Committee members are reminded to disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest prior to discussion of relevant agenda items.

DRAFT

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Natural Resources Committee Meeting Agenda DRAFT

Wednesday
April 15, 2026
9:00 AM to 10:30 AM

Our mission is to partner with people in support of thriving lands, clean water, and healthy habitats. We do this through planning, technical assistance, funding, and education.

This meeting will be held by video conference (Zoom), and by telephone.

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83817827407?pwd=WWRIZlArTUF2Sk9QeXFvU3ZSRFZLZz09

Call In Number: 1-253-215-8782 | **Meeting ID:** 838 1782 7407 | **Passcode:** 507254
Staff Contact: Chelsea Blank | Chelsea.blank@marionswcd.net

Committee members are reminded to disclose any actual or potential conflicts of interest prior to discussion of relevant agenda items.

Agenda Changes and/or Additions	Chair
1. Public Comment	**Chair** 5 minutes
2. Board Updates on Committee Recommendations	**Chair** 5 minutes
3. December 2025 Minutes Action	**Chair** 5 minutes
4. Appoint a new Chair for 2026 Action	**Chair** 5 minutes
5. Partner Grant Program – Alignment with District Priorities Action	**Staff- Ortiz** 20 minutes
6. Catastrophic Natural Events Plan Action	**Staff- Blank** 15 minutes
7. Apply for OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Oak Project Discussion	**Staff – Blank** 15 minutes
8. District EAB Outreach and Management Plan Discussion	**Staff- Blank** 10 Minutes
9. Schedule Committee Meetings for 2026 Discussion	**Chair** 5 minutes

Meeting Adjourned – Chair

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District complies with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA) and does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, gender, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, and marital or family status. If special physical, language, or other accommodations are needed for this meeting, please advise the District Manager at 503-391-9927 as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Oregon residents can file a written grievance with the Marion SWCD regarding a violation of the Public Meetings Law within 30 days of the alleged violation. The grievance should include details about the alleged violation and be submitted to the Marion SWCD District Manager for review.

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (MSWCD)
Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes December 17, 2025
DRAFT
09:00 AM to 10:30 AM
Facilitator: Cesar Zamora
Recorded by: Chelsea Blank
Approved: DATE

Committee Member Attendance

Cesar Zamora (Committee Chair) - Staff	Present
Rochelle Koch - Director	Absent
Nik Ovchinnikov – Director	Present
Chelsea Blank – Staff	Present
Leland Hardy – Associate Director	Present

Staff	Guests
Kristen McApline	
Susan Ortiz	
Brenda Sanchez	

Note: All documents and materials displayed or referenced are retained in the Natural Resources Committee Meeting file at the Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (Marion SWCD or District).

Minutes

Call to Order-Chair: 09:03 AM

Announcements - None

Agenda Additions or Changes - None

Public Comment – No Comments

1. **Board Updates on Committee Recommendations**
   There were three items that were recommended to the Board during the last meeting on behalf of the NR committee. First, was to approve making funds available for additional Airblast Smart Sprayer requests since the maximum allocated Special Project Grant funds in the budget were spent down for this fiscal year with two previous requests. This is something that the Board and the Natural Resources Committee feels is an appropriate investment for the District to continue to provide farmers. The Board approved to add $25,000 to the Special Project Grant budget item for this fiscal year that will be available for five requests up to $5,000 each for Airblast Smart Sprayer systems.

Second item that was brought to the Board for approval was the Conservation Technology Rebate Program which was and idea that came from the last Natural Resources Committee meeting during the Airblast Smart Sprayer discussion. The Committee agreed that this will be a beneficial program for the District to develop to be able to fund technology focused in improving natural resources. This program concept was approved for development by the Natural Resources Committee during fiscal year 2026-2027 and will be ready for implementation in 2027-2028.
Third, the Board approved the formation of the Permanent Vegetation Cover program as a two year pilot program starting in the fiscal year 2026-2027.
These were all approved by the Board at the December 3rd Board meeting.
Lee Hardy joined the meeting at 9:07AM.

Action: No action, just discussion.

2. **Approve the Natural Resources Committee Meeting Minutes – October 15, 2025**
   Blank will add the date at the top of the minutes.
   The discussion on the NR Committee vote should not be in bold in item #7, as suggested by Sanchez. Sanchez recommended pull out the motion on the conservation technology program development and separate it from the Airblast sprayer agenda item. She also suggested adding a section below it that specifies that this was a new topic that came from this discussion but was not an agenda item.

   Action: Zamora motioned to **accept, with changes, the October 15, 2025, Natural Resources Committee meeting minutes,** 2nd by Ovchinnikov. No further discussion. MOTION PASSED (Aye-4 [Zamora, Ovchinnikov, Hardy, and Blank], Opposed-0, Koch Absent).

3. **Schedule next Natural Resources Committee meeting.**
   Usually the committee meets during the second Wednesday of the month. That would put the next meeting on February 11th 2026 at 9 am to 10:30 am. The committee members agreed that this time and date works for everyone. Zamora will send out a calendar invite.

Adjourn: Chair Zamora adjourned the meeting at 09:17 AM

language, or other accommodation is needed for this meeting, please contact the District Manager at 503-391-9927 as soon as possible, and at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
Natural Resources Committee Meeting – Agenda Item Brief

Agenda Item Name: Priority Projects and Initiatives

Date: March 12, 2026

Agenda Item Brief: RE: Board Work session – Review Partner Grant Pilot Program

Alignment with District Priorities

Recommendation to establish a list of priority projects and initiatives reflecting the District's conservation goals and community needs. Priority projects may receive additional scoring weight during application evaluation if it aligns with strategic objectives. Sanchez noted that partners are accustomed to this type of scoring method.

- The Board discussed and agreed on the many benefits of establishing a list of priorities to review on an annual basis. They also agreed that a transparent scoring matrix will be especially beneficial for our partners, Board members, and newer employees. There was discussion about how often this priority list should be revised.
- Olson requested the discussion continue and be moved to the Natural Resources Committee.

Requested Action:

1. Conduct a brief discussion within the Natural Resources Committee to identify potential priority project types and initiatives.
2. Establish a District staff team to develop a recommended list of priority project types and initiatives aligned with the District's conservation goals and community needs.
3. Determine the review pathway for the recommendations:
    a. Present recommendations directly to the Board in May or June; or
    b. Return recommendations to the Natural Resources Committee for review, requiring the scheduling of an NR Committee meeting in May.

