



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for "qualified members," defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

Applicant Information

Name **Mark Vargas**

Affiliation

Occupation

Retired

Mailing address [Redacted]

Town/City [Redacted]

State [Redacted]

Zip Code [Redacted]

Phone Number [Redacted]

Cell or Alternate #

Fax Number [Redacted]

Email [Redacted]

Applicant Signature *Mark A. Vargas*

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- Farmer or Rancher (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission)
- Agricultural Water Quality (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- Indian Tribal Interests (selected by the OWEB Board)
- Natural Resource Value Interests (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I grew up raising livestock and recreating in Oregon. I have spent over 37 years as a natural resource manager in Oregon and have developed a passion for protecting, enhancing, and enjoying Oregon's resources. I would like to continue to provide advice and be part of a commission that can benefit from my passion and years of experience managing Oregon's fish and wildlife. I feel I would be a great fit as a commissioner representing fish and wildlife interests on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

I grew up raising livestock in Eagle Point, Oregon, and have owned and operated my current working sheep/hay ranch since 1995 in Medford, Oregon.

My professional career spans over 37 years working with, and managing natural resources in Oregon. My career with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) has allowed me to work in fish management and research, wildlife management and administration.

Early in my career I worked with fish research and management along the entire Oregon coast conducting field work as well as technical work. I have been on the Salmon Technical Team (STT) for the Pacific Fisheries Management Council (PFMC), working with other states, federal and tribal partners to cooperatively manage pacific coast salmon.

I then became the manager of the Denman Wildlife Area in southern Oregon where I managed the 1,800-acre wildlife area for wildlife habitat needs and public use. Soliciting and receiving public input was an integral part of managing these lands. I also held the position of the Rogue District Habitat biologist where I would seek out wildlife habitat improvement projects on public and private lands. In this position I also held the role of the Southwest Oregon Access and Habitat (A&H) Coordinator position. I was responsible for helping landowners with grant applications to present to the SW A&H council.

I promoted to the District Wildlife Biologist where I was the lead biologist managing wildlife in Jackson, Josephine, and Curry counties. I worked with many other organizations and agencies during this 17-year timeframe. The latter part of my career I worked in administration in various roles in the SW Region and ODFW headquarters office in Salem. I am currently a board member of the Mace Family Trust and the Watchable Wildlife Foundation where we review grant applications for wildlife and natural resources related education and habitat improvement projects.

Other committees and boards I have been involved with:

- Served as a scout leader and Commissioner for Crater Lake Council, Boy Scouts of America
- Served as the Fish and Wildlife representative on the Jackson County Animal Control Board for 15 years (was selected Chair for 9 of those years)
- Served as Ducks Unlimited committee member, Newport Chapter
- Current board member of the Phoenix FFA Advisory Committee
- Current Secretary of the Phoenix FFA Alumni
- Current member of the Phoenix-Talent School Board Budget Committee (serving since 1999, and have been selected Chair for 10 years)
- Current board member of the Mace Family Trust managed by the Oregon Communities Foundation
- Current board member of the Watchable Wildlife Foundation

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

Although Oregon has a large percentage of public land that supports wildlife, we need to not only manage our public lands responsibly, but also need to recognize our private lands and the landowners that take care of those lands. Private lands

are a critical component of wildlife habitat throughout Oregon. We need to develop relationships and provide resources, both financial and educational, to bring our private landowners on-board with prudent wildlife habitat needs, protections and enhancements. We must try to accomplish this while recognizing the importance of our agricultural needs, both economically and socially. Water issues, particularly in southern Oregon, loss of smaller agricultural properties and loss of wildlife connectivity are a few of the top issues worth focusing on.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name **Tod Lum**

Affiliation (if any)

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Alternate #

Fax #

Email [REDACTED]

Reference #2

Name **Steve Niemela**

Affiliation (if any)

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Alternate #

Fax #

Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name **Jade Keehn**

Affiliation (if any)

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Alternate #

Fax #

Email [REDACTED]

Please send your completed application via email to nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or mailed (post-marked by August 25, 2024) in order to be considered for a position.

Steve Niemela

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

November 24, 2024

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Dear Nicole:

I am writing this letter to support Mark Vargas' application to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Mark Vargas has been a professional mentor and friend for the past 20 years, and I have seen his commitment to wildlife habitat and the ag community firsthand. I believe Mark is an ideal candidate for this position because of his career improving fish and wildlife habitat as a professional biologist and manager for ODFW, his life-time commitment to volunteer service, and his personal experience running a small farm in the Rogue Valley.

While at ODFW, Mark worked directly on habitat issues as the manager of the Denman Wildlife Area and habitat biologist, including work with private landowners through ODFW's Access and Habitat Project. This work gave him the technical skills and knowledge needed to implement habitat projects, and the softer skills needed to collaborate with private ranchers and industrial forest landowners. As Mark's career evolved, he became a manager and mentor and continued to work on habitat through his staff. Mark had a way of focusing on the positive and looking at habitat projects not only as a means to get something done on the ground for wildlife, but also as an opportunity to bring communities and people together. I believe this is the kind of positive proactive perspective he could bring to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

It is important to recognize that Mark often did this work for fish and wildlife after staying up all night lambing, mending fence, tending to sick animals, repairing a busted waterline, or whatever other emergency a farm naturally produces. He understands firsthand the economics, hardship, and joy of a life immersed in agriculture. Ranching for Mark has always been a family affair with his kids helping bring in hay, caring for the animals, participating in FFA, and showing animals at the local Jackson County Fair.

While working for ODFW and keeping up with his agricultural operations, Mark also volunteered for what seemed like every non-profit in the Rogue Valley that had a connection to the natural world, including the Crater Lake Council of the Boy Scouts of America, the Jackson County Animal Control Board, Phoenix FFA, and the Phoenix-Talent School Board Budget Committee. Most recently, Mark has joined boards for the Mace Family Trust, and the Watchable Wildlife Foundation.

Given land ownership patterns it is essential, in my opinion, that Oregon maintain its working lands with a focus on providing agricultural commodities while improving important fish and wildlife habitat. Threading this needle may be a difficult challenge, but I believe Mark's positivity, focus on practical solutions, deep knowledge of wildlife habitat needs, and commitment to the agricultural community makes him uniquely suited to contribute to this challenge. I strongly encourage you to approve his application to the Oregon Agricultural heritage Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Steven Niemela". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "S" and "N".

Steve Niemela



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Applicant Information

Name Kelly Warren

Affiliation Ducks Unlimited Inc.

