

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP)



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

MAR

APR

MAY

JUN

JUL

AUG

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

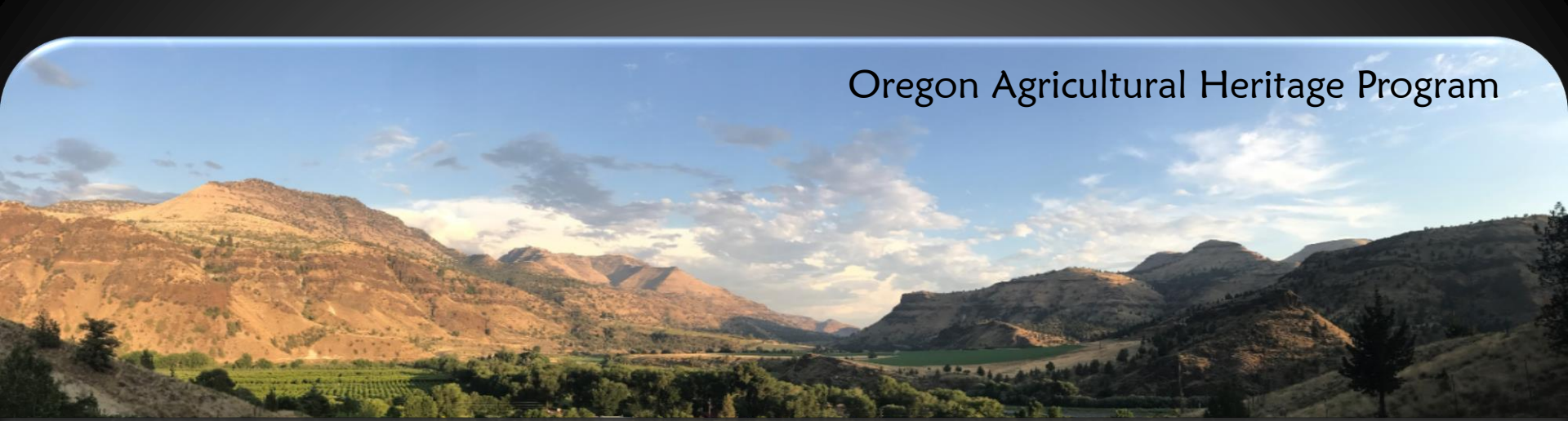
- ✓ Requires that the use of the land be preserved and protected for agricultural production
 - ✓ Recognizes that farmed land may not be able to be farmed every year;
 - ✓ Reduces potential for legal conflicts between landowners and easement holders
- ✓ Clarifies natural resource values should be ‘maintained 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



What is the fund request for?

OAHP statutorily provides funding for:

- Conservation management plans
- Working land conservation covenants and easements
- Technical assistance
- Succession planning



Why would a farmer participate in OAHP?

- 3 programs for landowners... all are voluntary
- Succession Planning
- Conservation Plans
- Working Land Covenants and Easements



