



CONSERVATION TOOLBOX

Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan

2	CONTENTS	
3	Why have a Conservation Toolbox?.....	5
4	Landscape Scale Conservation in Oregon.....	7
5	Urban Conservation.....	7
6	Rural Conservation	8
7	The Importance of Landscape-Scale Conservation	8
8	The Importance of Diversity in Conservation.....	9
9	Who is this Conservation Toolbox for?	10
10	Actions by Urban and Suburban Oregonians	11
11	Oregon’s Urban and Suburban Landscape.....	11
12	Around the Home.....	11
13	<i>Creating backyard habitat</i>	11
14	<i>Managing backyard chemical pollutants</i>	13
15	<i>Reducing light pollution</i>	13
16	<i>Conserving water</i>	14
17	<i>Retrofitting buildings</i>	14
18	<i>Keeping cats indoors</i>	15
19	In the Neighborhood.....	15
20	<i>Participating in or leading a collaborative stewardship group</i>	15
21	<i>Reducing human-wildlife conflict</i>	16
22	<i>Attending a local education program</i>	18
23	At the Watershed	19
24	Actions by Rural Oregonians	20
25	Oregon’s Rural Landscape	20
26	Around the Home.....	20
27	<i>Keeping cats indoors</i>	21
28	<i>Reducing light pollution</i>	21
29	<i>Preventing window strikes</i>	21
30	<i>Managing wildlife in and around the home</i>	22

31	<i>Keeping garbage and other wildlife attractants secure.....</i>	23
32	On the Land.....	23
33	<i>Support for landowners and land managers</i>	24
34	<i>Adopting Best Management Practices.....</i>	24
35	<i>Reducing chemical pollutants.....</i>	25
36	<i>Water conservation and stewardship.....</i>	25
37	<i>Creating defensible space</i>	26
38	<i>Managing invasive species.....</i>	26
39	<i>Removing barriers</i>	27
40	<i>Observing and reporting.....</i>	27
41	<i>Participating in or leading a collaborative stewardship group</i>	27
42	At the Watershed	28
43	Actions by all Oregonians at the Watershed Scale	29
44	<i>Recreating responsibly</i>	30
45	<i>Engaging in community science</i>	31
46	<i>Volunteering for a local conservation, fishing, or hunting organization</i>	32
47	<i>Leaving wildlife wild.....</i>	33
48	Goals and Actions for State, Local, Tribal, and Federal Governments, NonProfits, and	
49	Community-Based Organizations to Engage all Oregonians	33
50	Oregon’s Conservation Partners.....	33
51	Conducting Outreach, Engagement, and Education to and for all Oregonians	35
52	Goal 1: Improve Coordination, Strategic Implementation, and Evaluation of Conservation	
53	Education and Outreach in Oregon	36
54	Goal 2: Promote Outdoor Opportunities related to the Oregon SWAP	38
55	<i>Action 2.1. Explore joint outdoor recreation marketing and market research</i>	
56	<i>opportunities</i>	38
57	<i>Action 2.2 Build on existing wildlife-watching programs.....</i>	39
58	<i>Action 2.3 Provide information on responsible recreation</i>	39
59	Providing Technical Guidance to Oregonians for Voluntary Conservation Actions	39

60	Goal 3: Make it easier for landowners and land managers to find assistance on	
61	conservation projects.	40
62	<i>Action 3.1 Expand technical assistance and site-specific restoration information for</i>	
63	<i>landowners and land managers. Technical support services include information to</i>	
64	<i>help evaluate habitat, information about best management practices, and monitoring.</i>	
65	40
66	<i>Action 3.2 Build capacity among organizations to provide the technical expertise</i>	
67	<i>described in the above action item.</i>	40
68	Goal 4: Help landowners and land managers plan and prioritize conservation actions on	
69	their properties, evaluate results, and build long-term relationships to help them achieve	
70	their goals.	41
71	<i>Action 4.1. Help landowners and land managers develop conservation plans that</i>	
72	<i>stress multi-year solutions, noting which conservation needs are most pressing.</i>	41
73	<i>Action 4.2. Improve data management, coordination, and sharing between</i>	
74	<i>conservation partners to support landowner-initiated conservation actions.</i>	41
75	Goal 5: Provide information about financial incentives for conservation projects.....	42
76	<i>Action 5.1. Provide information about how conservation projects can enhance</i>	
77	<i>property values. Provide information about grants, cost sharing programs, property tax</i>	
78	<i>deferral, and conservation easements.</i>	42
79	<i>Action 5.2. Encourage state agencies and organizations serving landowners and land</i>	
80	<i>managers to recognize and support the conservation value of working landscapes. ...</i>	43
81	Resources: Voluntary Conservation Programs	44
82	State Voluntary Conservation Programs	44
83	ODFW-administered Programs	44
84	<i>ODFW Grant Programs</i>	44
85	<i>ODFW Tax Incentive Programs</i>	46
86	Other State Agency Conservation Programs	47
87	Federal Conservation Programs in Oregon	49
88	<i>U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Programs</i>	49
89	<i>Farm Bill Programs</i>	51
90	<i>Forest Legacy Program</i>	53
91	<i>Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Program</i>	54

92	<i>NOAA Fisheries</i>	54
93	Local Government, Private, and Non-Profit Conservation Programs	54
94	<i>Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts</i>	54
95	<i>Local Watershed Councils or Groups</i>	55
96	<i>Land Trusts</i>	55
97	<i>Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership</i>	55
98	<i>Oregon Wildlife Foundation</i>	56
99	<i>Habitat Joint Ventures</i>	56
100	<i>Species-focused Conservation Groups</i>	56
101	<i>Forest Conservation Groups</i>	59
102	<i>Bonneville Environmental Foundation</i>	60
103	<i>Sustainable Northwest</i>	60
104		
105		

WHY HAVE A CONSERVATION TOOLBOX?

Across Oregon, motivated community members are removing invasive species, replacing culverts, restoring wetlands, establishing native plants, and taking large and small actions to enhance habitat for fish and wildlife. Individuals living, visiting, or recreating across Oregon, from urban centers to the most remote wilderness parts of the state, can all take action to benefit Species of Greatest Conservation Need and Key Habitats. Connecting people in Oregon to nature and helping Oregonians find their role in conservation is critical to the success of the State Wildlife Action Plan. Wildlife and habitat conservation is essential for the health of our planet and all living things, including humans: healthy wildlife and ecosystems provide the clean air, water, and food we all depend on. To be successful, conservation can't be left to a few experts or organizations—it requires support and engagement from communities throughout the state.

However, a number of challenges slow progress toward conservation success, including access to information. Individuals need to assess which aspects of a project on their own land or in their community they can do themselves, which aspects require assistance, and whom to ask for assistance.

Some challenges that a motivated individual might encounter in taking voluntary conservation action on their own land or in their community include:

- Finding information relevant to a project
- Recognizing ways to create better habitat
- Setting priorities among several conservation needs
- Obtaining permits, particularly for projects involving streams, lakes, and wetlands
- Navigating zoning restrictions and complex habitat tax deferral programs
- Selecting the appropriate plants and resources for a particular site
- Reducing opportunities for invasive species to take hold
- Accessing labor, equipment, and materials to carry out a project
- Covering the costs of a conservation project

In addition to participating in on-the-ground projects, all Oregonians and visitors can take small actions to benefit fish, wildlife, and their habitats. These small actions, including everyday decisions about what to buy and what to do, can have large impacts on wildlife. Access to information on these [LINK Small Actions] can help protect wildlife and address [LINK Key Conservation Issues] and can support individuals who are interested in taking the first step towards being an active partner in conservation.

Expanding public awareness of the importance of conservation is foundational to the success of the SWAP. Effective conservation outreach requires diverse perspectives, yet some communities have been unable or limited in capacity to contribute due to limited time, funding, or other resources. Established conservation partners continue to shape the conversation, while other voices remain underrepresented, reinforcing an echo chamber in conservation spaces. Without adequate funding or compensation for time spent reviewing outreach materials or planning documents, broader engagement and meaningful review are difficult to achieve, limiting progress. Expanding participation strengthens conservation efforts and leads to better-informed decisions for Oregon's natural resources.

The goal of this Toolbox is to support all people in Oregon interested in taking voluntary actions to help steward fish, wildlife, and their habitats in line with the Oregon State Wildlife Action Plan by providing information, resources, and knowledge of where to ask for assistance. Many organizations exist in Oregon to support individuals who are interested in conservation in their own backyard, neighborhood, community, watershed, or private property, and can help provide guidance on how to balance fish and wildlife stewardship with their own needs on the landscape. If you're not sure where to start, please reach out to your local ODFW office for support getting directed to the right group.

LANDSCAPE SCALE CONSERVATION IN OREGON

Oregon is an intersection of landscapes, cultures, and communities. From its dramatic oceans and lush forests to high desert plateaus and urban centers, Oregon offers something for everyone. Across the landscape, people share a commitment to keep Oregon a place where people and wildlife thrive. They are working to steward Oregon's ecosystems to restore and preserve Oregon's vibrant habitats for fish, wildlife, and people. Landscape-scale conservation recognizes the importance of large, interconnected land- and seascapes to maintaining biodiversity, and considers the needs of wildlife, ecological processes, and human communities holistically to achieve benefits for both the environment and people.

Oregon's ocean, geology, soil, and climate give rise to an extraordinary variety of species and habitats. The land and ocean also sustain communities through agriculture, mariculture, commercial fishing, shipping, timber, ranching, outdoor recreation, and industry. Whether you're hiking in the forest, fishing for salmon in the ocean or a river, or enjoying a city park, the health of Oregon's natural systems enhances every experience.

Urban and rural landscapes alike hold rich potential for wildlife and people. Even within city boundaries, Oregon hosts oak woodlands, grasslands, riparian areas, and forests that support everything from migrating salmon to songbirds and pollinators. The Columbia and Willamette Rivers, lifelines for both fish and people, flow through our biggest cities, connecting natural systems with daily life.

However, there are significant challenges to maintaining Oregon's fish and wildlife populations and their habitats. Expanding urbanization, infrastructure, and intensive land use are fragmenting habitats and reducing the capacity of ecosystems to provide the services that define Oregon's history, culture, and economy. While not all land conversion results in habitat loss, construction, road development, and river alteration can isolate fish and wildlife habitats and reduce biodiversity. Across the landscape, all kinds of people are in unique positions to contribute to conservation in Oregon by leveraging their specific situations and abilities from Oregon's bustling cities to its awe-inspiring natural and working lands and waters.

Urban Conservation

Urban areas, while often seen as barriers to conservation, hold untapped potential. These spaces are mosaics of both built environments and natural habitat. With smart planning

and inclusive engagement, urban landscapes can be transformed into functional habitats that serve both people and wildlife—places where conservation and community meet.

Many of Oregon’s cities, like Portland, Bend, and Eugene, have made strong strides in protecting fish and wildlife through parks, greenspaces, and thoughtful land use planning. As an example, Portland is recognized nationally for its urban natural resource planning. These efforts not only support habitat and connectivity but also help connect people with nature, fostering greater awareness and support for conservation.

Many different habitats are found in urban areas, including oak woodlands and savannas, urban wetlands, native grasslands and sagebrush, bottomland hardwood forests, and coniferous forests. Urban rivers, streams, wetlands, and the surrounding areas support salmon and trout as well as other native fish, and a host of amphibians, reptiles, mammals, birds, and invertebrates.

Rural Conservation

Oregon’s natural and working lands and waters, spanning forests, rangelands, wetlands, farmlands, estuaries, and nearshore waters, form the foundation of the state’s ecological health, cultural identity, and rural economy. These lands and waters support biodiversity, regulate water and air quality, store carbon, and provide food, lumber, and habitat. They are home to diverse ecosystems such as sagebrush steppe, oak savannah, and coastal estuaries, which sustain fish and wildlife populations and serve as critical buffers against the impacts of climate change. Working lands, including farms and ranches, are often managed in ways that support conservation values while contributing to local economies and food systems. Natural and working lands and waters represent vital spaces that must be protected and stewarded to maintain Oregon’s resilience and quality of life for future generations.

The Importance of Landscape-Scale Conservation

Landscape-scale conservation is essential for maintaining the ecological function and connectivity of Oregon’s diverse systems, made all the more vital by the workload that is often placed on our working lands. Conservation at this scale enables habitat corridors, supports wide-ranging species, and improves ecosystem services such as pollination, water infiltration, and wildfire resistance. It also ensures that natural processes, like fire regimes and water movement, operate within functioning ecological boundaries, rather than being fragmented by jurisdictional or land use divisions. Coordinated, landscape-scale efforts help build climate resilience by connecting intact habitats, supporting species

225 adaptation, supporting soil health, and enabling landowners and communities to
226 implement conservation strategies that benefit both the environment and the economy.
227 Protecting Oregon’s natural and working lands through a landscape-scale lens is critical to
228 sustaining the state’s ecological integrity, cultural heritage, and climate goals.

229 **The Importance of Diversity in Conservation**

230 Across the landscape, Oregon is becoming increasingly culturally, racially, and ethnically
231 diverse. To truly care for Oregon’s lands and waters, conservation efforts must reflect and
232 include all communities. This means addressing the unequal distribution of environmental
233 burdens and ensuring that all people have access to the outdoors and the benefits like
234 clean water and air it provides.

235 More than 200 years of settler colonialism and systemic racism have shaped who has
236 access to Oregon’s environmental resources. Today, we have the opportunity, and
237 responsibility, to change that. Environmental justice must be central to our conservation
238 efforts, ensuring that everyone feels a sense of belonging and stewardship in Oregon’s
239 natural spaces.

240 Protecting and restoring Oregon’s fish, wildlife, invertebrates, plants and their habitats is
241 essential to maintaining healthy ecosystems and preserving the natural systems that
242 support all Oregonians.

243

WHO IS THIS CONSERVATION TOOLBOX FOR?

If you are reading this Toolbox, you probably are already *motivated* to take action that supports fish, wildlife and their habitats. Maybe because you care about species and ecosystems in their own right, or maybe because of the benefits people derive from healthy ecosystems and the fish and wildlife that live in them – benefits that include fishing, hunting, clean water, time in nature to recharge alone or with friends and family, and many, many more.

You may be looking to this Toolbox to build your *capability* to take conservation action, including gaining knowledge about what actions can be helpful, or gaining skills in taking those actions. Or you may be looking to find out more about *opportunities* to act – how to take advantage of your unique situation and find actions that work for you, your neighborhood or community, and for the environment around you.

