

# OREGON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

October 10, 2024  
10:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

## Public Meeting Agenda

This public meeting will be conducted in person at Columbia Gorge Community College at The Dalles. Written testimony can be submitted in advance, to [van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov). Written comments received in advance will be distributed to the Council.

### Register in Advance to Participate Virtually

[https://deq-oregon-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_OGZ1psdFR9mzEBewYa3GGw](https://deq-oregon-gov.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_OGZ1psdFR9mzEBewYa3GGw)

The Council makes every attempt to hold strictly to the timing distributed agenda. Topics and public comment may move up or be delayed based on the cadence of the meeting.

This agenda is available on the Environmental Justice Council website: <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/pages/environmental-justice-council.aspx>.

10:00 a.m.	Item 1:	Call to Order – Chair Quinn Read
10:10 a.m.	Item 2:	EJC Leadership Updates – Chair Quinn Read Briefing
10:45 a.m.	Item 3:	Public Comment
11:00 a.m.	Item 4:	EJ Mapping Decision Point 4 – Methodology WG Lead Eric Main Council Discussion
12:00 p.m.	Item 5:	Break before Working Lunch
12:15 p.m.	Item 6:	EJ Mapping Decision Point 5 – Methodology WG Lead Eric Main Council Discussion
12:30 p.m.	Item 7:	EJ Mapping Decision Point 6 – Methodology WG Lead Eric Main Council Discussion
1:00 p.m.	Item 8:	Agency Annual Reports Council Discussion
2:30 p.m.	Item 9:	Public Comment
2:45 p.m.	Item 10:	Public Comment: EJC Discussion
3:00 p.m.	Item 11:	Council Adjourn

## PLEASE NOTE

### AGENDA

The public portion of the Council meeting will begin at 10:00 a.m. and proceed chronologically through the agenda. Times listed on the agenda are approximate. At the discretion of the chair, the time and order of agenda items—including addition of intermittent breaks—may change to maintain meeting flow. This meeting will be recorded by audio, and the recording will be posted on the Environmental Justice Council website.

### PUBLIC TESTIMONY

Written comments will be accepted until 5:00 p.m. the evening prior to the meeting by emailing [van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov) and indicate your comments as EJC Testimony with the meeting date on the subject line. Other testimony will be received during the public comment portions of the meeting which will be after Leadership Updates, prior to the EJC voting on any agenda items, and at the end of the meeting.

### REASONABLE ACCOMMODATION OF DISABILITIES

Please contact us at least three business days prior to the meeting to let us know if you need reasonable accommodation. Contact the Environmental Justice Council Coordinator Hoang-Van Nguyen at [van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:van.nguyen@deq.oregon.gov) to make your request.

# Council Memorandum

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To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council  
From: Quinn Read, Chair of the Environmental Justice Council and  
Valentin Sanchez, Vice Chair of the Environmental Justice Council  
Date: October 2, 2024

**Regarding: Agenda Item – Leadership Updates**

This briefing is informational for Environmental Justice Council members.

## 2025 Oregon Environmental Justice Council Meeting Schedule

- 2/13/2025: Salem
- 4/10/2025: Astoria
- 6/12/2025: Newberg
- 8/14/2025: Tillamook
- 10/9/2025: Prineville
- 12/11/2025: Portland

Locations were determined based on previous Council discussions and proximity to Portland as most Council members are based out of the Portland Metro area. All locations except for Prineville are within driving distance from Portland.

Governor’s Office Update: Environmental Justice Council travel

EJC Leadership Communication Updates: EJ Mapping Interim report, Government to Government consultations, EJC Biannual Report

# Staff Memorandum

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To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council

From: Eric Main, Oregon Health Authority

Date: October 3, 2024

**Regarding: Agenda Item 4 – EJ Mapping Decision Point 4 Weighting**

EJC Adoption Request: Decision Point 4 Recommendation

The Methodology Workgroup evaluated five weighting methods for the Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool:

- No weighting – [CDC Environmental Justice Index](#)/Environmental Justice Screening Method
- Subdomain weighting – [CalEnviroScreen](#)/[Washington Environmental Health Disparities Map](#)/[Colorado EnviroScreen](#)
- Regression domain weighting – [California Healthy Places Index](#) (association with life expectancy at birth)
- Principal component analysis – [EPA Environmental Quality Index](#)
- Participatory methods – budget allocation, analytical hierarchy process, and conjoint analysis

The evaluation included the following steps:

- Build a working dataset for Oregon Census tracts.
- Select Indicators from the [U.S. Climate Vulnerability Index \(CVI\)](#).
  - The CVI is national environmental justice tool that integrates climate change impacts with environmental, health, infrastructure, and socioeconomic metrics. The CVI was developed by the Environmental Defense Fund in partnership with Texas A&M and Darkhorse Analytics.
- Categorize indicators by subdomain – environmental exposures, environmental hazards, climate change risks, built environment, human health, social factors.
  - These are the subdomains adopted during Decision Point #1, Indicator Domain Selection.
- Standardize raw indicator values as percentiles.
- Analyze weighting methods.
- Compare results of tracts in the 80th percentile by community designation.
  - The 80<sup>th</sup> percentile is used as an index reference point for comparing weighting method performance.

