

# Oregonians Support Investing in Natural and Working Lands

## The Value of Protecting Working Lands Statewide

Our natural and working lands shape the beauty, culture, and economy of Oregon. Farms, forests, parks, wetlands, and other lands are a source of life-sustaining resources, community vitality, and pride. Investing in our natural and working lands offers Oregon an opportunity to both meet our climate goals by sequestering and storing carbon AND help communities adapt to a changing climate.

A recent survey by FM3 Research shows 72% of Oregonians support investing in natural climate solutions that reduce emissions, store carbon, protect natural and working lands, and build resiliency for Oregon's farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and land managers\*.

### The Natural and Working Lands Fund

In 2023, the legislature established the Natural and Working Lands (NWL) Fund to support investments in natural climate solutions on Oregon's natural and working lands. The fund distributed \$10 million to four state natural resource agencies: Oregon Department of Agriculture, Oregon Department of Forestry, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, and is already having an impact for Oregonians.

\*From March 12-16, 2023, FM3 Research completed 853 online and telephone (landline and wireless) interviews with Oregon voters.



### What Are Natural Climate Solutions?

Natural climate solutions are activities that protect or enhance the ability of natural and working lands to sequester and store carbon or reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the landscape while maintaining or increasing climate resilience, human well-being, and biodiversity. They can protect Oregon communities and natural resource economies from droughts, wildfires, and unprecedented heat. The same practices that sequester and store carbon contribute co-benefits that support farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and entire communities, such as healthier soils, improved water quality, and habitat creation for fish and wildlife.

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## What is the NWL fund?

- The Fund provides boots-on-the-ground for the NCS program and is the source of financial support for voluntary measures by willing landowners and managers that would like to take nature-based climate action.
- The Fund has invested in 13 projects, programs, and positions across forestry, rangelands, agriculture, estuaries, and more across the state.
- The Fund has identified opportunities for every funded initiative to be in or near communities, providing financial, technical, and ecological benefits to those communities.
- The Fund has leveraged nearly \$9 million in additional funding from other state, federal, and private sources to increase the capacity and reach of the NWL fund – nearly a 1:1 match!



## Snapshot of Projects Funded

- Carbon capture in coastal estuaries to support habitat and vegetation restoration.
- Providing technical and financial assistance to landowners to address invasive grasses in their working North-Central Oregon rangelands that increase productivity, carbon sequestration, and resiliency to climate and wildfire impacts.
- Floodplain reforestation on the North Santiam River to increase water storage, reduce stream temperatures, and increase resiliency in the face of frequent and extended heat events.

Renewed investment is needed to ensure program continuity and reliable funding for landowners and managers. The NWL Fund is newly established and resulting in great work. Sustained support continues the momentum from the initial investment in programs and staff to an established effort that is creating landscape change and helping communities adapt to a changing climate.

**We fully support the \$5 million for the Natural and Working Lands Fund in the Governor's Requested Budget and advocate for continued funding for natural and working lands in Oregon.**

### To learn more, contact:

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The NWL Fund is endorsed by a coalition of partners. Scan to learn more.



# Voices Supporting Natural and Working Lands



**Rainbow Acres Community Farm**, Lydia Scott, Cottage Grove, OR  
**Cooper Mountain Vineyards**, Barbara Gross, Beaverton, OR  
**Banyan Botanicals**, Erin Douglas, Ashland, OR  
**Hope Well Wine**, Mimi Casteel, Sheridan, OR  
**Flying Stag Lodge**, Warren Neth, Government Camp, OR  
**Good Rain Farm**, Michelle Week, Troutdale, OR  
**Nelle Mae's Farms LLC**, Nella Mae Parks, Cove, OR  
**Rietmann Ranch**, Tom Rietmann, Condon, OR  
**Winter Green Farm**, Chris Overbaugh, Noti, OR  
**Miller Family Ranch**, Dolores Miller, Bandon, OR  
**La Creole Orchards**, Beau Caceu, Dallas, OR

**Humming Bee Nursery**, Michaela Hammer, Corvallis, OR  
**Winter Green Farm**, Jack Gray, Noti, OR  
**Labishire Homestead Commons**, Chong Kee Tan, Salem, OR  
**Small is Beautiful Farmstand**, Kate Perle, Eugene, OR  
**Belle Mare Farm**, Susan Richman, Willamina, OR  
**Zena Forest LLC**, Sarah Deumling, Rickreall, OR  
**Joy Ridge Farm**, Sarah Edwardsson, Corvallis, OR  
**Knudsen Vineyards**, Page Knudsen Cowles, Dundee, OR  
**Willow-Witt Ranch LLC**, Suzanne Willow, Ashland, OR  
**Stoneboat Farm**, Aaron Nichols, Hillsboro, OR  
**Bunchgrass Land & Livestock LCC**, Andrea Malmberg, Union, OR