Occupation

Retired [REDACTED]

Mailing address [REDACTED]

Town/City [REDACTED] **State** [REDACTED] **Zip Code** [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED] **Cell or Alternate #** [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature

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Statement Of Interest

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I believe the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program is a critical program to assist the Agricultural community in economic resilience and a benefit to local/rural communities. The programs offered can provide tools which will benefit working lands and maintain or enhance fish and wildlife habitat. The Interests of Fish and Wildlife position reflects who I am as an individual. I am a landowner, fifth generation farmer/landowner, and natural resources professional who has dedicated myself to working with partners across the state on fish and wildlife, habitats and working lands. Farmers are connected to the land, the soil and the overall ecosystem on their lands. It is important to capture the knowledge and land management techniques Oregon farmers can provide to our resources they produce, including natural resources elements for fish and wildlife. Through my experiences in agriculture and being a part of the agricultural community, there are many challenges farmers face. It is important to protect agriculture and provide farmers with as many resources as possible to not only sustain but succeed now and in the future. Between 2012 and 2017 Oregon lost 340,000 acres from agricultural production due to development, fragmentation and rural landowner succession challenges. OAHP prevents this through offering integral tools like management strategies, easements and successional planning. I value OAHP's mission and will work to support it as a commissioner, fisheries and wildlife professional and a landowner/farmer. OAHP provides integral resources that can be utilized by Oregon's agricultural community. OAHP is a critical example and opportunity to provide unity in managing the land to its best intended use. This includes bridging the farming, natural resources and fisheries and wildlife community to work together for the greater good. By default, OAHP also protects agricultural lands and keeps them in production for future generations.

My upbringing in the agriculture community and managing family land has led to my career in Fisheries and Wildlife. There are significant overlaps in land management techniques to achieve its highest function for production and for fish and wildlife. Bridging the natural resources community with agriculture/landowners makes scientific and applicable sense. Examples include restoration techniques, working lands approaches and working within the ecosystem instead of against it. At Ducks Unlimited Inc. I work with a variety of partners including tribes, farmers, ranchers, producers, recreationists (hunting, fishing, passive) and work to conserve, restore or enhance habitat across a diversity of Oregon landscapes. There is significant overlap in the partners/landowners we work with, working lands management and shared visions and goals. I have been engaged with supporting OAHP since 2014. If I am fortunate enough to be chosen for this position, it will be my goal to work with fellow commissioners to strengthen the program. I plan to do that with my experience, relationships, collaboration, knowledge and tools I can provide.

If I am fortunate to be selected to the commission, I can offer high level unique perspectives and skills as someone from the agricultural and Fisheries and Wildlife community. Both my education and career have strengthened my abilities to bring more to programs like OAHP including active listening, self-awareness, empathy, and accountability. Coupled with a strong professional network, communication and relationship building. Relationships are critically important to the work I do professionally and/or landowner. If selected to this commission my goal will be to form collaborative relationships with OWEB staff, other commissioners, and landowners and natural resource entities that are interested or apply to the program. Through my career I have been involved in a wide diversity of technical, policy and administrative tasks that align with my potential roles as a commissioner. OAHP is a critical resource for natural resource agencies to assist landowners and the agricultural community. The state funding OAHP provides is a rare source that can be utilized and leveraged through federal match. In 2022, I worked on a grant that utilized OAHP as match for federal funding. Oregon has limited state funding sources and OAHP is essential. Recognizing that OAHP has not met desired funding goals through the legislature, and I can be a voice to increase funding and will work with fellow commissioners to support and grow the program. I can use my networks in agriculture and natural resources for bettering the program and the projects. Ducks

Unlimited has strong partnerships across North American with the agricultural community including Farm Bill programs. We can draw from examples from other landscapes on how to strengthen state agricultural programs. I am passionate in helping programs like OAHP and problem solving to strengthen the agricultural and fish and wildlife communities. I will dedicate myself to working with staff, partners and fellow commissioners to use my skills and expertise to strengthen the OAHP program and its impact on Oregon's landowners, producers and fisheries and wildlife across the landscape. I will work with ODFW staff to ensure interests for fish and wildlife are voiced and applied in the program, resulting land management and habitat.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

I have worked for state (OWEB), federal, and tribal entities. This diversity of experiences offers a unique perspective that many others may not have. I have seen the function of different agencies, their policies, how they work on conservation, and this gives me important perspectives and knowledge that I can use for this position. Working for a tribe I have gained knowledge of tribal sovereignty, rights, and tribal natural resource partnerships that have helped with a holistic perspective of conservation and working lands.

I come from a unique personal background that includes, century farming, working lands, habitat management, family members with extensive conservation and farming backgrounds. This background has shaped who I am as an agricultural and conservation professional. I have built relationships in the agricultural community in the Willamette Valley through being a landowner and our connections with our neighboring landowners/farmers. I'm experienced in my position at Ducks Unlimited with building relationships and earning trust with the landowners by acquiring funding and assisting them with projects on their land to meet their goals.

I have worked across diverse landscapes and with a diversity of people including farmers, landowners, native American tribes in Alaska and Western Oregon, land trusts and a multitude of other partners. I have been an employee, grantee and worked with OWEB staff. I have extensive experience working with ODFW staff state wide on a wide variety of programs, issues and restoration/enhancement projects on Oregon Wildlife areas that have included working lands elements. I am a passionate landowner, hunter, recreator and have a deep appreciation and respect for fish and wildlife and Oregon's communities including agriculture.

- A member of a fifth-generation farming family (6th with my daughter).
- Grew up and worked in the agricultural community in the Mid-Willamette Valley.
- Previously employed by OWEB as an easement compliance coordinator (NRS 2).
- Have worked with a wide variety of ODFW staff on technical, programmatic, project, policy and administrative fish and wildlife elements.
- Experience in planning, implementation and management of acquisitions, mitigation and conservation easements.
- Collaborating and provided match funding with a land trust on an OAHP project in the Willamette Valley.
- Knowledgeable about OAHP projects statewide and specific to Ducks Unlimited in Oregon geographies.
- Acquired funding and implemented projects on ODFW Wildlife Areas including several that are working lands.
- Landowner that manages agricultural, timber and native landscapes on a family property.
- Works and applies the Oregon Conservation Strategy.
- Restoration project initiator, manager and lead for project delivery and partnerships in Western OR for Ducks Unlimited.