Thesis statement: EJ Mapping Tool domain and indicator weighting can be used to assign levels of importance to environmental burdens and social disparities. The EJC will decide whether the domains and/or indicators should be weighted, and if so, how.

Recommendation for version 1: Use principal component analysis to weight indicators for the first version of the Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool.

Allow for flexibility to revisit the recommendation for Decision Point #4 during the sensitivity analysis (Decision Point #8) after the final set of indicators are selected.

Recommendation for future versions: Transition to participatory weighting of indicators and domains using conjoint analysis for future versions of the Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool. Participatory weighting should include community survey input and technical expert consultation.

Rationale for PCA:

- PCA is a measure of inequity that can tell us which indicators are contributing to the greatest environmental, health and social inequities in Oregon Communities.
- PCA can also tell us which Oregon communities are experiencing the greatest inequities.
- Identifying which communities are experiencing the greatest inequities can help guide policies intended improve conditions that contribute to inequities.
- There is an underlying assumption in using PCA for determining weights that the selected indicators are important, comprehensive components of environmental equity.

Rationale for conjoint analysis:

- HB4077 requires Oregon community participation in the development of the Environmental Justice Mapping Tool.
- Conjoint analysis will give us greater opportunities to incorporate community concerns into indicator weighting.
- Unfortunately, the time and resources required for setting up community surveys with equitable demographic and socioeconomic representation and analyzing the data prevent us from using conjoint analysis for the first version of the Oregon Environmental Justice Mapping Tool.
- The EJ Mapping Tool Leadership Team will begin building surveys during development of the first version of the EJ Mapping Tool to collect statewide input from community members for version two of the tool

# Staff Memorandum

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To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council

From: Eric Main, Oregon Health Authority

Date: October 3, 2024

**Regarding: Agenda Item 6 – EJ Mapping Decision Point 5 Domain Aggregation**

EJC Adoption Request: Decision Point 5 Recommendation

Thesis statement: EJ Mapping Tool domain aggregation must be used the subdomains and domains are standalone indices that must be combined to create the composite index. The EJC will decide whether the domains should be aggregated by addition or multiplication.

Recommendation: Use a multiplicative approach to domain aggregation where the subdomains are summed, but the primary domains (Place & People) are multiplied.

Rationale:

Cumulative impacts are not independent. Health effects caused by environmental exposures are multiplicative in vulnerable populations (McHale et al., 2017).

Evidence from human studies have shown that population characteristics can modify the response to pollution burden multiplicatively, providing scientific support for the use of a multiplier ([Alexeeff et al., 2012](#)).

Priority rankings done by various emergency response organizations to score threats have used scoring systems with the formula: Risk = Threat × Vulnerability ([Brody et al., 2012](#)).

Applying additive aggregation to subdomains will provide more insight into the interactions of the indicators ([VanderWeele & Knol, 2014](#)).

# Staff Memorandum

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To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council

From: Eric Main, Oregon Health Authority

Date: October 3, 2024

**Regarding: Agenda Item 7 – EJ Mapping Tool Decision Point 6 Data Standardization**

EJC Adoption Request: Decision Point 6 Recommendation

Thesis statement: EJ Mapping Tool data standardization must be used because raw indicator data units can differ a lot and are often incompatible for aggregation inside a composite index. The EJC will decide whether to use percentiles or z scores to standardize indicator data.

## Recommendation:

- Standardize raw indicator values using z-scores.
- Reduce the effects of extreme outliers in the data.
- Rescale z-scores between 1-99 percent for easier interpretation.
- Use a technique called "winsorization" to reduce outliers and rescale the z-scores.

## Rationale:

- A percentile does not describe the magnitude of the difference between two or more communities. For example, a community ranked in the 30th percentile is not necessarily three times more impacted than a community ranked in the 10th percentile.
- Investments in communities should be made where risks are the worst. Z-scores are more accurate than percentiles at identifying outliers and similarities between communities. Indicators with extreme values thus have a greater effect on the composite index.
- It may be necessary to cap high and low z-scores to avoid skewing the mean indicator scores.
- The Methodology Workgroup endorses further exploration of setting reference points for indicators because it can show whether a goal is achieved for a community or how far it is away from reaching a goal.