We have organized this Toolbox into four sections:

1. Actions by Urban and Suburban Oregonians
2. Actions by Rural Oregonians
3. Goals and Actions for State and Local Governments, Nonprofits and Community-Based Organizations to Engage All Oregonians
4. Resources for voluntary conservation programs

Different groups of people may find different sections more useful. Feel free to browse as your interest strikes you, or to start with the section most aligned with where you live, recreate, or work. If you have any questions or want to dive deeper, please reach out to your local biologist.

ACTIONS BY URBAN AND SUBURBAN OREGONIANS

Oregon's Urban and Suburban Landscape

Oregon's urban and suburban areas cover only around six percent of the state, but two out of three Oregonians live in metropolitan areas (65%, U.S. Census Bureau). *Urban areas* typically have high population densities and extensive infrastructure development. They often have limited green space and are dominated by impervious surfaces like roads, sidewalks, and buildings. *Suburban areas* are residential areas situated on the outskirts of cities, generally with lower human population densities than urban cores, more single-family homes, and may have greater access to green space. Exurban areas are located even farther from city centers than suburbs and are often semi-rural, surrounded by farms, ranches, forests, and public lands.

People who live in and around cities and towns have significant opportunities to contribute to restoration and stewardship activities in three different spheres of life:

1. **Backyard** - Planting native species, reducing pesticide and rodenticide use, water conservation and waterwise practices, creating wildlife habitat with features like bat boxes, snags and brush piles, and securing garbage, food, and other items that attract animals to keep wildlife safe.
2. **Neighborhood** - Collaborating with community members to live responsibly with wildlife, leaving wildlife wild, planting native species in public spaces like parks or school yards, and hosting workshops or events about supporting native species and habitats.
3. **Watershed** - Working with local governments, nonprofits or watershed councils to support restoration projects, sharing information with the community about where they live, contributing to discussions on city planning to protect wildlife habitat, and encouraging schools to engage in education about conservation and stewardship of Oregon's fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

AROUND THE HOME

Actions you take in your own home can play a role in effective landscape conservation and reducing impacts of [LINK] Key Conservation Issues, even in the most urban areas of the state.

Creating backyard habitat

Residents in urban and suburban areas can support wildlife in their own backyard by planting native gardens [LINK <https://gardenforwildlife.com/pages/planting-native>] and

landscaping to create habitat for native species. Beyond planting native plant species, there are many other actions that can help create backyard habitat, including selectively keeping leaves and leaf piles in place in the fall and winter rather than raking, reducing use of pesticides, leaving plant stems for cavity nesting bees, and leaving messy spaces in your landscaping, like brush piles, to allow insects to thrive.

Planting native plants helps with yard-scale climate adaptation: native plants use less water than traditional landscaping [LINK to Water Quality and Quantity KCI], do not rely on the use of pesticides and insecticides, and can help with storm-water runoff [LINK to Pollution KCI]. They also provide food for native species, cover for animals rearing their young, and can create connectivity between urban green spaces and nearby habitats so wildlife can move more freely [LINK to Barriers to Animal Movement KCI]. Gardening with native plants can also benefit humans – native plants can be beautiful, invite native bumblebees, butterflies, and hummingbirds into the yard, and be a source of relaxation and improved mental health.

Selecting the plants appropriate to your own backyard is very local to where you are in the state. Many different online resources can get you started, or you can consult with a local nursery or extension service to help develop your planting guide. Resources to get started gardening for wildlife:

- [LINK to Bird Alliance of Oregon/Columbia Land Trust Backyard Habitat Certification Program]
- [LINK to Bee Safe Nursery Plants <https://xerces.org/pesticides/bee-safe-nursery-plants>]
- [LINK to Garden for Wildlife] <https://gardenforwildlife.com/pages/planting-native>
- [LINK to GardenSmart Oregon] <https://www.nature.org/media/oregon/gardensmart-rev-2010.pdf> GardenSmart Oregon
- [LINK to BCI planting guide for bats, Portland OR] <https://www.batcon.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/02/Portland-Oregon-plants.jpg>
- [LINK to NW Steelheaders Native Plant Guide] <https://nwsteelheaders.org/garden-for-wildlife/#:~:text=Utilizing%20native%20plants%20in%20your,and%20towns%20into%20the%20greater>
- [LINK to WAFWA monarch butterfly gardening handout] <https://wafwa.org/wpdm-package/support-monarch-habitat/>
- [LINK to NWF Backyard Certification] <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1cPc5HhifxU2KlKuvwz1ZfcLDTSZnWVvO/view>
- [LINK to Forestry for the Birds in Western Oregon, Forest Stewards Guild] <https://foreststewardsguild.org/forestry-for-the-birds-in-western-oregon/>

337

338 **Managing backyard chemical pollutants**

339 Urban and suburban environments can contribute to pollution in a variety of ways,
340 including stormwater runoff, vehicle emissions, lawn chemicals, and household waste.
341 Rainfall can wash oil, pesticides, fertilizers, and other pollutants into local waterways,
342 harming native wildlife and aquatic habitats. Individuals can reduce these impacts by using
343 fewer or no synthetic fertilizers, herbicides, or pesticides, properly disposing of household
344 chemicals, maintaining vehicles to prevent leaks, and picking up pet waste. Individuals can
345 also install rain gardens or permeable pavement to absorb and filter stormwater and
346 redirect downspouts towards lawns or gardens instead of driveways or other paved
347 surfaces, so that water has a chance to soak into the ground. Choosing native plants for
348 landscaping helps reduce the need for irrigation and chemical inputs, while also
349 supporting local pollinators and wildlife. By taking these small but meaningful actions,
350 urban and suburban Oregonians can play a direct role in improving air and water quality
351 across the state.

352 **Reducing light pollution**

353 In cities and towns, excess artificial lighting disrupts sleep, increases stress, and affects
354 human health. Bright streetlights and commercial signage can also confuse wildlife and
355 waste energy [LINK to Xerces [https://xerces.org/blog/to-protect-pollinators-we-need-to-](https://xerces.org/blog/to-protect-pollinators-we-need-to-fight-light-pollution)
356 [fight-light-pollution](https://xerces.org/blog/to-protect-pollinators-we-need-to-fight-light-pollution)]. Nocturnal migrants like songbirds may be attracted to lights and get
357 entrapped, circling the lit area and wasting energy reserves, impacting their ability to reach
358 their destination [LINK Pollution KCI]. Individuals, businesses, and organizations can all
359 help reduce light pollution. Keep lights low, mounting fixtures as low as possible and using
360 the lowest wattage necessary. Use longer wavelength light sources such as amber, orange,
361 or red LEDs. Use shielded fixtures that help keep light from being visible at a distance or
362 from above. Turn off unnecessary lights and opt for motion sensors where artificial lighting
363 is absolutely required. For more information:

- 364 • [LINK Light pollution harms wildlife and ecosystems]
365 <https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/effects/wildlife-ecosystems/>
- 366 • [LINK Solutions to Light Pollution] [https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-](https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/light-pollution-solutions/)
367 [pollution/light-pollution-solutions/](https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/light-pollution-solutions/)
- 368 • [LINK Bird Alliance of Oregon's Lights Out program]
369 [https://birdallianceoregon.org/our-work/protect/habitat-and-](https://birdallianceoregon.org/our-work/protect/habitat-and-wildlife/urban/reducing-wildlife-hazards/bird-safe-building/lights-out/)
370 [wildlife/urban/reducing-wildlife-hazards/bird-safe-building/lights-out/](https://birdallianceoregon.org/our-work/protect/habitat-and-wildlife/urban/reducing-wildlife-hazards/bird-safe-building/lights-out/).

371

372 **Conserving water**

373 In cities and suburbs, small changes at home can make a big difference for rivers,
374 wetlands, and wildlife. Choose native or drought-tolerant plants to reduce outdoor
375 watering, fix leaks promptly, and install water-efficient appliances. Collecting rainwater or
376 directing roof runoff into rain gardens helps recharge groundwater and can reduce pollution
377 in streams. Watering in the early morning or late evening helps prevent evaporation, and
378 using mulch around plants and garden beds helps the soil retain moisture longer, reducing
379 water needs. Consider replacing ornamental lawns with native ground cover or letting grass
380 go dormant during the summer months. These actions not only conserve water but also
381 protect fish, amphibians, and other species that depend on healthy urban watersheds.

- 382 • [LINK How you can keep our rivers healthy]
383 <https://www.portland.gov/bes/protecting-rivers-streams/help-clean-rivers>

384 **Retrofitting buildings**

385 Cities and towns are sometimes called “novel ecosystems” because they are unlike
386 habitats that wildlife have lived in historically. Urban and suburban settings can serve as a
387 gauntlet of barriers to movement, as native species did not adapt to live in or navigate
388 these novel systems. However, simple modifications to buildings can have a dramatic
389 positive impact on the ability of wildlife to survive and move freely.

390 Window strikes are a common cause of injury and death for birds, especially in areas where
391 homes are near trees or other natural habitats. Birds often can’t see glass and may fly into
392 windows because of the reflection of sky or vegetation [LINK BtAM KCI]. To help prevent
393 window strikes, homeowners can make windows more visible to birds by adding decals,
394 stickers, or tape in patterns spaced two inches apart vertically and horizontally. Installing
395 screens, using external shades, or applying bird-safe window films are also effective
396 solutions. Turning off non-essential lights at night is also an effective way to reduce issues
397 with artificial light. [Link to bird-friendly toolkit
398 <https://www.fws.gov/library/collections/bird-friendly-home-toolkit>]. The Bird Alliance of
399 Oregon has a Bird-Safe Buildings program with resources for homeowners and
400 professionals [LINK [https://birdallianceoregon.org/our-work/protect/habitat-and-](https://birdallianceoregon.org/our-work/protect/habitat-and-wildlife/urban/reducing-wildlife-hazards/bird-safe-building/)
401 [wildlife/urban/reducing-wildlife-hazards/bird-safe-building/](https://birdallianceoregon.org/our-work/protect/habitat-and-wildlife/urban/reducing-wildlife-hazards/bird-safe-building/)]

In some cases, individuals may be able to add green roofs or living walls to homes and other buildings, providing habitat for insects and birds while improving insulation and stormwater control. Adding a small pond or water feature, planting a pollinator garden, and using bat boxes and birdhouses can also help wildlife adapt to urban spaces, especially in areas where native habitats have been lost.

Keeping cats indoors

Free-ranging domestic cats kill billions of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and invertebrates every year. Even when well fed, domestic cats instinctively hunt and kill wildlife. They also indirectly harm wildlife through transmission of disease, competition with native predators, and impacts to native wildlife behavior. Keeping cats indoors is also important for the health and safety of the cats. Cats let outdoors face many dangers, including traffic, parasites, poisons, aggressive animals, and even abuse by humans. Indoor cats live longer, healthier lives than cats allowed outdoors. Keeping cats indoors, or creating safe spaces like catios, helps protect birds and other wildlife while also keeping cats safe and healthy.

- [LINK to Cats Indoors, American Bird Conservancy] <https://abcbirds.org/catio-solutions-cats/>
- <https://birdallianceoregon.org/our-work/protect/habitat-and-wildlife/urban/cats-safe-at-home-campaign/>

IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

Urban greenspaces can sometimes be overlooked, but they can provide valuable habitat for native species while also providing benefits like clean air, shelter from heat, and opportunities for recreation.

Participating in or leading a collaborative stewardship group

Participation in a collaborative stewardship group can be an opportunity to learn about natural habitats near you while helping to restore or conserve them. These groups bring together diverse stakeholders, such as community members, environmental organizations, land managers, schools, and local governments, to work collectively on conservation goals. Together, they might take part in activities like habitat restoration, monitoring wildlife, improving trails, or organizing educational events. Active involvement in such a group encourages open communication, inclusive decision-making, and the integration of local knowledge with scientific expertise. By contributing time, skills, and perspectives,

participants help ensure that conservation efforts are effective, equitable, and reflective of community values. While each group focuses on the unique needs of their local area, the common goal is to protect and sustain the area for future generations while fostering a connection between the community and ecosystem.

[Spotlight/BOX] Green Lents

Green Lents, a longtime presence in outer southeast Portland, works to build an environmentally and socially resilient community through resource sharing and strong local relationships. Since 2009, the group has led environmental justice efforts in neighborhoods facing economic and environmental hardships where higher pollution, hotter temperatures, and limited green space disproportionately impact low-income, BIPOC, and immigrant residents.

Its cornerstone initiative, the Green Lents Community Tool Library, offers cost-saving resources and support. Other efforts include installing native pollinator gardens, promoting urban forestry, hosting repair and skill-sharing workshops, and engaging the community on air pollution issues. Through community-based projects like drought-resistant gardens and curbside rain gardens, Green Lents demonstrates the powerful impact of small urban habitats.

Reducing human-wildlife conflict

As cities expand and more people live close to natural areas, encounters with wildlife in urban areas like raccoons, coyotes, deer, and bears can become more frequent. These interactions can raise safety concerns for people, pets, and wildlife. Wildlife can be harmed when they become dependent on human-provided food or are perceived as threats due to misunderstood behavior. Harmful impacts to wildlife include outcomes such as increased disease prevalence, injuries due to vehicle collisions, or even attacks by unsupervised domestic cats and dogs. Reducing human-wildlife conflict requires both education and action across neighborhoods and communities.

One important step is to recognize the difference between observing wildlife and feeding or attracting them. Watching animals from a distance is generally safe, but providing food, intentionally or by accident, can be harmful. Giving wildlife access to unsecured trash, compost, pet food, or birdseed teaches them to associate people with food. This increases the risk of harmful interactions with people, raises the potential for disease transmission, and disrupts their natural diets.

Keeping food, garbage, and pet food secure and out of reach is one of the most effective ways to prevent issues with wildlife. This is especially important in towns and cities where animals are more likely to come in contact with people and become habituated – meaning they lose their natural fear or wariness of people. When animals find easy access to food sources provided by people, they learn to return regularly, which can lead to property damage, human safety risks, and unhealthy changes in wildlife behavior.

Species that are commonly involved in human-wildlife conflict vary across the state, and it is important to look to local resources for guidance on best practices to prevent human-wildlife conflict. In some areas like Ashland, bears are frequent visitors to neighborhoods, while in other urban areas like Portland, coyotes are the most commonly reported species involved in conflicts. Local guidance can help you prepare for the animals most likely to occur in your neighborhood. Broad recommendations to avoid human-wildlife conflict and prevent habituation of wild animals are applicable statewide, and can serve as a solid foundation for implementing more locally-specific guidance:

- Don't feed pets outside. Feed your pets indoors or pick up the dish after they finish.
- Secure garbage and compost. Use bins with tight-fitting lids, or secure them with a strap. Store bins in garages or sheds if possible. Avoid placing food scraps (like meat, dairy, or fruit) in uncovered compost piles.
- Remove bird feeders, or clean-up fallen birdseed regularly. Place bird feeders out of reach of other wildlife.
- Harvest fruits and vegetables as they become ripe.
- Especially in areas with bear activity, make sure trash and dumpsters are secure by using locking or screw-on lids, placing metal bars over dumpsters, or storing garbage in fully enclosed areas.
- Avoid putting trash out the night before pickup—instead, take it out as close to pickup time as possible.