Proposed By: Marion SWCD Board

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
Natural Resources Committee Meeting – Agenda Item Brief

Agenda Item Name: Catastrophic Natural Events Plan

Date: April 2, 2026

Agenda Item Brief: District staff has been working on developing a Catastrophic Natural Events Plan for the District to use for referencing what roles and responsibilities the District currently provides in the different phases of addressing a natural disaster including preparedness, response, and recovery. This plan is meant to outline recommendations for how staff should respond to each phase of the identified priority catastrophic events in the District to provide the most assistance possible withing the district's capabilities. The role of the District largely focuses on prevention and preparedness education and outreach as well as developing an Emergency Response Team with few staff members to meet regularly to ensure proper implementation of the Plan. This plan outlines the currently available resources, treatment practices, and financial opportunities to assist with pre, during, and post event situations to protect and restore natural resources.

Requested Action: Recommend the Board approve the Plan as a District program.

Proposed By: Staff, Chelsea Blank

Catastrophic Natural Events Program Plan

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District

2026

DRAFT 4

DRAFT 4

Catastrophic Natural Events Program Plan

Developed by the
Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
Natural Resources Committee

Written by:
Chelsea Blank-Natural Areas Conservation Planner
Chelsea.Blank@marionswcd.net

Plan Approved by the Board of Directors on ??, 2026

Table of Contents

Emergency Response Team (ERT) Operational Checklist:

PHASE 1: ACTIVATION (0–24 HOURS)

Immediate Actions

☐ Official disaster alert received (County + Weather Agency)
☐ Convene ERT (virtual)
☐ Confirm staff safety & accountability
☐ Follow evacuation / shelter-in-place orders

Activate Communications

☐ Initiate phone tree / group messaging
☐ Switch to backup communication methods (if needed)
☐ Post emergency status on website
☐ Post emergency status on social media
☐ Share official emergency alerts
☐ Begin outreach to vulnerable populations

Initial Assessment (If Safe)

☐ Assess facilities
☐ Assess vehicles
☐ Photograph damage
☐ Document damage details
☐ Identify blocked access routes
☐ Identify hazards

PHASE 2: STABILIZATION (24–72 HOURS)

Coordination & Roles

☐ Convene ERT staff briefing
☐ Assign/confirm Communications Lead
☐ Assign/confirm Operations & Facilities Lead
☐ Assign/confirm Community Outreach Coordinator
☐ Assign/confirm Documentation & Reporting Lead

Public & Partner Engagement

☐ Attend/tune in to local emergency briefings
☐ Provide assistance as requested
☐ Share natural resource impact updates (soil, water, erosion, etc.)

Field & Damage Reporting

☐ Collect field reports (landowners, partners, staff)
☐ Document ecological area damage
☐ Document agricultural land damage
☐ Document waterway impacts
☐ Document geologically vulnerable area impacts
☐ Coordinate assessments with NRCS & partners

PHASE 3: INITIAL RECOVERY (3–14 DAYS)

☐ Post emergency funding resources on website
☐ Document restoration needs
☐ Prioritize recovery actions
☐ Consider emergency CAG funding cycle

PHASE 4: LONG-TERM RECOVERY & OUTREACH

☐ Publish event-specific recovery BMP guidance
☐ Include agencies, official guidelines, funding sources
☐ Share landowner/partner impact stories
☐ Meet with partners to assess ongoing impacts
☐ Participate in regional working groups
☐ Collaborate on funding opportunities

Catastrophic Natural Events Program Plan

Executive Summary

The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (District or Marion SWCD) recognize the significant impact natural disasters can have on local communities, natural areas, fish and wildlife habitat, and working lands. This Catastrophic Natural Events Plan (Plan) is designed to ensure the District is prepared to respond to and recover from natural disasters, such as floods, landslides, severe storms, and wildfires. By emphasizing the importance of soil and water conservation in disaster preparedness, response, and recovery, the Plan aims to protect and restore vital natural resources, mitigate long-term damage, and build resilience in the District's ecosystems and agricultural economy.

This plan outlines the District's roles and responsibilities and highlights the key conservation practices essential for disaster recovery, such as erosion control, riparian buffer restoration, mulching, and cover cropping, which help to prevent further environmental damage and accelerate recovery.

A critical component of the plan is the identification and mitigation of risks specific to Marion County, including social vulnerability and the impacts on local communities, especially those most at risk such as low-income populations, elderly residents, and underserved groups. The plan also addresses the importance of financial assistance programs to support affected landowners and agricultural producers in the aftermath of a disaster.

The Marion SWCD Board of Directors, in collaboration with district staff and local partners, is committed to implementing this plan, ensuring that the district is well-prepared for catastrophic events, and providing timely support to affected communities. By enhancing the district's disaster resilience through conservation, the plan aims to safeguard the region's natural resources, economy, and public health, ensuring a quicker and more effective recovery from future natural disasters. This plan will be reviewed and revised annually to meet the needs of the District based on lessons learned.

Box 1: What is a Catastrophic Natural Event?

For the purposes of this plan, a *catastrophic natural event* is a large-scale natural event that causes severe and widespread disruption to environmental systems, land use, and community infrastructure, and significantly exceeds the ability of individuals, landowners, or local organizations to respond without substantial external support. These events pose serious risks to soil stability, water quality, and watershed health, and often require coordinated response and long-term recovery efforts involving multiple partners, agencies, and authorities.

Part 1: Catastrophic Natural Events Program Plan Introduction, Purpose, and Hazards Assessment

1.0 Background and Introduction

The Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (Marion SWCD or the District) serves communities throughout Marion County, located in the heart of Oregon's Willamette Valley. Home to approximately 349,000 residents, the District encompasses both urban and rural areas, including the city of Salem, Oregon's state capital. The landscape is geographically diverse—ranging from the forested slopes of the Cascade Range in the east to the fertile farmlands and river floodplains of the west—creating a unique set of challenges and vulnerabilities to catastrophic natural events.

Marion SWCD is one of 45 conservation districts in Oregon, originally established in response to the Dust Bowl era to address soil erosion and promote sustainable land stewardship. As a tax-exempt municipal corporation, the District holds no regulatory authority. Instead, its work is guided by a seven-member Board of Directors, elected by local voters to serve four-year terms, and implemented by a team of conservation professionals.

