



March 15, 2019

Honorable Betsy Johnson, Co-Chair  
 Honorable Elizabeth Steiner Hayward, Co-Chair  
 Honorable Dan Rayfield, Co-Chair  
 Joint Committee on Ways & Means  
 H-178 State Capitol  
 Salem, OR 97301

Dear Senators Johnson, Steiner Hayward and Representative Rayfield:

As you know, the Oregon State University Statewide Public Service Programs – the Agricultural Experiment Station, Extension Service, and Forest Research Laboratory – provide state-of-the-art research and outreach in all 36 counties in Oregon. Known as “The OSU Statewides,” these programs apply expertise and advice generated by scientists and extension agents to real-world problems such as pollinator health, pesticides management, water quality and quantity, access to high-quality and nutritional food, and many other environmental quality, health and economic development issues facing Oregonians across the state.

Over the last decade, these programs have faced a series of budget proposals that would close facilities and reduce personnel. And over this period, as a result of assistance and leadership from the legislature, these programs have largely benefitted from legislative funding that has filled the holes, and in 2015 enabled some modest new programs. Unfortunately the Governor’s proposal for the 2019-21 biennium includes no increased funding for the OSU Statewides even though OSU figures indicate that state-mandated costs are increasing at 8 percent.

We deeply appreciate the support you and your colleagues have provided over the years. You know how the Statewides can help the entire state overcome the vexing challenge of bridging the economic divide between urban and rural Oregon.

With the help and support of a wide variety of interest groups and stakeholders, the OSU Board of Trustees developed and approved a comprehensive proposal to add \$30 million in new and recovery programs aimed at making continued progress toward economic prosperity in every corner of the state. The attached information sheet provides detailed information about how these programs will continue to contribute to Oregon’s economic, environmental, and social vitality.

The \$30 million package for the OSU Statewides is incorporated in SB 257 and would be added to the 2017-19 legislatively approved budget of \$124.4 million. While a number of possible mechanisms may be available to the Ways & Means Committee for financing the Statewides, our primary concern in writing to you is to ensure that the \$30 million package is fully funded to provide increases of \$16 million for the Agricultural Experiment Station, \$11.5 million for the Extension Service, and \$2.5 million for the Forest Research Laboratory.

We look forward to working with you in the coming weeks and months to make meaningful progress in a bi-partisan, bi-cameral approach that addresses the needs of urban and rural Oregonians.

Sincerely,

Ann Gosch, President  
**4-H Foundation**

Bill Brewer, President & CEO  
**Oregon Potato Commission**

Anne Maloney, Secretary  
**Klamath-Lake Forest Health Partnership**

Blake Rowe, Chief Executive Officer  
**Oregon Wheat Growers**

April Snell, Executive Director  
**Oregon Water Resources Congress**

Charles Ortiz, President  
**Willamette Valley Specialty Seed Association**

Chris Schreimer, Executive Director  
**Oregon Tilth**

Jeremy Barnicle, Executive Director  
**Ecotrust**

Dawsen Koos, Chairman  
**Oregon Clover Commission**

Jerome Rosa, Executive Director  
**Oregon Cattlemen's Association**

Doug Maag, Chairman  
**Oregon Beef Council**

Jim Desmond, Director  
**The Nature Conservancy**

Eric C. Hunter, President & CEO  
**CareOregon**

Jim Fitzgerald, Executive Director  
**Far West Agribusiness Association**

Greg Block, President  
**Sustainable Northwest**

Jim Geisinger, Executive Vice President  
**Association of Oregon Loggers**

Greg Younger, President  
**Oregon Dairy Industries**

Jim James, Executive Director  
**Oregon Small Woodlands Association**

Heather Jefferis, Executive Director  
**Oregon Council for Behavioral Health**

Juli Jones, Assistant Manager  
**Nut Growers Society of Oregon**

Helle Ruddenklau, President  
**Oregon Women for Agriculture**

Karen Lewotsky, Rural Partnerships Director  
**Oregon Environmental Council**

Ivan Maluski, Policy Director  
**Friends of Family Farmers**

Katie Fast, Executive Director  
**Oregonians for Food & Shelter**

Jake Stockfleth, President  
**Oregon Seed Association**

Kelly Crane, Executive Director  
**Oregon Farmers Markets Association**

Jason Hunton, President  
**Oregon Seed League**

Ken Provencher, President & CEO  
**PacificSource Health Plans**

Jeff Stone, Executive Director  
**Oregon Association of Nurseries**

Lillian Shirley, Director of Public Health  
**Oregon Health Authority**

Mark Hagman, Chairman  
**Oregon Mint Commission**

Ryan Burge, President  
**Oregon Institute of Food Technologists**

Martha Schrader, President  
**Association of Oregon Counties**

Shawn Fels, President  
**Oregon Cheese Guild**

Mary Anne Cooper, Vice President  
**Oregon Farm Bureau**

Spencer Masterson, State Network Manager  
**Oregon Food Bank**

Megan Kemple, Director  
**Oregon Farm to School Network**

Stacy Ann Kraker, Board President  
**Oregon Organic Coalition**

Meredith Nagely, Manager  
**Oregon Hazelnut Commission**

Stuart O'Neill, Executive Director  
**Rogue Farm Corps**

Mike Doke, Executive Director  
**Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers**