# Staff Memorandum

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To: Chair and Members of the Oregon Environmental Justice Council  
From: Hoang-Van Nguyen, Oregon Environmental Justice Council & Policy Coordinator  
Date: October 2, 2024

**Regarding: Agenda Item 8 – Agency Annual Reports**

EJC Adoption Request: Executive Summary Advancing Environmental Justice in Oregon: Summary of Agency Needs

*Attachments: Executive Summary Advancing Environmental Justice In Oregon: Summary of Agency Needs; ODA Update; DEQ Update; ODOE Update; ODFW Update; ODOT Update; OPRD Update; OSFM Update; and OWEB Update*

Oregon has sixteen natural resources agencies listed under House Bill 4077, and all the agencies listed below are required to submit annual reports to the Environmental Justice Council for the previous year in January the following year pursuant to [ORS 182.550](#).

They include:

- Department of Agriculture (ODA)
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
- Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)
- Department of State Lands (DSL)
- Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
- Department of Energy (ODOE)
- Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
- Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)
- Public Utilities Commission (OPUC)
- State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- State Marine Board (OSMB)
- Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
- Water Resources Department (WRD)

Annual reports submitted in January 2024 for calendar year 2023 are available on the [Environmental Justice Council website](#) for review under “Annual Reports”.

The Environmental Justice Council and Policy Coordinator prepared an executive summary of shared agency needs which follow the following themes:

- Increase funding and budget support
- Staff capacity and training
- Enterprise-wide policy and guidance
- Leadership and Interagency Collaboration on tools and resources

This agenda item will allow all sixteen agencies to provide additional one-page written updates to the Council and/or verbal updates up to 5 minutes.

Here is the list of presenters:

1. ODA: Christina Higby
2. DEQ: Matthew Davis
3. DLCDC: Sadie Carney
4. DOGAMI: Alex Lopez
5. DSL: Cait McCusker
6. ODF: Megan Frizell and Danny Norlander
7. ODFW: Antonio (Jose) Salgado
8. ODOE: Lauren Rosenstein
9. ODOT: Brenda Gessner
10. OHA: Kim Tham
11. OPRD: Katie Gauthier
12. OPUC: Michelle Scala and Kate Ayers
13. OSFM: Adam Meyer
14. OSMB: Tony Marin
15. OWEB: Alexa Schmidt
16. WRD: Sue Parrish and Danielle Gonzalez





## Environmental Justice Council

# Executive Summary Advancing Environmental Justice in the State of Oregon: Summary of Agency Needs

The following priorities have been identified to advance environmental justice in the State of Oregon based on Agency Annual Reports submitted in January 2024 for calendar year 2023.



### **Increase Funding and Budget Support**

Increased funding is crucial to support environmental justice efforts. This includes budget support for staff positions, community engagement activities and events, community compensation for participation, legal costs, training, translation services, tools, and specific program initiatives.



### **Staff Capacity and Training**

Increase staff capacity by funding new positions dedicated to environmental justice, as well as providing new and existing staff with the necessary training. Many natural resource agencies would benefit from staff dedicated to environmental justice to set and articulate a vision for environmental justice, develop agency-level policies and procedures, and support practices across teams. Providing new and existing staff with enterprise-wide, required training on diversity, equity, inclusion, accessibility, and belonging concepts will establish a level-setting foundation. This would enable agencies to build off this foundation with more advanced training in environmental justice (e.g. identifying communities, environmental justice assessments, environmental justice engagement strategies, etc.) and related training such as facilitation, conflict management, plain language, and culturally relevant communication.



### **Enterprise-wide Policies and Guidance**

The establishment of enterprise-wide policies, associated funding, and clear statewide direction on contracts and contracting to address priorities such as language translation and interpretation, community engagement vendor contracting, community compensation for participation, and administrative and legal support. This comprehensive approach is essential for the effective implementation of environmental justice policies.



### **Leadership and Interagency Collaboration on Tools and Resources**

It is important for agency leadership to consistently advocate for and resource environmental justice policies, opportunities for interagency collaboration, and guidance for staff.

State agencies currently participate in the DAS Office of Cultural Change quarterly DEI Cohorts which is a current example of interagency collaboration. Agency leadership continued participation in the DAS Office of Cultural Change quarterly DEI Cohorts can support this effort, but this alone will not address collaboration needs related to environmental justice.

Agencies need interagency collaboration to share resources, best practices, and tools to effectively engage with environmental justice communities including GIS and data collection tools, translation services, communication platforms, and outreach materials.

Coordination of agency community engagement also addresses concerns about overburdening community-based organizations and community member capacity when seeking feedback for public processes such as rule making, listening sessions, focus groups, etc.



## Environmental Justice Council



### **Summary**

Oregon has sixteen natural resources agencies listed under House Bill 4077, and all the agencies listed below are required to submit annual reports to the Environmental Justice Council for the previous year in January the following year pursuant to [ORS 182.550](#).

