

Agenda Item No.:	9
Work Plan:	Forest Resources Division
Topic:	Ceremonial Events and Recognition
Presentation Title:	2024 Climate Smart Forestry Award recognition
Date of Presentation:	September 04, 2024
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SUMMARY

This agenda item recognizes the recipients of the first ODF Climate Smart Forestry Award.

CONTEXT

The Climate Smart Forestry Award was created as an incentive for promoting forest carbon reduction and capture practices and innovation as part of the 2021 ODF Climate Change and Carbon plan (pg. 32 Climate-Smart Forestry Incentives on Private Forestlands).

BACKGROUND

Topics include a brief review of objectives of the award followed by announcement of winners and brief summaries of their work.

ANALYSIS

After thoughtful review of 2024 ODF Climate Smart Forestry Award nominees by the internal ODF review committee and the Forest Legacy Working Group, the following recipients were selected for each category of this award, which recognizes strategies that reduce carbon emissions and/or increase carbon capture.

Research and Innovation recipient:

David & Mary Ann Bugni for employing holistic forest resilience strategies that increase carbon capture through longer rotations and reduced reliance of fossil fuels through forest stream-generated energy.

Landowner and Land Manager recipient:

The Nature Conservancy (Craig Bienz) & The Klamath Tribes for: 1) using traditional ecological knowledge such as fuels reduction strategies to reduce catastrophic wildfire and carbon emissions, 2) measurably increasing forest carbon capture, 3) improving forest health and enhancing resilience to climate change and catastrophic wildfire, and 4) collaboration with various university scientists to produce data on efficacy of these strategies.

Honorable mention:

Peter Hayes and Dean Moburg for initiating conversations across multiple audiences regarding “climate smart” forestry strategies, which contributed to development of criteria used in this award.

RECOMMENDATION

This agenda item is informational only.

ATTACHMENTS

- (1) Climate Smart Forestry Award fact sheet



Climate Smart Forestry Award



Goal of the award

To recognize landowners, land managers, researchers, operators, or other forestry professionals that use climate change-adapted practices, or develop innovative methods for carbon capture, retention, or reduced release. The goal is to encourage, improve, and recognize climate and carbon practices as part of the Department Climate Change and Carbon Plan. Nominees may include universities, educators, consulting and research agencies, fabricators, operators, and private industry on non-federal lands across the state.

<https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/Documents/2023-climate-smart-award-nomination-form.pdf>

Rewards efforts in

- “Climate smart” forestry in silviculture
- Fire management, response, and fire or smoke adaption
- Forestlands climate resilience and ecological function restoration
- Carbon reduction or capture in operations
- Innovative research or products that reduce emissions or increase climate resilience

Standards

- Two awards for the state, one from each nominee category.
- Nominee categories:
 - Landowners and land managers
 - Research and innovation



- Award winners may not be nominated again within three years after winning an award, even if nominated for different practices.
- Nominees may not come from members of the nomination committee.
- Organizations or joint collaborators will receive a single award.
- Award winners may mention their award in department grant and incentive program applications, but this does not give project preference or priority solely for receiving an award.

Timeline

- October – December: Nominations open
- By February: reviewed by ODF Climate Smart Forestry Award Committee to identify who meets qualifications and gives suggestions on top ranked candidates
- By March: Reviewed by Forest Legacy and Stewardship Program Working Group to recommend top two candidates in each category for field tours
- By April: ODF Climate Smart Forestry Award review subcommittee and ODF Public Affairs visits and documents (photos, video, etc.) tours. ODF Climate Smart Forestry Award review subcommittee makes final selection.
- By May: Awards ordered
- By July: Award letters mailed
- By August: work with ODF Public Affairs to publicize award winners
- By September: Board of Forestry presents Climate Smart Forestry Awards at regular meeting

