

**INTEREST
FORMS**



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

Applicant Information

Name Kenneth F. Bierly

Affiliation personal

Occupation
 Retired

Mailing address [REDACTED]

Town/City [REDACTED] **State** OR **Zip Code** [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED] **Fax Number** [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature *Kenneth F. Bierly*

- By signing above, you certify that:
- All of the information on this form is true;
 - You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
 - You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
 - You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
 - You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I grew up in Jefferson County and grew peppermint to put me through college at Oregon State University. I studied ecology and received a M.S. from Colorado State University in Plant Ecology. I was a private environmental consultant from 1972 until 1983. In 1983 I was hired by the Division of State Lands (now the Department of State Lands). I worked with the agency in their Removal-Fill program and was the primary technical staff in the development of the 1989 Freshwater Wetlands Law (Senate Bill 3) that passed both houses of the legislature with a single dissenting vote. I became the Wetlands Program manager and led the development of the state wetlands management program.

In 1996 I was asked by Governor Kitzhaber's Natural Resource Advisor to take the position of Program Manager for the Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board (GWEB). As part of the Governor's Natural Resources team, I was involved in the development of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds. I was also involved in the development of the GWEB grant program from the relatively small program that was developed in the 1980's to a more substantial program with a variety of funding sources.

I was responsible for developing and negotiating the Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program with the U.S. Department of Agriculture that brought the Secretary of Agriculture to Oregon for a signing ceremony in 1998. The program was based on agricultural economics research from Oregon State University and designed to help private landowners comply with water quality and native fish habitat recovery. The Oregon CREP program is a state-federal partnership incentive program that helps landowners to comply with Oregon's Agricultural Water Quality Program.

With passage of a November 1998 ballot measure that dedicated State Lottery funds for conservation, I was the technical staff assigned to assist the development and negotiate implementing legislation. Following the long process during the 1999 Legislative Session, I was appointed Deputy Director of the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board that was created by the legislation. As Deputy Director I assisted with program and staff development for a growing grant program. I was part of the Willamette Initiative that developed a partnership with the Meyer Memorial Trust and the Bonneville Environmental Foundation which was awarded the Thies International RiverPrize in 2012.

I currently manage a 1,000-acre ranch in northern Jefferson County. I have been manager for the last 4 years for my wife's family who own the inherited ranch. I am aware of the difficulty of making any kind of a profit off dryland agriculture.

I have seen the implementation of Oregon's Land Use program and been party to efforts to connect land conservation with regulation and have seen firsthand the struggle to address "working lands" through a conservation lens. I have broad experience from all corners of the state.

See Attached Resume

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

As a fourth generation Oregonian, I am very interested in the future of Oregon as a home for my granddaughter and her (possible) children. I am proud of the Donation Land Claim for the homestead in Benton County of my mother's great grandfather, signed by President Johnson only 8 months after the assassination of President Lincoln, that hangs in our home. With a long history in Oregon and a hoped-for future, I would like to use my talents to help shape that future.

I have had the opportunity to visit all corners of Oregon and have become familiar with the incredible diversity of ecosystems, economies, and people in the state. I am passionately interested in understanding the socio-ecological systems of the state and finding ways to protect and restore the resiliency of our communities and ecosystems.

I am a student of ecology and have a deep interest in socio-ecological systems. I have coauthored peer reviewed papers on Oregon's wetlands and restoration of Oregon's estuarine wetlands. I have seen the shift from a purely regulatory "protection" approach to add a more economic based conservation approach using incentives that have a basis in economics as well as ecology.

I have participated in Legislative and public conversations about conservation in Oregon for more than 30 years. During that time, I have seen changes in both public awareness and citizen involvement in issues associated with land conservation. I have seen a greater awareness of the complexity and integrated nature of Oregon's socio-ecological systems.

I was raised in a small, agricultural, rural community (Madras) and obtained an intimate connection to the agricultural economy and lifestyle. My father was a County Extension Agent and often took me on field tours and farm visits. I grew potatoes and peppermint to put me through college. My High School classmates were dependent on farm income either directly or indirectly for their support. I would like to see the opportunities that I had continue for others.

I believe that I have a breadth of experience, depth of knowledge and openness to opportunities that would allow me to help the Commission function in the best interest of all Oregonians.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

Oregon agriculture is facing significant pressures of water resource availability, climate change, economic pressure and land use compatibility. While the Oregon Land Use program has reduced conflicts seen in other areas there remains conflicts at the edge of urban areas and in a political sense between urban centers and rural areas of the state.

