



# PACIFIC FOREST TRUST

Private Forests. Public Treasures.

January 24, 2025

*To: House Agriculture, Land Use, Natural Resources, and Water Committee*

*From: Pacific Forest Trust*

*RE: Supporting HB 3131 and \$17.3 Million in funding for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHF) in 2025-2027 Budget*

Co-Chairs Helm and Owens, Vice-Chair Finger McDonald, and Members of the Committee:

We write to you today to share our strong support for HB 3131 and its \$17.3 million in funding the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHF) in the 2025 Oregon Legislative Session. OAHF helps Oregon leverage a remarkable 2:1 federal match through the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and protects working ranch and farmlands for their agriculture and natural resource values.

In Oregon, more than 2.3 million acres of private forestland are combined agricultural and forested areas. When managed responsibly, these lands can provide critical habitats for the state's forest-dwelling wildlife. Preserving family-owned farms and ranches—and preventing their fragmentation—is vital to maintaining these important wildlife habitats.

Pacific Forest Trust is a strong advocate for OAHF and the protection of working lands. With offices in Portland and Ashland, we have spent over 30 years partnering with private landowners across Oregon, successfully conserving more than 22,000 acres of working lands. Programs like OAHF are essential to advancing our conservation efforts.

OAHF offers a unique opportunity to leverage state funds with federal matching dollars, making it a critical resource for landowners who wish to conserve their working farms and forests. We strongly urge your support for HB 3131.

Sincerely,

Laurie A. Wayburn  
President & Co-Founder