCD

Walt Barton, Southern Oregon Rep, Douglas SWCD

Liz Habley-Graham, Northwest Oregon Rep, Polk SWCD

Tyler Joki, Western At-large, Columbia SWCD

Brenda Sanchez, Portland/Salem Metro Rep, Marion SWCD

Bryan Vogt, Eastern At-large, Monument SWCD

## Table of Contents

Facility Maps.....	2-3
OCEAN Board .....	4
Table of Contents & Welcome .....	5
SWCD & Watershed Council Maps.....	6-7
Daily Schedules	
Tuesday .....	8
Wednesday .....	14
Friday .....	28
Connect at a Glance .....	20
Speakers.....	35
CONNECT 2015 Planning Team Members .....	36
Get to Know Our Sponsors .....	37

## Welcome to Connect

We are proud to present another exciting CONNECT Conference, full of opportunities to learn, network, and celebrate our accomplishments. While this year's event is structured much like those in the past, this is a year of transition as we begin to move to a new conference structure in partnership with NOWC, OACD, and COLT. We have a diverse program but are focused mainly on vegetation management, soil health, education and outreach, urban, and administrative offerings. We've left some time for interaction and networking, and hope the atmosphere here at the coast is a welcome change from past events.

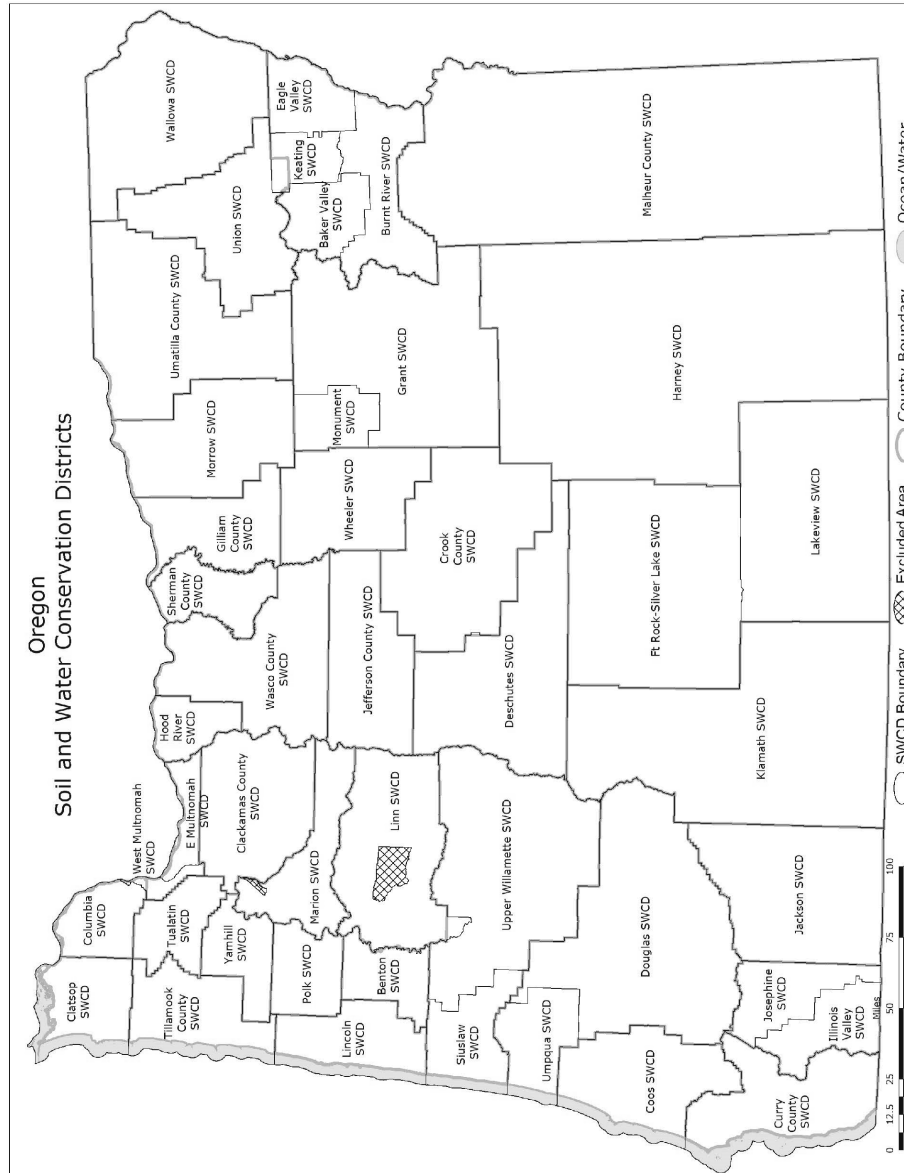
The CONNECT Planning Team, which consists of district, council, association, and agency representatives, once again came through with a fantastic program. We are grateful for their time and effort to bring this conference to life. We would also like to acknowledge the invaluable financial and technical resources provided by NRCS, OACD, ODA, ODF, OWEB, and COLT among other contributing organizations and sponsors. We thank them for their various contributions and continued support.

Learn much, talk with each other, and enjoy a great time with your peers. Welcome to Salishan and CONNECT 2016!

