



MAY 11-13

CONNECT 2021 VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Advancing Oregon's conservation efforts ...



PROGRAM BOOK

THE CONFERENCE HOST

Who We Are

The Oregon Conservation Education and Assistance Network (OCEAN) was formed in 1992 as a membership organization to provide conservation district employees with capacity building, education, and professional development opportunities to solve natural resource conservation issues that districts face throughout the state. OCEAN's strategy is to deliver the most comprehensive professional development program for conservation district employees, providing the skills necessary to be successful in delivering conservation on the ground. Our strategic goals are to:

- be the authority for training and conservation technology delivery,
- build bridges between Districts and others to improve conservation effectiveness,
- have the organizational knowledge to be self-sustaining, and
- enlist members that are actively involved in the organization because of our mission which inspires and enriches.

What We Do

OCEAN delivers conservation based technical training, professional development, education, assistance, and networking opportunities to 150+ conservation district employees in Oregon. CONNECT is OCEAN's main endeavor and provides attendees with technical training built around the feedback received from the attendees themselves. It provides a depth of training that was previously unavailable to district employees on a statewide scale.

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Portland/Salem Metro Representative

East Multnomah SWCD

VICE PRESIDENT

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Southern Oregon Representative

Jackson SWCD

SECRETARY

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TREASURER

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Umatilla County SWCD

Herb Winters

Columbia Plateau Representative

Gilliam County SWCD

Scott Susi

Eastern At-large Representative C

Wasco SWCD

Cathy McQueeney

Western At-large Representative A

Clackamas SWCD

Jason Faucera

Western At-large Representative B

Clackamas SWCD

THE VIRTUAL CONFERENCE

Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network's (OCEAN) 2021 Virtual Conference will be held on May 11-13.

This three-day, multi-disciplinary conference will bring together

- ✓ local, state, and federal decision-makers,
- ✓ support organizations,
- ✓ professionals from Watershed Councils,
- ✓ Conservation Districts,
- ✓ Land Trusts,
- ✓ and others who are committed to conserving our natural resources.

CONNECT 2021 comprehensive conference will provide training focused on both the technical and administrative aspects of conservation implementation.

Presentations are developed for:

- ✓ Rural and urban conservation implementation,
- ✓ Managerial and administrative function,
- ✓ Policy, and
- ✓ Education and outreach activities.

CONNECT 2021 will deliver content that is specific and relevant to current and potential conservation issues.

CONNECT 2021 allows you to connect with the brightest, most innovative conservationists and will feature:

- ✓ Live & On-Demand Presentations & Panel Discussions
- ✓ Live & On-Demand Q & A
- ✓ Virtual Exhibit Hall
- ✓ 24-Hour Virtual Network Lounge
- ✓ Much More!

Join us ...together we can advance Oregon's conservation efforts!

For more information, please visit ConnectOregon.net.



DAILY SCHEDULE - MAY 11

TRACK	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION	LENGTH
GENERAL SESSION	INFORMATION DESK EXHIBIT HALL	8:00 AM	VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL	24/7
GENERAL SESSION	ANNOUNCEMENTS GIVEAWAYS	9:00 AM	CONNECT LOUNGE LIVE	50
UPLANDS/FORESTRY/FIRE	Community Forests 101	10:00 AM	AUDITORIUM LIVE	50
ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, POLICY	Effective Board Management and Manager/board Relationships	11:00 AM	AUDITORIUM	50
CLIMATE	Agricultural Opportunities for Climate Mitigation in Oregon	11:00 AM	AUDITORIUM	50
EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION	How Can We Talk About Climate Change?	11:00 AM	AUDITORIUM	50
ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, POLICY	Introducing a DEI Program to Your Organization	11:00 AM	AUDITORIUM LIVE	80
PARTNERSHIP / COLLABORATION	The (Considerable) Obstacles to Increase Bee Habitat in Oregon	1:00 PM	AUDITORIUM	50
WATER	Clean Rivers Coalition - Using Social Marketing and a Pollutant Risk Database to Develop a Statewide Clean Water Outreach Campaign	1:00 PM	AUDITORIUM LIVE	50



