

Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network

Summer 2022 Newsletter

New OCEAN Board Member & Contractors

Hello Conservation Colleagues!

On June 16th, the Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network held its Annual Meeting and elections of area representatives. The following Area



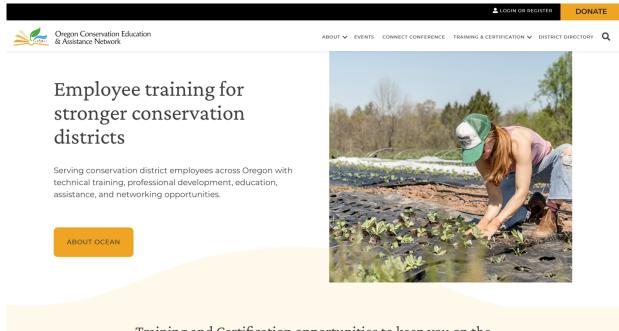
Representative Positions were up for election & we re-elected: Columbia Plateau Representative represented by Herb Winters (Gillam County SWCD), Portland/Salem Metro represented by Jeremy Baker (East Multhomah SWCD), Western At-Large Representative represented by Cathy McQueeney (Clackamas SWCD), and Western At-Large Representative C represented by Kelly Dawes (Tualatin SWCD). Victoria Fischella (Upper Willamette SWCD) was nominated and elected last year to be our Northwest Oregon Representative and we are excited to have her on the board serving again this year. Deric Carson

Photo Credit: Eastern Oregon River Outfitters. (Union SWCD) was nominated and elected to be the new Eastern At-Large Rep. A on the OCEAN board which we are very excited about!

Karelia Ver Eecke and Rikki Heath presented the strengths of the Southern Oregon Regional Envirothon, Oregon Envirothon, and the importance of building greater support from and within Oregon's Conservation Districts. The pdf version of the presentation can be viewed by clicking <u>here</u>. OCEAN also has two contractors on board, Jason Faucera with Clackamas SCWD and Alexandria Scott who will be reaching out to Districts about different informational matters on behalf of OCEAN in the coming months.

Alexandria can be reached via email at <u>support@oceanconnect.org</u> and Jason can be reached via email at <u>programs@oceanconnect.org</u>.

Launch of New OCEAN Website



Training and Certification opportunities to keep you on the cutting edge of conservation:

We are excited to announce the launch of our new website! We have added some additional resources to this new site that we hope you will check out! These new resources include an <u>Events page</u>, an <u>SWCD Training and</u> <u>Certification</u> page and an <u>NRCS Training and Certification</u> page. The District Directory has been transitioned to our new site and we will be continuing to update district information as it is submitted to Jason Faucera (Clackamas SWCD & OCEAN Contractor). One thing Districts can be doing to assist us in these efforts is to thoroughly read and send all of the information that is being asked for in this new Directory update to minimize additional communications and get us up to date faster on our beautiful new site!

CONNECT+ Conference 2022 Registration Now Open



Oregon Conservation Education & Assistance Network CONNECT+ SEASIDE CONVENTION CENTER SEPTEMBER 6-8, 2022 A HYBRID CONFERENCE

Held in the spring since 2009, and administered by OCEAN since 2012, **CONNECT** provides training focused on both the technical and administrative aspects of conservation implementation. Classes are developed for rural and urban conservation implementation, managerial and administrative function, policy, and for education and outreach activities, delivering content that is specific and relevant to current conservation issues. This year's event will be hybrid and held September 6th - 8th at the Seaside Convention Center. Virtual and in-person registration is now open at <u>https://www.connectoregon.net/register</u>! If you are interested in being a sponsor or exhibitor, <u>contact us</u>.

NRCS Partner Success Stories

Through an NRCS cooperative agreement OCEAN and the Natural Resources Conservation Service have partnered together to share success stories about Oregon farmers and ranchers who are embracing voluntary conservation to protect the natural resources on their



Photo Credit: Central Oregon Veteran's Ranch

land. The first success story we partnered up with NRCS was about the <u>Central Oregon Veterans Ranch</u> (COVR) and the amazing work they are doing with our veterans in Central Oregon. To read the full NRCS success story about this working ranch that restores a sense of purpose to veterans of all ages <u>click here</u>. This is the first of many success stories we will be working to tell with NRCS.

Staff Changes

The following employees have been hired in the last year, for future newsletters we will keep this section updated using the District Directory on our website. If your District has staff changes, please let us know so we have the most up to date information for your District.

| Employee | Position | District/Organization |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Stutzman, Karin | Soil Water Conservation Program Lead | Oregon Department of Agriculture |
| Sanchez, Brenda | District Manager | Marion SWCD |
| Mancillas, Tiffany | Urban Lands Education & Outreach Coordinator | East Multnomah SWCD |
| Boyt, Nayt | Outreach and Media Specialist | Upper Willamette SWCD |
| Garthwaite, Katie | Watershed Coordinator | Gilliam County SWCD |
| Francis, Whitney | Administrative Assistant | Polk SWCD |
| Fernandez, Asianna | Executive Assistant | East Multnomah SWCD |
| Keirstead, Heath | Communications & Education Specialist | Marion SWCD |

| Herb, Delani | Natural Areas Conservation Planner | Marion SWCD |
|--------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Nelson, Heather | Grants Program Manager | East Multnomah SWCD |
| Schwenk, Sasha | Operations Admin | East Multnomah SWCD |
| Beebe, Anna | Conservation Specialist | Clackamas SWCD |
| Pineda, Becky | Water Quality Conservation Planner | Marion SWCD |
| Neil, Morgan | Outreach Coordinator | Polk SWCD |
| Dietz, Daniel | Conservation Technician | Upper Willamette SWCD |
| Peterson, Kristina | Education & Outreach Specialist | Tualatin SWCD |
| Lovell, Adriana | Education & Outreach Specialist | Tualatin SWCD |
| Zuber, Emma | Field/Office Assistant | Deschutes SWCD |
| Owens, Leslie | Administrative Assistant | Upper Willamette SWCD |
| Filbin, Samantha | NRCS Liaison/Office Assistant | Wasco County SWCD |
| Goodell, Daniel | Conservation Technician I | Wheeler SWCD |
| White, Sasha | Restoration Specialist | Upper Willamette SWCD |
| Shih, Jennifer | Grants & Enrollment Specialist | Tualatin SWCD |

| Fischella, Victoria | Conservation Technician | Upper Willamette SWCD |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Cloutier, Suzi | Conservation Specialist | Clackamas SWCD |