Jason Faucera, President  
OCEAN

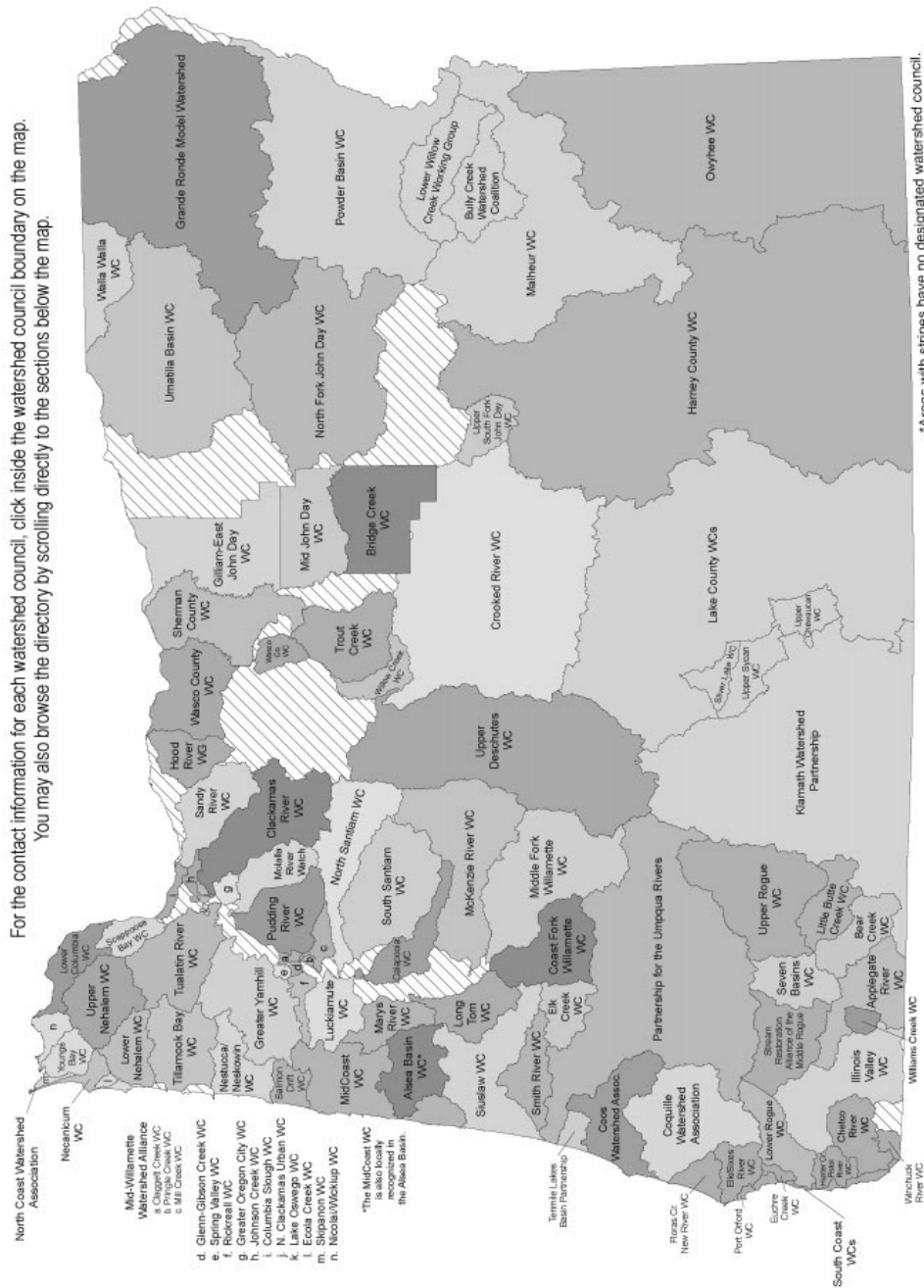
Alex Sifford, Interim Executive Director  
NOWC

# Oregon Soil & Water Conservation Districts





# Oregon Watershed Councils



## **Tuesday 4.19.16 10:30 AM—1:00 PM**

Sessions are 60 minutes with 15 minute breaks unless otherwise noted.

### **10:30 AM Check-in**

Start CONNECT 2016 off right! Visit the registration desk to pick up your name tag and CONNECT program .

### **11:00 AM Lunch**

Help yourself to lunch in the Banquet Room.

### **12:00 PM—Welcome & Partnership Updates**

Meet the leaders of CONNECT 2016 and enjoy your first opportunity for door prizes. You must be present to win! Get your bearings, learn your way around, and meet the people who can answer your questions.

### **1:00 PM**

#### **① New Employee Orientation: The World of Conservation and What it Means to be a Public Official**

**Eric Nusbaum, ODA**

This session is for new employees of Soil and Water Conservation Districts, including Watershed Council employees employed through the SWCD. We will cover the legal responsibilities of being a public employee/official, including Government Ethics, Public Meeting and Record Laws, and the relationship between SWCDs, Watershed Councils, OWEB, ODA, the Agricultural Water Quality Rules, and the Oregon Plan. All this and more in less than an hour! So, yes, there will be lots of handouts to read later. For managers, this session may be of interest to help develop your own new employee orientation.

#### **② Introduction to the Organic Farming Handbook**

**Ben Bowell, Oregon Tilth**

Join this workshop to learn about resources for working with organic producers. The new Organic Farming Handbook was developed by USDA NRCS staff and partners to support conservation professionals working with organic producers and those transitioning to organic. This workshop will explore the



## **Tuesday 4.19.16 1:00 PM**

handbook including a description of organic farming principles and relevant USDA organic regulations. The presentation describes considerations and resources for planning conservation practices on organic operations such as cover crops, nutrient management, crop rotations, and livestock management. Bring your questions about organic certification and production practices.

### **③ New Models for Community Science Engagement in Natural Resources Management**

**Ted Labbe, Kingfisher Ecological Services LLC**

Technology advances, the rebirth of citizen science, and dwindling public finances in the face of emerging conservation challenges are forcing development of new models of community engagement in conservation science and management. This presentation will cover approaches, findings, and lessons-learned for conservation managers contemplating their own citizen science initiatives. This presentation will compare and contrast two different citizen scientist engagement models. The first project is the Intertwine Alliance's OakQuest, a community science effort focused on mapping imperiled Oregon white oak across the Portland metropolitan region. OakQuest engaged 180+ volunteers in documenting, learning about, and promoting the stewardship of Oregon white oak. The second is a series of stream habitat inventories led by KES. These inventories included culvert fish passage assessments and mapping undocumented headwater streams. The presentation will provide suggested 'best practices' for the use of citizen science in natural resources management.

### **④ Stewardship Scenario Planning Using Forest Planner**

**David Diaz, Ecotrust**

David will provide a live demonstration of Forest Planner ([www.forestplanner.ecotrust.org](http://www.forestplanner.ecotrust.org)) and introduce the mapping and growth-and-yield capabilities of this free web application ranging from basic map generation to scenarios comparing timber harvest costs and revenues, fire risk assessment, and carbon sequestration potential. Ongoing uses of this technology for woodland stewardship planning and a new regional cost-share program on carbon sequestration in NW Oregon and western Washington will also be discussed.

## **Tuesday 4.19.16 1:00 - 2:15 PM**

### **⑤ Flawless Flyers-Expanded (1:00–3:15 PM)**

**Jessie Maran, KLIK Concepts**

Flawless fliers find the right balance between flash and substance. A concrete set of design principles can be used to consistently create clear and engaging fliers that support the purpose and goals of your event. The presenter will observe case studies that demonstrate the application of these principles to real-life public engagement materials and will work with the audience to make real-time refinements to improve a sample graphic.