Water resource conflicts are acute in the Klamath, Harney, Lake, Umatilla, and Malheur basins and likely to be felt throughout the East side. While water resource conflicts are evident west of the Cascades, they are often between instream uses and domestic water uses on the coast.

Oregon's diversity is a major factor affecting the complexity of both agriculture and fish and wildlife habitat conservation. The diversity of Oregon's agriculture makes it difficult to generalize when more than 220 commodities are produced in the state. I have seen a significant shift in the dominant forms of agriculture over the years. The Oregon Land Use Planning program has slowed the conversion of agricultural and forest lands to urban and rural residential uses. The effects are dramatic when compared to land use change in Washington.

There are, however, significant remaining issues associated with agricultural land tenure and management. There have been a number of significant recent reports looking at the issues facing agriculture in the state. Oregon's farm operators are aging with the average age of 60. Over the next 20 years nearly 65% of Oregon's farmland will change ownership. This transition could have a significant effect on rural communities throughout the state. Creating alternative opportunities for agricultural landowners will only become more important in the future.

Other factors affecting agriculture is water security, urban-rural conflicts, and legacies from past policies. Water availability is especially problematic in the arid two thirds of the state. Locations such as the Harney Basin are facing water well curtailment due to over allocation of groundwater permits.

Urbanization is a primary driving force linked to population change. Those areas with the highest growth rates often have the greatest conflicts.

Legacy policies such as dikes and revetments constructed under the Flood Control Acts of the 1930's, 1940's, and 1950's have a legacy of diked lands that in only a few locations retain significant agricultural value. Projects such as the recently constructed Beaver Slough Drainage District project in the Coquille Valley has worked towards a balance between agricultural production and fish and wildlife enhancement. In a similar manner projects such as the easement on Deer Haven Farm in Benton County provides for the opportunity to retain a Century Farm yet restore floodplain function.

In other locations irrigation districts with senior water rights are being rapidly urbanized while junior water right holders are producing high value agricultural products. The balance between the rights based on historical precedent and current need/value is difficult to achieve.

Issues facing Oregon's natural resources are similar in that habitat loss and fragmentation is the leading cause of species declines. The Oregon Conservation Strategy provides a good starting point for the primary issues that pose the greatest potential impact to Oregon Fish and wildlife resources are Climate Change, Land Use Changes, Invasive Species, Disruption of Disturbance Regimes, Barriers to Animal Movement, Water Quality and Quantity. These result in challenges and provide opportunities for private landowners. The significant mix of public and private lands in Oregon are both a significant benefit and a challenge for fish and wildlife management. Addressing these issues also affects people by considering land productivity, opportunities for recreation, water supplies, or risk of severe wildfires.

The greatest challenge is looking at the fish and wildlife species and ecosystems that support them in context of the social and economic systems that have developed around them. Understanding the connections and feedback loops is critical for wise policy choices.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name Mark Owens
Affiliation (if any) Oregon State Legislature
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
State OR
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name Brenda Smith
Affiliation (if any) High Desert Partnership
Mailing Address [REDACTED]
City/Town [REDACTED]
State OR
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name Mary Wahl
Affiliation (if any) Wahl Ranches
Mailing Address
City/Town [REDACTED]
State OR
Zip Code [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: April Mack
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by June 30, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.

Kenneth F. Bierly

Resume of Experience and Education

Professional Accomplishments

Awards

- 2013 Pacific Northwest Region U. S. Forest Service, Special Appreciation Award, Program Partnership
- 2012 International River Foundation, Thiess Riverprize winner for Willamette River Initiative
- 2012 Ecological Society of America, ESA Regional Policy Award for Informing Policy with Ecological Science
- 2012 U.S. Forest Service, Collaborative Aquatic Stewardship Award
- 1997 Vice President Al Gore, Hammer Award
- 1992 Environmental Law Institute, National Wetlands Award

Non-Profit Boards

- 2014-2017 Glenn Gibson Creek Watershed Council
- 2015-2017 Institute for Applied Ecology
- 2013-2017 Nellie Thompson-Dorothy Patch Scholarship Fund
- 2017 Straub Environmental Center Advisory Board

Public Boards

- 2002-2004 Chair, Environmental Commission –Salem, Oregon
- 2015-2017 Fish passage Task Force – Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- 2015- present Institute for Applied Ecology, Chair

Bierly & Associates LLC 2013 - present

- Harney Basin Integrated Water Resource Management Plan technical writer
- Strategic Plan for Harney County Watershed Council
- Strategic Plan for Tillamook Bay Watershed Council
- Assistance with Lower Nehalem Community Trust acquisition of Bott's Marsh
- Grant facilitation for Winter Lake tidegate restoration project