- Partnership and collaboration with ODFW in waterfowl, wildlife areas projects, Willamette Wildlife Mitigation program, and overlap in regions I have worked.
- Working on conservation easements with private landowners and agricultural producers on a wide diversity of Oregon's landscapes including Timber, Oak habitat, Uplands and wet habitats across the state.
- Working with Agricultural producers and landowners to provide options for leveraging their goals for their properties.
- Delivery of wet prairie, wetlands, flood plain, infrastructure replacement projects across western Oregon that help improve working lands.
- Was a member of the BPA/ODFW Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program technical review team for six years that visited, scored and analyzed conservation easements. Responsibilities included, analyze the projects ecological and operation and administrative considerations and recommend projects for funding.
- Knowledgeable in environmental laws and policy, regulations, permitting and guidelines for fish and wildlife including NEPA, ESA and Clean Water Act
- Follows and applies the North American Model for Wildlife Management.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate and collaborate with landowners, federal and state agencies, tribal governments and private stakeholder groups.
- Proven track record of successfully acquiring grants for capacity, acquisitions, easements and restoration.
- Ability to communicate, collaborate and build relationships with a diversity of different entities, landowners or the public.
- Experience working with landowners, state, tribal, federal and NGO, technical and policy staff on natural resource issues.
- Review and provide input on Willamette Basin and coastal plans, programs and policies.
- Board Experience:
 - Clackamas Basin Watershed Council Board
 - Clackamas Partnership FIP
 - Oregon Sportsman Conservation Partnership member
 - Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie partnership (Steering team)
 - Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program Technical Team member
 - Willamette River FIP
 - COLT membership board
 - Restoring Resilience in two estuaries (FIP) Core Team
 - Oregon Back Country Hunters and Anglers Board

Please see resume for additional applicable experience.

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

Society's knowledge and connection to the outdoors, agriculture and the associated impacts

The majority of America lives in urban or suburban centers. Jobs and life's responsibilities can be demanding and allow for little time and opportunities for outdoor activities like hunting, fishing, hiking, etc. If people do not utilize nature and rural landscapes, it will decrease the likelihood that they will value and respect it. That value and respect carries over into supporting conservation and agriculture. If society does not connect with the outdoors and associated lands it would mean conservation is less likely to be a priority for action, funding, or policy at a local, state or federal level. There are examples of this in our work where conservation/agriculture takes a lower societal priority in state and federal funding and policies. This means conservation agencies and organizations must be innovative and strategic in our approach to reach our and landowners goals and missions. OAHP is an example of providing integral opportunities to achieve them. As communities grow, if there is limited appreciation of respect for the landscape, conservation and agriculture will lose as a priority and expansion will threaten critical habitats and farmland. It is up to us to connect people to the landscape and the work we are doing and how it benefits them. If society places fish and wildlife and agriculture as a low priority there will be significant conversation which threatens the goals and missions of fish and wildlife organizations/agencies, tribes, the agricultural community and more.

Climate Change

Climate has changed throughout history due to many reasons. There is clear and growing evidence of climate change impacting our landscape and the species that utilize it. Impacts like fire and drought are two that threaten Oregon. Plants, birds, wildlife change or shift distribution to adapt to these changes to find suitable habitat. Agencies and organizations are incorporating climate change into action plans and restoration work to assist with staying ahead of these changes. Farmers are using their knowledge of the landscape to adapt to these conditions through crop and water management, and farming strategies. There are areas like Klamath that serve as an example of the issues facing farmers due to climate centered issues and resources. Other impacts caused by climate change include an increase in invasive species presence, sea level rise, water quality and quantity issues, loss of wetlands, increases in catastrophic weather events, and more. Through our work we can assist in decreasing climate risks and impacts, but it will take a united and collaborative effort from the conservation community to assist farmers through mechanisms we have through programs and funding sources like OAHP.

Water Availability and Management

Water is a key component of life for humans, agriculture, plants, fish, and wildlife. Current threats to water include climate change, consumption but also technological advancements for getting water off the landscape. Which directly takes away ecosystem benefit for what water does when it is left on the landscape, including invasive control, ground water recharge, increase water quality, increase water storage, increase soil quality, and providing essential elements to plants, fish, and wildlife. We use practices in towns, city and agriculture that prevent water on the landscape. It will flow from our cities to fields into creeks, then rivers and out to the ocean. This is having notable impacts on the landscape and there is no decrease in practices that would help with climate resilience and water conservation.

Generational Turnover

It is expected that 64% of working lands will change hands over the next 20 years. Many farming families do not have a succession or management plan for their land (80%). OAHP provides this critical element to prevent farms from being lost. I have seen this in my own experience on family farms in our area. Successional and management planning is a critical element to the sustainability of agriculture and working lands in Oregon.

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name [Jarod Jabousek](#)

Affiliation (if any) [USFWS Partners Program](#)

[Willamette Valley NWR Complex](#)

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Alternate #

Fax #

Email Kate_laquininto@fws.gov

Reference #2

Name [Scott Erion](#)

Affiliation (if any) [Landowner](#)

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Alternate #

Fax #

Email [REDACTED]

Reference #3

Name [Mark Goracke](#)

Affiliation (if any) [Goracke Bros Farm](#)

Mailing Address [REDACTED]

City/Town [REDACTED]

State [REDACTED]

Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED]

Alternate #

Fax #

Email [REDACTED]

Email

Please send your completed application via email to nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or mailed (post-marked by August 25, 2024) in order to be considered for a position.

KELLY EDWARD WARREN

*Western Oregon Regional Biologist
Ducks Unlimited Inc.*

[REDACTED]

EDUCATION

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| <i>Portland State University, Portland, Oregon</i> | <i>2010</i> |
| ▪ Masters of Environmental Management (Focus: waterfowl management and habitat) | |
| <i>Linfield College, McMinnville, Oregon</i> | <i>2007</i> |
| ▪ Bachelor of Science in Environmental Studies; minor in Biology and English | |
| <i>Philomath High School, Philomath, Oregon</i> | <i>2003</i> |

RELEVANT SKILLS

- Project initiator, Manager and lead for project delivery and partnerships in Western OR for Ducks Unlimited.
- Previous management of tribal fish and wildlife program; restoration planning and implementation; management of habitat and restoration projects.
- Project management of Fish and Wildlife and restoration projects; developed scope, schedule, budgets, communication plans, data/information collection, management, contracting and procurement implementation and management.
- Experience in collaboration and specific work with agricultural and natural resources entities who's missions include promotion of initiating and managing wet habitat protection, enhancement, and restoration projects.
- Proven track record of working with landowners and farmers in Western OR on projects and acquisitions/easements.
- Knowledgeable on ongoing fish, wildlife and wildlife conservation issues in the state of Oregon.
- Experience working and implementing the Oregon Conservation Strategy
- Knowledge of agricultural history in Oregon.
- Knowledge of salmon, their ecology and management in Oregon.
- Knowledge of wetlands and wetland management (coastal and inland).
- Knowledge of water conservation, management and efficiency.
- Experience as a project initiator in mitigation, bird conservation, coastal marsh protection and resilience, floodplain restoration, salmon recovery, and working landscapes.
- Demonstrated ability to communicate and collaborate with landowners, federal and state agencies, tribal governments and private stakeholder groups.
- Proven track record of successfully acquiring grants for capacity, acquisitions and restoration.
- Experience in planning, implementation and management of acquisitions, mitigation and conservation easements.
- Knowledgeable in environmental laws, regulations, permitting and guidelines for fish and wildlife including NEPA,ESA and Clean Water Act.
- Development and assistance in development of documents and policies correlated to protection of wildlife and habitat.
- Well connected with landowners and duck clubs in the Willamette Valley.
- Experience working and supervising volunteers.
- Experience in management of acquisitions and restoration projects including working with contractors, modeling, and associated partners.
- Knowledge and experience in management plan and report writing.
- Development and management of federal, state, and local environmental grants.
- Data and database management and reporting experience.