### **2:15 PM**

### **① State and Special District Insurance Coverage (2:15–4:30 PM)**

**Chris Hill, SDAO and Marie Hansen-Wagnier, Oregon Department of Administrative Services**

Oregon Department of Administrative Services (DAS) provides insurance coverage for state agencies and limited coverage for SWCDs (through ODA), including general liability that includes bodily, and property damage coverage. Special Districts Insurance Services (SDIS) offers insurance coverage to SWCDs, including property casualty, workers compensation, and employee benefits. This session will help districts understand the insurance coverages available from DAS and SDIS.

### **② Riparian Biogeomorphology: Status, Trends, and Application**

**Michael L. Hughes, Oregon institute of Technology**

Riparian ecosystems have been described as ecotones in which abiotic and biotic components interact to produce unique biogeophysical patterns and habitat values. Human impacts can affect riparian ecosystems in both positive and negative ways. Riparian ecosystem management and restoration often are aimed at recovery of the biogeomorphic interactions that structure and sustain riparian ecosystem patterns and habitat values. In recent decades several concepts and assessment approaches have been developed to assist resource managers in efforts to promote

**Tuesday 4.19.16 2:15 PM**

healthy riparian ecosystems. This presentation will provide a synthesis of scientific literature, key concepts, assessment methods, and case-study applications that focus on riparian biogeomorphology. This synthesis is intended to help participants develop a better understanding of interactions between geomorphic processes and riparian plant communities. Aspects of channel evolution theory, assessment of properly functioning condition (PFC), greenline methodology, and GIS-based approaches will be emphasized. Participants will learn and be provided documentation for a novel riparian biogeomorphology assessment method that can be geographically adapted and used in conjunction with citizen and/or landowner assessment and monitoring efforts.

**③ Radical Restoration Through Community Powered Landscape Intervention**

**Eric Rosewall, Depave**

Looking to empower constituents in your watershed to transform over-paved places into community greenspaces? Depave's model for community engagement in urban regreening utilizes cutting-edge landscape intervention to combat the negative effects of pavement. Learn about the nonprofit's hands-on process that engages community members in replacing pavement with green infrastructure and neighborhood greenspace projects. Depave will share their approach to citizen-driven greenspaces that transform watersheds, build community, and foster stewardship through specific examples from their extensive project portfolio.

**④ Invite Oregon's Farmers and Ranchers to Speak Up**

**Teresa Matteson, Benton SWCD**

Ag professionals and agrarians prefer to hear conservation successes and failures from the people on the ground. Learn about two campaigns that feature extraordinary farmers and ranchers who are willing to share their nutrient management and soil health experiences. During this hour we will identify our finest land stewards and develop a strategy to invite Oregon's farmers and ranchers to speak up for conservation.

**Tuesday 4.19.16 3:30 PM**

**3:30 PM**

**② ODF Rulemaking for Streamside Protection and Wildlife Food Plots**

**Marganne Allen, ODF**

A background information and process update for the Oregon Department of Forestry's streamside protection and wildlife food plots will be presented. Attendees will come away with an understanding of the origins of these rulemaking processes, how to stay informed and engaged, and opportunities and outcomes for private forest landowners.

**③ Tree Selection in Friends of Trees Community Forestry Model: Working Towards Climate Resilience**

**Erik Burke, Friends of Trees**

Friends of Trees has a nationally recognized community forestry model that engages urban community members to plant and care for city trees. This model builds community while bringing new trees and native plants to roadsides, yards, parks, and schools. Friends of Trees is also working to respond to climate change with three primary approaches: 1. planting a diverse mix of trees; 2. using broadly adaptable trees; and 3. FOT's Eugene chapter has partnered with several groups to trial a regional adaptation approach: building local sources of trees of known provenance from areas with similar regional climates to ours, with an annual summer drought, largely trees from California and western North America, but also trialing trees from the Mediterranean, Patagonia, Persia, and summer drought regions of Asia. We are learning how to overcome limits in the nursery industry and the field to procuring quality climate resilient trees. FOT's Portland chapter also is partnering with City of Portland to develop a high-quality monitoring approach that uses both volunteers and trained staff to follow tree survival and health over the short and long term.

**Tuesday 4.19.16 3:30 - 6:30 PM**

**④ Invasives Species Program Information Sharing Session**

**Jenny Meisel, Marion SWCD and Heath Kierstead, Benton SWCD**

Join us for an hour long informal discussion/information sharing session on invasive species programs. Anyone who is involved in or has an interest in invasive species programs is welcome to attend. Topics that we plan to discuss include: challenges of working on private lands, how SWCD's interface with Cooperative Weed Management Areas and Weed Boards, outreach/education programs, and program funding. Or bring ideas or topics of your own to discuss with the group. This is a great chance to learn what others are doing to combat invasive species in their Districts and to learn new ideas for your own program. The session will be co-lead by Jenny Meisel from Marion SWCD and Heath Keirstead from Benton SWCD

**⑤ Maximizing Your Outreach**

**Jenni Remillard, Oregon Coast Aquarium**

What opportunities are available for outreach? How do you market your outreach? What makes a successful program? There will be an opportunity to share our successes and challenges, as well as brainstorming ideas.

**4:45 PM - OCEAN Annual Meeting** Long House A

Join Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network for the 2015 Annual Meeting!!!

**5:45 PM - Meet & Greet with Sponsors** Social Hour

Socialize with colleagues and visit every sponsor table!

**6:30 PM—Supper and Spotlights**

Enjoy dinner, engage in conversation, and gain inspiration from cohorts' spotlights.

**Wednesday 4.20.16 7:00 - 8:00 AM**

**7:00 AM – BREAKFAST**

Fuel your tank, catch announcements, and win a door prize.

**8:00 AM**

**① Employment Law Updates**

**Eric Nusbaum, ODA**

This session will be an overview of the new “Ban the Box” and Sick Leave laws. We will also see how the new marijuana laws may effect your employment policies. Finally, how many districts have policies and procedures concerning Veterans Preference in hiring? We will look at the Veterans Preference law and what policies and procedures your district needs to have in place to comply with the law.

**② Many Hands Make Right Work: The Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership**

**Sam Leininger, Clackamas SWCD and Jenny Dezso, Clackamas River Basin Council**

The prioritization and management of invasive species is one of the toughest challenges that watershed councils and districts face. The Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) was initiated to tackle this issue within the Clackamas River Basin. This partnership is a cooperative effort of the Clackamas River Basin Council (CRBC), the Clackamas Soil and Water Conservation District (CSWCD), Metro and over 13 public and non-profit partner organizations working within the watershed. The CRISP was undertaken to support the existing efforts of land managers throughout the basin, as well as address known gaps in management through survey and coordination. A management plan was created for each of the targeted areas which collectively form the Clackamas River Invasive Species Management Plan which outlines an objective approach to manage invasive species in the basin. Learn more about how this partnership was formed, the tools used to prioritize our efforts, and what's next for the CRISP.