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board 1999 - 2013

- As Deputy Director oversaw the development of staff and program for the newly developed agency
- Developed grant program offerings, evaluation criteria and procedures
- Supervised contracts to develop land acquisition and restoration priorities
- Reviewed policies and proposed actions with the OWEB Board
- Coordinated with other agencies in the implementation of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds
- Led the Willamette Initiative for OWEB, coordinating with Meyer Memorial Trust and Bonneville Environmental Foundation.
- Established an applied research project review process with OSU Sea Grant Program.
- Provided tribal coordination for OWEB

Governor Kitzhaber Staff, Governor's Watershed Enhancement Board Program Manager 1996-1999

- Contracted for and oversaw the development of the Oregon Watershed Assessment Guide
- Technical lead for legislative interaction with Oregon Legislature for a portfolio of natural resource agencies

Kenneth F. Bierly

- during legislative sessions 1997 and 1999
- Developed and negotiated the Oregon Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) with U.S. Department of Agriculture.
- Governor's staff for the Healthy Streams Partnership to integrate water quality and salmon recovery
- Participant in the development of the Oregon Plan for Salmon and Watersheds

Wetlands Program Manager, Oregon Division of State Lands 1983-1996

- Drafted Administrative rules for wetland and waterway permitting
- Provided administrative enforcement of state wetland and waterway alteration laws
- Agency technical lead for Oregon Freshwater Wetlands Act during legislative session in 1989
- Development of agency Wetlands Program
- Provided testimony to Oregon legislative committees, administrative law judges, and state court settings on Oregon wetlands laws
- Testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources on the reauthorization of the Clean Water Act
- Developed detailed technical comments on the Corps of Engineers Wetlands Delineation Manual
- Project Manager for Astoria Airport Mitigation Bank
- Responsible for review of wetland delineations by consultants

Wetland and Waterway Resource Consultant 1974-1983

Montagne & Associates, Inc., Montagne-Bierly & Associates, Inc., Bierly & Associates, Inc.

- Environmental Impact evaluation of proposed offshore oil platform fabrication facility, Warrenton, Oregon – Client Brown & Root, Inc.
- Wetland delineation and Estuary Planning information for Grays Harbor Estuary Management Plan, Grays Harbor, Washington – Client Wilsey & Ham, Inc.
- More than 200 consulting assignments throughout the Pacific Northwest for private and public clients with an emphasis on wetland and waterway resources and regulation

Education

1972	M.S.	Colorado State University, Ft. Collins, Colorado
1966	B.S.	Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon

Thesis

Meadow and Fen Vegetation of Big Meadows, Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado 1972

Publications

Boule, M.E. and K.F. Bierly. 1987. History of estuarine wetland development and alteration: what have we wrought? Northwest Environmental Journal. 3(1): 43-61.

Bernert, J.A., J.M. Eilers, B.J. Eilers, E. Blok, S.G. Daggett and K. F. Bierly. 1999. Recent wetlands trends (1981/82-1994) in the Willamette Valley, Oregon, USA. Wetlands. 19(3): 545-559.

Flitcroft, R.L., D.L. Bottom, K.L. Haberman, K. Bierly, K.K. Jones, C.A. Simenstad, A. Gray, K.S. Ellingson, E. Baumgartner, T. J. Cornwell, and L.A. Campbell. 2016. Expect the unexpected: place-based protections can lead to unforeseen benefits. Aquatic Conservation: Marine and Freshwater Ecosystems 26. (Suppl 1):39-59.

Wiley, Pam, Ken Bierly, Todd Reeve, and Kendra Smith. 2013. When Local Solutions Aren't Enough: A Strategic Funding Partnership to Restore a Large River System. The Foundation Review. 5(1):89-104.