They include:

- Department of Agriculture (ODA)
- Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)
- Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD)
- Department of Geology and Mineral Industries (DOGAMI)
- Department of State Lands (DSL)
- Department of Forestry (ODF)
- Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
- Department of Energy (ODOE)
- Department of Transportation (ODOT)
- Oregon Health Authority (OHA)
- Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD)
- Public Utilities Commission (OPUC)
- State Fire Marshal (OSFM)
- State Marine Board (OSMB)
- Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB)
- Water Resources Department (WRD)

Annual reports submitted in January 2024 for calendar year 2023 are available on the [Environmental Justice Council website](#) for review.

These agencies all demonstrated various levels of funding, staffing, and readiness to implement the Oregon standard of “meaningful involvement”. Specific details regarding agency needs can be found on each of the agencies respective 2023 annual reports.

This document is intended as an executive summary of the needs from most natural resources agencies. Each agencies needs may differ and are reflected in their individual annual reports.

2024 annual reports will be submitted in January 2025, and they are expected to be available on the Environmental Justice Council website no later than March 1, 2025 for activities covering calendar year 2024.

# Agency update to the Environmental Justice Council

OCTOBER 10, 2024



## ODA Overview

Established in 1931, the Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA) consolidated 13 separate boards, bureaus, and commissions to support agriculture, enhance market access for producers, and promote resilient natural resources for their prosperity. Today, ODA unifies 38 programs operationalized by a \$190 million budget and 523 staff across Oregon to serve and support over 35,000 farms, of which 96% are family-owned, growing, producing, and marketing 225+ commodities. Our mission is safeguarding Oregon's agriculture, natural resources, working lands, economies, and communities through assistance, compliance, and market support to Protect, Promote and Prosper.

ODA's program areas are designed to not only assist and support working lands, but to protect Oregon's natural resources and ensure consumer protections. Examples include ODA's Plant Protection and Conservation programs to address harmful plant pests, diseases, and noxious weeds as well as support the conservation of threatened and endangered plants native to Oregon. The Natural Resources program area utilizes a variety of resources to protect water quality on working lands and ensure appropriate pesticides use while maintaining availability for beneficial uses. Food Safety and Animal Health programs provide regulatory monitoring on the production and sale of agricultural goods.

## Highlights

ODA is continuously looking at ways to increase outreach and engagement opportunities with Oregonians that are interested or may be impacted by ODA's decisions. On June 27, 2024 ODA updated its 5-year [Strategic Plan](#) which incorporated key objectives to identify and remove barriers so all people in Oregon can thrive. The plan includes strategies to engage communities, allocate resources equitably, and support those we serve. Highlights below show examples of how the Agency is putting this work into practice.

### School Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Law

The School IPM law was designed to support children's safety in a school setting when pesticides are used on a school campus. The Pesticides Program works with Oregon State University (OSU) and Oregon Department of Education (ODE) to amplify awareness of the school Integrated Pest Management (IPM) law. The Pesticides Program has created short, narrated videos (5-10 minutes) called "school IPM law modules" that focus on IPM law requirements and are available on YouTube for school IPM coordinators and other school staff to access anytime. Videos have and will continue to be produced over time to add to the collection and include Spanish versions. The modules may be accessed, along with other resources at ODA's [IPM in Schools webpage](#).

### Natural and Working Lands Fund Allocation

ODA's Native Plant Conservation Program received funding through House Bill 3409 Natural and Working Lands Fund in 2024 for the early implementation of the Oregon Native Seed Strategy (ONSS). ODA's Native Conservation Program received \$100,000 to distribute to Oregon's nine federally recognized tribes to advance tribal goals for native plant protection, restoration and production. ODA has scheduled a listening session to hear from Oregon Tribes on how to best to allocate the funds for maximum impact.

### Nitrate Reduction Plan for the LUBGWMA

In September, the [Oregon Nitration Reduction Plan](#) for the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area was released in partnership with DEQ, ODA, WRD, and OHA. The plan details the state's key strategies to reduce groundwater nitrate concentrations and address public health.

### Policy & Funding Gaps

The collective summary report of Advancing Environmental Justice in the State of Oregon: Summary of Agency Needs provided to the EJC highlights priorities that will further support ODA and other natural resource agencies to advance environmental justice in Oregon.

# DEQ 2023 Annual Report to the Environmental Justice Council

## Follow-up Brief

### Key Activities in 2024

The following is a summary of activities highlighted or referenced in the agency's [2023 annual report](#) to the Council. Each of these issues and activities have been a focus for DEQ in the first half of 2024 and may be interest to council members.