These simple steps help keep wildlife safe and wild, and protect people, pets, and property.

[Spotlight/BOX] *CoyotePalooza: Living Smart with Urban Wildlife*

Coyotes can survive and even thrive in many different environments, including in cities and backyards. Coyotes are opportunistic omnivores and mainly eat rodents, fruit, and nuts but they will also consume whatever food they can find including food

500 waste, pet food, and sometimes small pets like outdoor cats. It is not unusual to see
501 coyotes in urban areas like Portland, even during the daytime.

502 As urban coyote sighting reports increase across Portland neighborhoods, local
503 non-profits, civic organizations, academic and tribal partners, and ODFW launched
504 **CoyotePalooza**, an outreach event that helps Portlanders learn how to coexist with
505 urban coyotes. Hosted by the Portland Urban Coyote Project [LINK to
506 <https://portlandcoyote.com>], ODFW, and numerous other partner organizations,
507 this annual event features interactive activities, educational booths, and community
508 science opportunities, all aimed at demystifying coyote behavior and promoting
509 coexistence.

510 **Attending a local education program**

511 Attending a local nature education program offers an opportunity to deepen your
512 understanding of the natural world in your own community. These programs provide hands-
513 on experiences that connect participants with the local habitats, wildlife, and the
514 ecological processes that sustain them. By learning about native species, watershed
515 health, and conservation challenges firsthand, you gain the knowledge and skills to
516 become an effective steward of your local environment.

517 Local education programs often emphasize the importance of cultural and historical
518 connections to the land, fostering a sense of belonging and responsibility for protecting
519 these places. They also create safe spaces for community members, including families
520 and youth, to explore nature together, build meaningful relationships, and develop a shared
521 commitment to conservation.

522 [Spotlight/BOX] People of Color Outdoors (POCO) Guardians is a nature education
523 program that offers five-day sessions for children and families focused on the Smith
524 & Bybee Wetlands and Whitaker Ponds. These areas, rich in wildlife such as
525 northwestern pond turtles, western painted turtles, beavers, and many other
526 species, hold important historical and cultural significance for BIPOC communities.
527 POCO Guardians teaches participants about keystone species, native turtles,
528 invasive species, and the vital role trees play in combating climate change. By
529 engaging with local habitats, families gain hands-on knowledge and practical ways
530 to support environmental stewardship and climate action in their communities

531 [PICTURE of POCO Guardians, P. Slaughter supplied image]

532 AT THE WATERSHED

533 At the [LINK watershed scale] is where rural, suburban, and urban Oregonians come
534 together. Actions at the watershed scale beyond your communities' boundaries, including
535 recreating, volunteering, or engaging in community science, can often be the primary way
536 that Oregonians directly interact with, observe, or impact wildlife and their habitats.

537 [Spotlight/BOX] Watershed councils play a vital role in protecting and restoring the
538 health of local rivers, streams, and ecosystems by bringing together community
539 members, landowners, scientists, and local governments to collaborate on
540 conservation efforts. These councils often lead hands-on projects such as habitat
541 restoration, invasive species removal, water quality monitoring, and education
542 programs. By participating in a watershed council, individuals gain opportunities to
543 directly contribute to meaningful environmental work, learn about local ecology,
544 and influence decisions that affect their community's natural resources. Whether
545 through volunteering, attending meetings, or helping with outreach, involvement in a
546 watershed council offers a powerful way to connect with others, make a tangible
547 impact, and become an advocate for long-term environmental stewardship.

548 For more information on actions all Oregonians (urban, suburban, rural, and frontier) and
549 visitors can take at the watershed scale on both public and private lands, see the [LINK]
550 **Actions by all Oregonians at the Watershed Scale** chapter.

ACTIONS BY RURAL OREGONIANS

OREGON'S RURAL LANDSCAPE

Oregon's natural and working rural lands comprise 94% of the state and are home to 1 in 3 Oregonians (35% of the population), including both rural and frontier landscapes. *Rural* Oregonians (33% of the population) live in rural areas that are ten or more miles from a city with 40,000 or more people. Two percent of Oregonians live in Oregon's ten *frontier* counties, where there are fewer than six people per square mile.

Oregon's rural and frontier populations have a long history of stewardship of our natural resources and have an unparalleled opportunity to influence long-term conservation of the fish, wildlife, and habitats that make Oregon beautiful. Landowners and rural residents can engage in restoration and stewardship activities around the home, on their land, and across property boundaries at the watershed scale.

Rural and frontier residents have significant potential to contribute to restoration and stewardship activities at several scales:

1. **Around the home** - Plant native species, reduce pesticide and rodenticide use, create wildlife habitat with bat boxes, and secure garbage and other attractants from wildlife.
2. **On the land** – Adopt best management practices for working lands that are compatible with both wildlife conservation and resource use, restore native habitats, remove barriers to movement, reduce catastrophic wildlife risk, and restore incised streams.
3. **Watershed** – Work with local governments, nonprofits, or watershed councils to support restoration projects, share information with the community about where they live, and encourage schools to engage in education about conservation and stewardship of Oregon's fish, wildlife, and their habitats.

AROUND THE HOME

As Oregon grows and changes, people and wildlife share the same spaces more often. Living close to wildlife can present challenges like property damage, safety risks, threats to pets and livestock, disease concerns, and nuisance issues like noise or dealing with animal droppings.

582 The good news is that many of these issues can be prevented through simple actions like
583 securing garbage and other items that attract wildlife, avoiding feeding wildlife, protecting
584 pets and livestock with secure enclosures or fencing, and wildlife-proofing your home by
585 sealing up entry points.

586 **Keeping cats indoors**

587 Free-ranging domestic cats kill billions of birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and
588 invertebrates every year. Even when well fed, domestic cats instinctively hunt and kill
589 wildlife. They also indirectly harm wildlife through transmission of disease, competition
590 with native predators, and impacts to native wildlife behavior. Outdoor cats in rural and
591 frontier areas where human settlements directly abut high quality natural habitats can be
592 especially impactful to native communities of fish and wildlife. Keeping cats indoors is also
593 important for the health and safety of the cats. Cats let outdoors face many dangers,
594 including traffic, parasites, poisons, aggressive animals, and even abuse by humans.
595 Indoor cats live longer, healthier lives than cats allowed outdoors. Keeping cats indoors, or
596 creating safe spaces like catios, helps protect birds and other wildlife while also keeping
597 cats safe and healthy.

- 598 • <https://birdallianceoregon.org/our-work/protect/habitat-and-wildlife/urban/cats-safe-at-home-campaign/>
599

600 **Reducing light pollution**

601 In rural areas, preserving natural darkness is important for wildlife and community well-
602 being. Excessive outdoor lighting from homes, farms, and roadways can disrupt natural
603 patterns of activity. Rural residents can help by using low-intensity, downward-facing lights,
604 shielding lights, using motion-sensors for areas where lights are needed, and otherwise
605 limiting nighttime lighting.

- 606 • [LINK Solutions to Light Pollution] <https://darksky.org/resources/what-is-light-pollution/light-pollution-solutions/>
607

608 **Preventing window strikes**

609 Window strikes are a common cause of injury and death for birds, especially in areas where
610 homes are near trees or other natural habitats. Birds often can't see glass and may fly into
611 windows because of the reflection of sky or vegetation [LINK BTaM KCI]. Nocturnal migrants
612 like songbirds may crash into windows at night due to light pollution [LINK Pollution KCI]. To
613 help prevent window strikes, homeowners can make windows more visible to birds by

614 adding decals, stickers, or tape in patterns spaced two inches apart vertically and
615 horizontally. Installing screens, using external shades, or applying bird-safe window films
616 are also effective solutions. Turning off non-essential lights at night is also an effective way
617 to reduce issues with artificial light at night.

618 **Managing wildlife in and around the home**

619 Sometimes wildlife finds its way into homes while seeking food, shelter, or warmth,
620 especially through open doors, vents, or small gaps in walls or roofs. Managing for these
621 unwelcome visitors around the home requires careful consideration to avoid unintended
622 harm to wildlife and pets.

623 Poisons like anticoagulant rodenticides, commonly used to control rats and mice, can
624 pose serious risks to non-target species [LINK to Pollution KCI]. These poisons can remain
625 in an animal's system long after ingestion, meaning predators or scavengers like owls,
626 hawks, foxes, and even pets that eat poisoned rodents can also be harmed or killed. Safer
627 alternatives include sealing up entry points to prevent rodent access, maintaining clean
628 yards free of food attractants, and encouraging presence of natural predators through
629 habitat-friendly practices.

630 All bats in Oregon are Species of Greatest Conservation Need, reflecting their dire
631 conservation status. However, sometimes these bats may find their way into your home,
632 and Oregonians may need guidance on how to respond. A local Wildlife Control Operator
633 [LINK to WCO list] can help you bat-proof your home outside of the pup-rearing season
634 (immobile pups (baby bats) may be present in June, July, and August and need protection),
635 or you may close up all gaps in your home >1/4" to prevent incursion when bats are not
636 present. Installing bat boxes in your yard or surrounding area as an alternative roost site
637 can also help to limit conflict. Bats can be a welcome addition to your yard or garden by
638 helping control insect populations.

639 Additional resources on living with wildlife can help guide all Oregonians trying to keep their
640 home and their local wildlife safe:

- 641 • [LINK to Bat Conservation International] [https://www.batcon.org/about-](https://www.batcon.org/about-bats/bats-in-homes-buildings/)
642 [bats/bats-in-homes-buildings/](https://www.batcon.org/about-bats/bats-in-homes-buildings/)
- 643 • [LINK to OSU Extension] [https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/living-](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/living-wildlife)
644 [wildlife](https://extension.oregonstate.edu/collection/living-wildlife)
- 645 • [LINK to ODFW Living with Wildlife] [https://myodfw.com/articles/help-oregons-](https://myodfw.com/articles/help-oregons-bats-bat-friendly-home)
646 [bats-bat-friendly-home](https://myodfw.com/articles/help-oregons-bats-bat-friendly-home)

647 **Keeping garbage and other wildlife attractants secure**

648 Securing food, garbage, and recycling is one of the most effective ways to prevent issues
649 with wildlife. When animals find easy access to trash, pet food, or other human food
650 sources, they learn to return regularly, which can lead to property damage, safety risks, and
651 unhealthy changes in their behavior. To help prevent this, feed pets indoors, or quickly
652 remove any uneaten pet food. Remove or secure any other food attractants. For example,
653 use electric fencing to protect beehives, and secure vegetable gardens and chicken coops
654 with wildlife-proof fence. Make sure trash and dumpsters are secure by using locking or
655 screw-on lids, placing metal bars over dumpsters, or storing garbage in fully enclosed
656 areas. Avoid putting trash out the night before pickup—instead, take it out as close to pick
657 up time as possible. These simple steps help keep wildlife safe and wild, and protect
658 people, pets, and property.

659 **ON THE LAND**

660 Oregon's key habitats [\[link\]](#) can be found throughout the state on public and private lands,
661 including on farmland, ranchland, and commercial forestlands. As just one example of the
662 critical importance of working lands in our state, flood irrigated pastures in Lake, Harney,
663 and Malheur counties create continentally important seasonal wetland habitats that
664 support millions of birds on migration. Oregon's landowners work to protect these
665 important habitats while also providing food, timber, and other resources.

666 Additionally, much of Oregon's coastline is rural [\[LINK to Nearshore Content section on](#)
667 [Coastal Communities\]](#). The coastal environment, including natural resources and physical
668 geography, influences where people live, work and recreate, which, in turn, affects local
669 and regional economies. There are extensive commercial operations in the nearshore
670 waters of Oregon, though the majority of the nearshore is public. Examples include
671 shellfish mariculture in estuaries, commercial harvest of clams in estuaries, and
672 commercial fisheries that occur in our nearshore waters. These waters are home to many
673 species of fish, wildlife, marine invertebrates, plants, and algae. These working waters of
674 Oregon are also where commercial shipping occurs, with goods being both imported and
675 exported from our ports.

676 Habitat restoration or conservation for working lands can range from simple actions like
677 retaining snags or removing derelict fencing all the way to complex multi-year projects that
678 require engineering design or permitting, like installing beaver dam analogs to restore
679 streams or conducting a prescribed burn to manage forests or sagebrush. With the
680 diversity of habitat types and landowner needs across the state, it takes time and effort for

681 motivated landowners and land managers to determine what action best suits their
682 property.

683 Broad information on each [LINK] Key Habitat, limiting factors affecting those habitats, and
684 recommended approaches can be found in the [LINK] Key Habitat chapter, but oftentimes
685 more local information, including local comprehensive land use [LINK Land Use Planning
686 Goal 1 Action 1.1] plans, are needed to inform an appropriate site-specific approach. Local
687 biologists, including ODFW Habitat Biologists [link to contact list], SWCDs [link],
688 watershed councils [link [https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/resources/pages/watershed-](https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/resources/pages/watershed-councils.aspx)
689 [councils.aspx](https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/resources/pages/watershed-councils.aspx)], and other local conservation agencies can provide support and guidance to
690 land managers interested in managing their lands to benefit native species.

691 **Support for landowners and land managers**

692 People own and manage land for different reasons and need a range of incentives and
693 conservation tools to complement each landowner's unique circumstances. The State
694 Wildlife Action Plan provides a summary of voluntary, non-regulatory approaches to
695 conserving fish and wildlife and recommendations to further assist willing landowners to
696 protect and restore [LINK] Key Habitats.

697 Many landowners and land managers already have plans of some kind to manage their
698 land, balancing short-, medium-, and long-term goals for habitat conservation as well as
699 business plans. A habitat conservation and management plan developed with the
700 assistance of local biologists can help achieve multiple goals simultaneously.

701 [Spotlight/BOX] The Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program
702 (WHCMP) offers a property tax incentive to private landowners who want to provide
703 wildlife habitat on their properties instead of, or in addition to, farming, growing
704 timber, or other land uses. Under the WHCMP, land receives a wildlife habitat
705 special assessment, where property taxes may be assessed at a lower value.

706 Many landowners may need assistance [LINK to Resources: Voluntary Conservation
707 Programs] to implement certain restoration actions on the land. For example, working with
708 local biologists can help develop site-appropriate prescriptions and find financial
709 incentives to carefully reintroduce natural fire regimes as a part of a plan to reduce wildfire
710 risk [Link to KCI Disruption Regimes Action 1.4].