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

Applicant Information

Name Eduardo Contreras
Affiliation Intermountain West Joint Venture
Occupation

Retired Habitat Program Coordinator

Mailing address [REDACTED]
Town/City [REDACTED] **State** OR **Zip Code** [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number** [REDACTED]
Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature *Eduardo Contreras*

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.
- Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- Farmer or Rancher** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat** (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- Agricultural Water Quality** (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers** (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- Indian Tribal Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)
- Natural Resource Value Interests** (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

Private agricultural lands play a vital role in sustaining multiple ecosystem services. In the arid West, settlement patterns influenced by access to water have concentrated private ownership over some of the most productive and biodiverse areas on the landscape. The stewardship of these natural resources by landowners and agricultural producers has been integral to the continued persistence of wildlife habitat, clean water, open vistas, and many other natural assets that we all treasure today. Conserving habitat by developing partnerships with agriculture has been a space where I have dedicated my career. Many natural resources challenges in Oregon and across west are intertwined with agriculture. Through my work, I have learned how agricultural practices interact with the environment and I have found that developing solutions that include agricultural producers, systems and practices as a way to conserve and enhance ecosystem functions have led to great outcomes in conservation. Working with the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission to protect special agricultural lands and the many natural resource values they support, would be an energizing opportunity and responsibility that I would invest in wholeheartedly.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

Over the last 9.5 years I have worked with farmers and ranchers to implement habitat projects on rangelands and wetlands in the states of Montana, Idaho, Oregon, and California. My education and interests in rangeland resource management and wildlife biology have set me on a trajectory to work at the intersect of wildlife habitat and livestock production. My work experience has ranged from being a ranch intern and laborer, conducting the day-to-day activities common on a working ranch, to developing and implementing new collaborative conservation programs for strategic habitat conservation on private lands.

I am especially familiar with Farm Bill Conservation Title programs and have worked closely with the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) in three states since 2014. I have applied habitat projects using the Environmental Conservation Incentive Program (EQIP), Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program-Agricultural Land Easements (ACEP-ALE), and Regional Collaborative Conservation Program (RCCP). Some of the NRCS funded projects I am most proud of involve partnerships with other agencies or NGO's to leverage technical resources and complement financial investments.

I have long had an affinity for conservation easements and have sought opportunities to become involved with this important conservation tool. In my current position, one of my first tasks was to oversee the implementation of \$1.6 million in ACEP-ALE funds as part of an RCCP funded project. I developed a competitive and targeted application and review process to identify conservation easement projects that would protect wetlands on irrigated ranches. This effort resulted in two conservation easement projects with multiple funding partners. Since then, I have continued developing partnerships with land trusts in Oregon and California, assisted with writing technical and biological summaries on grant proposals for easement acquisition, transferred science for strategic conservation easement planning, and helped landowners in the early development of their conservation easement projects. To date, I have helped landowners and land trust partners with conservation easements on approximately 7,000 acres of farm and ranchland resulting in the strategic protection of upland and wetland habitats.

Outside of my professional employment I have participated in boards of community organizations. Over the last two years, I have served as a board member of the High Desert Trail Riders Chapter of the Back Country Horsemen of Oregon. This organization is dedicated to maintaining open trail for all users on public, and we volunteer regularly with agencies to assist in trail clearing or habitat projects like fish stocking in remote locations where pack stock is required. Recently, I accepted to participate as a Board-recruit for the Klamath Lake Land Trust, a local land trust based in my community of Klamath Falls, Oregon.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

The primary threat to Oregon's agricultural lands and the natural resources they sustain are land use changes that upset the delicate balance of agricultural production and environmental sustainability. Stressors that drive these changes are often economic, policy, or climate related.

In arid Eastern Oregon, for example, climate induced drought and water demands are resulting in an accelerated level of water scarcity with measurable impacts to both agricultural production and wetland/riparian habitats. Water quantity concerns are not a new issue in this region and are increasingly widespread but are generalized as a competition between users for an overallocated resource. However, these issues can be more complex than they appear. Approximately 70% of wetlands for waterbirds and mesic habitat for species in the sagebrush biome are found on private lands in this part of the state, making private lands essential to stable wildlife populations. In many cases the same water that is growing forage for livestock using "inefficient" systems like flood-irrigation are providing foraging areas for migrating waterfowl or brood-rearing habitats for sage grouse. Policy changes that attempt to address water quantity concerns, without a system wide perspective, could have adverse impacts to both the sustainability of ranching and the habitats they maintain. Understanding watershed function and how agriculture uses interact with water is essential to developing lasting solutions and preventing unintended impacts.

Farm economics are an unavoidable element that have and will continue to drive the future of agriculture. Economic assessment and cost studies of agricultural operations show how scant margins can be for family-owned farms and ranches. Across the nation, the limited profitability of smaller agricultural operations has resulted in the consolidation of agricultural lands and development to non-agricultural uses. Clean water and wildlife can be products of good stewardship of a ranch but these are often not financially rewarded. Identifying appropriate ways to compensate or incentivize the ecosystem services provided by private lands may be essential to the economic sustainability of family-run, conservation-minded agricultural operations.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Ron Alvarado

Oregon NRCS

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Reference #2

Larry Maxwell

Rancher/Conservation Easement Landowner

[Redacted]
[Redacted]

Reference #3

Bruce Taylor

Former OAHC Commissioner

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

ATTN: April Mack

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by June 30, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.