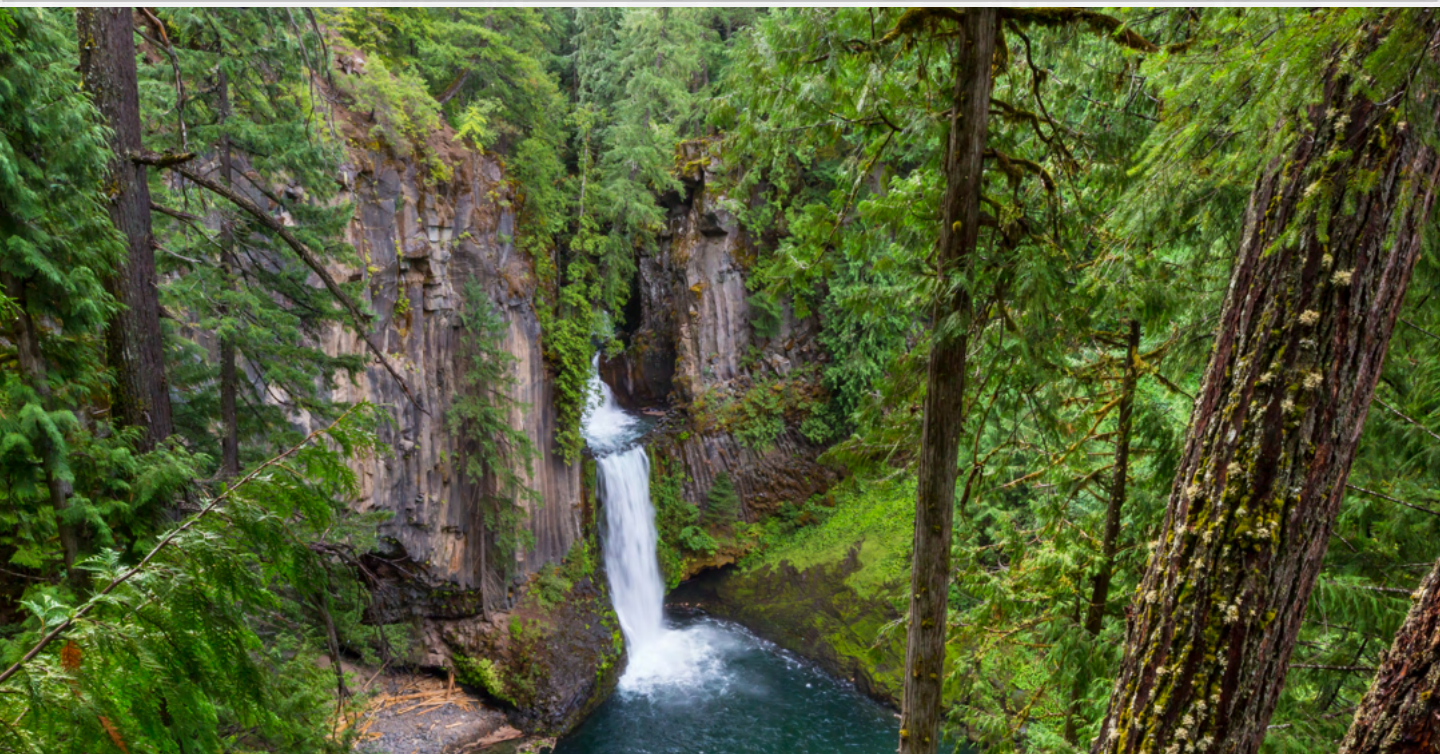
DAILY SCHEDULE - MAY 12

TRACK	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION	LENGTH
GENERAL SESSION	INFORMATION DESK EXHIBIT HALL	8:00 AM	VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL	24/7
GENERAL SESSION	WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS	9:00 AM	CONNECT LOUNGE LIVE	20
SPECIAL MEETING	OREGON SOIL HEALTH PARTNERS MEETING	10:00 AM	Live via Zoom	120
GENERAL SESSION KEYNOTE	The Role of Oregon's Natural and Working Lands in Mitigating Climate Change	10:00 AM	AUDITORIUM LIVE	50
ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, POLICY	House Bill 2437 – Agricultural Channel Maintenance: What it Means and Status Update	11:00 AM	AUDITORIUM LIVE	30
CLIMATE	Climate Toolbox	11:00 AM	AUDITORIUM LIVE	50
EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION	The Land Steward Program: a Powerful Way to Motivate Private Landowners	11:00 AM	AUDITORIUM	50
PARTNERSHIP / COLLABORATION	Strategic Implementation Areas - Improving Water Quality Through Collaboration and Partnerships	1:00 PM	AUDITORIUM	50
UPLANDS/FORESTRY/FIRE	Preemptive Management of Sagebrush Rangelands to Reduce Wildfire Risk and Improve Post-fire Recovery	1:00 PM	AUDITORIUM	50
SPECIAL MEETING	NRCS Meeting	1:00 PM	Live via Zoom	240