## Wednesday 4.20.16 8:00 AM

### ③ Meadowscaping

**Mary Logalbo, West Multnomah SWCD**

If a significant number of landowners converted their lawns to native grasses and wildflowers, it could have a very significant impact on wildlife habitat and stormwater management. This talk will focus on how to design, install and maintain small-scale native meadow habitat. This presentation will be focused on Willamette Valley native prairie plants in an urban/suburban garden setting, but concepts are adaptable to other areas of the Pacific Northwest west of the Cascades.

### ④ Oregon's Present and Future Water Resources: Climate, Conflict, and Cooperation (8:00—10:15 AM)

**Kathie Dello, Associate Director of OCCRI; Deputy Director, Oregon Climate Service; OSU; Gordon Grant, Research Hydrologist, USFS, College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences, OSU, Aaron Wolf, Program in Water Conflict Management, OSU**

This interactive session will present the latest science on climate change and its impact on Oregon's water resources, as well as approaches for adapting to these changes. We will also offer skills and approaches to preventing and transforming conflicts that inevitably arise over management of our state's shared waters.

### ⑤ The Words We Choose: Conservation Marketing & Outreach

**Tracy Robillard, NRCS**

This session will provide communications tips and advice for crafting effective marketing messages for your target audiences. Topics include successful conservation messaging themes and words to avoid/use when marketing a conservation program to landowners.



**Wednesday 4.20.16 9:15 AM**

**9:15 AM**

**② Selecting Cover Crop Species/Mixes to Meet Your Needs**  
**Annie Young-Matthews, USDA-NRCS Corvallis Plant Materials Center**

This talk will demonstrate how to use a new NRCS tool available online, the Cover Crop Selection Tool for the Pacific Northwest. We will cover how to select appropriate cover crop species for your climate, soils and cover cropping objectives, and how to fit them into your cropping rotation. We'll also discuss the use of cover crop mixes, and briefly go over how to put a mix together using a seeding calculator.

**③ Restoring the Future: Why We Need to Engage**  
**“Opportunity” Youth in Conservation Education and Work-based Learning Programming**

**Michael Oliver, Project YESS-Mt. Hood Community College**

Nature-deficit disorder. Endless access to screens and technology. Childhood obesity rates. The lack of diversity among professionals in the conservation and natural resources field. A growing and widening gap in environmental equity in our urban areas. A large number of “disconnected” youth in our communities that need relevant, positive opportunities. These are just a few of the many reasons why we need to engage, educate, employ, and inspire more urban youth and youth of color in order to develop the next generation of committed conservationists. The Project YESS Youth Conservation Corps (PYYCC) is a youth development organization that has been using conservation work as a vehicle to teach life skills, work skills, and environmental literacy to youth and young adults in the East Multnomah County area for more than 18 years. This presentation will cover why the work of conservation-based youth development is so important, as well as how watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, and other conservation agencies can play an active part in this important movement.

## Wednesday 4.20.16 9:15 - 10:30 AM

### **⑤ Don't Tell Me, Show Me. Using Infographics effectively in Conservation Outreach**

**Tracy Robillard, NRCS**

This session will provide guidance on how and when to use infographics to effectively communicate conservation programs and information. Topics include various formats and layouts of infographics, packaging information so that it is best represented graphically, and tips for some do's and don'ts when creating an infographic.

## **10:30 AM**

### **① Time Management**

**Eric Nusbaum, ODA**

Tasks piling up on your desk? Never enough time to do anything? Spend the entire day working and feeling like you have gotten nothing done? I will be presenting my top 10 tips for time management as well as lead discussion on how participants in this session manage their time effectively. This is a refined version of what was presented in SWCD Managers' Training earlier this year.

### **② Introduction to the Corvallis PMC's Seed Production Manual**

**Amy Bartow, USDA-NRCS Corvallis Plant Materials Center**

The Native Seed Production Manual for the Pacific Northwest contains detailed, species-specific information for 17 grasses, 60 forbs, and 7 sedges and rushes found throughout the Western regions of Oregon and Washington. This presentation will cover how land managers, restorationists, landowners, or native plant enthusiasts can use the information in this manual when working with native plants. It can help with making decisions about seeding rates, using plugs or direct seeding, and how to collect seed.

**Wednesday 4.20.16 10:30 AM - 11:30 AM**

**③ Ensuring Effective Communication with Agricultural Landowners**

**Mary Anne Nash, Oregon Farm Bureau**

Want to learn how to more effectively communicate with agricultural landowners and engage them as partners in projects? This workshop will look at common mistakes in communicating with agricultural landowners, how to engage landowners and partners in conservation projects, how to address landowner and neighbor concerns with projects, and how to ensure that landowners stay engaged throughout project development and implementation.

**④ Food Safety Modernization Act: Connections with SWCDs**  
**Stephanie Page, ODA**

In this session, we'll cover some of the main components of a newly adopted FDA rule for produce safety, including irrigation water requirements, soil amendments, and wildlife/livestock entry into fields. We'll also cover possible connections with the work that SWCDs do.

**⑤ Oregon's Soil Health Effort—Growing with Partners**  
**Cory Owens, NRCS**

Come learn about all things soil health across Oregon including updates on partnership activities, new outreach tools, on-going projects, and what to expect in the future. Bring your organizations latest and greatest ideas and success stories for soil health. This is an opportunity to meet folks from across the state just as interested in supporting farmers, ranchers, and foresters create high functioning soils as you are!

**11:30 AM LUNCH** Long House Ballroom

**Wednesday 4.20.16 1:00 PM**

**1:00 PM**

**① Drop In Computer Technical Assistance**

**Jason Faucera, Clackamas SWCD**

This session is designed as an open forum to address some of the more common computer technical issues for which people are seeking help. We'll start with general questions early and transition to one on one time shortly thereafter to address more specific needs. Here are some of the topics that we might discuss: Email services, websites (including WordPress), servers, software, hardware, cameras, video, among others. If I can't answer your specific question I will do my best to get you moving in the right direction on your own. We will also discuss OACD's transition away from providing oacd.org email address support and some alternatives for Districts that will need to move to another system.