Eduardo Contreras

Education

The University of Montana-Missoula, MT 2009-2013

- B.S. Wildlife Biology with Honors: Terrestrial Option
- B.S. Resource Conservation with Honors: Range Management and Grassland Ecology
- GPA: 3.44

Professional Experience

SONEC Conservation Delivery Coordinator November 2018-Present

Intermountain West Joint Venture-Klamath Falls, OR

- Coordinate wetland habitat conservation efforts for migratory birds on public and private lands in Southern Oregon and Northeastern California (SONEC).
- Collaborate with state, federal, tribal, NGO's, and private landowners to fund and implement habitat enhancement and restoration activities.
- Oversee strategic private lands habitat conservation program focused on irrigation practices benefitting migratory birds. Manage two private land habitat biologists.
- Developed successful proposal for a \$3.8 million NRCS Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP) grant focused on wetlands in the Klamath Basin. Coordinated implementation of \$2.6 million RCPP grant focused on irrigated wet meadows across SONEC.
- Build momentum for conservation easements in SONEC through partnerships with land trusts, agencies, local conservation groups, and landowners. Assist land trusts with securing funding for conservation easement acquisition.

SGI Range & Wildlife Conservationist January 2014-October 2018

Pheasants Forever/NRCS-Mountain Home, ID

- Implemented Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) Farm Bill Programs with a focus on the Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI)
- Worked closely with agricultural producers to implement numerous habitat projects that complement agricultural operations on private and public lands.
- Planned, implemented and monitored structural, vegetative and management conservation practices on rangelands to improve wildlife habitat
- Collaborated with various agencies and organizations including: US Fish and Wildlife Service, Idaho Fish and Game, Idaho Department of Lands, Bureau of Land Management, Idaho Governor's Office of Species Conservation
- Conducted outreach for Farm Bill programs, applied for grants and funding, led and assisted with workshops and tours, and developed outreach materials.

Eduardo Contreras

Ranch Intern

May 2013-October 2013

Clark Fork Coalition-Deer Lodge, MT

- Assisted on all aspects of operating a conservation-focused, cow-calf and grass-finished beef operation
- Haying: irrigating, swathing, bailing, stacking
- Livestock: moving, feeding, branding, sorting, doctoring
- Applied progressive agricultural practices: temporary and permanent electric fence, cell grazing, range riding, soil moisture monitoring
- Applied riparian conservation practices: planting riparian vegetation, riparian fencing, maintaining water developments, managing livestock distribution.

Rangeland Research Technician

October 2012-May 2013

University of Montana-Missoula, MT

- Provided plant data summaries for developing a Rangeland Vegetation Simulator
- Reviewed scientific literature and collected information on plant characteristics and response to management and disturbance.
- Formatted and edited reports. Produced maps and geospatial files.

Rangeland Conservationist Intern

July 2012

U.S. Forest Service-Bishop, CA

- Monitored grazing allotments: fencing, lessee compliance
- Conducted vegetation inventories and identified vegetation in the field
- Collected measurements on grazing utilization

Wrangler/Mule Packer

Summers 2010, 2011, 2012

Rock Creek Pack Station-Bishop, CA

- Guided day rides and multi-day horse packing trips
- Hosted clients in backcountry camps.
- Cared for horses and mules.
- Observed U.S. Forest Service, Wilderness, and National Park Service stock grazing and outfitter regulations
- Trained new employees

Boards and Community Activities

Klamath Lake Land Trust-Board Recruit

2022-Present

HDTR Chapter, Back Country Horsemen of Oregon-Board Member

2020-Present

Harney Basin Wetlands Collaborative-Participant

2018-Present



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

Applicant Information

Name Gregory Green
Affiliation Ducks Unlimited
Occupation
 Retired Director of Conservation Programs – Pacific Northwest (AK, ID, OR, UT, & WA)
Mailing address [REDACTED]
Town/City [REDACTED] **State** [REDACTED] **Zip Code** [REDACTED]
Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number**
Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- Farmer or Rancher (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- Agricultural Water Quality (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- Indian Tribal Interests (selected by the OWEB Board)
- Natural Resource Value Interests (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

Oregon's farm and ranchlands provide valuable benefits to fish and wildlife throughout the state, including migratory birds. It's estimated that a significant portion of wetlands in Oregon (~70%) are located on private land. Maintaining and protecting those resources while keeping farms and ranches sustainable is an important component of Ducks Unlimited's conservation program delivery. As DU's Director of Conservation Programs for the Pacific Northwest including Oregon, I oversee a team of biologists and engineers that deliver a suite of conservation actions on private working lands, including conservation easements, habitat restoration and enhancement actions, and farm efficiency and infrastructure improvements. I am interested in being a representative to the Commission, as I believe that my background, experience, and appreciation for protecting and improving private working lands will provide context and value to a successful Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program, as well as the longevity of Oregon's working lands.

