



CARBON SEQUESTRATION IN OREGON

Natural Climate Solutions



October 1, 2025 | Carbon & Culture Symposium



Carbon Mitigation Strategies

To meet global climate goals, two actions need to occur:



Carbon removal strategies address GHGs through:

- A. Direct air capture and storage, geologic carbon sequestration
- B. Practices that protect or increase carbon held in the land or natural climate solutions (NCS)
 - NCS are often less costly to implement
 - Can be implemented more readily
 - Also provide adaptation benefits

2018

US Climate Alliance
N&WL Challenge

2020

Gov Brown
Executive
20-04 Order

2021

Climate
Action
Commission
Recs

2023

HB 3409
Natural
Climate
Solutions

2025

First
Generation
State N&WL
Inventory



Oregon
Global
Warming
Commission



Keep Oregon Cool
Oregon Global Warming Commission

Natural & Working Lands Proposal
2021

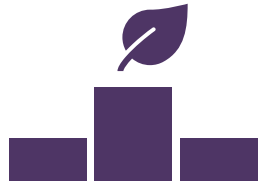
Legislative Intent (HB3409)



\$10 million allocated to 4 natural resource agencies



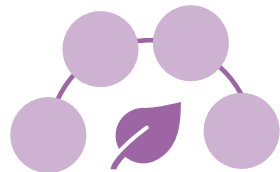
Provide incentives, technical assistance, and financial assistance to advance natural climate solutions



Prioritize programs administered or proposed by an environmental justice community or Tribe



Prioritize the use of existing programs and seek to leverage federal investments



Optimize the social, health, ecological, climate resilience, and economic co-benefits of natural climate solutions

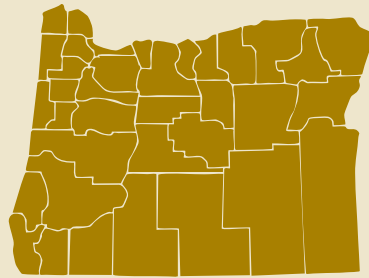
Program Highlights



59% of all funds committed



More than **100 landowners** contacted or received technical assistance from these projects



Project activities in **30 out of 36 Oregon counties**

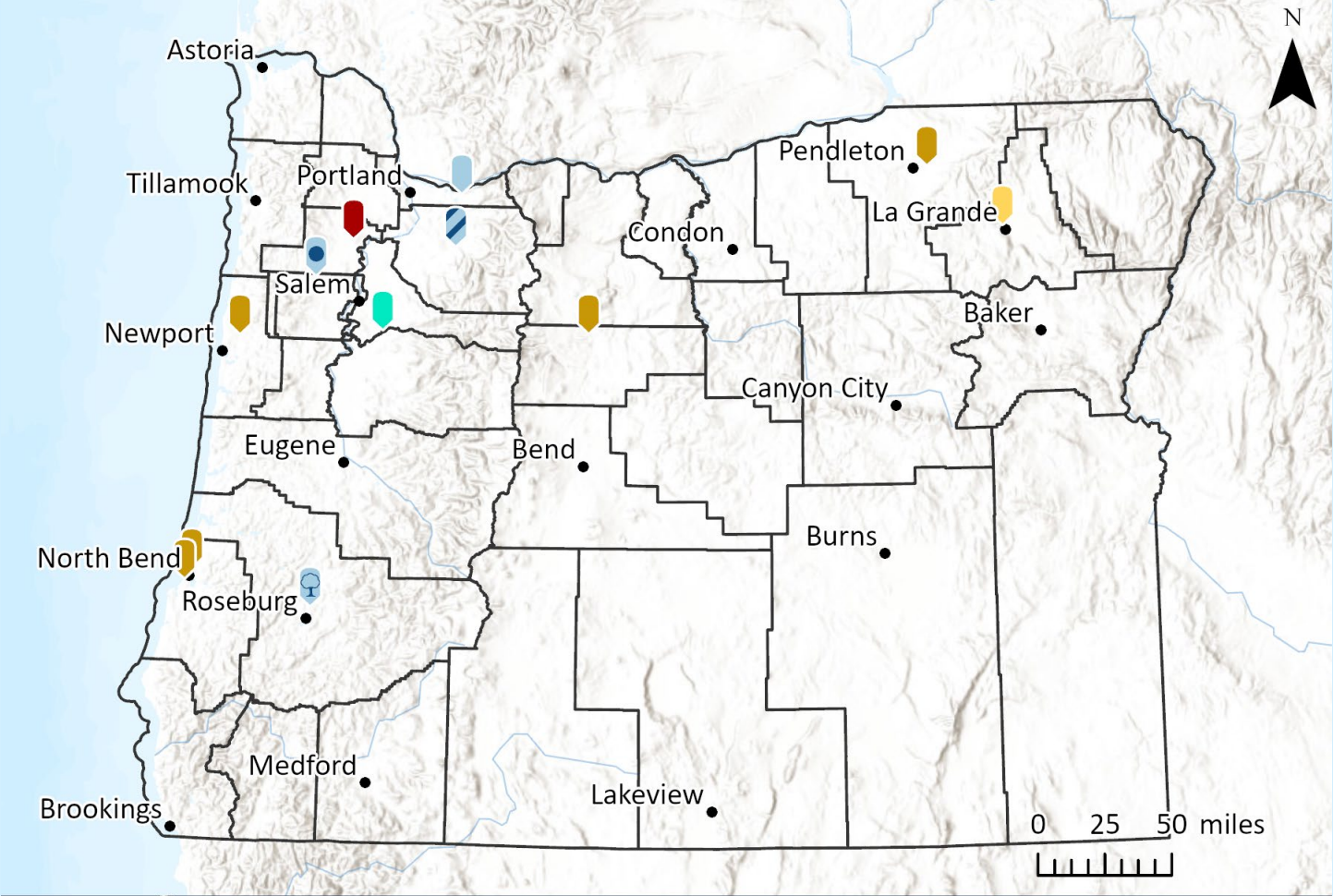
More than **120 implementation actions** across the state