**② Riparian Vegetation Management Forum & Round Table  
Highlighting Two District Approaches to Riparian Vegetation  
Management (1:00—3:15 PM)**

**Herb Winters, Wheeler SWCD & Kammy Kern-Korot, West  
Multnomah SWCD**

This presentation will explain how Wheeler SWCD uses ODFW's Intermediate Level Methods for Stream Habitat Surveys to create baseline data for high priority stream reaches within the county and use that data to plan, implement, and evaluate success. Each habitat unit (riffle, pool, etc.) is geo-referenced during the field survey and the data is entered into a geodatabase. The data fields that are most pertinent to Wheeler SWCD's riparian vegetation restoration program are active soil erosion (herbaceous vegetation) and channel shade (riparian shrub and tree species height). These attributes and their locations in the stream reach help identify areas that require active or passive restoration activities. Once these projects have been planned and implemented the survey can be repeated years later to show positive changes associated with the restoration. This also

CONNECT 2016 AGENDA					
	Manager/Admin (Sitka)	Vegetation (Council House A)	Urban Conservation (Council House B)	Technical (Council House C)	Education/Outreach (Long House A)
Tuesday April 19, 2016					
	Registration Opens				
10:30 AM	Lunch				
11:00 AM					
12:00 PM	Welcome/Announcements				
1:00 - 2:00 PM	New Employee Orientation: The World of Conservation and What it means to be a Public Official	Introduction to the Organic Farming Handbook	New Models for Community Science Engagement in Natural Resources Management	Stewardship Scenario Planning Using Forest Planner: A Free and Open Course Web Application	Flawless Flyers (Expanded)
2:15 - 3:15 PM	State and Special District Insurance Coverage	Riparian Biogeomorphology: Status, Trends, and Application	Radical Restoration Through Community Powered Landscape Intervention	Invite Oregon's Farmers and Rancher's to Speak Up	
3:30 - 4:30 PM		ODF Rulemaking for Streamside Protection and Wildlife Food Plots	Tree Selection in Friends of Trees Community Forestry Model: Working Towards Climate Resilience	Invasives Species Program Information Sharing Session	Maximizing Your Outreach
4:45 PM	OCEAN Meeting & Regional Meetings (Long House A)				
5:45 PM	Meet & Greet with Sponsors in Terrace Room				
6:30 PM	Supper & Spotlight Videos				
Wednesday April 20, 2016					
	Breakfast				
7:00 AM					
8:00 - 9:00 AM	Employment Law Updates	Many Hands Make Right Work: The Clackamas River Invasive Species Partnership	Meadowscaping	Oregon's Present and Future Water Resources: Climate, Conflict, and Cooperation	The Words We Choose: Conservation Marketing & Outreach
9:15 - 10:15 AM		Selecting Cover Crop Species/Mixes to Meet Your Needs	Restoring the Future: Why We Need to Engage "Opportunity" Youth in Conservation Education and Work-based Learning Programming		Don't Tell Me, Show Me. Using Infographics Effectively in Conservation Outreach

10:30 - 11:30 AM	Time Management	Introduction to the Corvallis PMC's Seed Production Manual	Ensuring Effective Communication with Agricultural Landowners Lunch	Food Safety Modernization Act: Connections with SWCDs	Oregon's Soil Health Effort - Growing with Partners
11:30 AM					
1:00 - 2:00 PM	Drop in Computer Technical Assistance	Riparian Vegetation Management Forum & Round Table Highlighting Two District Approaches to Riparian Vegetation Management	The Value of Insects in Urban Ecosystems: Opportunities for Conservation, Education, and Public Engagement	Using the Oregon's Biodiversity Map Viewer to Prioritize Watersheds for Forest Habitat Diversity Projects	Focus on Soils Outreach - Come Play "Soil -It's Alive!"
2:15 - 3:15 PM	Land and Sea Conservation Strategy		Arborists, Wildlife, and Trees: How to Identify and Create Urban Wildlife Habitat	The Unseen World Beneath Our Feet: The Role of Soil Biota in Supporting Soil Health	
3:30 - 4:30 PM	Generational Diversity	Using Riparian and Aquatic Corridor Networks to Build Connectivity and Resiliency in the Face of Climate Change	Backyard Habitat Certification Program	Integrating Water Resource Monitoring and Reporting	Managing Difficult Conversations
5:00 - 6:00 PM		Keynote Speaker: <i>Kristin Ohlson</i> - <i>Heal Our Soils, Heal Our Planet</i>			
6:30 PM		Awards Banquet			

21

Thursday April 21, 2016					
			Breakfast		
7:00 AM				Drone Regulations that Apply to SWCD's and Watershed Councils	Racial Equity and Inclusive Community Engagement: Sharing Stories and Resources for Supporting Diversity Work
8:00 - 9:00 AM					
9:15 - 10:15 AM	Creating QuickBooks Reports that Please Your Grantors	Cannabis with Oregon Department of Agriculture	Live Streaming NACD Urban and Community Conservation Webinar: Green Infrastructure Practices (9:00am)	Drones - Panel Discussion	How to Incorporate Equity Goals into Conservation Programs
10:30 - 11:30 AM		Biosecurity and Watershed Protection		OWEB's New Online Application	
Noon		Hotel Check-Out			

\*Keynote Speaker and All Meals will be held in the Banquet Hall

**Wednesday 4.20.16 1:00 PM**

**② Riparian Vegetation Management Forum & Round Table  
Highlighting Two District Approaches to Riparian Vegetation  
Management (con't)**

provides an opportunity to locate weaknesses in the restoration planning process or identify negative impacts of practices implemented. The habitat survey and geodatabase can provide a fairly inexpensive method that improves planning and provides an opportunity to show real progress spatially over time.

Senior Conservationist Kammy Kern-Korot will give an overview of WMSWCD's Healthy Streams program, including a brief history of the program, details on prioritization, program funding and project costs, planning and technical specifications, landowner agreements, planting and maintenance schedules and logistics, implementation with paid crews, monitoring, adaptive management; and discuss successes and challenges.