#### Compensating community

DEQ is pleased to report that earlier this year the agency finalized policies and procedures for issuing gift cards to community members for their participation in agency meetings or processes. This provides a predictable and consistent approach for programs throughout DEQ to compensate community members for their time and effort. DEQ engaged communities in the design of this policy to understand barriers to access and other equity considerations.

#### Environmental Justice issues and meaningful involvement

DEQ offers updates on the following issues because of the Council's previous involvement or because of the work is grounded in the principles of Environmental Justice:

- In September of this year, the Departments of Environmental Quality, Agriculture, and Water Resources, and the Oregon Health Authority released a comprehensive [Nitrate Reduction Plan](#) for the Lower Umatilla Basin Groundwater Management Area. The plan details the state's key strategies to reduce groundwater nitrate concentrations to less than seven mg/L in the LUBGWMA and protect public health in the immediate term.
- DEQ launched the [Community Air Action Planning](#) program to do two things: develop an understanding of the localized air quality challenges in historically overburdened areas, and design potential solutions in collaboration with community. DEQ recently identified five communities it will be working with to deploy additional air monitors.
- In July, the US Environmental Protection Agency [awarded Oregon DEQ \\$197 Million](#) under its Climate Pollution Reduction Grant program to reduce climate pollution. Under Justice 40, at least 40% of the program's benefits will go to Environmental Justice communities.
- In September, the Environmental Quality Commission [adopted rules](#) for a new program to provide rebates for the purchase of zero emissions medium- and heavy-duty trucks. The program is designed to ensure at least 40% of rebates are issued to trucks operating in environmental justice communities – focusing the benefits of reduced diesel pollution in overburdened communities.

### EJ Positions and Resources

Through legislative action in recent years DEQ has been authorized to establish several positions to support Environmental Justice work. Currently, DEQ is in the process of hiring a Environmental Justice coordinator for the agency and hiring a Senior Environmental Justice Research Analyst to support EJ-related analyses initiated by DEQ and to support the development of the council's EJ Mapping Tool. In 2024, DEQ also received a one-time \$50,000 General Fund appropriation to support council efforts to engage communities in the design of its EJ mapping Tool.

Contact  
Matthew Davis

[Matthew.davis@deq.oregon.gov](mailto:Matthew.davis@deq.oregon.gov)



OREGON  
DEPARTMENT OF  
ENERGY

# Environmental Justice Council Report | 2023

**Our Mission:** The Oregon Department of Energy helps Oregonians make informed decisions and maintain a resilient and affordable energy system. We advance solutions to shape an equitable clean energy transition, protect the environment and public health, and responsibly balance energy needs and impacts for current and future generations.

## Serving Oregon Communities

With an unprecedented amount of federal funding available, it is both a requirement and the mission of ODOE to ensure that at least 40 percent of benefits are directed to disadvantaged communities. In 2023, two positions were created at ODOE to better serve environmental justice and disadvantaged communities across the state: the Community Equity and Inclusion Analyst and Community Navigator of Oregon ([learn more](#)).



Both positions work to ensure that funding opportunities prioritize the voices of environmental justice and disadvantaged communities by:

1. Sharing information about energy-related funding opportunities
2. Ensuring development of opportunities are driven by community need
3. Creating forums and building relationships to share experiences and knowledge across

## ODOE's Identified Needs

- Greater technical and contracting assistance to Tribal governments, environmental justice agencies, and municipal governments from the state
- Enterprise-wide policies, guidance, and direction to prioritize accessibility
- Enterprise-wide policies, guidance, and direction to prioritize community compensation for participation
- An environmental justice mapping tool that bridges the gap between federal and state language and requirements

## More Information

- [ODOE Community Navigator Program](#)
- [ODOE Incentive Opportunities](#)
- [Federal Opportunities](#)
- [ODOE By the Numbers \(2023\)](#)
- [Oregon Solar Dashboard](#)
- [Oregon Electric Vehicle Dashboard](#)

Visit: [www.oregon.gov/energy](http://www.oregon.gov/energy)



# Environmental Justice Council



Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife  
4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE, Salem, OR 97302

## MISSION STATEMENT

To protect and enhance Oregon’s fish and wildlife and their habitats for use and enjoyment by present and future generations.

## AGENCY LEADERSHIP

Debbie Colbert  
Director

Shaun Clements  
Deputy Director for Fish and Wildlife

Ken Loffink  
Deputy Director for Administration

The Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission consists of seven members appointed by the governor.

ODFW is committed to providing programs and services respectfully, compassionately, and effectively in a manner that acknowledges, affirms, and values culture, language, national origin, class, race, age, ethnic background, disability, religion, gender, sexual orientation, and the diversity of our customers and stakeholders.