The District's mission is to partner with people to support thriving lands, clean water, and healthy habitats. Through planning, technical assistance, and education, we help landowners and communities protect and enhance natural resources for both current and future generations. Our vision is a landscape where resources are sustainably managed, ecosystems are resilient, and working lands remain productive.

In the face of catastrophic natural disasters, the District plays a vital role in protecting natural and working lands by:

1. Supporting community preparedness through education, outreach, and increased awareness of conservation practices that reduce risk and build resilience.
2. Building resilient landscapes by providing site-specific technical assistance, conservation planning, and guidance on implementing strategies such as defensible space, erosion control, and water management.
3. Investing in on-the-ground projects by offering funding—when available—for conservation practices that strengthen the land's ability to withstand and recover from natural disasters.
4. Assisting with post-event recovery by helping stabilize damaged sites, reduce further environmental harm, and restore ecosystems impacted by the event.

Together, these efforts help ensure that both people and landscapes are better prepared for, and able to recover from, catastrophic natural events.

This plan emphasizes the importance of proactive, long-term strategies for preparedness and conservation-based recovery. These include creating defensible space in wildfire-prone areas, implementing stormwater management practices, improving drainage systems, restoring riparian areas, and promoting soil health practices that enhance landscape resilience.
By equipping landowners and communities with the tools and knowledge to prepare before disaster strikes, the District helps to strengthen both environmental and community resilience.

1.1 Regional Context: Marion County and the Willamette Valley

Marion County lies at the heart of the Willamette Valley, one of Oregon's most vital agricultural and ecological regions. With its central location and diverse landscape—from forested foothills to broad, fertile plains, Marion County plays a key role in the Valley's environmental health and agricultural output. The county includes a rich mosaic of land uses, encompassing productive farmland, growing urban centers like Salem, and expansive forest lands in the eastern foothills of the Cascade Range. These forests provide critical watershed protection, wildlife habitat, and carbon storage, while also supporting recreation and timber-related industries. Shaped by the Willamette River and its tributaries, Marion County's natural systems form a foundation for both its ecological resilience and the well-being of its communities. This positioning makes Marion County a focal point for conservation efforts that aim to balance working lands, forest management, and environmental stewardship.

The Willamette Valley is one of Oregon's most fertile and ecologically diverse regions, stretching from the Columbia River in the north to the Calapooya Mountains in the south. Framed by the Cascade Range to the east and the Coast Range to the west, the valley is nourished by the Willamette River and its many tributaries, which support a wide range of aquatic and riparian ecosystems. Rich alluvial soils, a temperate climate, and abundant rainfall make the region ideal for agriculture, supporting everything from grass seed and hazelnuts to vineyards, berries, and specialty crops. These productive lands also serve as critical habitat corridors and migration pathways for wildlife, contributing to the valley's unique blend of working lands and natural systems.

Land use in the Willamette Valley reflects a dynamic balance between agriculture, urban development, and conservation. While much of the land is in private ownership and actively farmed, the region also includes significant areas of wetlands, oak savannas, and upland forests, some of which are remnants of pre-settlement ecosystems. These landscapes provide essential ecosystem services, including water filtration, carbon storage, pollinator habitat, and flood mitigation. As population growth and climate pressures continue to affect the valley, the stewardship of its soil and water resources is more critical than ever to sustaining both environmental health and agricultural productivity.

1.2 Guiding Values and Strategic Goals

The Catastrophic Natural Events Plan provides a framework for how the District will engage in preparedness, response, and recovery efforts to support resilient ecosystems and communities across Marion County. This Plan directly supports Goal 4 of the 2024–2029 Strategic Plan "Productive and Working Lands", with a particular focus on Activity 1 under Strategy 4.2: "creating a plan that outlines how the District will work with people and communities to implement conservation practices that result in ecosystems that are more resilient to the hazards and impacts of catastrophic natural events and how to distribute District resources equitably and promptly during times of emergency response." The Plan also advances key strategies and activities in Goals 2, 3, 5, and 6.

Through this Plan, the District affirms its commitment to leading coordinated, conservation-based efforts before, during, and after catastrophic natural events—supporting both environmental health and community well-being.

The District will reference as needed the mitigation plans in the Marion County Multi-Jurisdictional All – Hazards Mitigation. Effective April 10, 2023 through April 10, 2028. https://www.co.marion.or.us/PW/EmergencyManagement/PublishingImages/Pages/default/Marion%20County%20Multi-Jurisdictional%20Hazard%20Mitigation%20Plan_Volume%20IV.pdf

1.3 Emergency Response Team Role

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) is a specialized group of District staff designated by the District Manager to lead coordination, planning, and implementation of the District's Catastrophic Natural Events Program Plan. The team is assembled to ensure well-rounded, informed decision-making and will be activated when an emergency is declared or is anticipated to be declared. The team staff will include the District Manager, Natural Areas Conservation Planner (ERT Lead), Communication and Outreach Specialist, Environmental Education Specialist, Native and Invasive Plant Specialist, and Grants Specialist. The District Manager may invite other staff as needed. The ERT is responsible for:

- Volunteer coordination.
- Community outreach and education.
- Resource distribution and public communication.
- Preparedness and post-disaster recovery support.
- Serving as the official liaison to County Emergency Management, Partner agencies, Local governments.
- Maintain documentation of actions taken.
- Tracking expenditures and supporting reimbursement or grant reporting
- Participate in preparedness training and drills.

Table 1: Communication Roles and Responsibilities of Marion SWCD staff

The ERT oversees continuity of operations during catastrophic natural events and ensures that essential services are maintained or restored.

Role	Responsibility
District Manager (DM)	Oversee all internal communications to personnel (staff, Board); sends alerts and updates regarding operations. The DM confirms staff safety and availability. Requests the ERT to be activated.
ERT Lead	After DM requests, ERT Lead convenes the ERT. Activation may occur prior to formal declaration in anticipation of a credible threat. Activation may be full or partial, depending on urgency or emergency declaration and the priority level of the type of event. ERT Lead then assesses needs, collaborates with COS to ensure status updates are provided to DM.
Communication & Outreach Specialist (COS)	Relays status updates to DM and ERT Lead. Coordinate with DM and ERT lead about what information is pushed out to the public. Manage website and social media.
ERT Team Members	Environmental Education Specialist: Coordinate volunteer mobilization if needed, develop educational materials related to recovery best management practices. Support outreach to schools and community groups. Assist in public workshops or post disaster recovery events. Native/Invasive Plant Specialist: Assess impacts to natural areas, invasive species threats, and vegetation damage. Provide technical recommendations for reforestation and stabilization along riparian areas. Assist in prioritizing recovery assistance and projects. Support documentation for funding and grant opportunities. Grants Specialist: Identify and track emergency funding opportunities. Coordinate grant applications and reporting requirements. Maintain documentation necessary for reimbursement. Track emergency related expenditures.
Backup Chain of Command	In the absence of the DM, the authority to convene the ERT goes to the ERT Lead. In the absence of the ERT Lead, the leadership responsibilities will transfer to COS.