711 **Adopting Best Management Practices**

Managing lands for wildlife use and managing lands for resource use, like cattle grazing, crop production, or timber production, don't need to be mutually exclusive. Adopting Best Management Practices (BMPs) that support both working lands and wildlife creates a win-win approach to land stewardship. Working lands can and do provide high quality habitat for native species, and sometimes minor changes in the type or timing of activities like grazing, mowing, harvesting, or irrigation can help land managers avoid harm to wildlife and create high quality habitat. For example, maintaining adequate separation (e.g. fencing or herding) between domestic and wild species, such as domestic and wild sheep where interaction leads to negative consequences, can reduce or minimize chances of disease transmission between species. Where separation cannot be maintained, considering changing livestock species can be a viable option for larger landscapes.

Whether it's preserving grassland bird breeding habitat on a hayfield or improving fish passage in an irrigation system, BMPs demonstrate that conservation and production can go hand in hand. Contact your local ODFW habitat biologist [link to contact list] or other local conservation organization for guidance on BMPs pertinent to your local area. Voluntary conservation programs [LINK to Resources: Voluntary Conservation Programs] can provide technical support, financial resources, and other incentives to support landowners who are interested in maintaining their working lands.

Reducing chemical pollutants

In rural areas, pollutants can originate from agricultural runoff, septic systems, unpaved roads, and livestock operations, impacting both surface water and groundwater quality. Landowners and residents can help reduce these risks by implementing Best Management Practices such as creating buffer zones of native vegetation along streams, minimizing and timing fertilizer and pesticide applications carefully, properly managing agricultural waste [LINK <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/getting-assistance/technical-assistance/manure-and-nutrient-management>], maintaining septic systems to prevent leaks and water contamination, and preventing livestock from accessing waterways. Using tilling practices that minimize soil disturbance and stabilizing road surfaces can also reduce sedimentation and nutrient loading into local streams. Smaller actions for rural Oregonians include maintaining vehicles and equipment to prevent leaks and spills and reducing or eliminating the use of rodenticides. These efforts protect drinking water supplies, improve soil health, and maintain habitat quality for fish and wildlife while supporting the long-term sustainability of working lands.

Water conservation and stewardship

Rural residents and landowners play a vital role in protecting Oregon’s water resources. Practices like wildlife-friendly irrigation, maintaining healthy riparian buffers, control of invasive vegetation, and restoring wetlands help retain water on the land, support wildlife, and increase drought resilience. Use of cover crops and no-till practices can improve soil moisture retention and reduce the need for irrigation. Managing livestock access to streams and preventing runoff from roads or fields can protect both water quality and aquatic habitat. Whether on a farm, forest, or ranch conserving water supports both the long-term health of working lands and native ecosystems.

Creating defensible space

Wildfire is a growing threat across Oregon’s rural landscapes. Proactive steps can help protect homes, property, and wildlife habitat. Create defensible space around buildings by clearing flammable vegetation, dead vegetation, dry leaves, and pine needles, thinning trees and shrubs, and removing ladder fuels that could carry fire into treetops. Create and maintain firebreaks and access routes for emergency vehicles and use fire-resistant materials for buildings and other structures. Remove invasive vegetation—many invasive plants burn easily and increase the spread and intensity of wildfire. With guidance from local experts, manage forest or rangeland fuels through practices like thinning, grazing, or prescribed burning. These actions not only reduce risk to people and property, but also support healthy, fire-adapted ecosystems that support all wildlife.

Managing invasive species

Invasive species [link to KCI] are species that are not native to an ecosystem and that cause economic or environmental harm. Not all non-native species are invasive, but many become a serious problem. Invasive vegetation can outcompete native plants, reducing forage and shelter for native fish and wildlife, and in many cases increasing wildfire risk. Invasive aquatic species can clog waterways, damage infrastructure, and displace native aquatic life. Invasive wildlife can aggressively compete with Oregon's native wildlife for food and habitat, damage crops, prey on native species, and spread disease. These invasions often reduce ecosystem resilience, harm local economies, and require costly management efforts to control. Landowners and land managers can take action to prevent the establishment of non-native species on their property. Reducing invasions of non-native species provides benefits to wildlife and maintains property value for resource production, including by improving livestock forage and water quality and reducing wildfire risk.

- [LINK OISC InfoHub: <https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/infohub>]

- [LINK OISC Get Involved: <https://www.oregoninvasivespeciescouncil.org/get-involved>]

Removing barriers

Human-caused changes to the landscape [link to Barriers to Animal Movement KCI] can affect the ability of fish and wildlife to move across landscapes by adding obstacles, changing their natural behavior, and increasing habitat fragmentation. Buildings, solar energy facilities, roads, fences, power lines, wind turbines, dams, and other structures can be obstacles to species movement. Certain types of land use, like crop production and recreation, can also deter or prevent movement.

Landowners can take action to improve wildlife connectivity in their own backyards, farms, forests, and ranches in a variety of ways, including replacing culverts [LINK TO AQUATIC BTaM GOAL 1] to improve fish and wildlife passage, removing or replacing fencing to make it wildlife friendly [LINK TO TERRESTRIAL BTaM GOAL 2], maintaining riparian buffers and planting prairie strips or other corridors of native vegetation to provide cover and facilitate wildlife movement, and removing, repairing, or replacing tide gates on coastal lands to improve fish connectivity. Different animals have different needs, and local biologists can help in identifying barriers to animals moving across the land and developing a plan to address them.

Observing and reporting

Residents of Oregon's most rural and frontier areas are often front-line observers of our natural systems on the landscape. This situation creates a unique opportunity for these residents to serve as sentinels for conservation. Many issues that might develop in rural areas can be most effectively handled with a rapid assessment and response once observed. Reporting observations, including disease, invasive species, or other conservation concerns to local conservation partners is essential to informing rapid responses that can reduce impacts to both natural and agricultural systems. Rapid detection is critical in situations involving wildlife diseases or other animal health issues. One example of rural ranchers on the frontline of protecting native species is the disease [LINK to Disease page] caused by *M. ovi*, which can cause devastating losses to domestic livestock and native sheep alike. Monitoring, early treatment, and maintaining separation between domestic sheep and wild populations can keep animals safe.

Participating in or leading a collaborative stewardship group

812 For decades Oregon landowners have been creating and leading collaborative stewardship
813 groups to work with neighboring private and public lands on shared goals around
814 watershed management, drought mitigation, juniper encroachment on grazing lands, sage
815 grouse management, wildfire management, and more. Landowners can serve as paid or
816 volunteer leaders in these groups or participate in a variety of other ways, including hosting
817 tours of past habitat restoration projects or sharing insights on management planning
818 processes.

819 AT THE WATERSHED

820 At the [LINK watershed scale] is where rural, suburban, and urban Oregonians come
821 together. Actions at the watershed scale beyond your communities' boundaries, including
822 recreating, volunteering, or engaging in community science can often be a primary way that
823 Oregonians directly interact with, observe, or impact wildlife and their habitats.

824 For more information on actions all Oregonians (urban, suburban, rural, and frontier) and
825 visitors can take at the watershed scale, see the [LINK] **Actions by all Oregonians at the**
826 **Watershed Scale** chapter.

ACTIONS BY ALL OREGONIANS AT THE WATERSHED SCALE

While some actions are specific to where individuals live, Oregonians and visitors alike have a direct impact on Oregon's fish, wildlife, and habitats while recreating, volunteering, or exploring beyond their immediate communities on both public and private lands. Opportunities and landscapes differ across the state, and everyone can contribute to conservation by recreating responsibly, volunteering locally, and participating in community science. These efforts help protect the state's diverse ecosystems, from high deserts and ancient forests to urban greenways and coastal estuaries.

Oregon has extensive tracts of public lands under state, federal, tribal, or local management. Some public lands are managed for multiple uses, including energy development, timber harvest, and grazing while conserving natural and cultural resources and opportunity for public access. Other public lands limit development and resource extraction, while encouraging recreation and stewardship. These public lands include a variety of protected areas including designated wilderness (e.g., the Eagle Cap Wilderness), National Wildlife Refuges (e.g., Baskett Slough), State Wildlife Areas (e.g., Summer Lake, Denman), National Park Service units (e.g., Crater Lake, John Day Fossil Beds), and marine reserves (e.g., Cape Perpetua, Otter Rock) among others. This extensive network of public lands comprises over 53% of the land base in Oregon.

In addition to public lands, many of Oregon's privately owned and managed lands are open for public use. These working lands can provide high quality habitat for native species and may be open for hiking, wildlife viewing, hunting and fishing, or other recreational opportunities. For example, many private forestland owners keep their land open to the public for recreation much of the year, though they may close it during fire season to limit risk.

Information is presented here on how individuals can help in these spaces. While visiting these areas, all Oregonians and visitors play a crucial role in maintaining healthy habitats for fish and wildlife by leaving places in as good or better condition than when they arrived. By visiting, volunteering in, and advocating for protection and conservation of these areas, Oregonians and visitors alike can support long-term habitat conservation and ecosystem health.

Recreating responsibly

Every year, millions of Oregonians and visitors explore Oregon's coastal beaches and mountain trails, desert plateaus, and forested hills. As more people venture outdoors to enjoy Oregon's natural resources, it's more important than ever to recreate responsibly. By preparing and planning for your adventure appropriately, packing out what you pack in, and respecting wildlife, fish, and their habitats, you can help protect these fragile ecosystems for future generations to experience and enjoy. The way we recreate directly affects the health of these species and the natural systems they rely on. Our choices matter, whether on the trail, along the beach or riverbank, at a campsite, or deep in the backcountry.

Responsible recreation means:

- **Planning ahead and being prepared:** Know the rules, conditions, and risks where you're going. Bring necessary supplies and let someone know your plans.
- **Staying on trails and minimizing impact:** Straying off trail can destroy habitat, contribute to erosion, and spread invasive species. Stick to designated paths and minimize your footprint.
- **Packing out what you pack in:** Trash, leftover food, pet waste, and gear, even biodegradable items like fruit peels, can harm wildlife and pollute habitats.
- **Respecting wildlife and keeping your distance:** Do not approach or feed wild animals. Keep quiet to limit disturbance, and observe from afar using binoculars or cameras.
- **Leashing pets:** Dogs can disturb nesting birds, chase wildlife, or trample sensitive plants. Keep dogs on a leash and out of sensitive areas.
- **Respecting seasonal closures and sensitive habitats:** Many areas are closed or restricted during certain seasons to protect nesting birds, spawning fish, or vulnerable plant communities.

[SPOTLIGHT/BOX] Responsible Recreation: Keep an Eye Out, Protect Oregon

When you're out enjoying Oregon's wild places, whether you're hiking, fishing, paddling, or just relaxing, your eyes and ears can play a role in protecting the lands, waters, and wildlife we all care about. Unfortunately, not everyone treats these places with respect. Poaching (the illegal take of wildlife or fish), trespassing, littering, theft, property damage, and road closure violations can all harm habitats, wildlife populations, and the communities that depend on them. Activities like off-

trail travel, illegal dumping, habitat damage, or disturbing wildlife can have serious consequences, threatening fish, wildlife, and the natural spaces we all enjoy.

Oregon's *Turn in Poachers* (TIP) Line offers a way for everyone to help. If you witness or suspect illegal activity, report it. The TIP program is a partnership among the Oregon State Police, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Wildlife Coalition, Oregon Hunters Association, Oregon Outfitters and Guides Association, and the Oregon State Marine Board.

Responsible recreation means enjoying Oregon's outdoors while helping protect it for generations to come.

Learn more at: [LINK to [Protect Oregon's Wildlife](#)]

Engaging in community science

Community science is a collaborative approach where community members directly assist professional scientists with collecting information. Community-based monitoring [LINK TO MONITORING] can greatly expand our ability to collect data on sensitive fish, wildlife, and habitats in Oregon. Through community science, Oregonians contribute valuable local biological knowledge. For example, birdwatchers and anglers understand the distribution and behavior of their favorite species, and farmers and other landowners have deep familiarity with what occurs on their land. Community-based monitoring can tap into this knowledge, increase the amount of data that can be collected, and reduce the overall costs of data collection. This also encourages Oregonians to take an active part in conservation, teaching people about their local environment, and providing a forum for feedback and discussions related to conservation actions currently underway on their land or in their neighborhood. Community led efforts can help by filling otherwise unaddressed gaps in information on SGCN and SGIN while engaging individual Oregonians directly.

By supporting and building on these efforts, scientists and Oregonians can work together to address monitoring priorities identified in the SWAP.

How you can participate:

- Record your observations of species you encounter while fishing, birdwatching, gardening, recreating, or otherwise spending time outdoors. This local knowledge is invaluable for detecting trends in species presence and distribution. Apps like iNaturalist, eBird, or Bumblebee Watch can be used to document plants and animals in your neighborhood, local park, hiking trail, or elsewhere. Unsure of what type of plant or animal you saw? Report it anyway! These apps have vibrant communities that can help identify species.

- Join seasonal counts or bio-blitzes that help track the health of species such as monarch butterflies, amphibians, or native bees.
 - [LINK to Xerces Bumblebee atlas] <http://bumblebeeatlas.org/>
 - [LINK to Xerces western mussel atlas] <https://westernmusselatlas.org/>
 - [LINK to Oregon BioBlitz] <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/oh-snap-learning-how-bioblitz>
- Collaborate with schools, watershed councils, non-profit organizations, or community groups conducting monitoring or habitat assessments.

[Spotlight/BOX] The Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) is a community science project that strives to collect information to monitor marine ecosystem health through the power of coastal community collaboration. COASST is made up of more than 1000 volunteers who regularly walk the beaches of Oregon, Washington, and California to collect data on dead seabirds. Data collected by volunteers have provided critical information informing our understanding of patterns in seabird mortality and helps alert scientists to seabird die offs. See <https://coasst.org/about/our-story/>

Volunteering for a local conservation, fishing, or hunting organization

Volunteering with a local conservation, fishing, or hunting organization offers meaningful ways to connect with nature while contributing to community-based stewardship. Activities might include removing invasive species like Himalayan blackberry at a local nature reserve, helping lead youth birding tours, organizing family fishing days at nearby lakes, or coordinating community science efforts to monitor species such as the northwestern pond turtle. Organizations provide volunteers with hands-on opportunities to learn about local ecosystems, build new skills, and increase their capacity to engage in environmental protection. These experiences not only support conservation goals but also foster a deeper personal connection to the land and the people who care for it.

