



Natural Resources Conservation Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

# NRCS OREGON ANNUAL REPORT

[www.or.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.or.nrcs.usda.gov)  
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## *Message from Greg Becker, Oregon's State Conservationist*

Hello and thank you for reading through NRCS Oregon's Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 Annual Report. I started in my new role as Oregon's State Conservationist back in June, previously serving as Acting State Conservationist with NRCS Nevada and as NRCS Idaho's State Resource Conservationist. I've been with the agency since 2001 and have witnessed us navigate change through new administrations, new programs and new demands - this past year was no different. Though I am new to the state, it was easy to see from day one that our staff here rise to the occasion to meet our customer needs. This past year was one for the books. We obligated over \$92 million and set records for our conservation investments in each basin across the state. We had our largest Conservation Stewardship Program sign up ever, with \$29.4 million obligated across 251 contracts and 529,530 acres. FY24 was the second year we received Inflation Reduction Act funding, allowing for opportunities to work with producers we haven't been able to work with before to maximize our investments across the landscape. It's been a big year of transition for Oregon, with my arrival but also with several new leadership team members to include a State Engineer, Partnership Liaison, Assistant State Conservationist for Management & Strategy and Basin Team Leader for the John Day, Umatilla & Snake River Basin. I'm very proud to call Oregon my new home and to work with this resilient and amazing team. I'm looking forward to maintaining momentum into the new year to continue providing support to Oregon's private landowners, Tribes and partners to get conservation on the ground.

*- Greg Becker*





# THE YEAR AT A GLANCE

**\$92.7M** Obligated

**91** Partner Agreements

**108** Partner Positions Funded

**74** Conservation Implementation Strategies

**1,777** Working Land Inventories

**18** New Staff Hired

**24** Sponsored Outreach Events

**62** Outreach Events Attended

**6M** acres of soil mapping added to Web Soil Survey





# INVESTMENTS IN CONSERVATION

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

**\$51.9M obligated**

**722 landowner contracts**

**Across 456K acres**

### EQIP Initiatives

#### HIGH TUNNEL INITIATIVE

**\$481.5K obligated     31 contracts**

#### CONSERVATION INCENTIVE CONTRACTS

**\$711.7K obligated     6 contracts**

#### AIR QUALITY INITIATIVE

**\$439K obligated     4 contracts**

#### NATIONAL WATER QUALITY INITIATIVE

**\$625.7K obligated     10 contracts**

#### ORGANIC INITIATIVE

**\$398.9K obligated     3 contracts**

#### SAGE GROUSE INITIATIVE

**\$2.04M obligated     25 contracts**

#### WATERSMART

**\$419.6K obligated     5 contracts**

#### JOINT CHIEFS' LANDSCAPE RESTORATION

*(Partnership with U.S. Forest Service)*

**\$1.38M obligated     2 projects**

**19 contracts     1,455 acres**

### Top 10 EQIP Conservation Practices

1. Forest Stand Improvement
2. Brush Management
3. Woody Residue Treatment
4. Watering Facility
5. Fence
6. Irrigation Water Conveyance
7. Irrigation Pipeline
8. Prescribed Grazing
9. Cover Crop
10. Range Planting

### EQIP Historically Underserved Contracts

#### Limited Resource Farmers & Ranchers

**\$1.5M obligated**

**41 contracts**

**7,755 acres**

#### Beginning Farmer Ranchers

**\$12.2M obligated**

**251 contracts**

**111,284 acres**

#### Socially Disadvantaged Farmers & Ranchers

**\$3.2M obligated**

**55 contracts**

**73,020 acres**

#### Veteran Farmers & Ranchers

**\$557K obligated**

**12 contracts**

**540 acres**



# INVESTMENTS IN CONSERVATION

## Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

**\$29.4M obligated**

**251 landowner contracts**

**Across 529.5K acres**

## Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

**\$6.2M obligated**

**20 active projects**

**205 landowner contracts**

## Agricultural Easement Conservation Program (ACEP)

### AGRICULTURAL LAND EASEMENTS

**\$1.1M allocated**

**4 applications**

**6,929 acres protected**

### WETLAND RESERVE EASEMENTS

**\$3M allocated**

**\$914K obligated**

**3 projects**

### ACEP STEWARDSHIP FUNDS

**\$1.1M allocated**

**\$278K obligated**

## Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funding in FY24

Farm Bill and Inflation Reduction Act funding are combined for EQIP and CSP conservation investments.