ODFW develops and implements plans to highlight and prioritize environmental justice communities, including the:

- ODFW Strategic Plan
- Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Plan (2024)
- Limited English Proficiency Plan
- Program Accessibility for People with Disabilities

ODFW is required to involve the public in the drafting of OARs. Adoption of proposed Administrative Procedures Act rules are noticed to the public six weeks in advance of the decision-making Commission meeting. ODFW considers public participation in decision-making. The diversity of issues that ODFW is involved in, along with the differences in scale (e.g., international, multistate, statewide, regional, local), requires the agency to utilize a variety of processes to promote community participation in agency decision-making

ODFW promotes community participation in decision-making through diverse outreach channels. The agency maintains a list of interested parties, which are notified of all upcoming Commission decision-making items. The agency continually seeks to involve a diverse range of participants representing an array of views and opinions using a variety of outreach channels, including the agency’s website, media releases, and social media.

ODFW will continue to act as a liaison to the Environmental Justice Council. An ODFW representative will participate in Council and liaison meetings, provide requested input and annual reports, and utilize the resources that are produced by the Council.



# Oregon Department of Transportation

## 2024 Annual Agency Report to the Environmental Justice Council

October 2024

### ODOT Overview

ODOT's mission is to provide a safe and reliable multimodal transportation system that connects people and helps Oregon's communities and economy thrive. I.S.E.E.U. values inform decision making and guide our behavior in working with each other, our partners and the communities we serve. **Integrity:** We are accountable and transparent with public funds and hold ourselves to the highest ethical standards. **Safety:** We share ownership and responsibility for ensuring safety in all that we do. **Equity:** We embrace diversity and foster a culture of inclusion. **Excellence:** We use our skills and expertise to continuously strive to be more efficient, effective and innovative. **Unity:** We work together as One ODOT to provide better solutions and ensure alignment in our work.

### Highlights

Environmental Justice (EJ), NEPA review and public participation are the cornerstones of all projects that we develop for the public. Each project has a Communications Plan where we outreach to all impacted communities. The outreach includes business owners, residents and other interested parties within affected areas. Outreach includes meeting people where they are including community events, transit and on the street. Outreach often includes interviews, focus groups, the use of social media and targeted news and online media, and working with nonprofits and community groups where English is not the primary language. People can [sign up](#) to receive news, progress reports and learn more about specific projects or areas within ODOT.

Both our [Oregon Transportation Plan \(OTP\)](#) and our [Strategic Action Plan \(SAP\)](#) demonstrate the agency's long-term commitment to **Equity**. Specifically, ODOT's efforts to integrate and prioritize diversity, equity and inclusion by identifying and addressing systemic barriers to ensure all Oregonians benefit from transportation services and investments. The other goals and outcomes of the OTP and SAP include a **Modern Transportation System** and **Sufficient and Reliable Funding**. An exciting development to be launched this October is the State of the System. This new website will communicate the metrics and milestones and will be updated on a regular basis so that the agency is transparent and demonstrates how we are meeting our goals and outcomes.

### Coordination

Participation in shared learning with the Council and peer agencies for continual EJ programming, including requirements under state law for natural resource agencies to address and further progress on EJ issues, increase public participation and determine the effect of agencies' decisions on traditionally underrepresented communities.

Contributing ODOT staff expertise to discuss transportation data, goals or strategies such as public participation or environmental impact evaluations.

Help with outreach to the educate the public to understand EJ and what the EJC does.



# Oregon Parks and Recreation Department

State Parks | Oregon Heritage | Ocean Shore | ATV Program | Community Grants

## Mission

The mission of the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department (OPRD) is to provide and protect outstanding natural, scenic, cultural, historic and recreational sites for the enjoyment and education of present and future generations.

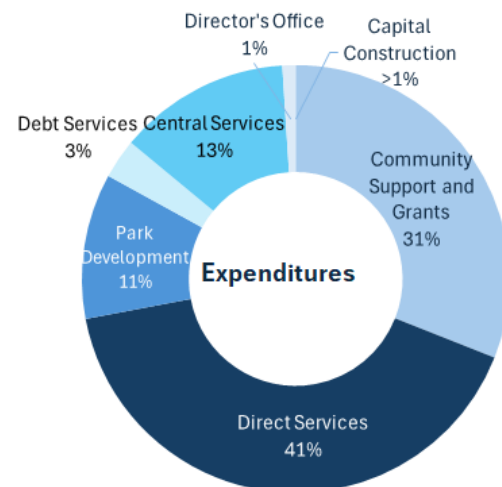
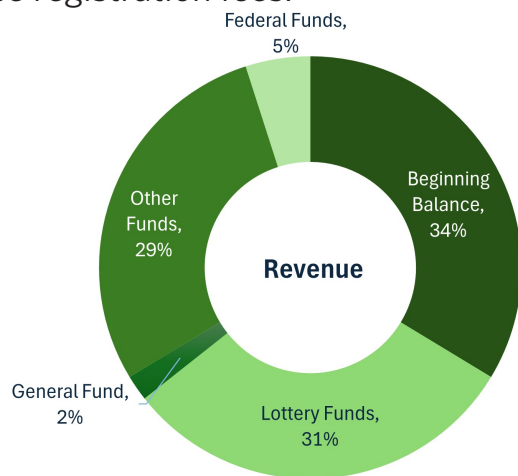
## Vision

To take the long view to protect Oregon's special places—*state parks and historic places statewide*—and provide the greatest experience while creating stable future funding.