**③ The Value of Insects in Urban Ecosystems: Opportunities  
for Conservation, Education, and Public Engagement  
Celeste Mazzacano, Ph. D., CASM Environmental, LLC**

Despite the critical roles they play in terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems, insects are rarely the focus of urban conservation programs. Although in recent years more attention has been paid to a few select groups, such as Monarch butterflies and bees, the importance of a vast array of other urban insects has been largely overlooked, even as they are busy preying on pests, providing food for wildlife, and improving soil conditions. Conservation programs that fail to consider the habitat needs of invertebrates are leaving out a huge part of the food web. Public outreach surrounding urban insects can also have many benefits. Not only will people learn the steps to take to support beneficial insects in their own yards, enabling them to contribute directly to habitat conservation, they may also be more likely to reduce or eliminate pesticide use, and be better able to distinguish between pest and beneficial insects and to recognize invasive species. A public that is more aware and appreciative of the benefits of a diverse insect



## Wednesday 4.20.16 1:00 PM

community will better understand and support the work of natural resource organizations to create and manage suitable habitat. Insects also provide excellent vehicles for increasing public engagement via participation in citizen science projects and bioblitzes. This session will discuss challenges and opportunities in urban insect conservation.

### **④ Using the Oregon's Biodiversity Map Viewer to Prioritize Watersheds for Forest Habitat Diversity Projects**

**Jim Cathcart, West Multnomah SWCD**

The Oregon Explorer Biodiversity Map Viewer provides access to important forest and non-forest species and vegetative habitat distribution data as compiled by the Oregon Biodiversity Information Center. The data serves as an authoritative database on the distribution of threatened, endangered, sensitive, rare and other important species as well as forest vegetative habitats of high conservation value. Being assembled by 6th field watersheds, the data is at a geographic scale (10,000 – 30,000 acres) that is proximately meaningful to non-industrial private land ownerships. This session will provide an overview and demonstration of the Map Viewer and will review how it was used to prioritize forested watersheds for receiving technical and financial assistance funds for improving forest habitat diversity.

### **⑤ Focus on Soils Outreach - Come Play "Soil - It's Alive?"**

**Cory Owens, NRCS**

In this session we will be playing the just debuted Soil: It's Alive! game, a potentially great Soil Health outreach activity. This activity is targeted to student's grades 6-12. We will be playing the roles of the sun, plant leaves, plant roots, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, and nematodes. The soil organisms will obtain "solar energy" in the form of candy (starbursts) in exchange for nutrient candies (tootsie rolls). The organisms will play different roles in exchanging nutrient candy for solar candy. During the game, the soil organisms will have to adapt to changing soil conditions when the Queen/King rolls the soil condition dice!

**Wednesday 4.20.16 2:15 PM**

**2:15 PM**

**① Land and Sea Conservation Strategy**

**Paul Engelmeyer, MidCoast Watershed Council**

Come learn about land and sea conservation efforts and partnerships involving Federal, State, Watershed Councils, Conservation Organizations, Audubon, and The Wetlands Conservancy.

**③ Arborists, Wildlife, and Trees: How to Identify and Create Urban Wildlife Habitat**

**Brian French, Arboriculture International LLC**

What are the benefits of snags to wildlife? What species use snags? Arborists evaluate trees and give solutions to mitigate risks. Often, wildlife habitat exists in tree risks in the form of cavities, dead snags, or broken tops. One could say that an arborist's job is to identify wildlife habitat, then prune or remove it. We should recognize that wildlife needs homes. The presence of wildlife in trees is often associated with risks. However, in many cases risks can be reduced and mitigated while retaining existing wildlife habitat or creating new wildlife habitat. Not all trees need to be used as habitat trees, but in the right place it can make a large difference to the surrounding community. In some instances, removing habitat may be breaking the law. Climbing arborists often make first ascents into the crowns of trees and may come in contact with wildlife. Knowing regulatory laws and protected species is the arborist's responsibility. This presentation will show how instead of removing trees to the ground, portions can be safely retained and used as habitat.

**④ The Unseen World Beneath Our Feet: The Role of Soil Biota in Supporting Soil Health**

**Jennifer Moore Kucera, PhD, USDA NRCS West Regional Soil Health Team Leader**

Soil is one of our nation's most valuable resources that provides life-sustaining functions. There are literally billions of organisms living below ground that are critical to support plant, animal, and

## Wednesday 4.20.16 2:15 - 3:30 PM

human health aboveground. This session aims to unravel some of these unseen mysterious life forces and explain how they contribute to and support soil health. Learn not only what they are doing for your soils, but also what you can do to help support them. By shifting our view of soils from an inert growing material to a biologically diverse and active ecosystem, we can help create more sustainable farms, ranches, and forests to provide the food and fiber for our rapidly growing population while protecting land, air and water resources for future generations.

### ⑤ Managing Difficult Conversations (2:15-4:30 PM)

**Tsipora Dimant and Carley Berkey, Beaverton Dispute Resolution Center**

This interactive workshop looks at how conflicts can cause breakdowns in communication and hurt relationships. We will explore the nature of conflict and the instinctual and neurobiological conditions that keep conflicts from getting resolved. Through real-life examples provided by participants, we will practice ways to work through difficult conversations with landowners, the general public, and co-workers.

## 3:30 PM

### ① Generational Diversity

**Spencer Rockwell, SDAO**

Managers are increasingly grappling with generational differences in their work forces. These frictions may be aggravated by new technology and work patterns that mix workers of different ages in ever-changing teams. This training will teach you ways to effectively address and take advantage of the differences in values and expectations of each generation.

**Wednesday 4.20.16 3:30 PM**

**② Using Riparian and Aquatic Corridor Networks to Build Connectivity and Resiliency in the Face of Climate Change  
Kendra Smith, Bonneville Environmental Foundation**

The critical ecological interactions of healthy, vegetated riparian corridors and the aquatic habitats they buffer, are well documented. Dynamic, and well adapted to disturbance, these systems will likely become increasingly important refugia in the face of climate change. Join me for a review and discussion of climate projection data, applied and mapped across Oregon. Learn how this analysis or raw data might be useful to you. Considering the projected conditions for 2040 and 2080, we will discuss management strategies one might consider to rapidly adjust to changing environmental conditions from planting techniques to beaver. Hope you can join us.

**③ Backyard Habitat Certification Program  
Nikkie West, Backyard Habitat Certification Program and Audubon Society**

The Backyard Habitat Certification Program is a collaborative effort of the Audubon Society of Portland and the Columbia Land Trust. Since its launch in 2009, over 3200 yards, spanning about 750 acres have participated within the Portland metro area. The objective of the program is to provide technical assistance, incentives, and encouragement to program participants as they remove invasive weeds, naturescape with native plants, manage stormwater, reduce pesticides and steward wildlife. This presentation will focus on the nuts and bolts of how this unique program operates, as well as how we have creatively managed and sustained growth and fiscal security over the years. It will be an excellent learning opportunity for organizations that may be interested in developing similar programs.

