

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP): Rules and Timeline



Purpose: Develop voluntary tools to keep lands in farming and ranching to support:

- Oregon's economy;
- healthy rural communities; and
- healthy fish and wildlife and other natural resources.



Why Focus on Working Lands?

- State's second-largest *economic* driver - \$5.4 billion
- Agricultural lands support valuable *fish and wildlife habitat* and enhance other *natural resources*
- Cornerstone of state's *rural communities*
- State's land use *laws are not enough* on their own to protect farms and ranches from fragmentation and being taken out of production



Goals

- Incentives to keep farms and ranches in production.
- Incentives to support fish, wildlife or other natural resource values.
- Flexible approaches that are tailored to individual landowners.
- Balance landowner and conservation needs.
- Leverage federal money, mostly untapped in Oregon.



Statute: ORS 541.977 – 541.989

- Establishes Oregon Agricultural Heritage Fund for a variety of grant programs
- Establishes Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to oversee investments



Statute: ORS 541.977 – 541.989

- Provides funding for:
 - Conservation management plans
 - Working land conservation covenants and easements
 - Technical assistance
 - Succession planning

Commission Membership

Recommended by	Role	Commissioners
Board of Agriculture	Farmer & rancher	Chad Allen, Tillamook Ken Bailey, The Dalles Doug Krahmer, St. Paul - Chair Woody Wolfe, Wallowa
Board of Agriculture	Ag water quality	Lois Loop, Salem
Fish & Wildlife Commission	Fish & wildlife habitat	Bruce Taylor, Portland – Vice Chair Mary Wahl, Langlois
Department of Land Conservation & Development	Conservation easements	Derek Johnson, Portland
OWEB Board	Natural resource	Mark Bennett, Unity
OWEB Board	Tribal interests	Nathan Jackson, Myrtle Creek
OWEB Board	OSU Extension	Sam Angima, Corvallis
OWEB Board	OWEB Board <i>ex officio</i>	Will Neuhauser, Yamhill



2018

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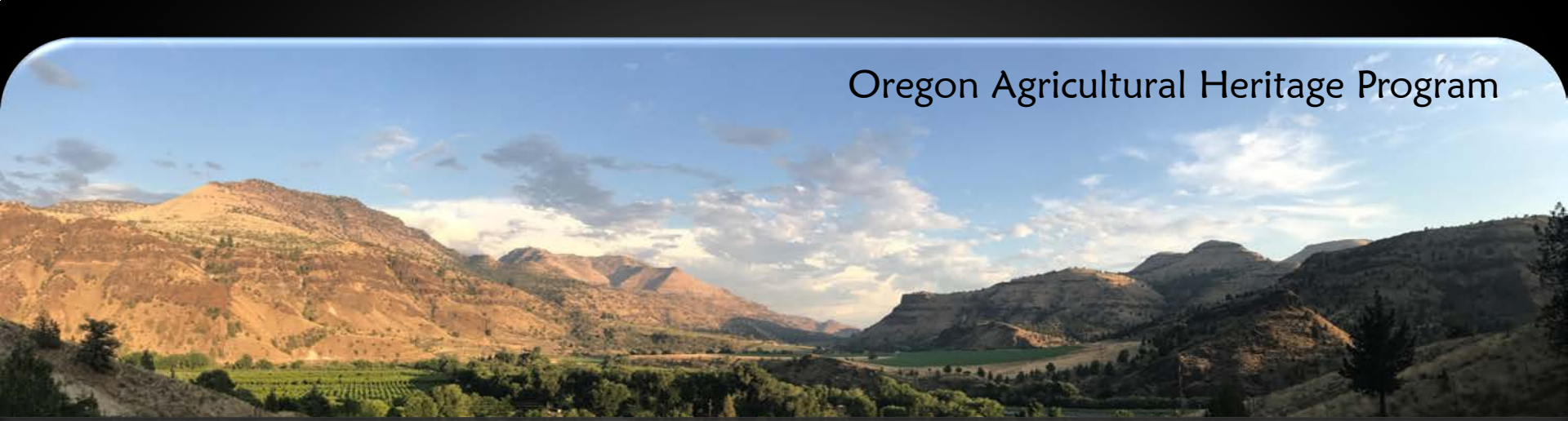
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February 2018 - January 2019

- Rule Development with Commission as RAC
- Public Comment Period July 1 – October 5:
- Statutory changes identified based on rules hearings
- Letter of Interest solicitation
- OWEB Board approval of rules



Statutory Changes – Summary

- ✓ Requires that the use of the land be preserved and protected for agricultural production
 - ✓ Recognizes that farmed land may not be able to be farmed every year;
 - ✓ Reduces potential for legal conflicts between landowners and easement holders
- ✓ Clarifies natural resource values should be ‘maintained or enhanced’
- ✓ Ensures natural resource values, water quality, economic values are all equally represented
- ✓ Clarifies that conservation plans aren’t purchased
- ✓ Clarifies eligible participants and applicants in various programs
- ✓ Consistency regarding role of commission and OWEB

Statutory Changes – HB 2086 addl. changes

- ✓ Following the timeline for the agency to submit the bill request, Commission found additional technical changes
- ✓ Will work with the committee to propose -1 amendments that further clarify language based on rule-making and input from other agencies

Statutory Changes – HB 2086 Section 1

- ✓ Section 1. Requires that the use of the land be preserved and protected for agricultural production as a requirement of a conservation easement (Also Sec. 3)
- ✓ Recognizes that farmed land may not be able to be farmed every year;
- ✓ Reduces potential for legal conflicts between landowners and easement holders

Statutory Changes – HB 2086 Section 2

- ✓ Clarifies natural resource values should be 'maintained or enhanced' (also Sec. 3)
- ✓ Ensures natural resource values, water quality, economic values are all equally represented
- ✓ Clarifies that conservation plans aren't purchased (also Sec. 4)
- ✓ Clarifies who can hold conservation plans

Statutory Changes – HB 2086 Section 4

- ✓ Clarifies who can participate in succession planning grants (also Sec. 6)
- ✓ Clarifies who can apply for technical assistance grants
- ✓ Clarifies that the commission appoints their own technical committees



Statutory Changes – HB 2086 Section 5 & 6

- ✓ Consistency regarding role of commission and OWEB (also Sec. 3)
- ✓ Clarifies that technical committees can report to staff and/or commission