## 2023-25 Budget

OPRD is funded mainly by user fees, dedicated lottery dollars, and recreational vehicle license registration fees.



## Did you know Oregon Parks and Recreation Department:

- Served 52.2 million day-use visitors and 2.9 million camper nights in 2023.
- Includes 259 state parks, ranked 8th in the nation for most state parks.
- Manages 362 miles of the ocean shore as a state recreation area.
- Awards more than \$28 million in [grants to Oregon communities](#) each year to support outdoor recreation and historic preservation.
- Received \$50 million in General Obligation bonds in 2021 for repairs and upgrades to parks. Those [projects](#) are underway.
- Created [accessible design standards](#) for all future projects to improve access for visitors with disabilities.
- Released the [2024-2033 Oregon Historic Preservation Plan](#) to guide historic preservation efforts over the next decade.



## About the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC)

Celebrating more than 150 years of history, the work of the Oregon Public Utility Commission (PUC) impacts every household throughout the state. The PUC is responsible for rate regulation of Oregon's investor-owned electric utilities (Portland General Electric, Pacific Power, and Idaho Power), natural gas utilities (Avista, Cascade Natural, and NW Natural), telephone service providers (landline only), as well as select water companies. The PUC also enforces electric and natural gas safety standards and handles utility-related dispute resolution on behalf of Oregon residents.

## Environmental Justice Highlights

- ◆ Promoting access to clean energy programs for EJ communities: Energy Trust of Oregon, Transportation Electrification, Community Solar, and Smart Grid Pilots and Programs.
- ◆ Applying an equity lens and distributional benefits analyses to utility investment plans: Clean Energy Plans, Distribution System Planning, Integrated Resource planning.
- ◆ The Energy Affordability Act of 2021 (HB 2475) provides the PUC new authority to consider “differential energy burdens on low-income customers and other economic, social equity of environmental justice factors that affect affordability for certain classes of utility customers” when establishing rates that customers of regulated utilities pay:
  - ◇ Interim Bill Discounts
  - ◇ Energy Burden Assessments or Low-Income Needs Assessments
  - ◇ Energy Burden Metrics Report
  - ◇ Low-Income Energy Efficiency and Weatherization Analysis and Recommendations
  - ◇ Mitigating Customer harms associated with Arrearages and Disconnection
- ◆ Elevating EJ and affordability concerns in ratemaking proceedings
- ◆ Advancing procedural equity: increased accessibility, EJ-centered intervenor funding agreements, equity advisory groups, and PUC Process Improvements.



### Mission:

Our mission is to ensure Oregonians have access to safe, reliable and fairly priced utility services that advance state policy and promote the public interest. We use an inclusive process to evaluate differing viewpoints and visions of the public interest and arrive at balanced, well-reasoned, independent decisions supported by fact and law.





# OREGON STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## AGENCY SUMMARY

### ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COUNCIL

**Mission** | To protect people, property, and the environment from fire and hazardous materials.

**Vision** | A prepared, protected, and resilient Oregon.

**Values** | Integrity, Dedication, Leadership, Partnerships, and Service to Others

## 2024 HIGHLIGHTS

- In February, the OSFM hired a diversity, equity, and inclusion manager who, along with the tribal liaison, serves as an agency liaison to the Environmental Justice Council.
- The agency produces a Senate Bill 762 report biannually that highlights our work. See the past reports [here](#).
- The record-breaking 2024 fire season saw 17 conflagrations and more than 1.9 million acres burned across the state. This surpassed 16 conflagrations in 2020. Read more about fire season on the [blog](#).

## LIFE SAFETY & FIRE PREVENTION

- In June 2023, the OSFM launched a [Defensible Space Program](#), partnering with local fire agencies to provide free defensible space assessments to home and property owners to increase wildfire resilience across the state.
- In spring 2024, the OSFM began a Defensible Space Assessment Incentive Reimbursement Pilot Program that provides people in communities with a high social vulnerability index and a high-wildfire hazard with \$250 to help offset defensible space improvement costs.
- The [Fire Prevention & Education Unit](#) staff actively work in at-risk communities. Highlights include educating 16,000+ people at the Oregon State Fair, creating a multi-agency pilot program with the Oregon Parks and Recreation Department, and partnering with the World Forestry Center for a weekend of free wildfire preparedness training during Wildfire Awareness Month in May.
- The OSFM coordinates the Oregon Life Safety Team, a collaboration of fire service agencies, associations, and state, federal, nonprofit, and private organizations. The group meets quarterly to implement fire prevention and safety education statewide.