SPOTLIGHT/BOX All Hands All Brands for Our Public Lands

A coalition of conservation organizations and volunteers, including Oregon Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, Oregon Hunters Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, United States Forest Service, and others come together annually to conduct wildlife habitat improvement projects on public lands. It is a collaborative effort by partners that have formally committed to supporting the Blue Mountain Elk Initiative. The intent of the event is to unify the partners (All Brands) supporting BMEI and showcase the amount of work accomplished when all partners work together. The event is focused on hands-on

work, partnership building, and celebrating stewardship of public lands. Activities are collaborative and can provide opportunities for partner members at all skill levels to learn more and actively work towards enhancing habitat quality for wildlife.

Leaving wildlife wild

Finding a young wild animal alone does not mean it needs to be rescued. The best way to help young wild animals survive is usually to leave them where you find them. Here's how you can help responsibly:

- Keep pets and other domestic animals away from wildlife. Pets will stress wildlife, especially if there are young wildlife or fledgling birds in your yard. Keep dogs on a leash when recreating outside, especially during the spring when young wildlife are around. Keep cats indoors to protect them and our native wildlife.
- Give wild animals time, space, and a chance to survive on their own. Wildlife face survival challenges and sometimes need time to rest before moving on.
- If you are certain an animal is orphaned because you saw the parent animal is dead, the animal has not moved on for a day or two, or you see an animal that is injured, call ODFW, a licensed wildlife rehabilitator or Oregon State Police for advice.
- Don't feed wildlife. All species of wildlife have a specialized diet that coincides with seasonal changes. Access to food provided by people, whether intentional or accidental, can negatively impact wildlife health, lead to conflict with people, and in many cases has fatal consequences. It can also lead to wild animals losing their fear of people and posing a threat to human safety.
- Secure food, garbage, and recycling to keep wildlife out. Take trash out immediately before pick-up, not the night before pickup. Feed pets indoors and store their food inside.

GOALS AND ACTIONS FOR STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS, NONPROFITS, AND COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO ENGAGE ALL OREGONIANS

OREGON'S CONSERVATION PARTNERS

The habitats that support Oregon's Species of Greatest Conservation Need (SGCN) are found across a diverse and interwoven landscape spanning public and private lands and

999 waters, working forests, farms, rangelands and urban spaces. This patchwork of land uses
1000 and ownership is managed by a broad range of partners across the state, from federal and
1001 tribal governments to local agencies, private landowners, and nonprofit organizations.
1002 Effective conservation outcomes for Species of Greatest Conservation Need [LINK] and
1003 Key Habitats [LINK] rely on strong communication, alignment of priorities, and shared
1004 stewardship among all Oregonians. No single organization can fully address the challenges
1005 described in the State Wildlife Action Plan alone. Collaborative leadership, sustained
1006 coordination, and collective responsibility are essential to success.

1007 Landowners and land managers are encouraged to partner with multiple entities such as
1008 the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW), Oregon Watershed Enhancement
1009 Board (OWEB), soil and water conservation districts (SWCDs), watershed councils, land
1010 trusts, landowner organizations, and nonprofit conservation groups. These partnerships
1011 enable more comprehensive and innovative approaches by integrating local knowledge,
1012 technical expertise and varied funding sources.

1013 Each sector, from State and Local Governments to Tribal Governments, the Federal
1014 Government, Nonprofits, and Community-Based Organizations each has a crucial role in
1015 the stewardship of Oregon's natural resources. Their contributions include integrating
1016 natural resource conservation and management into existing operations, conducting
1017 outreach and engaging the public, and providing guidance and support to private
1018 landowners seeking opportunities for voluntary conservation action.

1019 Collaboration between conservation partners is vital to protect and restore natural areas
1020 and the corridors that connect them. For example, in urban areas, park and greenspace
1021 enhancement programs provide excellent opportunities for building fish and wildlife
1022 habitat while contributing to people's recreational opportunities and enhancing their
1023 quality of life. Local and regional governments and park districts are instrumental in
1024 obtaining funding for land acquisitions, while regional partnerships support efforts to
1025 preserve open space and natural areas.

1026 Oregon's ability to conserve its most vulnerable species and habitats depends on building
1027 relationships across agencies, sectors, and communities. Everyone has a role to play in
1028 ensuring that Oregon's fish, wildlife and their habitats are protected for generations to
1029 come.

1030 [Spotlight/BOX] The Intertwine is the greater Portland/Vancouver metropolitan region's
1031 network of parks, trails, and natural areas. [The Intertwine Alliance](#) works to support
1032 this system and to help ensure that its benefits flow to every member of our community.

1033 With over sixty partners from government agencies to businesses and nonprofits, the
1034 Intertwine Alliance advocates for investments in nature and builds capacity among
1035 partners to make these investments more equitable. It facilitates regional collaboration
1036 and promotes a collective vision for how nature and people can prosper together.
1037 Intertwine Alliance convenings address issues such as equitable access to water,
1038 climate adaptation through urban tree equity, the connection between houseless and
1039 natural areas, and the role of parks, trails, and natural areas in maintaining livability.
1040 Over its nearly two decades, the Alliance has supported and championed partner
1041 efforts around parks funding, outdoor education, regional trails, climate adaptation,
1042 placemaking, green schoolyards, and more. The Alliance also helped to create and
1043 drive implementation of the [Regional Conservation Strategy](#), a regional counterpart to
1044 Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan. The Regional Conservation Strategy identifies
1045 opportunities to achieve conservation goals within an urban context and makes a clear
1046 and compelling case for why nature is essential to cities *and* why cities are essential to
1047 Oregon's larger conservation goals.

1048 CONDUCTING OUTREACH, ENGAGEMENT, AND EDUCATION TO 1049 AND FOR ALL OREGONIANS

1050 Conservation doesn't happen in a vacuum, and it is important for active conservation
1051 leaders at all levels to provide opportunities for all Oregonians to find their role in
1052 conserving or appreciating Oregon's natural resources. The conservation of natural
1053 resources impacts all people, through benefits like clean air, clean water, and healthy
1054 ecosystems.

1055 Conservation education programs need to reach people of all ages and backgrounds
1056 across Oregon, using languages and materials they understand. These programs should
1057 also encourage real, hands-on actions and help people understand the many sides of
1058 complex conservation issues so they can make informed choices about how they want to
1059 act.

1060 Education and outreach will be most effective when linked strategically to other actions,
1061 such as land management and habitat conservation, water management, or incentives for
1062 private landowners. Successful implementation depends on expanded involvement from a
1063 wide variety of people, agencies, and groups across the state. Effective outreach will be
1064 needed to share the goals, voluntary approaches, recommended actions, and benefits of
1065 habitat conservation to diverse Oregonians and partners. For real impact, a wide range of

1066 people and organizations need to be involved. This includes both sharing information and
1067 listening to input from all communities.

1068 Some examples of ongoing efforts to engage Oregonians being implemented by many
1069 agencies, schools, and organizations in Oregon are:

- 1070 • Interpretation presentations and educational programs, such as campground talks,
1071 nature walks, tidepool tours, skills workshops, hunter and angler education
1072 programs, games, and other children's programs and exhibits (e.g. **Tidepool**
1073 **Ambassador programs**)
- 1074 • Informational signage, brochures, videos, and other materials at agency offices,
1075 trails, campsites, beaches, wildlife refuges, and other outdoor recreation sites
- 1076 • School-sponsored learning, including outdoor camps, internships, restoration
1077 projects at schools, and classwork such as **Bird by Bird**
- 1078 • Special events, such as festivals and camps (e.g., **Oregon Zoo, Oregon Museum of**
1079 **Science and Industry**)
- 1080 • Fish and wildlife viewing programs, such as whale watching, bird watching, and elk
1081 viewing
- 1082 • Information on reducing human/wildlife conflicts in urban areas, such as Oregon
1083 Department of Fish and Wildlife's (ODFW) **Living with Wildlife**, and the **Bird**
1084 **Alliance of Oregon**
- 1085 • Media relationships, such as Oregon Public Broadcasting's **Oregon Field Guide**
- 1086 • Booths at county fairs and other community events
- 1087 • **Volunteer programs**
- 1088 • Information available to landowners and managers interested in supporting wildlife
1089 on their property, such as Knowyourforest.org [LINK <https://knowyourforest.org/>]
1090 created by the Partnership for Forestry Education
- 1091 • Community Science [LINK to Community Science in Monitoring chapter]

1092 **Goal 1: Improve Coordination, Strategic Implementation, and Evaluation of Conservation**
1093 **Education and Outreach in Oregon**

1094 Expanding public awareness of the importance of conservation is foundational to the
1095 success of the SWAP. Goals and Actions are presented here that are tied to the
1096 conservation actions for Urban and Suburban Oregonians, Rural Oregonians, and State
1097 and Local Agencies.

1098 *Action 1.1. Build on existing efforts*

- 1099 • Work with local, state, and federal parks, wildlife areas, campsites, and other
1100 recreational programs to enhance interpretation programs.

- 1101 • Enhance effective partnerships with organizations whose primary mission is
1102 conservation education (e.g., non-governmental organizations, universities,
1103 agencies). Seek new conservation education partners in Oregon.
- 1104 • Fold SWAP priorities into the education and outreach activities of federal, state, and
1105 local natural resource agencies, non-governmental organizations, and other
1106 education providers.
- 1107 • Support environmental education programs for educators and students K-12.
- 1108 • Broaden outreach materials and information available electronically to deepen
1109 public appreciation of Oregon's environments. Increase the quantity, quality, and
1110 timeliness of information available on topics including nearshore fisheries,
1111 regulations, conservation, and ecosystem management.
- 1112 • Provide translation services and resources in multiple languages to ensure
1113 equitable access to information.

1114 *Action 1.2. Market and promote opportunities to learn more about and engage in*
1115 *conservation in Oregon*

- 1116 • Develop education materials about the SWAP. Produce outreach materials
1117 addressing SGCN and Key Habitats, Conservation Opportunity Areas, and
1118 conservation actions and issues. Inform people about opportunities to weave
1119 conservation goals into ongoing planning, greenspace acquisition and
1120 management, neighborhood projects, educational programs, restoration programs,
1121 and other activities. Provide information on human-wildlife conflict and coexistence
1122 strategies for humans and wildlife.
- 1123 • Develop and expand existing partnerships for communication, education, and
1124 outreach on conservation topics and issues. Work with partners to develop new
1125 mechanisms for information development and dissemination and leverage
1126 partnerships to reach new audiences.
- 1127 • Work with media partners to promote the SWAP and its implementation priorities
1128 and create messages which report successes achieved by the SWAP.

1130 *Action 1.3. Incorporate outreach and education into other voluntary actions*

- 1131 • Produce informational brochures or other educational materials for landowners on
1132 SGCN and Key Habitats [LINK Voluntary Conservation Programs]
- 1133 • Develop educational tools that complement on-the-ground conservation actions
1134 and management for SGCN and Key Habitats.
- 1135 • Work with partners to develop a statewide awareness campaign about sections of
1136 the SWAP (e.g., work with the Oregon Invasive Species Council on invasive species
1137 messaging), which will assess SWAP needs for education and marketing. Develop
1138 other tools for public participation.

1139 *Action 1.4. Expand outreach to historically underserved populations*

- 1140 • Assess opportunities to engage with underserved communities more effectively.
1141 This may include providing compensation for the time and travel involved with
1142 engagement in conservation discussions, as well as broadening the venues and
1143 manner in which we hold conservation discussions. Holding discussions in areas
1144 that are more easily accessible or part of regularly attended community-led
1145 meetings, as well as providing methods for input to be collected without travel or
1146 electronically may allow for a broader engagement and increase diverse
1147 perspectives. Expanding participation strengthens conservation efforts and leads to
1148 better decisions for Oregon's natural resources.
- 1149 • Assess what communities have historically been left out of the conversation, using
1150 social science data to identify currently unknown, underserved, or unengaged
1151 constituent groups.
- 1152 • Identify barriers to participation in natural resource conservation and outdoor
1153 recreation for groups including, but not limited to, non-English speaking, BIPOC,
1154 LGBTQIA+, disabled, urban, rural, and other communities.
- 1155 • Ensure that documents are available in multiple languages that reflect the major
1156 languages spoken in a community
- 1157 • Identify constituent interests, values, and types of engagement or experiences
1158 relevant to the SWAP.
- 1159 • Support community-led organizations and empower diverse community leaders to
1160 advance conservation actions in Oregon through shared resources and
1161 knowledge/information sharing.
- 1162 • Recognize the contributions of underrepresented partners to natural resource
1163 conservation.
- 1164 • Develop and expand creative avenues to engage a diverse array of constituents,
1165 including the broader public. Explore technologies that support alternative methods
1166 of communication and participation, in addition to continuing to support traditional
1167 paths such as issue-specific advisory groups

1168 **Goal 2: Promote Outdoor Opportunities related to the Oregon SWAP**

1169 Outdoor recreation and outdoor tourism are an opportunity for the public to connect with
1170 Oregon's natural spaces and increase engagement in conservation. Conservation leaders
1171 should work with landowners and land managers, communities, recreational businesses,
1172 and other partners in developing projects and be sensitive to any concerns local
1173 communities may have. All proposed actions should consider and mitigate for any
1174 potential impacts to both species and habitats.

1175 *Action 2.1. Explore joint outdoor recreation marketing and market research opportunities*

1176 Explore joint opportunities for cooperative marketing of key nature-based outdoor
1177 recreation themes (including wildlife watching). In addition, determine priority areas of
1178 joint need for undertaking cooperatively funded market research that will better inform the
1179 marketing and product development strategies adopted.

1180 *Action 2.2 Build on existing wildlife-watching programs*

1181 Support and expand the many fish and wildlife-watching programs that currently exist. For
1182 example, work with partners at all scales, including community-based organizations, non-
1183 governmental organizations, businesses, and local, state, federal, and tribal governmental
1184 organizations to promote development and expansion of birding trails in Oregon [LINK to
1185 Birding Trails]. Work with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department and other coastal
1186 partners to support existing whale watching and tide pool programs [LINK to whale
1187 watching programs]. Work with local groups to promote existing wildlife festivals [LINK to
1188 birdwatching festivals].

1189 *Action 2.3 Provide information on responsible recreation*

1190 Oregonians and visitors in all corners of the state have significant opportunity to impact
1191 fish, wildlife, and habitats when they enter their habitat while recreating. Provide
1192 information on best practices for recreation to minimize or mitigate impacts to fish,
1193 wildlife, and habitats.

1194 **PROVIDING TECHNICAL GUIDANCE TO OREGONIANS FOR**
1195 **VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION ACTIONS**

1196 There are numerous resources available for voluntary conservation actions, whether big or
1197 small. However, particularly when projects are complex, there is not a “one-stop-shop” for
1198 technical guidance resources to identify all requirements for funding sources, permitting or
1199 regulatory agencies, engineering requirements, or science to support various practices.
1200 Establishing networks of agencies, organizations, and other groups who complete
1201 conservation and restoration activities will help facilitate shared learning and knowledge to
1202 be used for future projects.