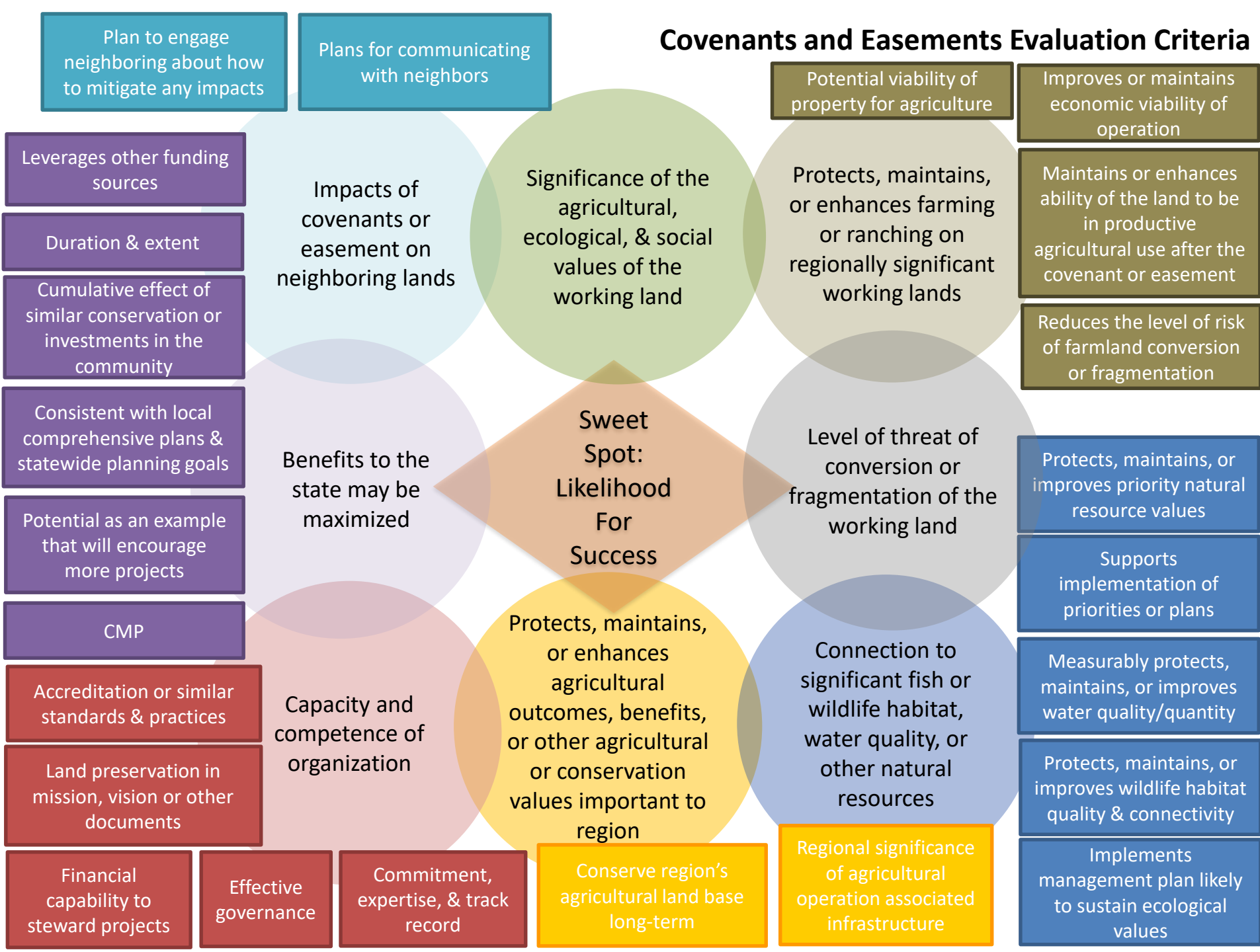
Project Selection

From Statute:

- (a) The extent to which the plan, covenant or easement would **protect, maintain or enhance farming or ranching on working land**;
- (b) The extent to which the plan, covenant or easement would **protect, maintain or enhance fish or wildlife habitat, improve water quality or support other natural resource values**;
- (c) The extent to which the plan, covenant or easement would protect **agricultural outcomes**, benefits or other investment gains;
- (d) The **capacity of the organization** that filed the application to enter into a conservation management plan, accept a working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement, and the competence of the organization;
- (e) The extent to which the **benefit to the state from the investment may be maximized**, based on the ability to leverage grant moneys with other funding sources and on the duration and extent of the conservation management plan, working land conservation covenant or working land conservation easement; and
- (f) The extent and nature of plan, covenant or easement **impacts on owners or operators of neighboring lands**.

(4) The criteria for ranking conservation management plans, working land conservation covenants or working land conservation easements under subsection (3) of this section **may not include a consideration of the type of agricultural operation** conducted on the working land.