- Ability to and experience in representing an agency at conservation venues, conferences, and meetings.
- Ability to communicate, collaborate and build relationships with a diversity of different entities, landowners or the public.
- Experience working with state, tribal and federal, technical and policy staff on natural resource issues
- Strong verbal and written communication skills

RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Western Oregon Regional Biologist, Ducks Unlimited Inc. August 2018-Present (40hrs/week)

Serving as an independent representative for Ducks Unlimited Inc. in Western OR. Provides expertise on acquisitions, project delivery, leveraging capacity on partnerships and projects in the Willamette Valley and the Oregon Coast. Implementation of projects with a DU team of Engineers and permitting specialists along with local and regional partners. The team has delivered over a thousand acres of projects in his geography since 2018 in both the Willamette Basin and the Oregon coast on private and public land.

Specific examples include:

Regional Programmatic and Project Management: *Development of strategic plan for the North Pacific Coast Region which includes Western OR. Building a program around DU's and associated partners Missions and goals.*

Partnerships:

- Core partner of the OCECC and Restoring Resilience to Two Estuaries Funded by OWEB FIP.
- Steering team of the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (Action Plan funded by OWEB).
- MOA with Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians
- Member of the Oregon Sportsman's Conservation Partnership (OSCP)
- Coalition of Oregon Land Trust Member
- Administrator of a North American Wetland Conservation Grant with sixteen Willamette Basin Partners including private lands.
- Participate in programs, committees, and boards that shape natural resource management in the Willamette Basin.
- Develop cooperative relationships with partners in the Willamette Basin and assist with program building, technical assistance, policy development and decision making process' which will benefit natural resource management throughout Western OR.

Project Delivery and Working lands:

- Working on conservation easements with private landowners and agricultural producers.
- Acquired funding through a diversity of funding sources for water and wetlands conservation, management and restoration for conservation partners and landowners.
- Work across a diverse landscape and habitat types including agriculture and working lands.
- Protection of high value farmland through advocacy and project area prioritization.
- Delivery of wet prairie, wetlands, flood plain, infrastructure replacement projects across western Oregon.
- Planning, development and Management of DU Western Oregon project and Program budgets.
- Managing a team of engineers and permitting staff to deliver projects in a timely manner.
- Working with Agricultural producers and landowners on options for leveraging their goals for their properties.
- Policy support and advocacy for Farm Bill and OAHP since 2013.
- Implementation of regional and local priorities and goals to implement in our projects. (Oregon Conservation Strategy and FIP action Plans)

Science:

- Using science-based information to inform proprietries in our regions.
- Climate and water-based data
- Bird Science data
- Strategic GIS Mapping

Willamette Basin Wildlife Mitigation Coordinator, Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, Tualatin Oregon ***May 2012-August 2018(40 hours/week)***

Served as an independent representative for Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon (CTWS) to protect, enhance and manage treaty resources, including wildlife, fish and their associated habitats, within the Willamette Basin of Oregon. Accomplished closing of three significant habitat-property acquisitions on land acquisitions, partnerships with other partner agencies and private entities, natural resource management and implementation programs. Coordinated numerous on-going restoration projects on CTWS and partners properties.

Specific examples include;

Regional Programmatic Management: Developed a strategic plan with CTWS, partners and other applicable agencies for the CTWS Willamette Basin Program.

- Solitary representative for the CTWS Willamette Basin Program.
- Planned, coordinated and lead meetings for planning and implementation of Willamette Basin Natural Resource management.
- Used independent judgment and creative thinking in implementing work plans, schedules, supervising, management, and policy issues with minimal supervision.
- Directed and/or assisting in the overall planning, development, and administration of CTWS Willamette Program.
- Supervised staff, volunteers, and contractors assisting with maintenance, monitoring and management of properties.
- Planning, development and Management of CTWS Willamette Program budgets (both the overall program and associated project budgets)
- Conducted procurement and contract development and management, ensuring requirements and obligations were met.
- Advocating for and making formal recommendations for CTWS and associated Tribal interests
- Lead formal evaluations with CTWS administration and technical on the Willamette Program to update program goals, objectives and strategies.
- Working with Tribal council and legal staff on policy issues and associated Willamette Basin tasks.

Mitigation: *Overseen all aspects of mitigation projects that focused on protection and enhancement for target fish and wildlife species and their required habitats, primarily through land acquisition, conservation easements and/or other management agreements.*

- Identified properties with high value habitats to CTWS and the Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Program (WWMP) and identify strategic ecological goals
- Prepare habitat project proposals and applications including specific statements of work and budgets
- Supervision of restoration and associated tasks
- Conduct specific habitat project monitoring and reporting
- Writing and implementation habitat management plans
- Direct and manage operations, maintenance and restoration activities
- Implementation of public access and hunting on mitigation properties.
- From 2012-2018 acquired three properties totaling 600 acres that are currently under CTWS ownership
- Acquired grants for restoration of CTWS properties

Partnerships: *Develop cooperative working relationships with collaborating agencies and conservation groups as well as with private landowners to strengthen CTWS' presence and efforts in the Willamette Basin including:*

- Participate in programs, committees, and boards that shape natural resource management in the Willamette Basin. Develop cooperative relationships with partners in the Willamette Basin and assist with program building, technical assistance, policy development and decision making process' which will benefit natural resource management throughout the Willamette.
- Have partnered on over ten WWMP acquisitions.

WWMP Mitigation Program: *Assist Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and associated partners in acquiring, partnering and supporting projects that fulfill BPA's mitigation requirements under the Willamette Biological Opinion for the WWMP.*

- Work as a member of the WWMP monitoring team, technical review team, and Tribal partners and participate in scoring cultural significance for all WWMP projects.
- Provide strategic guidance and recommendations on strategic goals when appropriate and needed to strengthen or increase the likelihood of success of the WWMP.
- Participate in Identification of both technical and policy issues and conflicts that may impact the likelihood of success of the WWMP mitigation program and work collaboratively to resolve.
- Review and provide input on Willamette Basin plans, programs and policies.

***Natural Resource Specialist 2, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Salem Oregon
June 2007-September 2008, Feb 2012-May 2012 (40 hours/week)***

Assistance with data collection, documentation and management related to conservation easements, mitigation sites and acquisitions.