Tami Kerr, Executive Director  
**Oregon Dairy Farmer's Association**

Phil Hunter, President  
**Pacific Northwest Christmas Tree Assoc.**

Tim Butler, Chair  
**Oregon Essential Oil Growers**

Rex Storm, Chair  
**Oregon Tree Farm System**

Tim Danowski, Executive Director  
**Oregon Winegrower's Association**

Roger Beyer, Executive Director  
**Oregon Seed Council**

Zach Krahmer, Chairman  
**Oregon Blueberry Commission**

# THE OSU STATEWIDES

EXTENSION SERVICE - AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT STATION - FOREST RESEARCH LABORATORY

## OSU'S STATEWIDE PUBLIC SERVICE PROGRAMS HELP OREGON THRIVE

Under Oregon State's land-grant mission of learning, discovery, and engagement, the Statewides serve Oregonians by (1) identifying emerging issues, (2) discovering research-based solutions, and (3) applying new discoveries through engaged learning.

### OSU Extension Service

Connects Oregonians to science-based expertise, education, and partnerships, including 4-H youth development; family and community health; agriculture, forestry and natural resources; and marine and community development.

### Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station

Focuses the power of science to support over 220 Oregon crop, livestock, and seafood commodities to improve the health and resilience of Oregon's natural and working landscapes, waterways, wildlife, fisheries, and coastal resources.

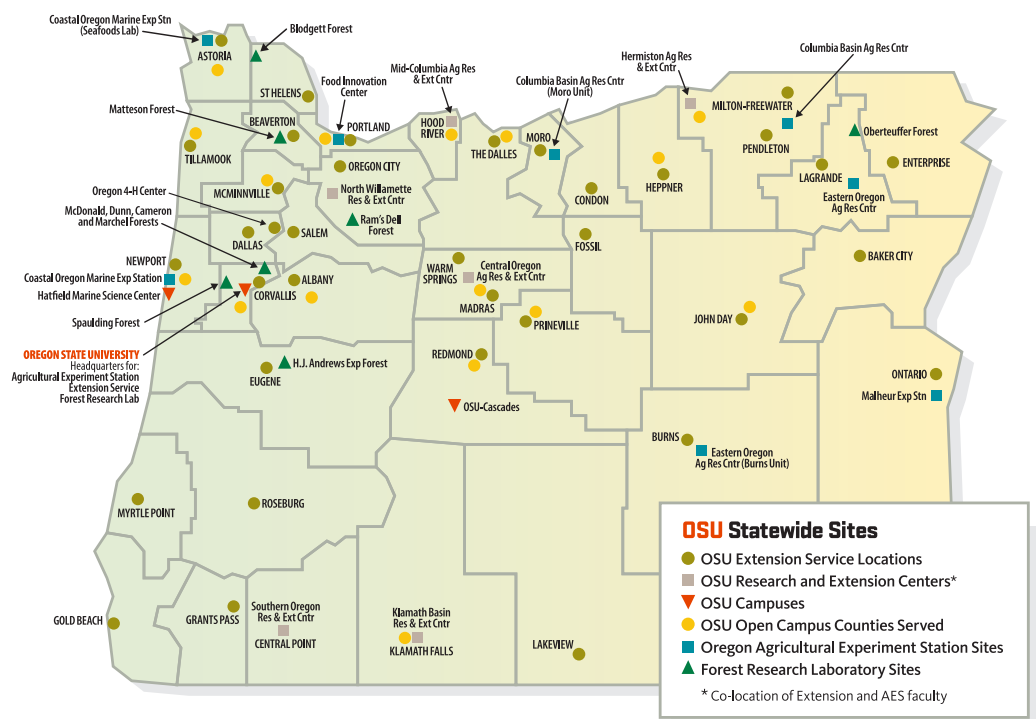
### Oregon Forest Research Laboratory

Conducts research on innovative approaches for managing forest resources to enhance lives and improve the health of Oregon's lands, businesses, and vital ecosystems.

## OUT THERE: SERVING OREGON

### Solving problems and creating economic opportunity across the state

Every day, in communities across Oregon, people are engaged in learning and discovery through the OSU Statewides.