1203 To increase the volume of voluntary conservation actions in Oregon, focal areas include
1204 striving to make it easier to for landowners and land managers to find technical assistance
1205 for conservation projects, helping landowners and land managers prioritize conservation
1206 actions, facilitating relationships between landowners and land managers and natural
1207 resource professionals to provide continued guidance and support, and identifying

1208 potential financial resources to assist landowners and land managers in implementing
1209 projects on their lands.

1210 **Goal 3: Make it easier for landowners and land managers to find assistance on**
1211 **conservation projects.**

1212 For complex projects involving multiple partners and funding sources, it can be difficult to
1213 receive approval from several agencies or foundations, each of which may have different
1214 goals, criteria, and standards for monitoring, completion, or success.

1215 *Action 3.1 Expand technical assistance and site-specific restoration information for*
1216 *landowners and land managers. Technical support services include information to help*
1217 *evaluate habitat, information about best management practices, and monitoring.*

1218 Landowners and land managers often want help in designing projects, applying for funds,
1219 obtaining permits, and conducting on-the-ground work. At present, many agencies and
1220 conservation organizations have developed brochures and web resources on invasive non-
1221 native plants, native plant guides, habitat management guidelines, and other aspects of
1222 habitat restoration. However, sorting through this information to find specific information
1223 relevant to a specific property can be overwhelming. At the same time, excellent technical
1224 information that would be useful to landowners and land managers may not be finding its
1225 way into their hands. Technical and communications staff across agencies should be urged
1226 to collaborate in this area.

1227 Some ways to increase technical assistance to landowners include increasing
1228 coordination between incentive program staff, providing training for groups that work with
1229 landowners and land managers, developing more targeted outreach materials, providing
1230 avenues for landowners and land managers to learn from one another, helping with setting
1231 up demonstrations and workshops, and developing information about funding and
1232 incentives programs.

1233 *Action 3.2 Build capacity among organizations to provide the technical expertise described*
1234 *in the above action item.*

1235 Landowners and land managers often turn to an organization with a local presence to help
1236 implement a conservation project. Organizations with field offices provide a natural entry
1237 point for landowners and land managers to find information. Examples include the NRCS
1238 programs, ODFW, SWCDs, OSU Extension Services, watershed councils, land trusts,
1239 nonprofit conservation organizations, and university extension offices. However, there is no

1240 single organization currently providing oversight or coordination. Collaborative discussion
1241 and leadership are needed to determine the best avenues to provide technical assistance
1242 throughout the state.

1243 Since the Dust Bowl days, SWCDs have been working directly with landowners around the
1244 country, providing technical assistance on soil erosion and water quality issues. In recent
1245 years, however, as more landowners and land managers have requested help with habitat
1246 restoration projects, SWCDs have expanded into this area. During this timeframe,
1247 watershed councils have also emerged to work one-on-one with landowners and land
1248 managers on projects, particularly those that impact the survival of native migratory fish.
1249 However, the resources, capacity, and abilities of SWCDs and watershed councils are
1250 unequal across the state. Enhanced information sharing among agencies and
1251 organizations like SWCDs, watershed councils, and nonprofit conservation organizations
1252 will help landowners and land managers find consistent and reliable information.

1253 **Goal 4: Help landowners and land managers plan and prioritize conservation actions on**
1254 **their properties, evaluate results, and build long-term relationships to help them achieve**
1255 **their goals.**

1256 *Action 4.1. Help landowners and land managers develop conservation plans that stress*
1257 *multi-year solutions, noting which conservation needs are most pressing.*

1258 Technical guidance should help prioritize actions and provide resources for information
1259 over time. Grants provided as incentives to landowners and land managers should be a
1260 starting point for a long-term relationship, with additional opportunities for technical
1261 assistance. Conservation projects are dynamic and require ongoing attention, and there is
1262 concern among landowners and land managers and the conservation community about
1263 the short-term nature of many grant cycles. Continuing education is one way that
1264 landowners and land managers can add to their knowledge base to inform future work even
1265 when grant cycles are complete.

1266 Work with landowners and land managers to build trust and learn from landowners and
1267 land managers what their objectives are for their land to find where there are overlapping
1268 benefits for working lands and wildlife. Meet with landowners and land managers on their
1269 property to learn from their understanding of the land and share technical guidance that
1270 can inform conservation actions in line with their goals. Share success stories.

1271 *Action 4.2. Improve data management, coordination, and sharing between conservation*
1272 *partners to support landowner-initiated conservation actions.*

1273 Effective restoration requires collecting, analyzing, and sharing data to adapt activities to
1274 changing conditions or to better meet goals. Currently, a variety of entities collect data
1275 using different protocols, and there is a need for greater coordination to improve adaptive
1276 management throughout the state. Additionally, organizations need to increase
1277 collaboration to make the most efficient use of limited resources and reach shared
1278 goals. Some approaches include:

- 1279 • Identifying critical data collection activities and associated data management
1280 efforts
- 1281 • Establishing a consistent data management system
- 1282 • Adopting and using standard protocols for database design, data collection, and
1283 metadata development
- 1284 • Making data publicly available, with mapping tools developed to facilitate
1285 information sharing and assist landowners and land managers with use and
1286 application of data

1287 **Goal 5: Provide information about financial incentives for conservation projects.**

1288 Conservation projects can benefit landowners and land managers, with activities like
1289 forest thinning and invasive species removal often providing direct economic benefits to a
1290 property. There are also indirect ways for landowners and land managers to conserve
1291 habitat while also realizing economic gains. For example, conservation easements protect
1292 habitat while allowing a property to remain in private ownership. The landowner receives
1293 tax benefits in exchange for an agreement to manage the land for specific, agreed-upon
1294 conservation benefits. However, access to [LINK to Voluntary Conservation Programs]
1295 information on available financial support or voluntary conservation programs can be
1296 limiting.

1297 *Action 5.1. Provide information about how conservation projects can enhance property*
1298 *values. Provide information about grants, cost sharing programs, property tax deferral, and*
1299 *conservation easements.*

1300 Agencies, SWCDs, and watershed councils all have an interest in helping landowners and
1301 land managers find information on programs that enhance habitat and property values, but
1302 currently there is limited capacity to organize and distribute this information effectively.
1303 One possibility would be to investigate collaboratively funding staff position(s) throughout
1304 the state to meet this need. Tools such as the Conservation Program Explorer [LINK
1305 <https://www.ctoclc.org/conservation-program-explorer-subregion>] can help connect
1306 landowners and land managers with agencies, organizations, and stewardship and

1307 incentive programs available to assist with project development, funding, and
1308 implementation.

1309 Assist landowners and land managers in finding ways to generate revenue for
1310 implementing conservation actions, such as encouraging counties and municipalities to
1311 offer tax deferral programs for habitat protection. The Wildlife Habitat Conservation and
1312 Management Program (WHCMP) offers a property tax incentive to private landowners who
1313 want to provide wildlife habitat on their properties. Under the WHCMP, landowners develop
1314 a wildlife habitat conservation and management plan. If approved, landowners then
1315 receive a special tax assessment, where property taxes are assessed at a relatively low
1316 value, similar to the tax rates that would apply if the land were being farmed or used for
1317 commercial forestry.

1318 *Action 5.2. Encourage state agencies and organizations serving landowners and land*
1319 *managers to recognize and support the conservation value of working landscapes.*

1320 Working lands and waters can provide significant value to fish and wildlife habitat, but this
1321 can be difficult to recognize and difficult to fund. Land zoning regulations and the “transfer
1322 of development rights” process can be confusing. State programs should work together to
1323 increase the options available for landowners and land managers to fund conservation and
1324 restoration actions, while maintaining all or part of the property as a working landscape.
1325 Organizations can encourage creative new ways to value ecosystem services. A broader
1326 recognition of the conservation value provided by working landscapes could result in
1327 expanded grant programs or other support for landowners.

1328

RESOURCES: VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

Incentivizing landowners to maintain or restore private forests, ranches, and other working lands is a key strategy to retaining quality habitat across the landscape. In Oregon, there are dozens of voluntary programs that contribute to habitat conservation across the state. Government programs can be funded and administered by the state, federally funded but state-administered, or federally funded and administered. Some local governments, private, and non-profit organizations also offer conservation incentives. Below are examples of state voluntary conservation programs, federal conservation programs, and local government, private, and nonprofit conservation programs.

STATE VOLUNTARY CONSERVATION PROGRAMS

ODFW-administered Programs

The Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife has a variety of resources to provide to land managers and private landowners to support conservation of fish, wildlife, and their habitats, including technical assistance, grant programs, and tax incentive programs.

ODFW Technical Assistance

ODFW staff are great resources for landowners and managers seeking advice and assistance with voluntary conservation actions to benefit working lands while supporting healthy, resilient fish and wildlife populations. ODFW biologists, including biologists with fish, wildlife, and habitat expertise are located in every ODFW Watershed District, can provide information and guidance for SGCN, Key Conservation Issues, and Key Habitats, and regularly work with landowners and communities directly and help connect them with conservation resources.

ODFW Grant Programs

Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund

The Oregon Conservation and Recreation Fund (OCRF) is an ODFW-administered grant program that supports projects that implement the Oregon SWAP and create new opportunities for wildlife-associated recreation and education. Projects must have a nexus to Key Habitats, SGCN, and/or the goals and actions in the SWAP and can be implemented on private or public lands. The program seeks to attract a diversity of applicants and provides extra support for underrepresented and underserved communities and

1359 organizations. The OCRF Grant Program typically offers grant funding twice per year
1360 through competitive solicitation.

1361 ***Private Forest Accord Grant Program***

1362 The Private Forest Accord (PFA) Grant Program supports projects that conserve or restore
1363 habitat for aquatic organisms covered by the Oregon Department of Forestry Habitat
1364 Conservation Plan. Prospective applicants are encouraged to address the limiting factors
1365 and priority conservation actions called for in the various conservation and recovery plans
1366 available for the Habitat Conservation Plan's covered species. Covered species include
1367 fish (all native salmon and trout, mountain whitefish, Pacific eulachon/smelt, green
1368 sturgeon) and five amphibian species (Columbia torrent salamander, southern torrent
1369 salamander, coastal giant salamander, Cope's giant salamander, and coastal tailed frog).
1370 The PFA Grant Program prioritizes funding projects that 1) restore degraded habitat, 2)
1371 preserve land and water, and/or 3) reduce or eliminate threats to aquatic habitats. The PFA
1372 Grant Program offers grant funding at least once per year through competitive solicitation.
1373 The PFA represents a generational shift in forestry operations in Oregon, and
1374 implementation of the PFA can help to provide robust and healthy habitat for a broad suite
1375 of species. For further information on the PFA in the SWAP, see the [LINK Late Successional
1376 Mixed Conifer] Key Habitats and [LINK Pollution, Land Use Changes, Water Quality and
1377 Quantity] Key Conservation Issues Chapters.

1378 ***ODFW Access and Habitat (A&H) Program***

1379 The Access and Habitat (A&H) Program was created in 1993 by the Oregon legislature to
1380 provide an incentive-based program to improve public hunting access and wildlife habitat
1381 on private lands. The program focus is to foster partnerships between landowners and
1382 hunters for the benefit of wildlife. This program, administered by ODFW and 100% hunter-
1383 funded, provides direct funding to improve wildlife habitat, increase public hunting access
1384 to private lands, and/or solve wildlife damage issues. Projects can be implemented on
1385 private or public lands. Eligible projects include improvement of vegetation and forage,
1386 development of wetland habitat, control of invasive vegetation, development of water
1387 sources in arid regions, reclamation of habitat by restrictions on vehicle access, seeding
1388 after wildfire, land acquisition, and seasonal road management and hunter access,
1389 including access to private lands and access through private lands to otherwise
1390 inaccessible public lands. Projects are given high priority if they reduce economic losses to
1391 landowners and involve funding commitments or in-kind contributions from other
1392 organizations and agencies.

1393 ***ODFW Restoration and Enhancement (R&E) Program***

1394 The Restoration and Enhancement Program is a grant program that provides \$2-3 million
1395 per year to fishery projects throughout Oregon. It supports increased recreational fishing
1396 opportunities and works to improve the commercial salmon fishery. The restoration
1397 program focuses on projects to repair and replace fish production equipment and facilities,
1398 and on collecting information on physical and biological characteristics of streams, lakes,
1399 or estuaries. The enhancement program focuses on projects to increase fish production
1400 (either hatchery or natural production), increase recreational or commercial opportunities
1401 or access to the fish resources, or improve fish management capabilities. Any public or
1402 private nonprofit organization may request funds to implement fish restoration or
1403 enhancement projects.

1404 ***ODFW Fish Screening or Passage Cost Share Grant***

1405 Oregon water users may be eligible for an ODFW cost-share incentive program and state
1406 tax credit designed to promote the installation of agency-approved fish screening or fish
1407 passage devices in water diversions. Funds for fish screening and passage projects are to
1408 be used to share costs with applicants.

1409 ***ODFW Tax Incentive Programs***

1410 ***ODFW Wildlife Habitat Conservation and Management Program (WHCMP)***

1411 This program provides property tax benefits and technical assistance to landowners that
1412 voluntarily conserve habitat for native wildlife. Participating counties and cities identify
1413 farmland, forestland, and/or other significant habitats and ask ODFW to designate these
1414 lands as eligible for the program. An interested eligible landowner, whose property is within
1415 the boundaries of participating counties or cities and meets both the state criteria
1416 identified in OAR 635-430-0027 and the relevant Watershed District criteria listed on the
1417 WHCMP website, works with a cooperating agency to draft a wildlife habitat conservation
1418 and management plan. ODFW reviews the draft plan for completeness, conservation
1419 benefits, and adherence to the state and Watershed District criteria. If approved, the
1420 property receives a wildlife habitat special assessment and is assessed for property taxes
1421 at a relatively low value, similar to the tax rates that would apply if the land were being
1422 farmed or used for commercial forestry. Farming and forestry may continue, as long as
1423 these activities are compatible with the fish and wildlife objectives of the management
1424 plan. For most landowners, this program allows their property to be used for conservation,
1425 and the property shifts from farm or forest special assessment to wildlife habitat special

1426 assessment. The program does not provide cost-share, grant, or rental payments to
1427 landowners.

1428 ***ODFW Riparian Lands Tax Incentive Program (RLTIP)***

1429 This tax program offers property tax exemption for riparian land up to 100 feet from a
1430 stream. Landowners conserve and restore riparian lands to protect the economic and
1431 ecological benefits to soil, water, fish, and wildlife. For riparian land to qualify for this
1432 program, it must be outside adopted urban growth boundaries and zoned for forest or
1433 agricultural use. Landowners within urban growth boundaries may qualify if individual
1434 cities choose to participate.