Covenants and Easements Evaluation Criteria



Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

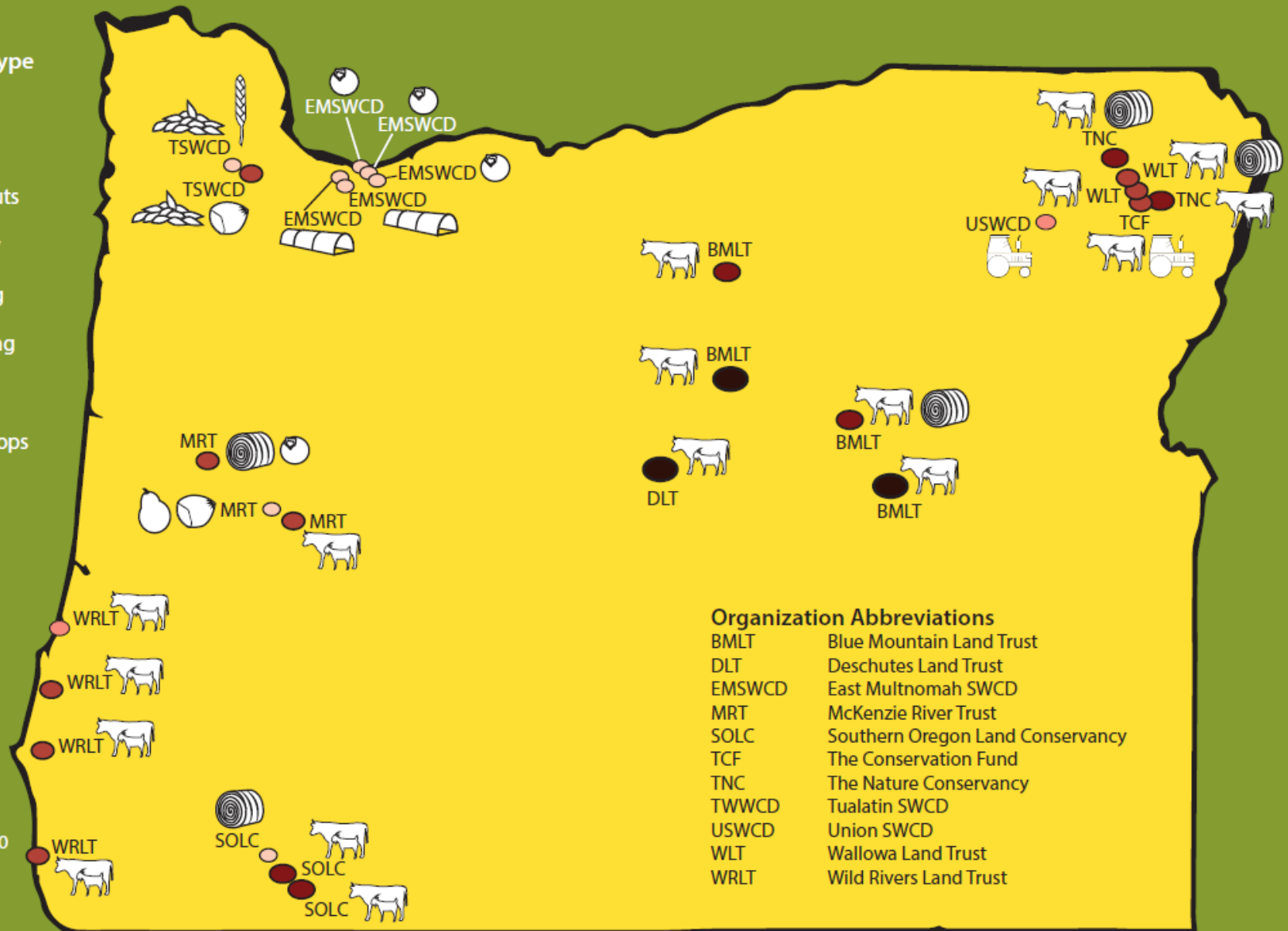
Proposed Projects Based on Letters of Interest

Agricultural Type

-  Berries
-  Fruit
-  Hazelnuts
-  Nursery
-  Farming
-  Ranching
-  Hay
-  Seed crops
-  Grain