**Oregon State University**

## THE OSU STATEWIDES' IMPACT

We are the only network of research-based statewide community leaders in Oregon that have the local relationships and pioneering knowledge and experience to meet the economic, social, and environmental needs of our state. Examples of our impact include:

### OSU Extension Service

- ▶ The Open Campus program Juntos (meaning “together” in Spanish) has **served 3,500 parents and students** since it launched in 2011, with a 100% high school graduation rate and 92% post-secondary enrollment.
- ▶ Bee specialist Andony Melathopoulos helped establish the **Oregon Bee Project**. The project released a strategic plan for education and outreach with a goal to protect these crucial pollinators.

### Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station

- ▶ Researchers have worked to **reduce exposure to toxins in our water supply** using zebrafish as surrogates.
- ▶ We have collaborated with agriculture producers around the world to develop new tools to improve response to climate change and **maintain global food security**.
- ▶ We continually **work with coastal communities** to help protect endangered species, manage fishery stocks, and expand commercial industries.

### Oregon Forest Research Laboratory

- ▶ To inform land management decisions, a multiyear effort is underway to understand **marbled murrelet** nesting patterns in relation to actively managed forestlands.
- ▶ Researchers continue to bring the science of **fuel-reduction treatments, smoke management strategies, and post-fire restoration practices** to land managers working to reduce intensity and duration of fires that threaten our forestlands and communities.

## INTEGRATED FOR THE FUTURE OF OREGON

The three statewide public-service programs are each mandated by separate, long-standing federal legislation but integrated in their delivery of services and discovery of knowledge. The Oregon legislature provides funding for the Statewides in three distinct line items in the state budget. State appropriations enable the Statewides to receive and compete for federal, local, and external sources that fund research, innovation, and other activities across the state.

The investment we seek for the 2019-21 biennium will **restore, maintain, and build essential research and Extension programs** that address Oregon’s critical needs across three key areas:

### SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, FOOD, FOREST, and FISHERIES PRODUCTION

We must find solutions to address climate, pest, and market challenges that threaten the sustainability of our agricultural, forest, fisheries, and food systems.

### NATURAL RESOURCES SCIENCE and STEWARDSHIP

We must preserve and sustain Oregon’s diverse and productive ecosystems that are under threat from intensifying human use and climate change.

### COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, and RESILIENCE

We must invest in our communities to enhance economic opportunity, create resilient food systems, support youth development, increase social connectivity, and help address growing health challenges.

## 2019-21 FUNDING REQUEST

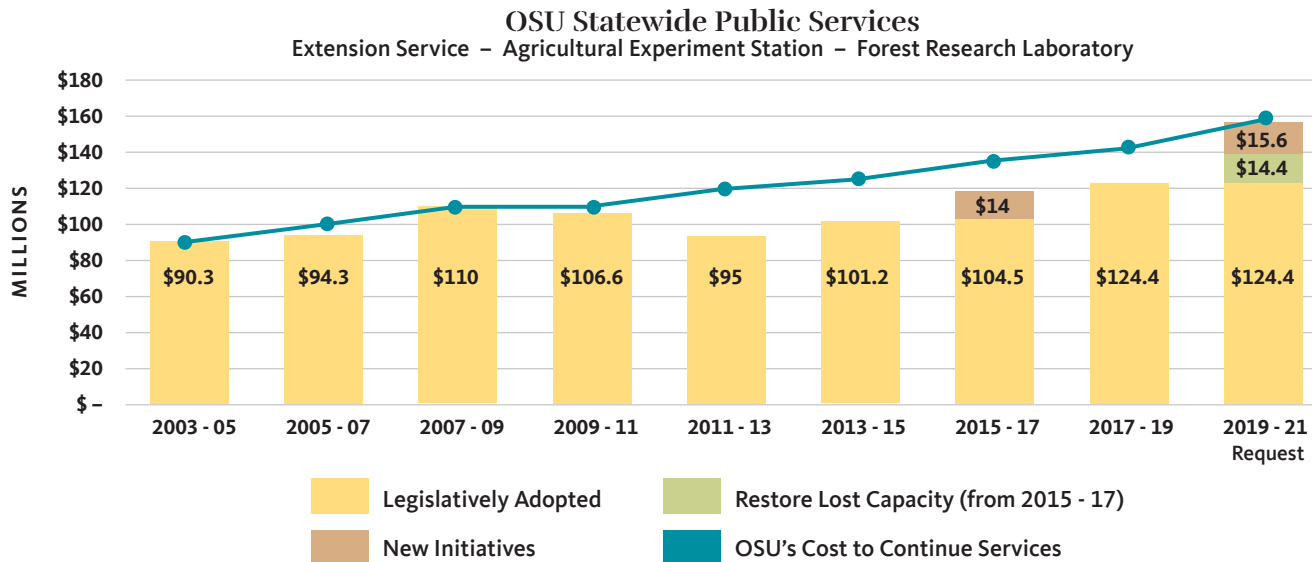
The Statewides are seeking an increase of \$30M in operational funding for the 2019-21 biennium under SB 257. This funding will fill a budget deficit created during the current biennium and ensure that current programs will continue in the next biennium at a level that is sufficient to meet inflationary cost increases. In addition, working with a broad range of constituents, the Statewides are proposing new investments to collaboratively address critical needs facing our state.