DAILY SCHEDULE - MAY 13

TRACK	ACTIVITY	TIME	LOCATION	LENGTH
GENERAL SESSION	INFORMATION DESK EXHIBIT HALL	8:00 AM	VIRTUAL EXHIBIT HALL	24/7
WELCOME / ANNOUNCEMENTS	ANNOUNCEMENTS GIVEAWAYS	9:00 AM	CONNECT LOUNGE LIVE	20
WATER	Assessing Oregon's Water Planning Needs	10:00 AM	AUDITORIUM LIVE	50
ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, POLICY	Invasive Invertebrate Impacts: Erosion, Pesticide Runoff, and You	11:00 AM	AUDITORIUM	80
PARTNERSHIP / COLLABORATION	NRCS Programs Overview and in depth into the Regional Conservation Partnership Program	11:00 AM	AUDITORIUM	50
PARTNERSHIP / COLLABORATION	Atlas: Strategic Prioritization of Habitat Restoration Actions Based on Empirical Data, Research Evidence, and Local Consensus	11:00 AM	AUDITORIUM	30
PARTNERSHIP / COLLABORATION	OWEB's Fip Program: What Is It? What Have We Learned? What's New? What's Next?	11:00 AM	AUDITORIUM	50
UPLANDS/FORESTRY/FIRE	Managing Post-fire, Climate-induced Vegetation Transitions in the Northwest: a Science and Management Synthesis of Existing Knowledge and Research Needs	1:00 PM	AUDITORIUM	45
WATER	Tapping Into Enhanced Funding and Partnerships in Drinking Water Source Watersheds	1:00 PM	AUDITORIUM LIVE	50



ADMINISTRATION, MANAGEMENT, POLICY

Track Leads: Cathy McSweeney, Clackamas SWCD
Lauren Bennett, NRCS

Introducing a DEI Program to Your Organization

Moderated by Cathy McQueeney, Education & Outreach Specialist, Clackamas SWCD | Panelists: Chelsea White-Brainard, Laura Masterson, Alexis Barton, Roy Iwai

Participants will hear from a panel made up of District and Watershed Council partners to learn the steps they took to start an effective DEI program, engage their staff and board, and be meaningful and relevant in their communities.

House Bill 2437 – Agricultural Channel Maintenance: What it Means and Status Update

Moderated by: Tyler Manistas, Agricultural Drainage Channel Maintenance Specialist, ODA | Panelists TBD

In this presentation, you will learn how House Bill 2437 streamlines the agricultural maintenance of dry ditches and intermittent streams (the channels), while protecting water quality and fish and wildlife. Discussion topics will include to whom it applies and where, program implementation and rule-making, and process timelines.