Organizational Disclaimer: Ducks Unlimited (DU) is a 501(c)3 private corporation with a mission dedicated to protecting and conserving habitats important to North America's waterfowl. These habitats also benefit other wildlife and people through numerous ecosystem services. Founded in 1937, DU has conserved more than 15 million acres of habitat in North America including 126,817 acres in Oregon. DU / Wetlands America Trust (WAT) is accredited by the Land Trust Alliance. Holding conservation easements to more than 479,000 acres of private lands in the United States, DU/WAT is the third largest land trust in North America. DU may be a potential applicant or sponsor to OAHP funded programs, and may also provide capacity and assistance to other partnering land trusts. As a voting member of the OAHP Commission for approving fund allocations, DU would remove itself if concerns of Conflicts of Interest are warranted.

<https://www.ducks.org/conservation/land-protection>

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

- Grew up on family-owned small farm and forest lands in rural north Louisiana.
- Strong ethic for responsible land management coupled with wildlife conservation.
- BS in Wildlife Conservation (Louisiana Tech University). MS in Ranchland & Ecology Management (Texas A&M University).
- 20+ years as a restoration practitioner/project manager. With Ducks Unlimited since 2003; worked in numerous states including California, New Mexico, Oregon, Texas, and Washington.
- DU's Director of Conservation Programs – PacNW since 2015.
- First wildlife related job was a Wildlife Internship at Malheur NWR in 1995.
- Coordinated and delivered numerous projects on private lands including habitat restoration, water efficiency improvements, land purchases and conservation easements.
- Manage DU's land protection program in Pacific Northwest, which includes 6 CEs in Oregon (622.52 acres).
- Have collaborated with other Oregon Land Trusts to bring pass-through funding from state and federal sources to aid their conservation easement actions.
- Familiar with land transaction processes including title review and due diligence, appraisals, purchase agreements, and conservation easement language.
- Have monitored CEs and provided landowner stewardship.
- Familiar with calculating easement monitoring and land stewardship costs.
- Delivered the first purchased easement for the Texas Farm and Ranch Lands Conservation Program in 2010.
- Member and organization representative to Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT).
- Participated in OAHP lobby day with COLT in June 2017.
- Served on numerous Boards and working committees including COLT, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture Coastal Wetland Committee, Coastal Prairie Partnership Board (Texas), San Francisco Bay Joint Venture Technical Committee, Gulf Coast Joint Venture Implementation Teams, and Salmon Creek Lions Club Board.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

- Water availability and use in competitive markets complicated by droughts and changing climate scenarios.
- Rapid development and loss of working lands through conversion pressures and increasing land values.
- Aging infrastructure with challenging regulatory processes.
- Loss or conversion of wildlife friendly farming crops and practices to less beneficial ones, primarily driven by market factors.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name: Kelley Beamer

Affiliation (if any): COLT

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City/Town: [REDACTED]

State: OR

Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name [REDACTED]

Affiliation (if any): Prvt. Landowner / Farmer

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City/Town: [REDACTED]

State: OR

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email :

Reference #3

Name: Monica Iglecia

Affiliation (if any): Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture
US Coordinator

Mailing Address

City/Town: [REDACTED]

State: OR

Zip Code

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: April Mack
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by June 30, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners.

Applicant Information

Name Amanda E. Lowe

Affiliation Employee of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

Occupation
 Retired Soil Conservationist

Mailing address [REDACTED]

Town/City [REDACTED] **State** OR **Zip Code** [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED] **Fax Number** [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- Farmer or Rancher (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- Agricultural Water Quality (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- Indian Tribal Interests (selected by the OWEB Board)
- Natural Resource Value Interests (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I believe I can represent the needs and interest of both agricultural producers and conservationists, due to my years of experience working as an intermediary between the two groups. Through graduate school, I studied communications and education specific to agricultural communities and commodities. I have put this to practice for the last 6 years working in Eastern Oregon with wheat producers and cattle ranchers. The producers are well aware that ecologically sustainable management decisions will provide them with an economically sustainable operation; it's my job to help provide them with the tools, information, and connections necessary to make their plans a reality.