1.4 ERT Workflow and Communication

The ERT will meet quarterly to discuss preparedness techniques and training courses, well timed outreach and education campaigns, updates on emergency funding and resources, and practice emergency response drills.

The District recognizes that the modes, frequency, and timing of communication during a catastrophic event vary widely between interactions with the public as compared to internal staff. Because of this, District staff will follow an internal operating procedure designed to ensure timely and consistent communication among team members, prioritizing employee safety, operational continuity, and seamless coordination.

The objective of the internal operating procedure is to ensure that during an event that all employees are accounted for, direct communication with staff is maintained, updates regarding business conditions and potential recovery timelines are accessible by all employees, while further ensuring leadership and emergency response teams are established prior to a catastrophic incident.

The following internal operating procedure is to be utilized internally by the ERT when a catastrophic event occurs, or is anticipated to occur, in Marion County.

Phase 1: Activation (0-24 hours within emergency declaration)

1. Official alert for disaster or pending disaster is given on Marion County and weather agency news sources.
2. Convene ERT virtually.
3. Ensure staff safety and accountability
    a. Follow evacuation or shelter in place orders
4. Activate emergency communication plan
    a. Initiate internal phone tree or group messaging
    b. Switch to using backup communication methods if needed
    c. Post emergency status on social media and website
    d. Share official alerts from emergency services
    e. Begin outreach to vulnerable populations
5. Initial facility and damage assessment
    a. If safe, assess the status of District facilities and vehicles
    b. Document any damage with photos
    c. Note blocked access routes or hazards

Phase 2: Stabilization (24-72 hours after event onset)

1. Convene a virtual or in-person staff briefing with ERT
    a. Assign/reiterate roles including communications, operations and facilities lead, community outreach coordinator, documentation and reporting
2. Initiate public messaging and partner coordination

   a. Attend/tune in to local emergency update briefings
   b. Provide assistance as requested by emergency responders
   c. Share local conditions or impacts related to soil, water, erosion and other natural resources on website and social media
3. Community support and field damage report.
   a. Begin collecting field reports from landowners, partners, and staff.
   b. Document damage to ecological areas, ag land, waterways, and geologically vulnerable areas
   c. Coordinate with NRCS and other partners on assessments

Phase 3: Initial Recovery (3-14 days post disaster)

1. Post emergency funding resources on the website
2. Document needs and priorities for restoration
3. Possible emergency CAG cycle to release funds for support

Phase 4: Long term recovery recommendations outreach

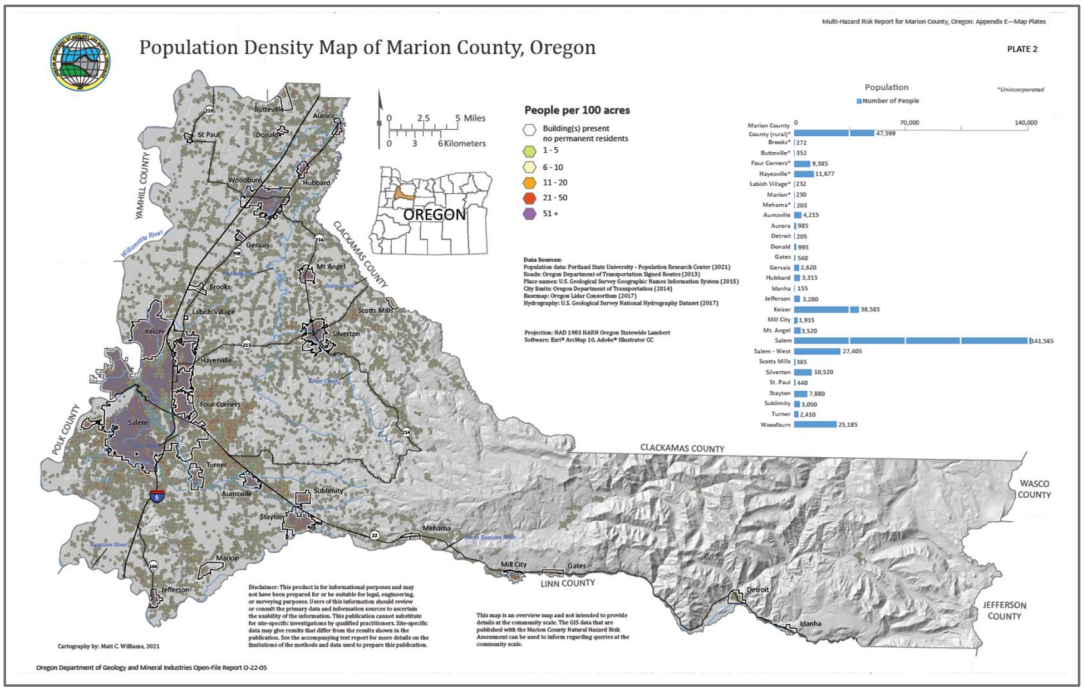
1. Create blog posts of best management practices for recovery methods specific to event that has occurred. Include authoritative agencies, official guidelines, and funding sources for assistance.
2. Share stories of landowners and partners impacted by the event on website and social media.
3. Collaborate with partners to review actions completed and ongoing impacts and needs.
4. Participate in local and regional partnerships and working groups to collaborate on funding opportunities and share lessons learned

Phase 5: After action review and monitoring

1. Convene ERT to discuss impacts from the event, assistance provided and requested, lessons learned, and next steps.
2. Share and brainstorm ways to improve assistance and response activities
3. Identify opportunities to improve and revise the CNE Plan to better fit the needs of the District and impacted communities.