Statewide Public Service	2015-17 Legislatively Approved	2017-19 Legislatively Approved	2019-21 Request	Increase from 2017-19
Agricultural Experiment Station	\$63.1 M	\$66.1 M	\$82.1 M	\$16 M
OSU Extension Service	\$45.6 M	\$47.7 M	\$59.2 M	\$11.5 M
Forest Research Laboratory	\$9.8 M	\$10.2 M	\$12.7 M	\$2.5 M
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$118.5 M</b>	<b>\$124 M</b>	<b>\$154 M</b>	<b>\$30 M</b>

## RESTORING OUR STATEWIDE IMPACT

The 4.7% funding increase in the current 2017-19 biennium created a 3.2% shortfall because it did not meet inflationary cost increases. The Statewides were forced to implement approximately \$4 million in budget cuts including:

- ▶ A total of 18 Extension, Ag Experiment Station, and Forest Research Lab positions left unfilled
- ▶ Further cuts to community, agricultural, and natural resource services
- ▶ Reduced critical research and diminished stakeholder outreach





# COLLABORATIVE INVESTMENT IN OREGON'S FUTURE

To be most effective, we have identified strategic investments that impact all three of the core focus areas of **natural resource stewardship, sustainable forestry and food production, and community economic development and resilience**. These strategic investments make best use of our collective research knowledge, relationships, and reach across the entire state. Examples include:

## INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT (IPM)

We will systematically develop and extend IPM programs to provide cost-effective pest management strategies and reduce toxins in both urban and agricultural environments.

This will include programs in:

- ▶ Urban IPM (with targeted Spanish-language options)
- ▶ School IPM
- ▶ Pesticide safety education
- ▶ Agency IPM
- ▶ Pollinator health
- ▶ Production Ag IPM

## INTEGRATED RIVER BASIN WATER QUALITY and QUANTITY

We will provide systematic, coordinated regional research and education programs focused on helping to solve Oregon's growing ground- and surface- management challenges.

This will include programs focused on:

- ▶ Increasing water conservation, storage and instream flows
- ▶ Integrating water and fertilizer management
- ▶ Increasing irrigation efficiency

## BUILDING CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE IN CROPS, LIVESTOCK, and SEAFOOD SYSTEMS

We will develop new varieties and new management systems that provide resilience to climate change for crops, coastal fisheries, and livestock.

This will include:

- ▶ Developing new management strategies for fisheries and seafood
- ▶ Accelerating development of resilient crop varieties
- ▶ Accelerating the use of precision technologies to increase efficiency and resilience in livestock and cropping systems

## FIRE RESILIENCE and RESISTANCE

We will advance fire resilience and resistance on lands that are most at risk to catastrophic wildfire, and deliver fire and drought information that directly supports land managers.

This will include:

- ▶ Advancing pre-fire response efforts to reduce fuel loads on lands that are most at risk to catastrophic wildfire
- ▶ Delivering fire and drought information and outreach that directly supports land managers
- ▶ Building partnerships to mitigate risks and improve forest health

## WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT and SECURITY

We will enhance economic opportunity and close the achievement gap by providing equitable access to workforce education and youth development in communities across Oregon.

This will include programs focusing on:

- ▶ Enhanced youth development, including 4-H and college and career readiness
- ▶ Fostering skills development in Oregon's rural workforce in the growing data-science and outdoor-economy sectors

## COMMUNITY HEALTH and RESILIENCE

We will enhance community health and resilience by leveraging our expertise and partnerships to foster economic development, build social cohesion, and help address complex community challenges.

This will include programs focusing on:

- ▶ Poverty and underemployment
- ▶ Health and nutrition
- ▶ Food insecurity and lack of resilient community food systems
- ▶ Growing opioid and mental health challenges in rural communities

For more information visit [ourimpact.oregonstate.edu](https://ourimpact.oregonstate.edu) or contact:

### Scott Reed

Vice Provost, Outreach and Engagement;  
Director, OSU Extension Service

[scott.reed@oregonstate.edu](mailto:scott.reed@oregonstate.edu)

541-737-2713

### Alan Sams

Dean, College of Agricultural Sciences;  
Director, Oregon Agricultural  
Experiment Station

[alan.sams@oregonstate.edu](mailto:alan.sams@oregonstate.edu)

541-737-2331

### Anthony Davis

Interim Dean, College of Forestry;  
Interim Director, Oregon Forest  
Research Laboratory

[anthony.davis@oregonstate.edu](mailto:anthony.davis@oregonstate.edu)

541-737-1585