- Communication and interaction with landowners and other participating entities (federal, state and private)
Collaboration with OWEB staff to improve monitoring plans to be focus on priority habitat suitability data
- Conducted monitoring of land acquisitions and conservation easement projects.
- Assisted in mapping and data entry of acquisitions funded through the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund
- Monitored and wrote baseline reports for 25 acquisition sites.
- Data entry and analysis, GIS mapping
- Evaluated and provided documentation on acquisition sites including recommendations on habitat restoration actions
- Assisted with the initial launch of the Effectiveness Monitoring Program for the State of Oregon
- Communication and interaction with landowners and other participating organizations (federal, state, Tribal and NGOs)
- Provided education to landowners and partnering agencies and entities for the conservation easement process
- Assisted interested landowners with the OWEB grant application process.

Owner/Principal, Wild Spirit Resources, LLC, Philomath, Oregon 2006 to present (4 to 8 hours/week)

Business focusing on natural resource documentation and nature photography.

- Authored and published *Identification Field Guide to the Geese of the Willamette Valley and Lower Columbia River, 2nd Edition* in cooperation with Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife, and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.
- Development of training materials and presentations to meet client's requests and needs
- Provided education and outreach to state and federal agencies, the public and private hunting organizations
- Provided goose identification training and seminars to private entities and the public.
- Conducted needed business management needs including budgets.

Field Biologist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

September 2009-July 2011

Conduct nest plot surveys for waterfowl on the Yukon Kuskokwim Delta in Alaska. (Summer, Fall, Spring)

- Conducted remote field survey work in remote areas on a tightly scheduled, time dependent basis
- Collected migratory bird data and use data cards
- Analyzed and record collected data
- Organization and maintenance of field gear, equipment and supplies for conducting remote field surveys

- Provided training to volunteer support staff on methods and protocols for nest plot surveys.
- Supervised survey activities conducted by volunteer staff
- Use of boats and GPS in estuary areas to navigate to and from plots

VOLUNTEER PROJECTS AND EXPERIENCE

Streams, Wetlands, and Riparian Zones

- Conducted stream surveys for Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Alsea, OR (2003)
- Helped with a riparian zone reconstruction for Mary's River Watershed Council, Philomath, OR (2003)
- Conducted an aquatic invertebrate collection for Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Philomath, OR (2003)
- Conducted stream surveys on Baker Creek, McMinnville, OR (2006)
- Provided support for a wetland analysis related to permitting a \$50 million development project, Philomath, OR (2005)

Wildlife and Upland Vegetation

- Completed a Roosevelt Elk survey and population study, William L. Finley National Wildlife Refuge, ODFW, Monroe, OR (2003)
- Conducted volunteer support for banding migratory birds at Fern Ridge Wildlife Refuge, OR (2003)
- Field Observer for annual migratory waterfowl surveys and data collection for US Fish and Wildlife Service in the Willamette Valley. (2007-present)
- Cackling goose collar surveyor and survey trainer in Yamhill County for ODFW. (2011-2014)
- Cackling goose banding on Sauvie Island in cooperation with ODFW and USFWS (2014).
- Significant duck banding experience in Oregon, Alaska, and Arkansas.
- Landowner representative negotiating with ODFW on changes to Roosevelt elk regulations for the Finley Subunit

Agriculture:

- From a fifth generation Oregon farming family
- Manages a family agricultural and wildlife management property.
- Assisted 35 farmers/landowners as a voice for damage on Elk in the Finley Subunit.

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Outstanding Linfield Environmental Science Senior, Linfield Environmental Science Department (2007)
- Team Captain, Cross Country, Linfield College (2006)
- Top Cat Award for Cross Country, Most Inspirational Team member, Linfield College (2004)
- KATU Channel 2 coverage of Identification Field Guide to the Geese of the Willamette Valley and Lower Columbia River, 2nd Edition by Kelly Warren
- KGW Channel 8 (Grants Getaways) coverage of Wild Spirit Resources and Identification Field Guide to the Geese of the Willamette Valley and Lower Columbia River, 2nd Edition by Kelly Warren
- Masters thesis: Climate change and its Impact on Migration Patterns of Cackling and White Fronted Geese and implications for Management.

ACTIVITIES

- Leisure activities include hunting, fishing, decoy carving, traveling, farming, wildlife/nature photography, bird watching and banding, and field dog training.
-

THE CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF WARM SPRINGS RESERVATION OF OREGON

**BRANCH OF NATURAL RESOURCES
4223 HOLLIDAY STREET
P.O. BOX C
WARM SPRINGS, OREGON 97761
(541) 553-2001**



November 4, 2024

To: ODFW Commission

RE: Letter of Support for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application for Interests of Fish and Wildlife

The Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs Branch of Natural Resources (CTWSBNR) supports the application of Kelly Warren for appointment to the 12-member Oregon Agricultural and Heritage Commission as a representative for Interests of Fish and Wildlife. The Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program (OAHP) and the CTWSBNR's Conservation Lands Program are connected by the shared purpose of enhancing and protecting natural resources, including fish and wildlife habitat and water quality throughout Oregon. Kelly's professional and personal life experiences will serve him well in the role of an OAHP Commissioner. For example, we employed Kelly from 2012 – 2018 to be our Willamette Wildlife Mitigation Project (WWMP) Coordinator. The WWMP is funded by the Bonneville Power Administration and managed by the State of Oregon. While working for us, Kelly had several admirable accomplishments conducting work as follows: 1) finding, funding acquiring and managing land with high quality habitats for fish and wildlife under CTWS ownership; 2) forming working collaborative partnerships on other WWMP properties that were acquired by other tribes, state, and other non-governmental agencies; and 3) assisting partners in programmatic processes, policy, planning and natural resource management that impacted the entire Willamette River basin. Currently, Kelly works for Ducks Unlimited where he oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. Finally, Kelly was raised in Oregon's agricultural community by a Willamette Valley farming family, and he manages the working lands on the family property. I gladly support Kelly's application for a Commission Seat because he is a great advocate and has worked with and for the Tribes in the past with interests of CTWS in mind.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Austin L. Smith Jr.", written over a white background.

Austin L. Smith Jr
General Manager - Branch of Natural Resources
Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs
(541)553-2046, austin.smithjr2@ctwsbnr.org
4223 Holliday St / P.O. Box C, Warm Springs, OR 97761



OREGON HUNTERS ASSOCIATION

Protecting Oregon's Wildlife, Habitat and Hunting Heritage

P.O. Box 1706, Medford, OR 97501 • (541) 772-7313
oha@oregonhunters.org • oregonhunters.org

November 4, 2024

To: Oregon Department of Fish & Wildlife Commission

RE: Letter of Support for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application

I am writing on behalf of the Oregon Hunters Association (OHA) to offer support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited for the Fish & Wildlife Interests board position as a part of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

OHA is the largest state-centric hunter conservationist organization with a membership of over 12,000 sportsmen and women in the state. OHA's mission is to protect Oregon's wildlife, habitat, and hunter heritage; to that end OHA supports science-based wildlife management and habitat protection. In both the 2023 and 2024 legislative sessions, OHA testified in support of the funding requests for the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program.