1.5 Hazards, Risks, and Vulnerabilities Assessment

Marion County faces a range of natural hazards that pose significant risks to its land, water, ecosystems, and communities. Understanding these threats is essential to guiding the District's preparedness, conservation planning, and long-term resilience efforts. The hazards identified in this section are prioritized based on a combination of historical impacts, scientific risk assessments, and local vulnerability. These include both acute events—such as floods, wildfires, earthquakes—and chronic or compounding stressors like invasive pests and climate-intensified storms. Each hazard carries potential



Map 1 Population Density of Marion County 2021

consequences for soil health, water quality, the viability of working lands, fish and wildlife habitat, and the safety of people and property.

This hazard prioritization draws on data from state and federal sources, including the Oregon Natural Hazards Mitigation Plan (2020), FEMA hazard profiles, Marion County emergency management resources, and local land use and environmental assessments.

1.6 Marion County Hazards

A. *Floods:* Flooding, particularly in the low-lying areas along the Willamette River and other watercourses, is a persistent risk. Heavy rainfall, snowmelt, or failures in flood control infrastructure can result in substantial property damage and risks to agriculture. Flooding also exacerbates water quality issues, which could disrupt local drinking water supplies.

B. *Severe Storms:* Severe storms, including intense wind, hail, and heavy precipitation, are common. These can cause significant damage to crop, infrastructure (e.g., power lines), natural areas, and buildings. Additionally, strong winds and storms may trigger secondary hazards such as power outages, landslides, access issues, safety hazards, or wildfires.

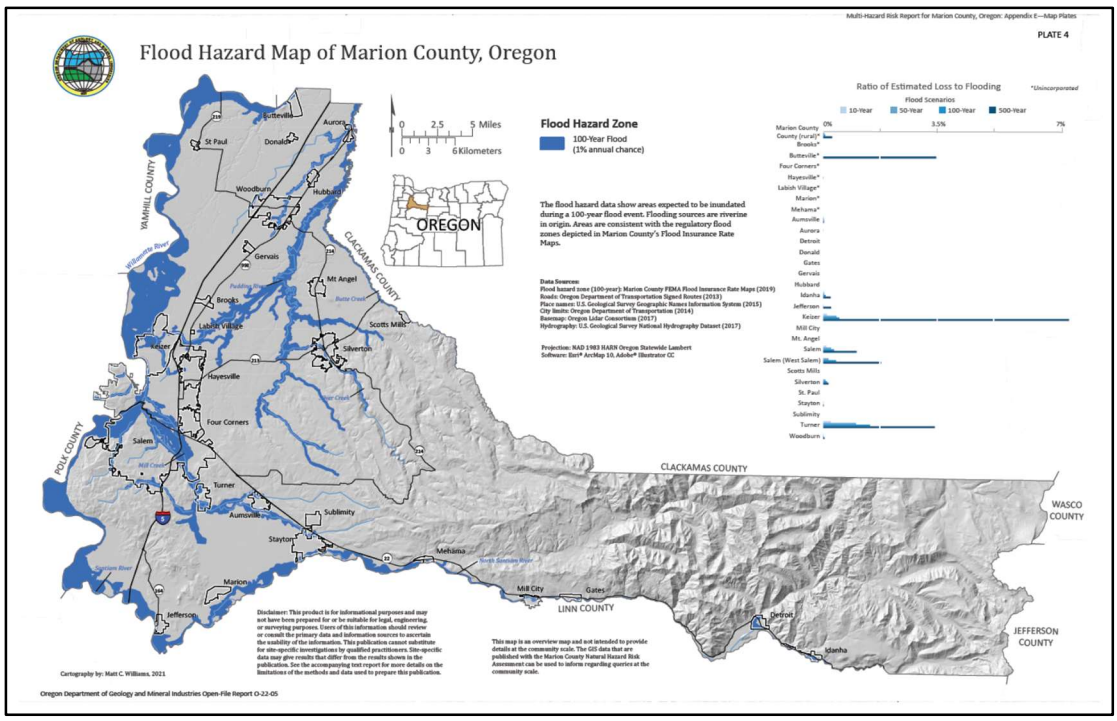
C. *Wildfires:* Wildfires, fueled by dry conditions and high winds, have become increasingly destructive in Oregon. The District is vulnerable to megafires that threaten both urban and rural communities. The 2020 Labor Day wildfires, which severely impacted eastern Marion County, highlighted the significant risk to both human populations and critical natural resources including forests, riparian areas, and wildlife habitats.

D. *Landslides:* Steep terrain, especially in the eastern part of the District, poses a risk for landslides, particularly after heavy rainfall or seismic activity. The risk is higher in areas with loose soils or human activities that disturb natural landscapes.
E. *Earthquakes:* Marion County sits in a high-risk zone for earthquakes, particularly from the Cascadia Subduction Zone. Ground shaking could lead to infrastructure damage, landslides, and disruptions to transportation and emergency services.
F. *Volcanic Eruptions:* The Cascade Range includes several potentially active volcanoes, such as Mt. Jefferson to the east of Marion County. While a direct eruption may be rare, volcanic ash and lahars (volcanic mudflows) could impact agriculture, water quality, and air quality across Marion County.
G. *Invasive Pests:* Invasive pests—both plant and animal—pose a growing threat to Marion County's ecosystems, working lands, and water resources. They outcompete native species, degrade soil and water quality, disrupt wildlife habitat, and increase vulnerability to hazards like wildfire and erosion. Because they are difficult and costly to manage once established, early detection, prevention, and long-term control are vital to the District's conservation efforts. As the climate changes, shifting pest ranges and behaviors make proactive monitoring and collaboration even more important. The District will assess the severity of invasive pest impacts on a case-by-case basis.

1.7 Risks and Risk Management

Box 2: Invasive Forest Pests
Emerald ash borer (*Agrilus planipennis*) (EAB) and Mediterranean oak borer (*Xyleborus monographus*) (MOB) are invasive beetles that inhabit and eventually kill hardwood trees. The EAB targets all ash tree species, tunneling beneath the bark and disrupting the tree's ability to transport water and nutrients, often resulting in tree death within a few years of infestation. The MOB infests oak species, introducing fungal pathogens that cause dieback and structural decline. Both pests spread through movement of infested wood and cause widespread canopy loss, habitat degradation, and increased wildfire and erosion risks across forested and urban landscapes.