**Wednesday 4.20.16 3:30—6:30 PM**

**④ Integrating Water Resource Monitoring and Reporting**

**Sheila Marcoe, ODA**

Statewide monitoring efforts are underway through a variety of Oregon programs/initiatives that will provide water resource benefits from further coordination and partnership for information sharing. These multi-agency led programs work together by 1.) Looking to local organizations for information and data related to conservation and restoration actions that were implemented with agencies' respective grant programs; 2.) Telling the story of how conservation and restoration action implemented by local organizations contribute to achieving healthy watersheds; and 3.) Identifying where additional monitoring and technical assistance efforts may be needed to contribute to achieving healthy watersheds.

**5:00 PM - KEYNOTE SPEAKER**

**Heal Our Soils, Heal Our Planet**

**Kristin Ohlson, Author of *The Soil Will Save Us: How Scientists, Farmers, and Foodies are Healing the Soil to Save the Planet***

One of human's greatest impact on our landscape is through agriculture. However, farming done right can not only make great food but can heal landscapes and even our climate. Find out why Kristin Ohlson and many others believe agriculture can be our "great green hope."

**6:30 PM—AWARDS BANQUET**

## Thursday 4.21.16 7:00 - 8:00 AM

### **7:00 AM– BREAKFAST**

Energize yourself and get in a parting chat with cohorts!

### **Check-out before NOON**

Pack up your gear. Stick around for the final Thursday sessions!

### **8:00 AM**

#### **④ Drone Regulations That Apply to SWCD's and Watershed Councils**

##### **Mitch Swecker, Department of Aviation**

Mitch Swecker with the Department of Aviation will give an overview on the use of drones by both public entities (conservation districts) and non-governmental organizations (watershed councils). He will cover the rules and regulations that special districts and watershed councils must follow.

#### **⑤ Racial Equity and Inclusive Community Engagement: Sharing Stories and Resources for Supporting Diversity Work** **Mary Logalbo-West Multnomah SWCD, Michael Ahr-West Multnomah SWCD, Corrina Chase-Columbia Slough Watershed Council**

As conservation organizations who serve the public, the West Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District (WMSWCD) and Columbia Slough Watershed Council (CSWC) work to be inclusive and serve their constituents equitably. Both organizations have invested time in several trainings over the past year to learn more about racial diversity, equity, and inclusion. We'll share stories about beginning this work in a formal capacity including some discussion on organizational assessment, creating policies, gathering data, and getting your staff and board involved in this effort. This effort is relevant to all areas- rural or urban. We hope to foster an interactive discussion during this session on how to forward this work on a statewide level.

**Thursday 4.21.16 9:00—9:15 AM**

**9:00 AM**

**③ Green Infrastructure Practices**

**Live Streaming NACD Urban and Community Conservation Webinar**

The Snohomish Conservation District in Washington will share the District's design work with both private homeowners and public entities including the rain gardens, stormwater pond retrofits and the studies with local cities to determine feasibility for GSI within their jurisdiction. Chuck Nahn of Nahn and Associates, LLC in Middleton, Wisconsin will showcase their porous asphalt work, including case studies of past installations and lessons learned.

**9:15 AM**

**① Creating QuickBooks Reports that Please Your Grantors**

**Tara Choate, OWEB and Tara MacMillan, Upper Deschutes Watershed Council**

Tara Choate from OWEB goes over common QuickBooks mistakes that create additional verification questions on reports. Then Tara MacMillan from Upper Deschutes Watershed Council demonstrates how to enter, create, and pull QuickBooks reports that answer your grantor's questions.

**② Cannabis with Oregon Department of Agriculture**

**Sunny Jones, ODA**

Where do growers of cannabis fit into the Oregon Department of Agriculture? Overview of legalization of cannabis in Oregon and how that relates to Oregon agriculture.

**④ Drones - Panel Discussion**

**Mitch Swecker, Department of Aviation & SWCD Staff**

Join Mitch Swecker and staff from districts with drones for a facilitated discussion on all things drone-related! Topics include: registering your drone, rules and regulations, risk management, safe operation, working with landowners, choosing a drone, and integrating drones into conservation. Bring your questions.



**Thursday 4.21.16 9:15—10:30 AM**

**⑤ How to Incorporate Equity Goals into Conservation Programs**

**Sheilagh Diez, Metro Parks and Nature Department**

Join Sheilagh Diez, community partnerships coordinator with Metro's Parks and Nature department, to discuss incorporating diversity and equity goals into conservation programs. Ms. Diez will provide examples of unique contracting, community outreach, and program development approaches taken to further diversity, equity, and inclusion goals in the Parks and Nature department. She will also share Metro's broader process of developing an agency wide diversity action plan and strategic plan to advance racial equity, diversity, and inclusion. Participants will learn about both individual perspectives and institutional changes that staff members can take into consideration when incorporating diversity, equity, and inclusion goals at their organization.

**10:30 AM**

**② Biosecurity and Watershed Protection**

**Clinton Burfitt, ODA**

Invasive plant pests and diseases are being distributed internationally by the movement of plant material as the result of increased global trade. Impacts of newly introduced species can include increased pesticide use, economic sanctions on commodities, and adverse ecological effects to native flora and fauna. A biosecurity safeguarding continuum exists to prevent the introduction and establishment of non-native species, but when the system fails the results can have a cascade of negative socio-economic and environmental consequences. The safeguarding network includes a range of different organizations that include foreign trade partners to locally based conservation organizations. Protecting Oregon's natural resources and water quality from the direct and in-direct impacts of invasive species requires partnerships, leveraging of resources, and an informed public.

**Thursday 4.21.16 10:30 AM**

**④ OWEB'S New Online Application**

**Courtney Shaff, OWEB**

OWEB's target is to launch an online grant application during the 2015-17 biennium. The goal is to improve effectiveness and efficiency of the agency's grant-making processes for applicants, grantees and OWEB staff. The system in development currently includes the following application types: Restoration, Technical Assistance (TA), Monitoring and Outreach. Restoration, Technical Assistance (TA) and Monitoring were "streamlined" prior to developing the online applications to ensure these applications gather the key information necessary to review applications and support the grant-making process.

This session will provide participants a sneak peek at the new online application system. OWEB staff will give a preview of what the new systems looks like, talk about differences between the current paper applications and the new online applications and share next steps. This is not a hands-on session, training will be provided once the online application is complete and has been released to applicants.