1435 **Other State Agency Conservation Programs**

1436 ***ODF and ODA Stewardship Agreement Program***

1437 A landowner may enter into a voluntary stewardship agreement with the **Oregon**
1438 **Department of Forestry (ODF)** and/or the **Oregon Department of**
1439 **Agriculture (ODA)**, whereby they agree to meet and exceed applicable regulatory
1440 requirements and to conserve, restore, and improve fish and wildlife habitat or water
1441 quality. A stewardship agreement is a voluntary written plan, with authority designated
1442 within state statutes, whereby a landowner agrees to meet the natural resource protection
1443 standards of the Oregon Forest Practices Act through alternate practices. Stewardship
1444 Agreements were authorized by the 2006 Oregon legislature. The legislative change
1445 recognized that in a time of dynamic change in scientific information and social values,
1446 improvements to fish and wildlife habitat and water quality cannot succeed through laws
1447 and government actions alone. The program was developed to enhance what the
1448 legislature described as a characteristically Oregonian “spirit of volunteerism and
1449 stewardship”. The program provides incentives for landowners who voluntarily meet and
1450 exceed regulatory requirements to improve wildlife habitat and water quality. Landowners
1451 and the State Forester work collaboratively to create long-term agreements that consider
1452 natural resource conservation and routine forest management from a property-wide
1453 perspective, rather than at the scale of single projects.

1454 ***ODF SFISH Program***

1455 The Small Forestland Investment in Stream Habitat Program (SFISH) is a grant program
1456 designed to help small forestland owners implement projects that result in an
1457 environmental benefit to fish or mitigate risks to natural resources arising from the

1458 construction, operation, or maintenance of forest roads or related activities. The program is
1459 administered by the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF) in consultation with ODFW.

1460 *OWEB Grants*

1461 Since 1999, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB) has provided grants to
1462 help Oregonians take care of local streams, rivers, wetlands, and natural areas.
1463 Community members and landowners use scientific criteria to decide jointly what needs to
1464 be done to conserve and improve rivers and natural habitat in the places where they
1465 live. OWEB grants are funded from the Oregon Lottery, federal dollars, state General Fund,
1466 and salmon license plate revenue. OWEB's strategic plan (2024) is intended to provide
1467 high-level strategic guidance and direction to help restore and protect Oregon's
1468 watersheds in light of significant driving forces like human use, population growth,
1469 urbanization, and climate change, and ensures priorities are aligned with those developed
1470 in the SWAP.

1471 A great option for private landowners who want to complete smaller scale restoration
1472 projects is the [OWEB Small Grants Program](https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/grants/Pages/grant-programs.aspx) [LINK
1473 <https://www.oregon.gov/oweb/grants/Pages/grant-programs.aspx>]. This program is for less
1474 complex, on-the-ground restoration projects costing up to \$15,000.

1475 For larger projects, OWEB's regular grant programs include:

- 1476 ● Acquisition grants:
 - 1477 ○ **Protecting Land**
 - 1478 ○ **Protecting Water**
- 1479 ● **Engagement**
- 1480 ● **Monitoring**
- 1481 ● **Restoration**
- 1482 ● **Technical Assistance**
- 1483 ● Partnerships and Capacity
- 1484 ● Focused Investment Partnerships

1485 In addition to OWEB's main conservation grants, the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
1486 (OAHP) is an important, voluntary conservation tool for land owners and managers. The
1487 purpose of the OAHP is to increase the economic viability of Oregon's agricultural
1488 operations and economic sector, enhance fish or wildlife habitat, water quality, and other
1489 natural resources on Oregon's working lands, and reduce conversion and fragmentation of
1490 Oregon's working lands. The OAHP helps fund conservation management plans on working
1491 lands, conservation covenants or easements to preserve the continued use of working
1492 lands for agricultural purposes and for natural resource protection purposes, technical

1493 assistance, and succession planning to ensure continued use of working lands for
1494 agricultural purposes when land changes ownership. OAHP grants are typically
1495 administered through a competitive solicitation process.

1496 *OWRD Grants and Incentive Programs*

1497 The Oregon Water Resources Department (OWRD) seeks to build partnerships and
1498 incentivize Oregonians to pursue integrated and innovative solutions for complex water
1499 challenges and an uncertain water future. This work is accomplished through strategic
1500 investments, adaptive planning, cooperative partnerships, accessible information, and
1501 effective coordination. OWRD has several funding opportunities that allow strategic
1502 investments in order to achieve a secure and sustainable water future, addressing instream
1503 and out-of-stream needs for all Oregonians and Oregon's environment, economy,
1504 communities, and cultures.

1505 Grant types and incentive programs include:

- 1506 ● Planning Grants to support place-based, collaborative, and integrated water
1507 planning efforts
- 1508 ● Feasibility Study Grants fund qualifying costs of studies to evaluate the feasibility of
1509 developing water conservation, reuse, and storage projects.
- 1510 ● Water Project Grants & Loans provides grants and loans to evaluate, plan, and
1511 develop instream and out-of-stream water projects that have economic,
1512 environmental, and social/cultural benefits.
- 1513 ● Allocation of Conserved Water Program allows a water user who conserves water to
1514 use a portion of the conserved water on additional lands, lease or sell the water, or
1515 dedicate the water to instream use.

1516 *Oregon Ocean Science Trust*

1517 The Oregon Ocean Science Trust is a state organization established in 2013 to fund
1518 research in Oregon's ocean waters (ABOUT | Oregon Ocean Science). The duties of the
1519 Trust are to promote peer-reviewed competitive research and monitoring to increase
1520 knowledge and understanding, promote innovation and collaboration, enhance the state's
1521 capacity for peer-reviewed research, and provide a competitive grant program to conduct
1522 research related to Oregon's ocean and coastal resources

1523 **FEDERAL CONSERVATION PROGRAMS IN OREGON**

1524 **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Programs**

1525 The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) administers a variety of grant
1526 programs and provides technical assistance to support voluntary conservation by
1527 landowners. A comprehensive summary of grant programs administered by the USFWS can
1528 be found [LINK USFWS Grants] [here](#).

1529 ***North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grant Program***

1530 Under the North American Wetlands Conservation Act, the USFWS provides matching
1531 grants to organizations and partnerships to “protect, enhance, restore, and manage
1532 waterfowl, other migratory birds and other fish and wildlife, and the wetland ecosystems
1533 and other habitats upon which they depend, consistent with the North American Waterfowl
1534 Management Plan”. In the U.S. two competitive grant programs advance this effort: U.S.
1535 Standard Grants and U.S. Small Grants. To facilitate the development of successful grant
1536 proposals, the USFWS recommends contacting the Migratory Bird Joint Venture associated
1537 with the region within which the project is located for technical assistance.

1538 ***Partners for Fish and Wildlife***

1539 The USFWS Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program “provides free technical and financial
1540 assistance to landowners, managers, tribes, corporations, schools and nonprofits
1541 interested in improving wildlife habitat on their land.” This USFWS program provides free
1542 technical and financial assistance in the development of habitat restoration projects that
1543 are voluntary and customized to meet landowners’ needs. These projects are designed to
1544 benefit federal trust species, which include migratory birds and species that are
1545 endangered, threatened, or at-risk.

1546 There is no formal application process. Instead, an interested landowner contacts the state
1547 program coordinator, and they work together, along with public and private conservation
1548 partners, to develop the project. Program funds are used for sharing restoration project
1549 costs and are not available to lease, rent, or purchase property.

1550 ***State and Tribal Wildlife Grants***

1551 Through the State and Tribal Wildlife Grants Program, the USFWS provides annual grants to
1552 states, territories, and tribes to support cost-effective conservation aimed at keeping
1553 wildlife from becoming endangered. These grant funds are used to address conservation
1554 needs as identified within each state’s State Wildlife Action Plan. The non-competitive
1555 funding is allocated based on land area and population, and state agencies provide a
1556 minimum of 25% matching funds. In Oregon, these funds have primarily been used to fund

1557 ODFW staff positions needed to implement Oregon's State Wildlife Action Plan and to
1558 support coordinated planning and leadership regarding Key Conservation Issues.

1559 The USFWS additionally allocates a portion of funding to the Competitive State Wildlife
1560 Grant Program, which administers competitive grants to support interstate collaboration
1561 on species conservation.

1562 **Farm Bill Programs**

1563 The Farm Bill is one of the largest sources of conservation funding in the federal
1564 government and is a critical tool in the management and restoration of fish and wildlife
1565 habitat. It provides producers with financial and technical assistance and promotes
1566 conservation stewardship through a number of conservation programs, primarily offered
1567 through the Farm Service Agency and the Natural Resources Conservation Service. These
1568 programs can be broadly grouped into four main areas: working lands programs, land
1569 retirement programs, conservation easement programs, and partnership programs.

1570 The **2018 Farm Bill Field Guide to Fish and Wildlife Conservation**, prepared by the North
1571 American Bird Conservation Initiative, is a tool to assist the staff of federal and state fish
1572 and wildlife agencies, non-governmental conservation organizations, joint ventures, and
1573 other conservation partners in implementing Farm Bill conservation programs. It is
1574 primarily designed for those who work collaboratively with private landowners and
1575 agricultural producers to improve soil health, water quality, and fish and wildlife habitat.

1576 ***Conservation Reserve Program (CRP)***

1577 The Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) is a voluntary program that encourages
1578 landowners and farmers to convert marginal cropland or highly erodible and other
1579 environmentally sensitive acreage to vegetative cover, such as native grasses, trees, and
1580 riparian buffers. The CRP pays farmers annual rental payments under 10–15-year contracts
1581 and provides cost share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving covers.
1582 The Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) is an offshoot of the CRP and is
1583 designed to protect environmentally sensitive land by removing those lands from
1584 agricultural production or implementing conservation practices to enhance or protect
1585 those resources.

1586 ***Agricultural Conservation Easement Program***

1587 The Agricultural Conservation Easement Program provides financial and technical
1588 assistance to help conserve agricultural lands and wetlands and their related benefits.

1589 Under the Agricultural Land Easements (ALE) component, the Natural Resources
1590 Conservation Service (NRCS) helps private and tribal landowners, land trusts, and state
1591 and local governments protect working agricultural lands and limit non-agricultural uses of
1592 the land through conservation easements. Under the Wetlands Reserve Easements (WRE)
1593 component, NRCS helps to restore, protect, and enhance enrolled wetlands.

1594 ***Healthy Forest Reserve Program***

1595 The focus of the Healthy Forest Reserve Program (HFRP) is to encourage landowners to
1596 manage their land for sustainable, profitable timber harvests while promoting forest
1597 conditions that improve habitat for the threatened Northern Spotted Owl. Participating
1598 landowners will receive long-term assurances that no additional regulatory restrictions
1599 under the Endangered Species Act will be imposed beyond the current baseline conditions
1600 if they follow a plan that benefits Northern Spotted Owls. In Oregon, HFRP has enrolled
1601 lands in Lane, Douglas, and Jackson Counties. HFRP is a voluntary program established for
1602 the purpose of restoring and enhancing forest ecosystems to promote the recovery of
1603 threatened and endangered species, improve biodiversity, and enhance carbon
1604 sequestration.

1605 ***Environmental Quality Incentives Program***

1606 The Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) is administered by the NRCS and
1607 aims to help farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners integrate conservation into working
1608 lands. The program provides technical and financial assistance to agricultural producers
1609 and forest landowners to address natural resource goals such as improved water and air
1610 quality, conserved ground and surface water, increased soil health, reduced soil erosion
1611 and sedimentation, improved or created wildlife habitat, and mitigation against drought
1612 and increasing weather volatility. Each state develops more specific statewide and local
1613 priorities. Oregon EQIP is implemented through Conservation Implementation Strategies
1614 (CIS), which provide financial assistance through strategic conservation priorities and are
1615 informed by local community input in each county/region. Private land in agricultural
1616 production is eligible for this program with an approved plan and a contract for one to ten
1617 years. Practices are based on a set of national priorities that are adapted to each state.

1618 ***Conservation Stewardship Program***

1619 The NRCS Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) helps agricultural producers maintain
1620 and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation
1621 enhancement activities to address priority resource concerns. Participants earn CSP

1622 annual payments for conservation performance and selected enhancements—the higher
1623 the performance, the higher the payment.

1624 ***Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)***

1625 The Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) is a partner-driven approach to
1626 conservation that funds solutions to natural resource challenges on agricultural land.
1627 RCPP projects fall under two different categories: RCPP Classic and RCPP Alternative
1628 Funding Arrangements (AFAs). RCPP Classic projects are implemented using NRCS
1629 contracts and easements with producers, landowners, and communities, in collaboration
1630 with project partners. Through RCPP AFAs, NRCS provides funding to partners to support
1631 conservation activities with eligible producers and landowners on eligible land. RCPP AFA
1632 funding reimburses partners for conservation activities done for or on behalf of producers,
1633 landowners, or other entities. The RCPP program advances the conservation impact across
1634 large landscapes through public-private partnerships that leverage collective resources
1635 and collaborate on common goals to deliver results for agriculture and conservation.

1636 ***Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG)***

1637 Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG) is a competitive program intended to stimulate the
1638 development and adoption of innovative conservation approaches and technologies, while
1639 leveraging federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection. Under CIG,
1640 EQIP funds are used to award competitive grants to non-federal governmental or non-
1641 governmental organizations, tribes, or individuals.

1642 **Forest Legacy Program**

1643 The Forest Legacy Program is administered by the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in partnership
1644 with State agencies to protect private forestlands from conversion to non-forest uses, and
1645 to promote stewardship and sustainable management of private forest lands by
1646 maintaining working forests that conserve important forest resource and conservation
1647 values for future generations. Forest Legacy provides funds for eligible private forestlands
1648 for the purchase of development rights through either conservation easement or fee-title
1649 acquisition into public ownership. Each state develops an assessment of need that
1650 identifies high-priority private forestlands to protect. To receive federal funding, states
1651 submit an application package to the USFS, which uses a competitive process in
1652 distributing grant funds. The program funds up to 75 percent of project costs.

1653 The program operates in designated Forest Legacy Areas where important forests may be
1654 lost to non-forest uses. The Forest Legacy Program seeks projects that strengthen local
1655 communities through state, local, and private partnerships in conservation. Landowner
1656 participation in the Forest Legacy Program is voluntary. In 2011, Oregon revised its
1657 objectives for the Forest Legacy Program from the original 2001 Assessment of Need. As a
1658 result of the changes, the Oregon Forest Legacy Areas were also updated and now include
1659 36 potential Forest Legacy Areas with boundaries adjusted to include large tracts of private
1660 industrial forestland proximate to public forestlands. These areas were chosen to focus
1661 efforts where important forest resources are at risk. Ecological, social, and economic
1662 factors were considered in identifying and prioritizing the Forest Legacy Areas. The
1663 designated Forest Legacy Areas correspond closely to the forest Ecoregions identified
1664 Oregon's SWAP, particularly the Coast Range, Willamette Valley, Klamath Mountains, East
1665 Cascades, West Cascades, and Blue Mountains.