Effective Board Management & Manager/Board Relationships

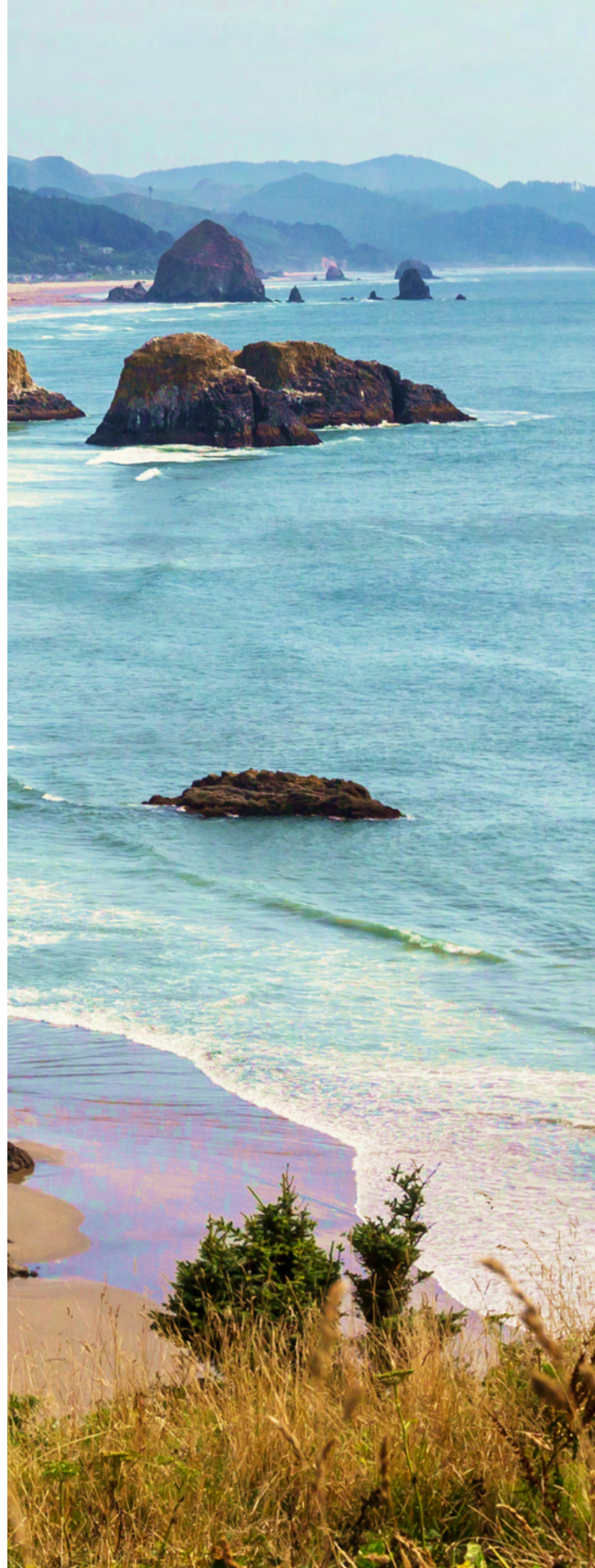
Presented by Eric Nusbaum, SWCD Operations Specialist, ODA

Half of the session will be on board/manager relations and half on effective board meetings; board members and managers will benefit. For local governments and non-profits organizations.

Invasive Invertebrate Impacts: Erosion, Pesticide Runoff, and You

Moderated by Josh Vlach, Entomologist, Oregon Department of Agriculture

An average of nine exotic species becomes established in Oregon every year, and one in seven tend to be economic pests. During this session, we'll discuss established invasive species impacts, the nature and reasons for the continuing exotic invasion, and the steps that need to be taken to slow this destructive process.





CLIMATE

Track Leads: Jeremy Baker, East Multnomah SWCD;
Andrew Brown, East Multnomah SWCD

American Farmland Trust Climate Initiative

Moderated by Jennifer Moore-Kucera, American Farmland Trust

A representative from American Farmland Trust will discuss agricultural opportunities for soil sequestration and their partnership with NRCS on high-risk farmland.

Climate Toolbox

Moderated by Katherine Hegewisch, Project Scientist, University of California Merced

This presentation will provide an overview of the Climate Toolbox, an online set of web tools for exploring past observations and future projections of the climate and hydrology of the Pacific Northwest and how they relate to agriculture, fire danger and drought.

EDUCATION & COMMUNICATION

Track Lead: Cathy McSweeney, Clackamas SWCD

How Can We Talk About Climate Change?

Moderated by Ann Schmierer, Executive Director, Wild Rivers Land Trust

This session will provide some tips and approaches to communicating complex challenges in a non-confrontational way and highlight the solutions that are at hand right now to adsorb one-fifth of the annual carbon emissions if managed for carbon sequestration.

The Land Steward Program: a Powerful Way to Motivate Private Landowners

Moderated by Rachel Werling, Land Steward Coordinator, Oregon State University Extension Jackson County

This presentation will provide an overview of how the program works through field-based training on a wide range of topics including soils, water resources, agricultural practices, riparian systems, wildlife, and wildfire. The presentation will introduce new on-line training materials that support implementation of the program by interested organizations and partners.







KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Role of Oregon's Natural and Working Lands in Mitigating Climate Change

Presented by: Dr. Rose Graves, Research Associate, Portland State University

Oregon's diverse and productive natural and working lands can help meet Oregon's emissions reduction and carbon sequestration goals, when combined with a transition to clean, renewable energy. In particular, the ways in which we manage our forest, agricultural, and riparian lands have substantial greenhouse gas reduction benefits. Restoration and protection of natural ecosystems can also play an important role in emissions reduction. This talk will focus on specific actions that can lead to decreases in emissions and increased carbon sequestration on Oregon's natural and working lands and explore the potential co-benefits from those activities.



PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

Track Lead: Debra Brimacombe, Columbia SWC

Atlas: Strategic Prioritization of Habitat Restoration Actions Based on Empirical Data, Research Evidence, and Local Consensus

Presented by David Klaplowe, Manager, Idaho and Montana Operations, Bonneville Power Administration

This presentation will discuss Atlas and how it utilizes the best available empirical biological and physical habitat data, published research evidence, and local knowledge to determine the highest priority areas and actions for habitat restoration within a group of watersheds.

OWEB's Focused Investment Partnerships Program: An Overview

Presented by Andrew Dutterer, Partnerships Coordinator, OWEB| Co-Presenter Courtney Shaff, Interim Business Operations Manager, OWEB; Kristin Walz, Restoration Coordinator, North Fork John Day WC

OWEB is aiming to host grant offerings for both the FIP and Partnership Technical Assistance (formerly Development FIP) programs that would open after the start of the new biennium in July. This presentation will cover information on these partnership-based grant offerings, discuss lessons learned in these programs thus far, and answer questions regarding the pending solicitations for both offerings.

Strategic Implementation Areas - Improving Water Quality and Native Fish Habitat Through Collaboration & Partnerships

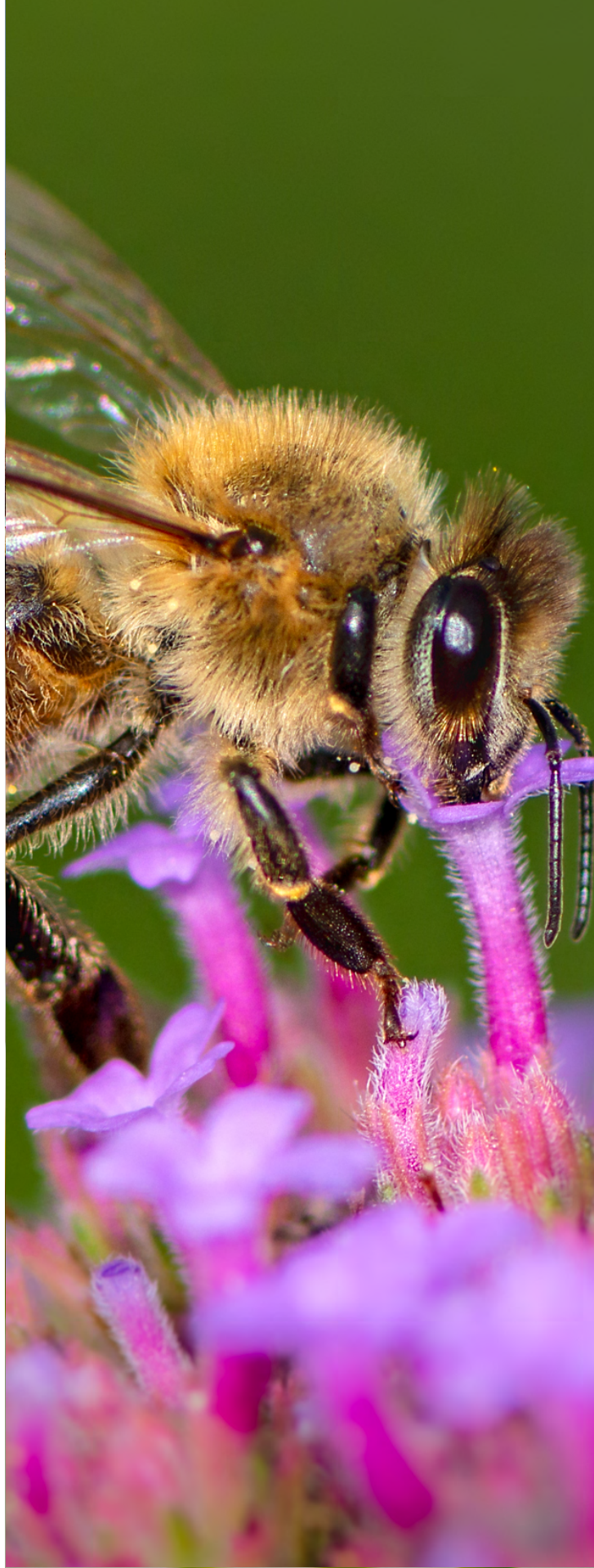
Presented by Brenda Sanchez, ODA Water Quality Policy Specialist and Strategic Implementation Areas Lead, ODA