**Go forth and prosper. LUNCH is on your own.**

**Notes:**



## Notes

## Notes

## Heartfelt THANKS to SPEAKERS

To the professionals who share their time and expertise to make CONNECT 2016 an extraordinary conference.

Aaron Wolf, OSU, Program in Water Conflict Management	Jessie Maran, KLiK Concepts
Amy Bartow, USDA-NRCS Corvallis Plant Materials Center	Jim Cathcart, West Multnomah SWCD
Annie Young-Matthews, USDA- NRCS Corvallis Plant Materials Center	Kammy Kern-Korot, West Multnomah SWCD
Ben Bowell, Oregon Tilth	Kathie Dello, OSU, OCCRI; Deputy Director, Oregon Climate Service
Brian French, Arboriculture International LLC	Kendra Smith, Bonneville Environmental Foundation
Carley Berkey, Beaverton Dispute Resolution Center	Kristin Ohlson, Author of <i>The Soil Will Save Us</i>
Celeste Mazzacano, Ph. D., CASM Environmental, LLC	Marganne Allen, ODF
Chris Hill, SDAO	Marie Hansen-Wagnier, Oregon Department of Administrative Services
Clinton Burfitt, ODA	Mary Anne Nash, Oregon Farm Bureau
Corrina Chase, Columbia Slough Watershed Council	Mary Logalbo, West Multnomah SWCD
Cory Owens, NRCS	Michael Ahr-West Multnomah SWCD
Courtney Shaff, OWEB	Michael L. Hughes, Oregon Institute of Technology
David Diaz, Ecotrust	Michael Oliver, Project YESS-Mt. Hood Community College
Eric Nusbaum, ODA	Mitch Swecker, Department of Aviation
Eric Rosewall, Depave	Nikkie West, Backyard Habitat Certification Program and Audubon Society
Erik Burke, Friends of Trees	Paul Engelmeyer, MidCoast Watersheds Council
Gordon Grant, Research Hydrologist, USFS, OSU, College of EOASC	Sam Leininger, Clackamas SWCD
Heath Kierstead, Benton SWCD	Sheila Marcoe, ODA
Herb Winters, Wheeler SWCD	Sheilagh Diez, Metro Parks and Nature Department
Jason Faucera, Clackamas SWCD	Spencer Rockwell, SDAO
Jenni Remillard, Oregon Coast Aquarium	Stephanie Page, ODA
Jennifer Moore Kucera, PhD, USDA NRCS West Regional Soil Health Team Leader	
Jenny Dezso, Clackamas River Basin Council	
Jenny Meisel, Marion SWCD	

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Sunny Jones, ODA  
Tara Choate, OWEB  
Tara MacMillan, Upper  
Deschutes Watershed Council  
Ted Labbe, Kingfisher Ecological  
Services LLC  
Teresa Matteson, Benton SWCD  
Tracy Robillard, NRCS  
Tsipora Dimant, Beaverton  
Dispute Resolution Center

### **THANK YOU to the CONNECT 2016 Planning Team**

for hours spent planning and coordinating.  
Your efforts are greatly appreciated!

Abbie Simmons	Wasco SWCD
Alex Sifford	NOWC
Angela Previdelli	East Multnomah SWCD
Brenda Sanchez	Marion SWCD
Cynthia Warnock	Wallowa SWCD
Ellen Hammond	ODA
Eric Nusbaum	ODA
Jason Faucera	Clackamas SWCD
Jen Nelson	Tualatin SWCD
Jerry Nicolescu	OACD
Judy March	Tualatin SWCD
Lisa Mahon	Wallowa SWCD
Liz Graham	Polk SWCD
Melyssa Graeper	Necanicum Watershed Council
Ryan Gordon	NOWC/ODF
Shilah Olson	Wasco SWCD
Sawyer Finegan	Polk SWCD
Teresa Matteson	Benton SWCD



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### Natural Resources Conservation Service

[or.nrcs.usda.gov](http://or.nrcs.usda.gov)

The **USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)** provides financial and technical assistance to farmers, ranchers and forest landowners to implement conservation practices on private lands. NRCS programs are driven by the Farm Bill, with an emphasis on priority natural resources concerns such as fish and wildlife habitat, air quality, water quality and quantity, soil health, energy, and forest restoration.

NRCS helps landowners develop conservation plans and provides advice on the design, construction, management and evaluation of conservation practices. NRCS activities include farmland protection, natural resource improvement, urban conservation, and local community projects to improve social, economic and environmental conditions.

NRCS also conducts soil surveys and the Natural Resources Inventory nationwide, to provide the basis for conservation planning activities and an accurate assessment of the land's condition.

NRCS works with all levels of government—local, state, federal and tribal—and with conservation partners and private landowners to leverage funding and partnerships. By working collectively with partners, NRCS spends conservation dollars efficiently and effectively to restore, protect, and sustain healthy, productive working landscapes.

Participation in NRCS programs is voluntary. For more information about program eligibility, contact a local NRCS service center. NRCS is committed to ensuring that its programs and services are accessible to all customers, fairly and equitably. NRCS places an emphasis on reaching historically-underserved and socially disadvantaged farmers, ranchers and Tribes.

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[oacd.org](http://oacd.org)

The mission of the **Oregon Association of Conservation Districts (OACD)** is to represent, support, and strengthen Oregon's 45 member conservation districts through member services, program development, training, leadership development, public education, and government relations.



[oregonwatersheds.org](http://oregonwatersheds.org)

The mission of the **Network of Oregon Watershed Councils (Network)** is to support the work of watershed councils throughout the state by increasing council capacity, improving key relationships, and promoting public awareness of watersheds and watershed councils.

The Network and OACD, in partnership,  
are pleased to support CONNECT.

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[sdao.com](http://sdao.com)

Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) was formed in 1979 to give special districts a stronger and united voice at the Oregon Legislature. SDAO provides advocacy with state administrative agencies and other units of government, training, information resources, and other support programs. We proudly serve over 900 local government members.

Special Districts Insurance Services (SDIS) was established by the SDAO Board of Directors to escape the volatilities of the traditional insurance market. SDIS creates an opportunity for members to control insurance costs by jointly pooling resources to self-insure for property, liability, workers' compensation, health, and dental coverage.

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- ♦ Soil & Water Conservation Society, Oregon Chapter

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You helped make CONNECT 2016 a success!



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NETWORK of OREGON  
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Thank you to Michael Ahr, West Multnomah SWCD for  
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