This section assesses the potential risks posed by various catastrophic natural events within the District based on the Marion County Multi-Jurisdictional All- Hazards Mitigation Report. It evaluates the likelihood and severity of each hazard, considering the unique geographic, demographic, and environmental factors of the region.



Map 2 Flood Hazard Map of Marion County 2021

According to the Augurisk Risk Assessment for Disaster and Crime score for Marion County, the District has an overall risk exposure score of 36.18% of catastrophic events. This is based on the thirteen events that have been experienced in Marion County over the last twenty years. This score is considered moderate risk, and most of the disasters recorded over the last 20 years have been flood incidents. 33% of the District has a moderate or higher wildfire potential, and the average earthquake risk is considered high, at 57%. Augurisk scoring is based on historical data from United States Geological Survey (USGS), National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), et al.

To assess the risk of each hazard (Appendix B), the following factors were considered:

- *Likelihood*: The probability of an event occurring within a given timeframe (e.g., annually, decade, etc.).
- *Impact*: The potential consequences of the hazard, including loss of life, property damage, disruption to services, and environmental damage.
- *Vulnerability*: The degree to which populations, infrastructure, and natural resources are exposed to the hazard, including specific vulnerability of marginalized communities (e.g., low-income, elderly, rural residents).
- *Historical Data*: Past events and trends in the District, including the frequency and severity of hazards in Marion County and the Willamette Valley.
- *Geographic and Environmental Factors:* The topography, hydrology, and climate of the district, which influence the likelihood and intensity of various hazards.

1.8 Prioritization of Risk Management

Based on this risk assessment, the following priorities will guide the District's Catastrophic Natural Events Plan. These events will inform the communications and outreach planning of the Emergency Response Team's (ERT) communications and outreach strategies, as well as public messaging. High and moderate priority events will be communicated annually through the District's outreach channels, with messaging timed in advance of peak risk seasons.

High Priority

- *Wildfires and Flooding*: Due to their frequent occurrence and high impact on both urban and rural areas, these hazards will be the focus of mitigation efforts, including wildfire prevention and floodplain management.

Moderate Priority

- *Severe Storms:* The frequency of storms is relatively high and their impact varies. Preparing for more frequent, less severe storms and the occasional extreme event is critical.
- *Landslides*: The risk is more localized, areas prone to landslides will be prioritized for mitigation efforts, especially where steep slopes and human development intersect.
- *Invasive species*: While not traditionally classified as catastrophic events, certain newly discovered infestations of particularly harmful pests may prompt the District to initiate a rapid response and resource allocation effort comparable to that of a declared catastrophic event. The District will determine the prioritization of invasive pests on a case-by-case basis.

Low to Moderate Priority

- *Volcanic Eruptions*: Although the likelihood is low, Marion SWCD must remain prepared for the possibility of volcanic activity, particularly in relation to ashfall and lahars, which can affect air and water quality and agricultural productivity.
- *Earthquakes*: While less frequent, the catastrophic potential of earthquakes in the region requires focused attention on building codes, infrastructure resilience, and public education on earthquake preparedness.

By focusing on the highest risks and proactively addressing potential impacts, the District works with people and communities to reduce vulnerability and strengthen resilience to catastrophic natural events.

Table 1: Summary of Risk Assessment Based on these criteria, each hazard is evaluated for its overall Risk Level: Low (L), Low-Moderate (LM). Moderate (M), or Moderate-High (MH), and High (H). Appendix B.

Hazard	Likelihood	Impact	Vulnerability	Risk Level
Earthquakes	M	H	H	H
Floods	MH	H	H	H
Invasive Pests	H	MH	M	M
Landslides	M	MH	M	M
Severe Storms	M	MH	MH	MH
Volcanic Eruptions	LM	H	M	M
Wildfires	H	H	H	H

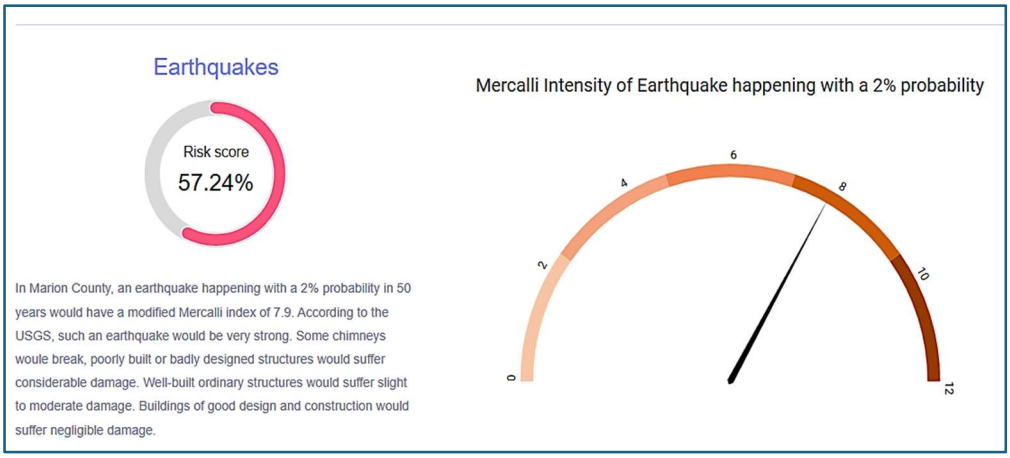
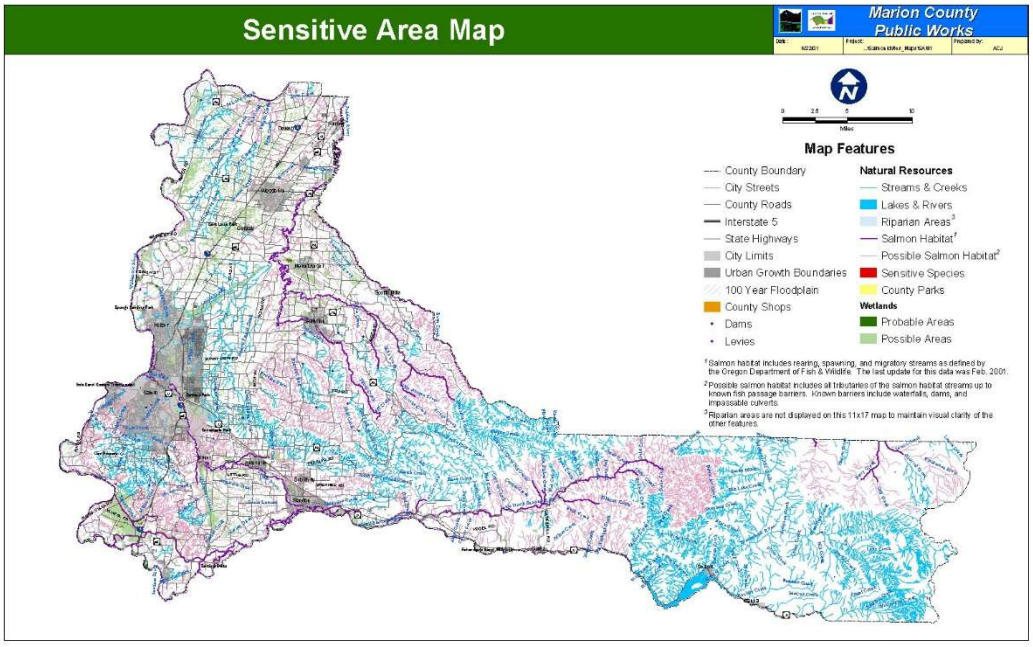