Size (Acres)

-  1-50
-  51-100
-  101-1,000
-  1,001-10,000
-  10,001-20,000



Organization Abbreviations

- | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|
| BMLT | Blue Mountain Land Trust |
| DLT | Deschutes Land Trust |
| EMSWCD | East Multnomah SWCD |
| MRT | McKenzie River Trust |
| SOLC | Southern Oregon Land Conservancy |
| TCF | The Conservation Fund |
| TNC | The Nature Conservancy |
| TWWCD | Tualatin SWCD |
| USWCD | Union SWCD |
| WLT | Wallowa Land Trust |
| WRLT | Wild Rivers Land Trust |

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
Proposed Projects Based on Letters of Interest

Organization	Acres	County	Nearest Town	Estimated Covenant/Easement (Total Project)	Estimated OAHF Request	Agricultural Type
Blue Mountain Land Trust	3,696	Grant	Mt. Vernon	\$1,201,200	\$900,900	Ranch, hay
Blue Mountain Land Trust	8,000	Gilliam	Condon	\$2,600,000	\$1,950,000	Ranch
Blue Mountain Land Trust	12,736	Grant	Seneca	\$4,139,200	\$3,104,400	Ranch
Blue Mountain Land Trust	18,850	Wheeler	Mitchell	\$6,126,250	\$4,595,000	Ranch
Deschutes Land Trust	12,894	Crook	Post	\$2,160,000	\$1,665,000	Ranch
East Multnomah SWCD	15	Multnomah	Gresham	\$393,000	\$294,000	Nursery
East Multnomah SWCD	18.5	Multnomah	Corbett	\$350,000	\$262,500	Berries
East Multnomah SWCD	20.05	Multnomah	Corbett	\$540,000	\$405,000	Berries
East Multnomah SWCD	20.22	Multnomah	Corbett	\$327,000	\$245,250	Berries
East Multnomah SWCD	45	Multnomah	Gresham	\$480,110	\$360,082	Nursery
McKenzie River Trust	50	Lane	Pleasant Hill	\$388,000	\$291,000	Hazelnuts, fruit
McKenzie River Trust	230	Lane	Cheshire	\$90,000	\$60,000	Hay, berries, forest
McKenzie River Trust	498	Lane	Lowell	\$3,325,000	\$1,662,500	Goat ranch
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy	16	Jackson	Medford	\$499,100	\$374,250	Farm
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy	1,900	Jackson	Ashland	\$2,400,000	\$1,800,000	Ranch
Southern Oregon Land Conservancy	7,400	Jackson	-	\$18,300,000	\$13,700,000	Ranch
The Conservation Fund	150	Wallowa	Joseph	\$450,000	\$340,000	Farm
The Nature Conservancy	3,500	Wallowa	Wallowa	\$1,000,000	\$750,000	Ranch, hay, forage
The Nature Conservancy	5,000	Wallowa	Joseph	\$930,000	\$697,500	Ranch
Tualatin SWCD	25	Washington	Forest Grove	\$59,000	\$75,000	Seed, grain
Tualatin SWCD	149	Washington	Cornelius	\$390,000	\$45,000	Seed, hazelnuts
Union SWCD	99.6	Union	Union	\$52,945	\$38,958	Farming
Wallowa Land Trust	495	Wallowa	Enterprise	\$693,000	\$400,000	Ranch
Wallowa Land Trust	774	Wallowa	Enterprise	\$1,083,600	\$541,800	Ranch, hay
Wild Rivers Land Trust	82	Coos	North Bend	\$85,000	\$63,750	Ranch
Wild Rivers Land Trust	395	Curry	Gold Beach	\$1,000,000	\$750,000	Ranch
Wild Rivers Land Trust	480	Curry	Port Orford	3,500,000	\$2,600,000	Ranch
Wild Rivers Land Trust	500	Coos	Coquille	\$600,000	\$450,000	Ranch
Totals				\$53,162,405	38,421,890	

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