Kelly comes from a fifth generation Willamette Valley farming family and manages working lands on his family's property. Growing up in the agricultural community he understands the intricacies of farm management, has built trust in this community, and knows how to communicate and collaborate with farmers. Kelly also has seen and understands the hardships that agricultural communities face. This is why he has supported OAHP since 2013 as a critical tool for agricultural communities across Oregon.

As a natural resources professional, Kelly has a diverse background that will bring needed expertise to the Commission. He has worked for an Oregon Tribe as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley where he identified and implemented acquisitions which will provide important experience to the Commission. He partnered with many organizations including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations on programs and projects in the Willamette Valley.

In his current role at Ducks Unlimited, Kelly oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. He partners and implements many private lands projects including a past funded OAHP project. There is strong overlap in his work in working lands and agricultural (protection and advocacy), water management and quality and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Kelly has been a strong supporter of OAHP and recognizes its integral need as a match funding source for federal funding that can be leveraged to provide more opportunities and tools for private landowners. Ducks Unlimited has been a strong supporter of OAHP both in utilizing the program and advocating for the program and funding.

Kelly brings a strong commitment to protecting habitat while working in partnership with landowners. This approach is strongly supported by OHA and we believe Kelly would be an incredible asset to the OAHP commission and program mission.

Sincerely,

Amy Patrick
Policy Director



greenbelt land trust

101 SW Western Suite #111 ♦ Correspondence to PO Box 1721 ♦ Corvallis, OR 97339

11/5/2024

Greenbelt Land Trust
PO Box 1721
Corvallis, OR 97339

To: ODFW Commission

RE: Letter of Support for Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application

I am writing on behalf of Greenbelt Land Trust to offer support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited for the Natural Resource Value Interests board position as a part of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

As a natural resources professional, Kelly has a background that will bring expertise to the Commission. He has worked for an Oregon Tribe as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley where he implemented acquisitions which will provide important experience to the Commission. He partnered with organizations including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations on programs and projects in the Willamette Valley.

In his current role at Ducks Unlimited, Kelly oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. There is an overlap in his work in working lands and agricultural, water management and quality and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Kelly has been a supporter of OAHP and recognizes its integral need as a match funding source for federal funding that can be leveraged to provide more opportunities and tools for private landowners.

Greenbelt Land Trust is a strong supporter and advocate of OAHP, and we feel that it is important for the OAHP Commission to include members that have direct experience in land acquisition, conservation and working lands. Kelly is a candidate that meets these marks and we endorse his application to serve on the OAHP Commission.

Sincerely,

Jessica McDonald
Executive Director, Greenbelt Land Trust
jessica@greenbeltlandtrust.org (541) 752.9609



**Benton Soil and Water
CONSERVATION DISTRICT**

136 SW Washington Ave., Suite 201
Corvallis, Oregon 97333
541.753.7208
bentonswcd.org

October 28, 2024

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

To: ODFW Commission

RE: Letter of Support for Oregon Dept of Fish and Wildlife Commission; Board Application

I am writing on behalf of the Benton Soil and Water Conservation District and the Willamette Mainstem Cooperative to offer support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited for the Fish and Wildlife Interests position as a part of the ODFW Commission.

We work with Kelly through our Willamette Mainstem Cooperative (WMC) which tries to build relationships with the farmers who manage land along the Willamette River in Benton County. Kelly has deep relationships with several of these farmers while also having a grasp on the programming, funding mechanisms, and technical resources available to conserve habitat on these landscapes. Kelly frequently highlights wetland conservation projects and emerging opportunities to the partners who connect through the WMC.

Kelly comes from a fifth generation Willamette Valley farming family and manages working lands on his family's property. Growing up in the agricultural community he understands the intricacies of farm management, has built trust in this community, and knows how to communicate and collaborate with farmers. Kelly also has seen and understands the hardships that agricultural communities face.

As a natural resources professional, Kelly has a diverse background that will bring needed expertise to the Commission. He has worked for an Oregon Tribe as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley where he identified and implemented acquisitions which will provide important experience to the Commission. He partnered with many organizations including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations on programs and projects in the Willamette Valley.

My first conversation with Kelly took place in Walla Walla, WA in 2019 at the Northwest Land Camp gathering. I was very inspired by the multiple perspectives that Kelly had on conservation from the viewpoint of a farm family as well as the plight of the tribal communities in the Pacific Northwest. Kelly is a dedicated, hard-working person who is always trying to do right for these communities. When we advocate for habitat, we sometimes forget the needs of those who manage working lands, or our ancestors who have worked the land for hundreds or thousands of years. Kelly has a unique perspective and ability to keep this in mind as he works towards common goals. Please consider Kelly Warren for an ODFW Commission seat.

Sincerely,

Michael Ahr Digitally signed by Michael Ahr
Date: 2024.10.31 12:56:54 -07'00'

Michael Ahr



Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District
7175 NE Evergreen Parkway, #400
Hillsboro, OR 97124

October 28, 2024

To: ODFW Commission

RE: Letter of Support for Fish and Wildlife representation on the ODFW Commission

I am writing on behalf of Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District to offer support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited for the Fish and Wildlife Interests position as a part of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Tualatin SWCD services the residents of Washington County by providing technical, financial, and educational support for conserving and enhancing natural resources. The conservation of fish and wildlife habitat on our working lands is a key element in our strategic plan. We recognize the importance of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife in helping us, and other organizations across the state, to achieve those goals.

Kelly comes from a fifth generation Willamette Valley farming family and manages working lands on his family's property. Growing up in the agricultural community he understands the intricacies of farm management, has built trust in this community, and knows how to communicate and collaborate with farmers. Kelly also has seen and understands the hardships that agricultural communities face. This is why he has supported the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program since 2013 as a critical tool for agricultural communities across Oregon.

As a natural resources professional, Kelly has a diverse background that will bring needed expertise to the Commission. He has worked for an Oregon Tribe as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley where he identified and implemented acquisitions which will provide important experience to the Commission. He partnered with many organizations including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations on programs and projects in the Willamette Valley.

In his current role at Ducks Unlimited, Kelly oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. There is strong overlap in his work in working lands and agricultural (protection and advocacy), water management and quality and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Kelly thrives on partnership and is excellent at finding connection with people. He would bring the perfect

balance between agriculture and wildlife habitat interests to this position. TSWCD strongly supports Kelly as a member of the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Lacey M. Townsend".

Lacey Townsend

Executive Director

Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District



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

Friday, October 25, 2024

Re: Letter of Support for Kelly Warren to Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

Dear Chair Wahl, Vice Chair Hatfield-Hyde, and Commissioners:

I am writing on behalf of Oregon Agricultural Trust (OAT) to strongly support Kelly Warren for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. OAT is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit land trust that serves the state of Oregon. We have partnered with Kelly on conservation efforts for years, first in his role at the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, and now in his role at Ducks Unlimited.