1666 **Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Program**

1667 The Bureau of Reclamation's WaterSMART program offers grant opportunities for water
1668 efficiency and conservation, habitat restoration and improved fish passage, drought
1669 planning and watershed management projects.

1670 **NOAA Fisheries**

1671 Through National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries, multiple
1672 grant opportunities are available for restoring fish passage through barrier removal,
1673 completing aquatic habitat restoration, and improving coastal resilience.

1674 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT, PRIVATE, AND NON-PROFIT CONSERVATION** 1675 **PROGRAMS**

1676 There are many local government, private, and non-profit organizations that promote
1677 voluntary habitat conservation actions across Oregon, all with different guiding principles
1678 and goals. While not an exhaustive list, the following includes a number of groups or
1679 organizations that provide conservation incentives, technical assistance, and/or
1680 connections to resources.

1681 **Local Soil and Water Conservation Districts**

1682 There are 45 Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in Oregon, located within
1683 every county in Oregon. SWCDs are a type of local government entity called a special

1684 district. SWCDs work with private landowners and other partners on a voluntary basis to
1685 address locally identified resource concerns. Many SWCDs offer financial assistance,
1686 technical assistance, and conservation education and outreach. Some of the categories
1687 SWCD staff assist landowners with include water quality, soil health, urban conservation,
1688 rangeland and forest management, fish and wildlife (including pollinator) habitat
1689 conservation and restoration, wildfire resiliency and recovery, and weeds and invasives.
1690 See the Oregon Association of Conservation Districts webpage to locate your local SWCD.

1691 **Local Watershed Councils or Groups**

1692 Watershed Councils/Groups are based in local communities across the state of Oregon.
1693 They are led by experts in natural resources and guided by boards made up of local
1694 community members. Watershed councils assess and monitor environmental conditions
1695 and conduct voluntary conservation projects to restore and enhance waters and lands for
1696 native species, and for people. They work with local partners, like landowners, community
1697 members, companies/industries, elected officials and municipal/state agencies. In
1698 general, watershed councils focus on restoring aquatic ecosystem and watershed function
1699 based on local resource needs and conditions. Find your local Watershed Council via
1700 OWEB's interactive map.

1701 **Land Trusts**

1702 A land trust is a nonprofit that works with individuals and partners to conserve land. In
1703 Oregon there are over 25 land trusts, all with varying conservation goals. Some land trusts
1704 protect places like waterways and wildlife habitats, some focus on parks and community
1705 gardens, and some work with working farms and ranches to conserve agricultural lands
1706 and uses. Land trusts find grants and fundraise for private donations to purchase land to
1707 conserve directly, or to work with private landowners to establish conservation easements.
1708 If interested in protecting and conserving your natural lands, you can find a land trust near
1709 you or a land trust that works statewide via the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts [LINK
1710 <https://oregonlandtrusts.org/resources/find-a-land-trust/>] webpage.

1711 **Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership**

1712 Pacific Marine and Estuarine Fish Habitat Partnership (PMEP) is nationally recognized for its
1713 voluntary collaboration efforts with local state, tribal, and federal governments along with
1714 non-government and private organizations focused on gathering and synthesizing
1715 information to help protect and restore West Coast fish habitat. They have numerous
1716 projects and have grant opportunities, as well as opportunities for volunteers.

1717 **Oregon Wildlife Foundation**

1718 Oregon Wildlife Foundation (OWF) [LINK <https://myowf.org/>] is an Oregon-based nonprofit
1719 organization with a mission to empower the lasting conservation of Oregon's fish, wildlife,
1720 and community enjoyment of our natural resources. OWF was created in 1981 by business
1721 leaders and members of the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission to accept donations for
1722 and provide funding support to fish, wildlife, and public access projects throughout
1723 Oregon. Through partnerships with other nonprofits, private industry, and ODFW, OWF has
1724 directed tens of millions of dollars to projects around Oregon aimed at conserving the fish,
1725 wildlife, and natural places that make Oregon so special. They offer small reimbursable
1726 grants for approved conservation activities.

1727 **Habitat Joint Ventures**

1728 Habitat Joint Ventures, including [LINK iwjv.org] the Intermountain West Joint Venture and
1729 [LINK pacificbirds.org] the Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture in Oregon, work
1730 collaboratively to bring together the people working to conserve birds and their habitats.
1731 They work both at the regional and flyway scale to conserve birds and their habitats across
1732 jurisdictional boundaries. Joint Ventures help to build strong partnerships and provide
1733 support and guidance to a variety of entities, including state and federal agencies, NGOs,
1734 tribes, hunting and fishing organizations, farmers, and others across all landownership
1735 types. These groups work to create positive outcomes for both communities and habitats
1736 that support birds.

1737 **Species-focused Conservation Groups**

1738 A variety of taxa-focused conservation groups work throughout Oregon to create, maintain,
1739 or restore habitat for their species of interest. While many of the projects these groups
1740 implement are focused on conservation of species that are not identified as SGCN, the
1741 impact of the work these groups do often expands beyond focal species and can create
1742 long-lasting benefits to a broad suite of native species reliant on similar habitat types or
1743 impacted by similar threats.

1744 *Bird Alliance of Oregon*

1745 Bird Alliance of Oregon [LINK <https://birdallianceoregon.org/>] works to inspire people to
1746 love and protect birds, helping connect people to nature through advocacy, education, and
1747 conservation work. The organization engages the public through programs like classes,
1748 outings, camps, and mentorship and community partnership programs. Bird Alliance of

1749 Oregon also operates the largest and busiest wildlife rehabilitation facility in the region,
1750 treating more than 4,000 injured and orphaned native wildlife each year.

1751 *Blacktail Deer Foundation*

1752 The Blacktail Deer Foundation (BDF) [LINK <https://www.blacktaildeer.org/>] is a spin-off of
1753 the Mule Deer Foundation. It was created to give MDF and its partners, volunteers, and
1754 other stakeholders interested specifically in black-tailed deer conservation a focal group
1755 for increased effectiveness and efficiency to impact issues and areas where black-tailed
1756 deer need it most. The BDF offers small grants for habitat restoration work through their
1757 regional conservation coordinator (Oregon and Washington).

1758 *Ducks Unlimited*

1759 Ducks Unlimited (DU) [LINK <https://www.ducks.org/>] is a national nonprofit organization
1760 that conserves, restores, and manages wetlands and associated habitats for North
1761 America's waterfowl, which also benefits other wildlife and people. In Oregon, wetland and
1762 associated habitats are conserved and restored across the state through DU, with
1763 resources for seeking grants, acquiring permits, planning and implementing restoration
1764 actions, and conserving lands.

1765 *Mule Deer Foundation*

1766 The Mule Deer Foundation (MDF) [LINK
1767 [https://muledeer.org/?srsltid=AfmBOooq3nQzcAaY-](https://muledeer.org/?srsltid=AfmBOooq3nQzcAaY-3ds1rWWLiz4Kn8drjyPa82BQJucZiXy_GHw0qj)
1768 [3ds1rWWLiz4Kn8drjyPa82BQJucZiXy_GHw0qj](https://muledeer.org/?srsltid=AfmBOooq3nQzcAaY-3ds1rWWLiz4Kn8drjyPa82BQJucZiXy_GHw0qj)] is a regional nonprofit organization with a
1769 mission to ensure the conservation of mule deer, black-tailed deer, and their habitat. The
1770 MDF offers small grants for habitat restoration work through their regional conservation
1771 coordinator (Oregon and Washington).

1772 *Oregon Hunters Association*

1773 Oregon Hunters Association [LINK
1774 [https://oregonhunters.org/?srsltid=AfmBOoo4MMDZTTiHSw6a4HPb-f832kvSdQytPlQRNj-](https://oregonhunters.org/?srsltid=AfmBOoo4MMDZTTiHSw6a4HPb-f832kvSdQytPlQRNj-OFZgdLL0297pb)
1775 [OFZgdLL0297pb](https://oregonhunters.org/?srsltid=AfmBOoo4MMDZTTiHSw6a4HPb-f832kvSdQytPlQRNj-OFZgdLL0297pb)] mission is "Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage."
1776 OHA is an organization of 26 chapters and 12,000 conservation-minded sportsmen
1777 dedicated to advocating for wildlife, enhancing habitat, and passing along Oregon's hunting
1778 heritage. OHA conducts annual OHA chapter and regional multi-chapter projects that are
1779 implemented to restore and enhance habitat for wildlife. OHA offers grant funding to

1780 support habitat restoration, including the Oregon Hunters Association Mule Deer Fund that
1781 provides grant funding annually to projects that restore or enhance conditions for mule
1782 deer.

1783 *Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation*

1784 Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC) [LINK <https://parcplace.org/>] is a
1785 partnership dedicated to the conservation of reptiles and amphibians and their habitats.
1786 PARC is organized into five regional working groups that focus on both national and regional
1787 conservation challenges, including the Northwest working group (NW PARC). PARC
1788 provides amphibian and reptile educational resources, lesson plans for K-12 curricula, and
1789 guidelines and management principles for state and federal government agencies,
1790 conservation organizations, local governments, private landowners, and the public to
1791 promote effective reptile and amphibian management and help conserve reptile and
1792 amphibian populations.

1793 *Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation*

1794 Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation (RMEF) [LINK RMEF Programs: [https://rmef.org/grant-](https://rmef.org/grant-programs/)
1795 [programs/](https://rmef.org/grant-programs/)] is a national nonprofit, wildlife conservation organization. RMEF's mission is to
1796 ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, and our hunting heritage by protecting, conserving,
1797 restoring, and enhancing natural habitat. RMEF offers grant funding for habitat
1798 stewardship, wildlife management and research, land conservation and access, and
1799 hunting heritage and conservation outreach.

1800 *Trout Unlimited*

1801 Trout Unlimited (TU) [LINK <https://www.tu.org/>] is a national nonprofit organization that has
1802 been actively engaged in fisheries conservation in Oregon since 1995. The core of TU's
1803 mission is to "connect, protect, and restore coldwater fisheries and their habitat." In
1804 Oregon, staff are engaged in fish passage, in-stream restoration, youth education efforts,
1805 and public policy in support of this mission.

1806 *Wild Sheep Foundation*

1807 Founded in 1977 and then known as the Foundation for North American Wild Sheep
1808 (FNAWS), the Wild Sheep Foundation (WSF) [LINK <https://www.wildsheepfoundation.org/>]
1809 is a conservation organization dedicated to restoring wild sheep populations. Their mission
1810 is to enhance wild sheep populations and their habitats, promote scientific wildlife
1811 management, educate the public and youth on sustainable use and the conservation

1812 benefits of hunting while promoting the interests of the hunter. The parent international
1813 organization and the associated state chapters and affiliate organizations conduct fund
1814 raising events annually. Funding generated by these events are available through annual
1815 Grant-In-Aid (GIA) programs for research and management projects supporting their
1816 mission.

1817 *Xerces Society*

1818 The Xerces Society for Invertebrate Conservation [LINK <https://xerces.org/>] is a nonprofit
1819 organization dedicated to the conservation of invertebrates and their habitats, with a focus
1820 on pollinators like bees and butterflies, endangered species conservation, and reducing
1821 pesticide use and impacts. Through research, advocacy, education, and habitat
1822 management planning, Xerces works with farmers, land managers, scientists, and the
1823 public to support invertebrate biodiversity and ecosystem health.

1824 **Forest Conservation Groups**

1825 A variety of organizations work across Oregon to promote the mission of sustainably
1826 managed working forests and voluntary actions to benefit fish and wildlife species. Many
1827 private landowners in Oregon are either members of these groups or are certified by these
1828 organizations, demonstrating broad commitment to stewarding wildlife in Oregon while
1829 maintaining working forests. Partners include the Sustainable Forestry Initiative, Oregon
1830 Small Woodlands Association, the Oregon Tree Farm System, the Oregon Forest Resources
1831 Institute, Oregon Forest Industries Council, and Oregonians for Food and Shelter among
1832 others.

1833 *Oregon Forest Industries Council*

1834 The Oregon Forest Industries Council (OFIC) is a statewide trade association representing
1835 large private forest landowners and wood products manufacturers in Oregon. OFIC directly
1836 represents twenty-two percent of Oregon's forestland and serves as a principal
1837 representative of the Private Forest Accord [LINK to PFA] within the ODFW PFA Grant
1838 program, the Oregon Department of Forestry's Adaptive Management Program, the OSU
1839 Fish and Wildlife Habitat in Managed Forests Program and many others. OFIC plays a vital
1840 role as partners in securing and directing funding from landowners, the legislature, grant
1841 programs, and others towards the study, practice, and direct implementation of
1842 conservation in Oregon's forestlands.

1843 OFIC's core mission is to advocate on behalf of its members to maintain a positive, stable
1844 business operating environment for Oregon's forest products community that fosters long-

1845 term investments in healthy forests; to ensure a reliable timber supply from Oregon's
1846 public and private forestlands; and to promote stewardship and sustainable management
1847 of forestlands that protect environmental values and maintain productive uses on all
1848 forestlands.

1849 **Bonneville Environmental Foundation**

1850 The Bonneville Environmental Foundation (BEF) [LINK [https://www.b-e-f.org/programs/bef-](https://www.b-e-f.org/programs/bef-watersheds-program/)
1851 [watersheds-program/](https://www.b-e-f.org/programs/bef-watersheds-program/)] is an advisor and funder to a wide range of foundations, watershed
1852 organizations, community groups, government agencies, tribal nations, and water
1853 stewardship nonprofits, and offers adaptive approaches, unbiased expertise, and a deep
1854 understanding of how to leverage resources and relationships to build capacity to restore
1855 watersheds. Examples of activities they support include native plant procurement,
1856 fundraising to support watershed groups, and capacity building support for watershed
1857 groups.

1858 **Sustainable Northwest**

1859 Sustainable Northwest [LINK <https://www.sustainablenorthwest.org/>] is a nonprofit
1860 organization that partners with communities throughout the Northwest on projects that
1861 promote smart water use, clean energy, and healthy forests, farms, and ranches. Their work
1862 focuses on regenerative ranching, clean energy, water, forests, and wood markets, and they
1863 offer educational materials, financial incentives, and hands-on support for community
1864 involvement and planning in each of these focal areas.