**2,021**  
**406**  
**71**  
**231**  
**\$57,750**

Homes & properties assessed  
Trained assessors  
Partner agencies involved  
One-time incentive payments  
Incentive payments total

*\*stats as of August 2024*

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE & REGULATORY SERVICES

- In June 2024, Oregon fire service leaders gathered at OSFM headquarters in Salem to discuss the issues most pressing for the fire service. Read the report [here](#).
- The [Oregon Community Right to Know and Protection Act](#) requires employers to report hazardous substances to the OSFM. The agency provides the information to emergency planners, responders, health professionals, and the public to protect residents, property, and the environment.
- [Local emergency planning committees](#) help keep Oregon communities safe and prepared by reducing risks and responding quickly to emergencies. LEPCs include local leaders, emergency responders, businesses, and community members.
- The Wildfire Season Staffing Grant provides local fire agencies \$6 million to add extra firefighters to the response system through the wildfire season, increasing capacity by 1,500 firefighters each year. It's a small investment with a big return. See 2023 success stories [here](#).



# OREGON WATERSHED ENHANCEMENT BOARD

## 2024 Annual Agency Report to the Environmental Justice Council

September 16, 2024

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### OWEB Overview

OWEB is a grantmaking agency that partners with watershed councils, non-profit organizations, local governments, schools and universities, and Tribal governments to implement a wide range of watershed restoration activities. Our total biennial budget for 23-25 is \$259M, of which \$235M is funding for grants, with the remainder supporting agency operations. Most of our funding comes from the Oregon Lottery as directed by the Oregon Constitution, but we administer some other funding sources as well. OWEB's staff includes 33 permanent positions and 16 limited duration positions, and we are advised by an 18-member board that includes public members, representatives from other state agencies, and a tribal representative, among others.

### Highlights

In July 2024, the OWEB board adopted a [DEI and Environmental Justice Resolution](#). This resolution acknowledges the dispossession of Tribal communities, the disproportionate impacts of climate change, and the historical marginalization of certain communities from environmental processes and decision making. This resolution makes explicit our commitment to integrating and prioritize EJ throughout our work. It is reflected in our [2024 Strategic Plan](#) refresh, which calls out specific activities to improve diversity and inclusion in our grantmaking, include traditional ecological knowledge in our monitoring approach, and expand our grantmaking to more urban areas. The strategic plan also addresses a concern from the council's review around tracking our EJ targets, which will be achieved through shortening the application process, reducing match requirements where possible, building connections with a diversity of new grant partners, and recruiting more diverse expertise for our technical review teams.

OWEB's implementation of the Natural and Working Lands funds helps advance the agency's EJ priorities by conducting an initial 4-month engagement process with partners who have to date been less involved in OWEB's funding opportunities. The focus of this funding opportunity on carbon sequestration activities which also have community co-benefits enables OWEB to expand the scope and geography of its projects in line with our strategic plan and EJ resolution. In the future, OWEB hopes to draw on the forthcoming EJ mapping tool to help with EJ outreach and prioritization.

Lastly, OWEB has prioritized a culture where everyone takes responsibility for EJ. In the past year, OWEB has facilitated a book group on *Tribal Histories of the Willamette Valley*, where staff discuss the implications of this history on current land management and how this understanding can inform our work. OWEB leadership have met and exceeded the agency's goal of outreach to at least three non-traditional partners per quarter for each quarter since this goal was adopted in 2022.

### Policy & Funding Gaps

**Policy:** OWEB is exploring alternative options in our lottery-funded land acquisition grants which involve Tribal governments. Currently when OWEB funds land acquisitions, we acquire a conservation easement to protect the state's investment, but this can present a frustration to Tribal governments. We are currently conducting legal research and exploring tools other than conservation easements that would uphold Tribal sovereignty.

**Funding & Coordination:** As a small agency, OWEB would benefit from collaboration with other state agencies and small agency boards and commissions on training opportunities. Additionally, OWEB shares the concern cited in the review about overburdening Tribes with requests for consultation. Support for cross agency collaboration would help each ensure that Tribal outreach and inclusion is more strategic and streamlined than an agency-by-agency approach. Finally, the EJC review highlighted that OWEB could potentially compensate EJ community members who participate in RACs, focus groups, and advisory councils. OWEB wants to remove barriers to participation and would benefit from guidance on how to compensate people for their contributions in line with what other agencies have done.