Kelly is knowledgeable about conservation needs, strategies, and grants across the state. He has extensive experience working with private landowners and many relevant conservation partners. Kelly would be an excellent voice on the Commission.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Nellie McAdams', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Nellie McAdams
Executive Director



**ROCKY MOUNTAIN
ELK FOUNDATION**

November 1, 2024

To: ODFW Commission
odfw.commission@odfw.oregon.gov

RE: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application

I am writing on behalf of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation to offer support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited, for the interests of Fish and Wildlife board position as a part of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Kelly comes from a fifth generation Willamette Valley farming family and manages working lands on his family's property. Growing up in the agricultural community he understands the intricacies of farm management, has built trust in the ag community, knows how to communicate and collaborate with farmers. He also has seen and understands the hard ships that agricultural communities face. This is why he has supported the OAHP since 2013 as a critical tool for the agricultural communities across Oregon.

As a natural resources professional, Kelly has a diverse background that will bring needed expertise to the commission. He has worked for an Oregon Tribe as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley where he identified and implemented acquisitions which will provide important experience to the commission. He partnered with many organizations including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations on programs and projects in the Willamette Valley.

In his current role at Ducks Unlimited Kelly oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. He partners and implements many private lands projects including a past funded OAHP project. Kelly has been a strong supporter of OAHP since 2013 and recognizes the integral need as a match funding source for federal funding that can offer more opportunities and tools for private landowners. Ducks Unlimited has been a strong supporter of OAHP both in utilizing the program and advocating for the program and funding.

Kelly's agriculture family background and experience in working with private landowners and public agencies to improve wildlife habitat make him an ideal candidate for the Fish and Wildlife board position as part of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

The Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation is a non-profit conservation organization whose mission is to ensure the future of elk, other wildlife, their habitat, and our hunting heritage. The Elk Foundation also works to open, secure, and improve public access for hunting, fishing, and other recreation.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide support for Kelly Warren serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Richardson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bill" being more prominent than the last name "Richardson".

Bill Richardson
Sr. Conservation Program Manager - Western
Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation



*Watersheds of the Salmon River, Siletz River,
Yaquina River, Alsea River, Yachats River, and
Ocean Tributaries*

Date: 10/23/2024

From: MidCoast Watersheds Council
Evan Hayduk, Executive Director
PO Box 2273, Newport, OR 97365
(541) 265-9195

To: Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission

RE: Letter of Support to Represent Interests of Fish and Wildlife

I am writing on behalf of MidCoast Watersheds Council to offer support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited for the representative of interests fish and wildlife for the ODFW Commission.

MidCoast Watersheds Council is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to improving the health of streams and watersheds of Oregon's central coast to produce clean water, rebuild healthy salmon populations, and support healthy ecosystems, communities, and economies. MidCoast administers and manages the OWEB funded Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) "Restoring Resilience in Two Estuaries". Kelly is a Core Partner on the FIP and we have been impressed with his active participation, input, in-kind support, and ability to leverage expertise from Ducks Unlimited to achieve project successes from permitting to engineering support, and beyond.

Kelly comes from a fifth generation Willamette Valley farming family and manages working lands on his family's property. Growing up in the agricultural community he understands the intricacies of farm management, has built trust in this community, and knows how to communicate and collaborate with farmers. Kelly also has seen and understands the hardships that agricultural communities face. This is why he has supported OAHP since 2013 as a critical tool for agricultural communities across Oregon.

As a natural resources professional, Kelly has a diverse background that will bring needed expertise to the Commission. He has worked for an Oregon Tribe as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley where he identified and implemented acquisitions which will provide important experience to the Commission. He partnered with many organizations including federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations on programs and projects in the Willamette Valley.

In his current role at Ducks Unlimited, Kelly oversees their Western Oregon programs and projects. He partners and implements many private lands projects including a past funded OAHP project. There is strong overlap in his work in working lands and agricultural (protection and advocacy), water management and quality and enhancing fish and wildlife habitat. Kelly has been a strong supporter of

914 SW Coast Highway, Newport, OR 97365
(541)265-9195 www.midcoastwatersheds.org



*Watersheds of the Salmon River, Siletz River,
Yaquina River, Alsea River, Yachats River, and
Ocean Tributaries*

OAHF and recognizes its integral need as a match funding source for federal funding that can be leveraged to provide more opportunities and tools for private landowners. Ducks Unlimited has been a strong supporter of OAHF both in utilizing the program and advocating for the program and funding.

We highly recommend Kelly for this position. He is engaged, enthusiastic, and well versed in the issues facing central and western Oregon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Evan Hayduk". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Evan Hayduk

Executive Director, MidCoast Watersheds Council



COALITION OF OREGON LAND TRUSTS

2540 NE MLK JR BLVD, PORTLAND, OR 97212 • 503-719-4732 • OREGONLANDTRUSTS.ORG

October 30th, 2024

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

From: Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
2540 NE Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.
Portland, OR 97212

RE: Support for Kelly Warren’s Appointment to the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission

On behalf of the Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts (COLT), I would like to share our strong support for the appointment of Kelly Warren to serve on the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) Commission to represent fish and wildlife interests. COLT is a network of 31 land trusts, soil and water conservation districts, and conservation organizations working in Oregon to protect our natural world - our water, wildlife and open space - for all people, forever.

As a natural resource professional, Kelly would bring important and diverse expertise to the Commission. He currently works as the Western Regional Biologist at Ducks Unlimited, implementing on the ground projects to conserve and enhance wetlands and waterfowl habitat. In his previous position he worked to identify and implement strategic acquisitions in the Willamette Valley in partnership with federal, state, tribal and non-governmental organizations.



24 MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Blue Mountain Land Trust • Center for Natural Lands Management • Columbia Land Trust
Deschutes Land Trust • Ducks Unlimited • Forest Park Conservancy • Friends of the Columbia Gorge Land Trust
Greenbelt Land Trust • Klamath Lake Land Trust • Lower Nehalem Community Trust • McKenzie River Trust
North Coast Land Conservancy • Northwest Rangeland Trust • Oregon Agricultural Trust • Oregon Desert Land Trust
Pacific Forest Trust • Southern Oregon Land Conservancy • The Conservation Fund • The Nature Conservancy in Oregon
The Trust for Public Land • The Wetlands Conservancy • Wallowa Land Trust • Western Rivers Conservancy • Wild Rivers Land Trust

8 ASSOCIATE MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: Black Oregon Land Trust • Cerro Gordo Land Conservancy • Clackamas Soil & Water
Conservation District • East Multnomah Soil & Water Conservation District • Helvetia Community Association
Tualatin Soil & Water Conservation District • View the Future • Yamhill Soil & Water Conservation District

Kelly would be an excellent choice to serve on the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission. He would provide the Commission with expertise in transactions, natural resource management, and on the ground project implementation benefitting fish and wildlife habitat.