Figure 1 Earthquake Risk Score for Marion County. Source: Scoring by Augurisk, based on USGS earthquake data using 2% probability and a 50 years horizon. Rukstales, K.S., and Petersen, M.D., 2019, Data Release for 2018 Updates of the U.S. National Seismic Hazard Model: U.S. Geological Survey data release.

1.9 Vulnerable Populations

In this plan, vulnerabilities describe the social, economic, physical or environmental conditions that increase a community's or individual's susceptibility to the adverse impacts of catastrophic natural events. These conditions can limit a community's ability to prepare for, respond to, and recover from such events and may include barriers such as reduced access to information, limited financial resources, mobility constraints, or insufficient support networks. By identifying and understanding these vulnerabilities, the District delivers focused outreach, ensures equitable access to resources, and tailored support throughout all phases of preparedness, recovery, and restoration.
Some communities face greater susceptibility to the impacts of catastrophic events and therefore require additional focused outreach and follow-up during preparedness, recovery, and restoration efforts.

A. *Low-Income Households and Rural Communities:* These communities may face significant barriers in accessing critical resources such as emergency technical assistance, seed, erosion control supplies, funding, and transportation.
    I. In rural areas, word of mouth and traditional media (e.g., local newspapers, radio, bulletin boards) are often the most effective methods of communication. The District should regularly engage these channels and provide in-person outreach to share preparedness information and promote mitigation strategies.
    II. Accessing funding programs can be especially difficult, as many of these communities have limited internet access or experience with online grant systems. The District should provide focused, personalized support—whether in person, over the phone, or at the District office—to help guide individuals through application processes for restoration and recovery efforts.
B. *Elderly and Disabled Populations:* Individuals in these groups are more likely to face physical and mobility challenges that may limit their ability to recover natural resources after a disaster. They may also encounter barriers to accessing District programs offered primarily through online platforms. These populations will benefit from additional time, patience, and in-person consultations to help navigate funding opportunities and implement restoration activities.
C. *Underserved Communities:* The District is committed to identifying and understanding communities that may lack access to timely information or essential resources for disaster preparedness and recovery. We will work thoughtfully and diligently to ensure these communities are informed about and able to benefit from the programs, services, and assistance the District provides.



Map 3: Sensitive Areas of Marion County

Part 2: The Role of the District

The District actively supports natural disaster preparedness, response, and recovery by guiding resource allocation, providing technical assistance, and building community capacity. Through these actions, the District helps implement conservation strategies that protect natural resources from catastrophic events and promote long-term resilience. In this role, the District serves as a connector, facilitator, and educator by linking landowners and communities to available resources, sharing conservation-based best practices, and collaborating with local, state, and federal partners.

2.0 Role in Preparedness Education & Outreach Resources

Preparedness represents the District's strongest and most effective role in addressing catastrophic natural events. Through partnerships, conservation planning, outreach, and education, the District helps landowners and communities build ecological resilience, reduce risk, and mitigate potential damage before disasters occur. The District conducts annual education and outreach efforts focused on preparedness and mitigation, highlighting success stories and best practices through tours, blog posts, webinars, and social media. Outreach prioritizes vulnerable areas and populations identified in Section 1.9 and may include multilingual and accessible materials, targeted sharing of grant opportunities, and increased engagement within these communities.

2.1 Preparedness Communications

The District conducts annual emergency preparedness and disaster mitigation campaigns with the goal of increasing community resilience. Well timed and consistent messaging will be important to continue education about the risks of catastrophic events and the best practices to mitigate severe damage. These efforts will lead to increased grant projects focused on mitigation practices. The District conducts the following outreach activities focused on preparedness:

- Annual Preparedness Campaigns:
    - Distribution of disaster preparedness kits
    - Partner at disaster preparedness events held before the high-risk seasons
    - Focus outreach and education events around statewide and national awareness campaigns; Wildfire Preparedness month is May, Emergency Preparedness month is September, etc.
- Website blog posts:
    - Themed blog posts based on seasonal or event specific preparedness
    - Highlight successful preparedness and recovery projects and community education programs.
- Ongoing Communication Initiatives:
    - Conservation spotlight series
    - First Friday
    - Conservation Club tours

- Other outreach efforts and opportunities as they arise

2.2 Disaster Preparedness: Practices for Prevention & Resilience

The District's strongest role in catastrophic events is helping people with preparedness and mitigation education and technical assistance. To reduce vulnerability and improve readiness for catastrophic natural events, the District promotes Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) practices that help residents prepare in advance. Through proactive outreach, technical assistance, and coordination with partners, the District encourages the adoption of conservation practices that strengthen landscape resilience, reduce risk to natural resources, and support safer, more effective response and recovery. These preparedness-focused practices help residents address known vulnerabilities before an event occurs and improve outcomes when disasters strike. District staff will lead efforts to mitigate disaster risks through promoting land stewardship and conservation practices including:

Photo 3 Scotch Broom Invasion Post Fire-Lyons, Spring 2025

- Supporting wildfire preparation through defensible space design, fuel load reduction, and forest thinning
- Implementing and promoting flood mitigation practices such as riparian buffer restoration, floodplain reconnection, and erosion control
- Encouraging water conservation and irrigation efficiency to bolster drought resilience
- Advancing the understanding of soil health practices to improve water infiltration, increase the soil's water holding capacity, and increase ground cover to reduce soil erosion.
- Monitoring and managing invasive species that threaten ecosystem stability and increase vulnerability to disaster.