Leveraged **\$11.3 million** in additional funding, doubling the state's investment



Partnerships with Tribes



 **P1 ODA: Invasive Annual Grasses**

 **P2 ODA: Oregon Native Seed Strategy**

 **P3 ODFW: Floodplain Reforestation on North Santiam River, North Santiam Chahalpam Floodplain Reforestation Project**

 **P6 ODFW: Red Hills Conservation Area Wildfire Risk Reduction,**

 **P12 OWEB: Collaborative Oak Meadow Restoration Training**

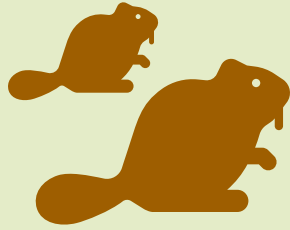
 **P12 OWEB: Community-Led Riparian Restoration and Education**

 **P12 OWEB: Gersh Property Restoration and Forest Stewardship**

 **P12 OWEB: Tribal Priority Plant Materials for Climate Resiliency**



Other Fund Activities



Workforce study

Studying the workforce and training programs needed to support the implementation of natural climate solutions



Metrics study

Identifying activity-based and community impact metrics to evaluate progress in carbon sequestration and storage



Inventory

Establishing a baseline of net biological carbon on natural and working lands

Adopting goals to increase beyond this baseline





Program Funding Continuity and Expansion

- Additional funding is required for agencies to continue what they have started, expand their networks, and scale up their projects.



Tribal Nation Collaboration

- Agencies highlighted the need to improve coordination to support co-development of projects both across agencies and with Tribes.



Staff Capacity

- Agencies identified need to retain positions to expand outreach and continue providing technical support.

Next Steps





OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

OVERVIEW

- SB 1561 established the Oregon Environmental Restoration Fund and Council to manage and distribute money from State's settlement with Monsanto for \$698 million for PCB contamination
- Uses of settlement funds: environmental remediation or restitution projects relating to restoring, maintaining, and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land, water, and other natural resources.
- Funds must "supplement" efforts by federally-recognized Tribes, disproportionately impacted communities, and state agencies

OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM



**State Agency
Program Fund**
50% (transfers)

**Tribal Nation Natural
Resource Program Fund**
25% (transfers)

**Community
Impact Fund**
25% (grants)



OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM

TRIBAL NATION NATURAL RESOURCE FUND

- Biennial payments from OWEB to support stewardship work of Tribes for 50 years
 - Feb-Sep 2025: Engagement by program staff seeking input from Tribes on Fund
 - Oct-Nov 2025: Co-development of draft rules and guidance
 - Nov 2025 onwards: Rulemaking process and then payments to Tribes (ASAP)
- Oregon Environmental Restoration Council meets October 9 to begin its work