In my current position as soil conservationist for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, my work operates under the First Foods Mission, "to protect, restore, and enhance the First Foods – water, salmon, deer, cous, and huckleberry – for the perpetual cultural, economic and sovereign benefit of the CTUIR. We will accomplish this utilizing traditional ecological and cultural knowledge and science to inform: 1) population and habitat management goals and actions; and 2) natural resource policies and regulatory mechanisms." Applying this mission to the farm and grazing conservation plans I am responsible for has helped me to develop a whole-system view to conservation and agricultural, wherein knowing that a fully functioning ecosystem is capable of balancing and producing for both sets of management goals.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

Resume attached.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

I believe the primary issue of concern for the future of both agriculture and fish and wildlife habitat within Oregon is the current and impending implications of climate change which all parties are facing. Within the last 2 years in our own local area, we have seen catastrophic and unpredictable flooding events, caused by variations in the historic timing and intensity of rain events. These heavy precipitation events have been followed only a few months later by devastating drought, decreasing crop and forage yields, and leaving both agricultural and wild animals at a loss for feed. The way forward for producers and conservationists, through these variable and unpredictable swings in climate patterns, is to create more resilient systems that are equipped to withstand shifts in weather.

The status of the supply chains and inflation within the U.S. are also causing damaging effects to the agricultural community in Oregon, and challenging the ability of historic farm and ranch operations to stay in business. These operations are not seeing commodity prices keeping pace with input costs, and that challenges their capacity to provide wages to family or employees that can keep pace with the inflating cost of living. It is within the best interests of the fish and wildlife community to continue to work with these operations and find areas of communal interest, as these working lands provide protection from urban development, and greater loss of habitat.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name: Eric Quaempts

Affiliation (if any): Confederated Tribes of the UIR

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City/Town: [REDACTED]

State: OR

Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name: Gordy Schumacher

Affiliation (if any): Confederated Tribes of the UIR

Mailing Address: [REDACTED]

City/Town: [REDACTED]

State: OR

Zip Code: [REDACTED]

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name: Sarah Silbernagel

Affiliation (if any): USDA NRCS & Wallowa County SWCD

Mailing Address

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Phone Number: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to april.mack@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program

ATTN: April Mack

Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board

775 Summer Street NE #360

Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or post-marked by June 30, 2022 in order to be considered for a position.

Amanda E. Lowe

Professional Objective:

To serve my community utilizing my knowledge and experiences in soil and plant science to help landowners and operators manage their land sustainably into the future; and to further develop my knowledge and skills within an organization with whom I share the value of promoting sound conservation science and research principles.

Education:

Master of Science: Agricultural and Extension Education, May 2016

University of Idaho, Moscow, ID 83844

Area of specialization: Adult Education and Communications

Topic of Research: Extension Clientele Preferences in Facebook Strategies Utilized by County Extension 4-H Programs

Major Professor: Dr. Erik Anderson

Bachelor of Science: Agricultural Communication, Public Relations, May 2010

Washington State University, Pullman, WA 99164

Work Experience:

Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

46411 Timine Way, Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Supervisor: Gordy Schumacher, 541-429-7238

Soil Conservationist: December 2016 – Present

Integrate the protection, conservation, utilization and enhancement of Indian lands for the desires of the beneficial owners. Utilize conservation practices consistent with NRCS planning documents, as well as prioritizing management actions through ecological touchstones and First Foods priorities as described in the CTUIR Department of Natural Resources Upland Vision document and First Foods Mission. Advises and works with landowners and producers to develop soil and water conservation plans on farm and pasture leases. Inspects farm and pasture tracts to determine conservation needs based on the resource inventories and soil health assessments. Provide for involvement of Indian landowners in management of trust assets and administer natural resources as outlined in federal law and regulations as well as tribal law. Provides educational and technical information to tribal committees/commissions and other relevant groups that promotes sympathetic interests in cultivating natural resource values. Pursue liaison with other federal, state and local entities to the fullest possible in protecting treaty rights and planning/implementing management systems on intermingled land ownership. Collaborates with United States Department of Agriculture to insure Tribal eligibility and participation in various conservation programs relevant to conserving and enhancing Trust assets and First Foods. Ensure compliance with relevant Federal, State, Tribal land management policies and regulations. Lead staff member for the pasture leasing program.