The Oregon Department of Agriculture's (ODA) Strategic Implementation Areas (SIA) initiative concentrates technical and financial resources to agricultural areas to protect water quality and improve native fish habitat. This session focuses on bringing together and coordinating Partnerships to solve local issues effectively.

The Obstacles to Increase Bee Habitat in Oregon

Presented by Andony Melathopoulos, Assistant Professor, Oregon State University

This presentation will review the obstacles encountered in other states, Oregon's, and how the Oregon Bee Project (OSU, ODF and ODA) are looking to work with Soil and Water Conservation Districts to tackle the lowest hanging fruit.





UPLANDS/FORESTRY/FIRE

Track Lead: Kelly Timchak, Lower Rogue
Watershed Council

Preemptive Management of Sagebrush Rangelands to Reduce Wildfire Risk & Improve Post-fire Recovery

Presented by Dustin Johnson, OSU Rangeland Outreach Specialist – Professor, Eastern Oregon Agricultural Research Center – Burns

Wildfire is one of the primary threats to the sagebrush ecosystem. Participants will learn what is known about the relationship between fuels and fire risk/outcomes in sagebrush rangelands. Attendees will also hear about ongoing collaborative research efforts related to preemptive management of rangeland fuels and be introduced to a management framework that can be used to organize and interpret information about variable rangeland fuels conditions in support of an adaptive decision-making process.

Community Forests 101

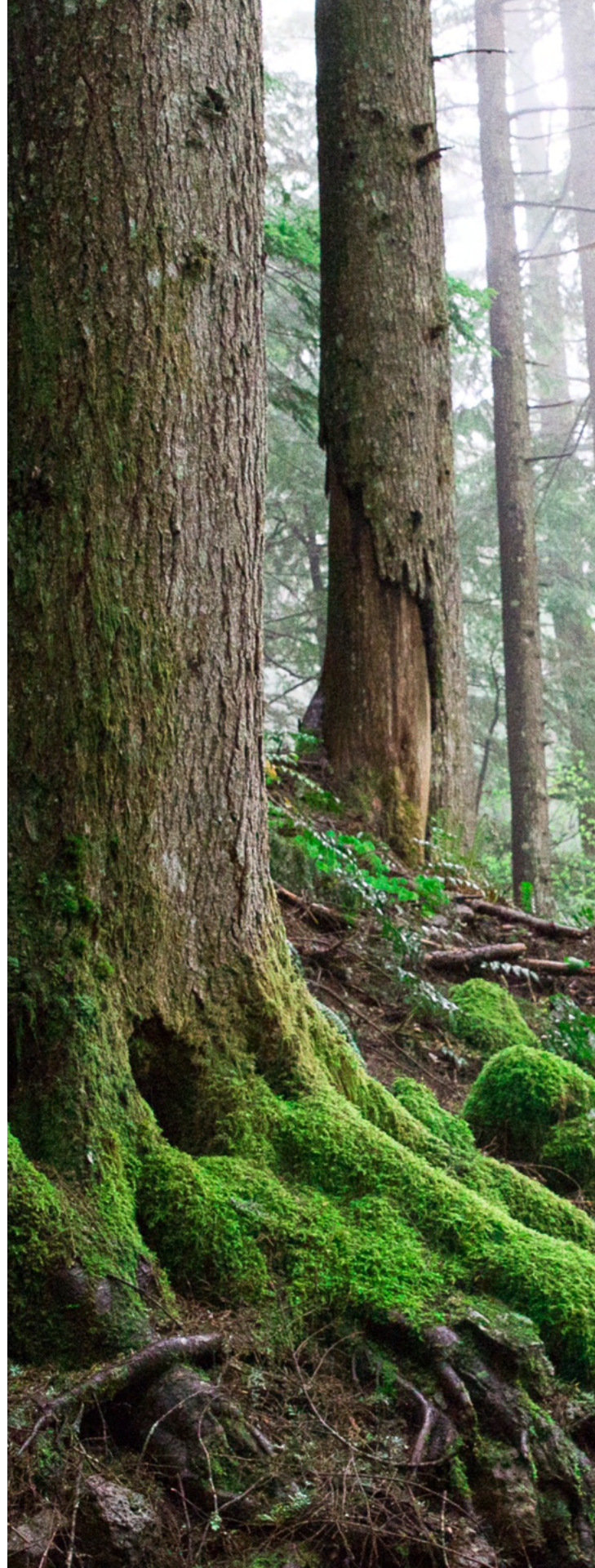
Presented by Kaola Swanson, Forest Program Director, Sustainable Northwest | Co-Presenter Ben Dair Rothfuss, Senior Conservation Finance Manager, Sustainable NW