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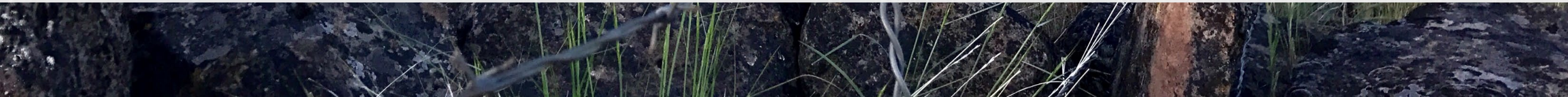
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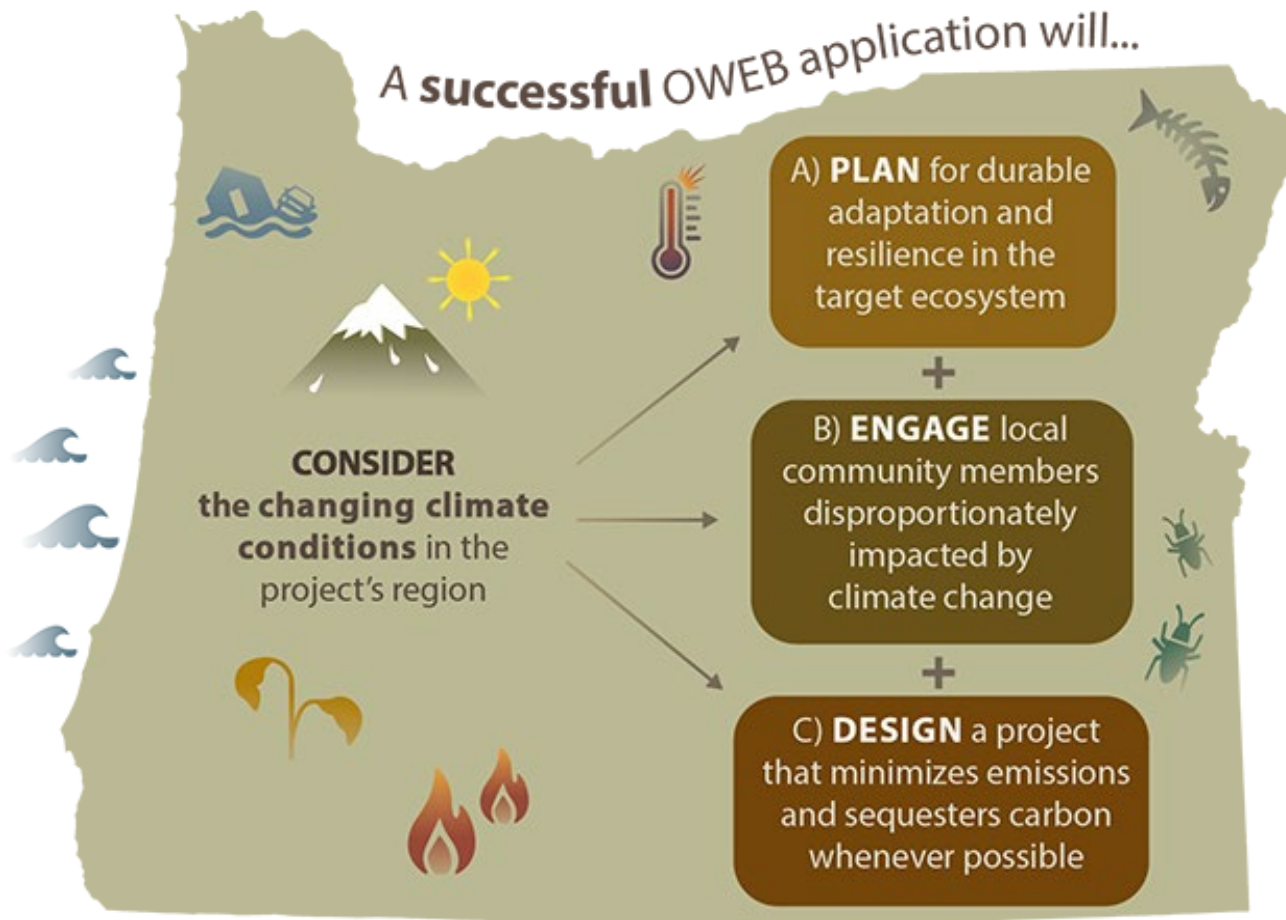
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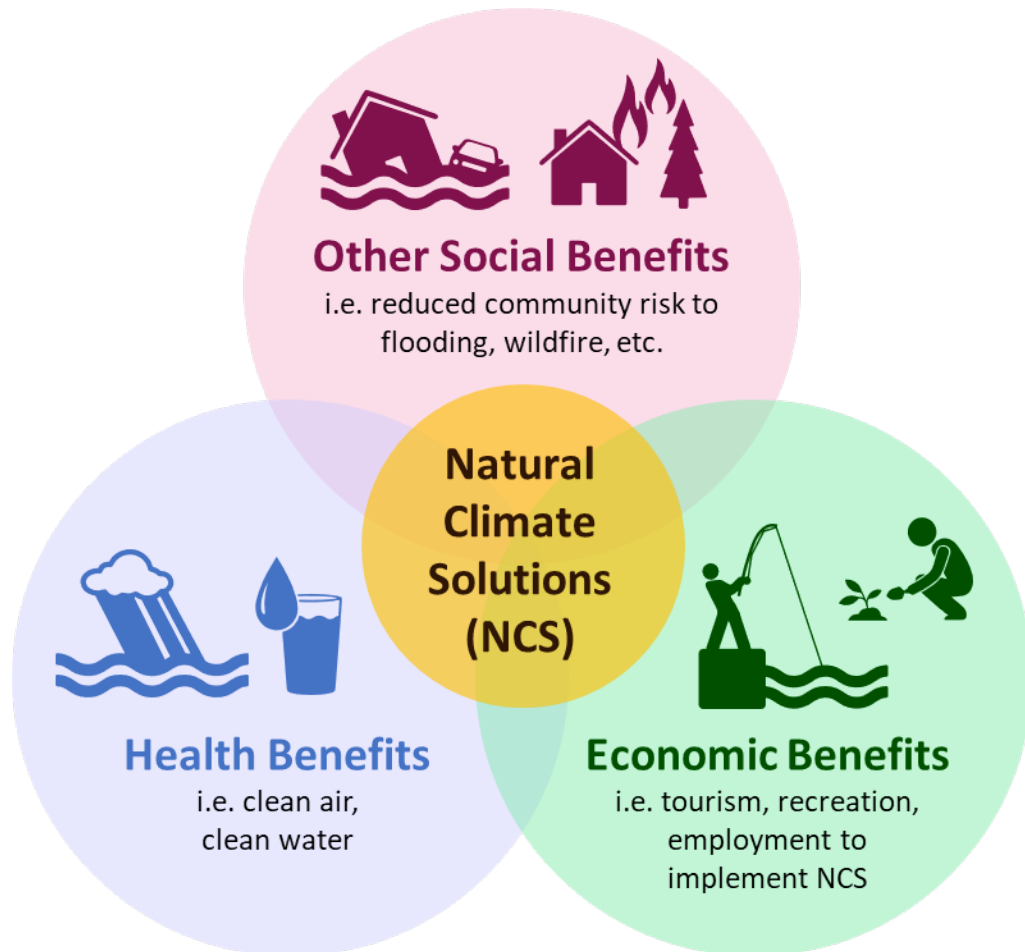
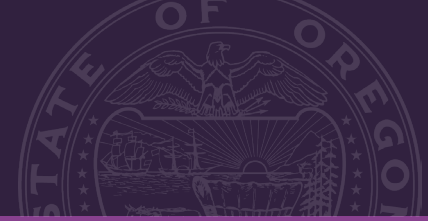
Climate Responsive Ecological Benefits

A **successful** OWEB application will...



- Remove invasive species and restore native plants
- Improve oak meadow ecosystem functions
- Expand plant material production
- Prescribed burns and fuels reduction
- Post-wildfire reforestation
- Exclusion fencing and improved grazing management
- Forest management for disease/hazard trees
- Improved soil health on agricultural lands

Community Co-benefits



- Wildfire resilience in an under-resourced rural area
- Science-based education for BIPOC community
- TEK stewardship practices
- Accessible green space
- Improved air quality through wildfire mitigation, soil conservation
- Improved water quality through reforestation and riparian restoration
- Workforce development for at-risk youth, rural, and BIPOC communities
- Demonstrations and technical assistance for landowners
- Financial incentives for cover cropping