Umatilla County Soil & Water Conservation District

1 SW Nye Ave. Suite 130 Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Supervisor: Kyle Waggoner; 541-278-8049

CREP Technician: July 2016 – November 2016

Worked with NRCS staff for project specification design, monitoring, implementation, inspection and status reviews. Utilized NRCS Customer Service Toolkit, ArcMap, and WIN-PST in the documentation and management of conservation plans and technical assistance. Conducted Stream Visual Assessment Protocol (SVAP2) for analysis of Oregon CREP eligibility and for design of NRCS Conservation Practices. On-the-job training from the NRCS State Soil Scientist for field soil testing and soil survey report interpretation. Cultivated a working knowledge of the NRCS Field Office Technical Guide to create job sheets for contracted practices and to review practice standards. Provided professional technical assistance to landowners and managers, regarding natural resource concerns. Communicated and worked directly with landowners and operators through face-to-face contact, telephone, and written correspondence. Assisted with inventorying and surveying projects to help develop conservation practice designs for implementation. Conducted outreach on natural resource issues, water quality, and conservation activities at workshops, seminars, fairs, and conventions. Application of numerous environmental and cultural resource laws, regulations and policy in relation to trust responsibilities.

University of Idaho – Office of Research Assurances

875 Perimeter Dr. Moscow, Idaho 83844

Supervisor: Arch Harner; 208-885-2142

Administrative Coordinator: August 2015 – September 2016

Laboratory Animal Technician: September 2013 – August 2015

Began employment as a laboratory animal technician; applied for and gained promotion to administrative coordinator. Interim coordinator for the university-wide conflict of interest program. Researched federal regulations and interpreted for coworkers and investigators. Provided oral and written communications to investigators on federal regulations. Developed and maintained an information and document management system for organizing and cataloging correspondence, contracts, and agreements. Supported research compliance committees by processing protocol applications, maintaining records databases, and issuing notifications to researchers. Managed web content and social media presence for the Northwest Knowledge Network, a big data service center. Coordinated appointment and travel schedules for staff. Arranged meetings and scheduled training events for both large and small groups. Supported the communication and production processes of a project management and research compliance system. Wrote news articles for departmental newsletter. Managed colonies of research animals, including mice, rats, guinea pigs, kangaroo rats, and zebra fish. Applied and interpreted federal regulations and university policies to deliver excellent animal care. Worked with diverse individuals from varying backgrounds at all organizational levels to ensure successful collaboration. Provided customer service to UI researchers and applied interpersonal skills to create mutually beneficial relationships.

Washington State University – Department of Animal Sciences

1815 NE Wilson Rd., Pullman, Washington 99164

Supervisor: Dr. Margaret Benson; 509-335-1521

Animal Care Facility Manager: September 2011 – September 2013

Managed the swine center and a research animal vivarium, including husbandry of mice, rats, rabbits, chickens, sheep, swine, and cattle. Mediated between veterinarians and investigators to ensure best care and use of research animals. Performed liaison activities with internal and external researchers. Explained meat processing practices to buyers and 4-H youth. Interpreted, applied, and explained federal regulations and university policies for the execution of research activities. Supported the work of project teams by interpreting and applying research protocols, procuring supplies, and organizing and delegating workloads. Balanced and coordinated workload for multiple facilities and directly supervised 15 employees. Managed facility budget.

The Scotts – Miracle-Gro Company

14111 Scottslawn Rd, Marysville, Ohio 43040

Supervisor: William Barber; 509-952-3231

Merchandiser and Product Counselor: February 2011 – August 2011; March 2010 – July 2010; March 2007 – July 2007

Educated and counseled customers and store employees on chemical uses and application, including: herbicides (glyphosate, triclopyr and 2, 4-D); insecticides; fertilizers (N-P-K ratio, micronutrients); and soil management and remediation practices. Self-assigned training to maintain knowledge of current best practices in agriculture. Provided information on organic management practices.

Certifications:

- National Wildfire Coordinating Group, Wildland Firefighter Type 2. 2018 – Present

Training:

- Native American Rangelands Training Initiative, Oregon State University
 - 12 week course on Rangeland Science, covering site evaluation, conservation, and sustainable land management
- NRCS Conservation Planning Course
 - Coursework and fieldwork on NRCS conservation planning documents for certified planners

Community Involvement:

- Umatilla County Weed Board, Member at Large. 1/2018 – Present
- Umatilla County 4-H Association Board, President. 5/2019 – 5/2020
- Pendleton Little League, Volunteer Coach. 2022

References:

Available upon request