## Unmanned Aerial Systems Heather Stafford

Assistant Director Innovation & Entrepreneurship

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# Background

- We have invested in UAS companies, test ranges and industry groups over the last six years
- Oregon is one of 13 states with an FAA approval to operate test ranges for commercial use
- Oregon is home to established industry suppliers Garmin, FLIR Systems, Northwest UAV
- Industry will grow with commercialization of UAS
- UAS innovation supports jobs at test ranges in Pendleton, Tillamook and Warm Springs



"We've made a significant investment as a community in unmanned aerial systems, and we believe this industry is about to take off. We think there are going to be some real opportunities for **Pendleton and Eastern Oregon that will** pay dividends for the state."

Pendleton Mayor Phillip Houk

# SOAR Oregon

- Non-profit economic development organization created to foster growth in the UAS industry
- Mission to support Oregon's test ranges, serve existing companies and recruit new businesses
- Launched in 2013-15 with \$900,000 in funding through the Oregon Innovation Council
- Legislature invested \$3 million in SOAR through the Oregon Innovation Council in 2015-17

## **UAS Business Development**

- SOAR partners with Business Oregon and Oregon's three test ranges to grow jobs and companies
- SOAR's contract with Business Oregon includes detailed scope of work and performance metrics
  - Market test ranges and pay for staff to help the test ranges produce \$550,000 in total revenue
  - Provide grants to UAS companies with 3:1 private match
  - Create or retain 20 jobs at the test ranges and companies
- Oregon Innovation Council's audit committee completes SOAR's quarterly performance reviews



#### **Questions?**

Heather Stafford Assistant Director Innovation & Entrepreneurship