We encourage you to approve his appointment and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Karsyn Kendrick
Conservation Director
Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts





PACIFIC BIRDS

HABITAT JOINT VENTURE

11/13/2024

Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture
2337 NW York St #201C
Portland, OR 97210
(805) 298 8081

To: ODFW Commission

RE: Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program; Board Application

I am writing to offer strong support for Kelly Warren, Western Regional Biologist for Ducks Unlimited, for the Fish and Wildlife Interests board position on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission.

Migratory Bird Habitat Joint Ventures are tasked with conserving habitat for migratory birds across North America. The Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture service area spans from Alaska through the Pacific Northwest and the Pacific Islands. This large-scale partnership is focused on the highest-priority conservation needs in the West, in habitats where investments in private, public, and tribal lands will accelerate bird habitat conservation and benefit local communities: resilient coasts and Western forests. Pacific Birds has focused investments in coastal and forest conservation in Oregon for almost 30 years.

Kelly Warren is an invaluable partner in Oregon and a trusted advisor for fish and wildlife in the Pacific Flyway. His collaborative leadership and dedication to conservation on private, public, and tribal lands has resulted in stronger partnerships and innovative approaches. At Ducks Unlimited, Kelly oversees the Western Oregon programs and projects. He identifies and implements private lands projects by integrating and leveraging federal funding with state and private funds which expands conservation opportunities for private landowners. Before Ducks Unlimited, Kelly worked for the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs as a coordinator in the Willamette Valley. In this role, he identified and implemented acquisitions and facilitated funding and management of lands. His work involved partnership coordination with federal, state, tribal, and non-governmental organizations to benefit fish and wildlife reliant on natural and working lands in the Willamette Valley.

In addition to his professional skills, Kelly comes from a fifth generation Willamette Valley farming family. His experience managing the family's property and living within the agricultural community is reflected in his understanding of the intricacies of farm management, has helped him built working relationships within the agricultural community, and gives him the skills to communicate and collaborate well with farmers.

Kelly is a strong supporter of OAHP. His natural resources expertise coupled with his working lands experience, and his strong roots in Oregon, would be assets to the OAHC and to the fish and wildlife of Oregon.

Sincerely,

Monica Iglecia
United States Coordinator
Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture



INTEREST FORM

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission



This form is used to obtain general information and qualifications of persons interested in serving on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. This information will be used by the Oregon boards and commissions that recommend applicants to the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board (OWEB), and also by the OWEB Board, which will appoint the commissioners. Agencies are required to pay per diem compensation and expenses for “qualified members,” defined as members who are (1) not in full-time public service, and (2) have an adjusted gross income for the previous tax year of less than \$50,000, or less than \$100,000 reported on a joint income tax return. The only exception to the requirement is if the qualified member declines compensation. The agency will reimburse board members for travel expenses.

Applicant Information

Name (Barbara) Kay Brown

Affiliation [REDACTED]

Occupation

Retired

Mailing address [REDACTED]

Town/City [REDACTED] State [REDACTED] Zip Code [REDACTED]

Phone Number [REDACTED] Cell or Alternate # [REDACTED] Fax Number [REDACTED]

Email [REDACTED]

Applicant Signature

By signing above, you certify that:

- All of the information on this form is true;
- You are a legal citizen of Oregon and the United States of America;
- You will accept appointment to the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission if selected by the OWEB Board;
- You have an email address and are able and willing to check your email on a near-daily basis and conduct some commission business via email; and
- You will be able to attend scheduled meetings across the state.

Position Sought

Check the box next to each position for which you are currently applying. You may select multiple boxes. This information may be used to contact you for the Rules Advisory Committee or for future vacancies on the commission.

- Farmer or Rancher (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Fish and Wildlife Habitat (recommended by the State Fish and Wildlife Commission) I have recently been on the Restoration and Enhancement Board for 8 years. My term expires December 31,2024.
- Agricultural Water Quality (recommended by the State Board of Agriculture)
- Conservation Easements and Similar Land Transfers (recommended by the Land Conservation and Development Commission)
- Indian Tribal Interests (selected by the OWEB Board)

Natural Resource Value Interests (selected by the OWEB Board)

Statement Of Interest

Use the space below to explain why you are interested in being a representative on the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission and why you will be a good commissioner.

I would like to be considered for the open position on the Agricultural Heritage Commission.

I recently completed an 8 year (2 4-year terms) on the Restoration and Enhancement Board , an advisory Board to the Fish and Wildlife Commission. We provided grants to nonprofits from the Restoration and Enhancement fund, a funding source from license fees on sport and commercial licenses.

I retired in 2003 from the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Department after 30 years. I retired as a fish biologist and the Operations Manager for the Fish Division. As the Operations Manager, I spent much time developing rules for the Oregon Fish and Wildlife Commission and making recommendations to them. I also spent time with the Oregon Legislature in an advisory capacity and helped with drafting legislation. I was also responsible for the Fish Division budget and personnel.

Since retiring I have been a Board member of our local community library and am an officer in our local Garden Club. I recently completed the course work with the OSU Extension Program for Master Gardeners.

Experience/Involvement

Please describe any work experience and/or involvement that has provided you with knowledge, skills, or abilities to successfully represent the interests of the position(s) for which you are applying and to fulfill the duties of a member of the Oregon Agricultural Heritage Commission. Include any previous experience on boards or commissions.

You may attach a résumé and/or work history.

[See above](#)

Supplemental Question

Describe what you believe to be the main issues facing the future of Oregon agriculture and the fish and wildlife habitat and other natural resources on Oregon's agricultural lands.

water

References

Please identify three references that may be contacted if you are selected as a top candidate. Individuals or representatives of associations/organizations are acceptable.

Letters of support from relevant staff, associations, or similar groups are encouraged; feel free to attach any such letters to your application.

Reference #1

Name

Mark Labhart

Affiliation (if any) Or Fish and Wildlife Commission

Mailing Address

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Alternate #

Fax #

Email

Reference #2

Name Jim Martin

Affiliation (if any) ODFW, retired

Mailing Address

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Alternate #

Fax #

Email

Reference #3

Name Dave Grosjacque

Affiliation (if any)

Mailing Address

City/Town

State

Zip Code

Phone Number

Alternate #

Fax #

Email

Please send your completed application via email to nicole.bettinardi@oweb.oregon.gov or via mail to:

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
ATTN: Nicole Bettinardi
Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
775 Summer Street NE #360
Salem, Oregon 97301

Applications must be sent via email or mailed (post-marked by August 25, 2024) in order to be considered for a position.