Community Forests are an increasingly popular governance structure for working timberlands owned by a local community-based organization or government for the benefit of the community. This presentation will describe notable projects from the Pacific Northwest region and share success stories.

Managing Post-Fire, Climate-Induced Vegetation Transitions in the Northwest: A Science and Management Synthesis of Existing Knowledge and Research Needs

Presented by Mary Ann Rozance, Postdoctoral Fellow, NW Climate Impacts Group | Co-Presenters Dr. Meade Krosby, Northwest Climate Adaptation Science Center, University of Washington, Dr. Kimberley Davis, W.A. Franke College of Forestry & Conservation University of Montana

This presentation will review current knowledge and practice around the emerging climate impact of post-fire vegetation transitions in the Northwest. This synthesis is the result of a working group process that convened natural resource managers and scientists from Northwest Tribes, universities, the non-profit and private sectors, and federal, state and local governments to collaboratively review what is currently known (and unknown) about managing climate-driven, post-fire vegetation transitions in the Northwest.





WATER

Track Lead: Miranda Gray, Curry Watersheds Partnership

Clean Rivers Coalition - Using Social Marketing and a Pollutant Risk Database to Develop a Statewide Clean Water Outreach Campaign

Presented by Alix Danielsen, Restoration & Outreach Project Manager, Hood River Watershed Group | Co-Presenter Roy Iwai, Water Resources Specialist, Multnomah County

Learn about the Clean Rivers Coalition (CRC) pollutant risk database, how CBSM methodology is used to craft effective outreach, and how you can benefit from the CRC campaign.

Tapping into Enhanced Funding and Partnerships in Drinking Water Source Watersheds

Presented by Julie Harvey, Drinking Water Protection Coordinator, Oregon DEQ | Panelists: Michelle Smith, Water Project Manager, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts

In this session, we will share tools to inform community-led discussions on groundwater and surface water protection and restoration which includes opportunities for land purchase or conservation easements. Highlights will include an overview of Oregon's Updated Source Water Assessments and Resource Guides and information on how to access funding from federal partners at USFS, BLM, EPA, and NRCS through the Drinking Water Providers Partnership and National Water Quality Initiative.

Oregon's Water Future Needs You

Moderated by Steven Parrett, Planning Coordinator, Oregon Water Resources Department | Co-Presenter Harmony Burright, Oregon Water Resources Department

If you want to be a part of Oregon's water future, this session is for you! The Oregon Water Resources Department partnered with four places across the state as they learned about their water conditions, collectively envisioned a shared water future, and determined the steps needed to realize that vision. As the groups transition from learning to planning to action, we are eager to share what we have learned and engage new voices as we design the future of state supported water planning and implementation.