### FY24 Oregon IRA funds:

**EQIP IRA - \$20.1M**

**CSP IRA - \$11.7M**

## Watershed Infrastructure (PL566 Program)

**\$7.4M allocated**

**27 sponsoring local organizations**

**29 active planning efforts:**

**26 agricultural water management plans**

**2 dam rehabilitation plans**

**1 watershed protection plan**

## Partnership Agreements

**91 active agreements**

**worth \$205M**

**108 partner positions funded**





# Soil Survey Spotlight

Oregon added over **six million acres** of previously unmapped areas to Web Soil Survey in the following areas: Deschutes National Forest, Crook County Area, Malheur National Forest, Northwestern Area of Grant County, Northern Area of Malheur County, Willamette National Forest, and Wheeler County.

Oregon Soil Scientists spent over **270 hours** conducting soil outreach and education, and provided **100 technical soils consultations** to private individuals, consultants, federal, state and local agencies and organizations.

Staff collected **142 samples** of soil and land properties through the National Resources Inventory program to inform the conditions and trends of land, soil, water and related natural resources. Samples are taken on non-federal lands in support of efforts to protect, restore, and enhance the lands and waters of the United States.



Soils staff hosted a field day to dig soil pits and evaluate soil organic matter with summer interns.





*The Snow Survey and Water Supply Forecasting Program collects mountain hydroclimatic data that is used to produce stream flow forecasts and generate products that quantify surface water supplies and inform natural resource management.*



## Snow Survey Spotlight

The Snow Survey team hired **three new Hydrologists** and established a **new satellite office** at the USDA Service Center in Redmond, Ore. to extend staff coverage across the state.

The team conducted **29 media interviews** on water and snow supply updates, provided **27 presentations** to partners, water users and advisory groups and engaged with Nepalese government officials through Department of Interior's International Technical Assistance Program, Ambassador's Water Expert Program.

Snow Survey Hydrologists **converted one aerial marker** to an automated station, **upgraded three Snow Telemetry (SNOTEL) stations** with soil sensors and **upgraded four SNOTEL stations** with enhanced sensors that include data on net radiation, relative humidity, above-surface temperatures and wind.



# SUCCESS ON THE GROUND

FY24

## Cultural Ties to Conservation Practices

When Deily “Uriel” De Leon Gomez couldn’t find chipilín – a Guatemalan staple – in Oregon grocery stores, he decided to start farming and growing it himself.

De Leon started De Leon’s Farm in Aloha, Ore. in 2020 to meet the community need of growing fresh fruits and vegetables. Over time, De Leon’s has grown with help from NRCS Oregon’s technical and financial assistance programs.

De Leon’s current produce includes familiar items like basil, peppers, lettuce, carrots, cabbage, tomatoes, strawberries, beans, and chard.

But also found at the farm are more exotic produce options like chipilín, chayote, tomatillos, amaranth, edible nightshade, and uchuvas – also known as ground cherries or pineapple cherries. [Read the full story here: bit.ly/DeLeonFarm](https://bit.ly/DeLeonFarm)



Deily “Uriel” De Leon Gomez, producer in Aloha, Ore., with chipilín, a Guatemalan staple.



From left to right: Jenn Eatwell, NRCS Small Farm & Organic Basin Specialist, Fidel Castro and Jamie Garcia, private landowners, Lars Santana, NRCS District Conservationist.

## Improving Irrigation on the Garcia Farm

For Oregon farms east of the Cascade Mountain Range, where rain is infrequent during the growing season and the threat of drought is very real, agricultural operations are becoming more efficient and resilient.

On the Garcia Farm, located near Madras, Ore., the Garcias are striving to improve their irrigation systems, conserve water, and increase productivity on their operation.

Working with NRCS Oregon, they decided it was time to leave flood irrigation behind and modernize irrigation operations on the farm with pivot sprinklers. “If we don’t have any water, we are out of business,” said Jamie Garcia.

Modern irrigation infrastructure helps the Garcias conserve water, save money and time, and be more precise with water usage. The new system also allows them to control the speed and output of water with an app on their cell phones, making operations more convenient with the touch of a button. [Read the full story here: bit.ly/GarciaIrrigation](https://bit.ly/GarciaIrrigation)