These principles align with many of the District's current goals, mission, and the service provided to constituents, thus they play a particularly important role in protecting shared natural resources before a catastrophic event.

Table 2: Selection of Natural Resources Conservation Services practices that are designed to mitigate risks and improve resilience to natural disasters such as wildfires, floods, and droughts.

Practice Code	Practice Name	Purpose
314	Brush management	Controlling invasive weeds reduces wildfire fuel loads
327	Conservation Cover	Establish permanent vegetation on lands vulnerable to degradation.
351	Well Decommissioning	Safely close unused wells to prevent contamination.
362	Diversion	Redirect runoff to prevent erosion or flooding in sensitive areas.
384	Woody Residue Treatment	Treating excess woody debris reduces fuels loads in forests
394	Fire Break	Creating a strip of land that has very low growing vegetation or none and is maintained to slow or stop the spread of wildfire.
410	Grade Stabilization Structure	Structures to reduce slope instability, control erosion in gullies, help with stormwater management
468	Lined Waterway or Outlet	Prevent gully formation and control stormwater.
560	Access Road	Construct or improve roads to provide safe emergency access.
574	Spring Development	Secure clean water sources, especially during droughts
578	Stream Crossing	Build crossings to prevent streambank damage and ensure livestock access.
580	Streambank and Shoreline Protection	Stabilize banks using vegetation or structures to resist erosion.
590	Nutrient Management	Reduce risk of nutrient loss during storms or flooding.
600	Terrace	Reduce slope length to prevent erosion and runoff.
638	Water and Sediment Control Basin	Trap sediment and reduce runoff velocity.

Practice Code	Practice Name	Purpose
657	Wetland Restoration	Re-establish wetlands to buffer flooding and improve water quality.
660	Tree and Shrub Pruning	Pruning limbs on trees and shrubs to reduce hazardous ladder fuels in forests.
666	Forest Stand Improvement	Thinning, pruning, and clearing live and dead trees in a forest to reduce fuel loads.

2.3 Role in Response

During a catastrophic natural event, the District plays a limited but essential role. The District shares timely, relevant information with residents, landowners, and partners; responds to inquiries; and coordinates with volunteers and partners who support initial response efforts.

Although the District is not an emergency responder, staff may begin providing technical assistance during this period assessing potential damage and advise on short-term conservation measures that help mitigate further environmental harm. This early support lay the groundwork for effective recovery planning once immediate hazards have passed.

During a catastrophic event, the Emergency Response Team (ERT) meets to assess the severity of impacts and the needs of affected residents. The team evaluates incoming requests and anticipated demand and determines how to distribute resources most effectively. External organizations, such as the U.S. Forest Service, may request assistance with Burned Area Emergency Response (BAER) teams, and the ERT decides on staff participation on a case-by-case basis.

2.4 Response Communications

The Communications and Outreach Specialist updates the website with any immediate updates or news pertaining to a current catastrophic event. These resources are updated accordingly throughout the duration of the declared warning or event occurrence. Updates or changes to recovery funding, preferred land restoration practices, and other available resources are maintained on the District website. As soon as an official alert or warning for an event is declared by the Marion County Emergency Management Department, the ERT follows the internal operating procedure and may convene a meeting to discuss next steps and strategy for providing assistance.

2.5 Role in Recovery

Once the immediate threat has passed, the District shifts into its recovery role; helping residents, landowners, and communities restore their land and communities with conservation-focused practices. These efforts may include:

- Installing erosion control measures.
- Replanting native vegetation and stabilizing soil.
- Restoring riparian areas and habitats.
- Reassessing conservation plans to build future resilience.

The District ensures that recovery efforts address damage as well as support long-term environmental health and reduces vulnerability to future disasters.

2.6 Recovery Communications

The Communications and Outreach Specialist, in collaboration with the ERT lead, will provide, maintain, and update event specific resources on the District website. These resources include, but are not limited to, opportunities regarding disaster relief aid (state and federal), technical assistance, workshops, site tours, and a general sharing of information provided by partner agencies (federal, governmental, non-profit, other).

The District acknowledges that the impact of a catastrophic event extends far beyond the landscape and understands that events of this nature can take a heavy mental and emotional toll on individuals and the community at large (both during and after an event). For this reason, the District will make its best effort to provide updates to available mental health resources, following a catastrophic event.

2.7 Disaster Recovery: Practices for Recovery and Rehabilitation

Following a catastrophic natural event, the District supports landowners in recovery by promoting Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) practices that address immediate stabilization needs and support long-term conservation goals. Through targeted outreach and technical guidance, the District helps landowners identify appropriate NRCS practices to reduce further resource damage, restore affected sites, and build resilience to future events. These recommended practices provide a framework for recovery that aligns local conservation priorities with available federal assistance.

Table 3: Selection of Natural Resources Conservation Services practices that help restore productivity, rehabilitate natural systems, and stabilize affected areas following a disaster.

Practice Code	Practice Name	Purpose
327	Conservation Cover	Reseed areas damaged by fire, flood, or drought to prevent erosion.
342	Critical Area Planting	Replant vegetation in severely eroded or burned areas.
350	Sediment Basin	Trap sediment from exposed or disturbed sites during recovery.

Practice Code	Practice Name	Purpose
382	Fence	Rebuild or protect sensitive areas from livestock or wildlife disturbance.
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	Reestablish buffers to filter runoff and stabilize streambanks.
393	Filter Strip	Trap sediment and runoff from disturbed areas.
466	Land Smoothing	Reshape land damaged by flood or erosion for future use.
472	Access Control	Restrict access to recovering lands for vegetation regrowth.
484	Mulching	Reduce erosion and aid in vegetation recovery.
490	Tree/Shrub Site Preparation	Prepare burned or damaged land for reforestation.
655	Forest Harvest Trails and Landings	Repair or close trails and landings to minimize further degradation.
670	Soil Salinity Management	Address salt buildup following flooding or irrigation failures.

2.8 Public Communication Principles

As part of its communications strategy, the District emphasizes available services, provides comprehensive mitigation resources, and shares regular updates related to potential hazards. District staff maintain and promote curated, hazard specific resources-including best practices, key contacts, and local guidance such as livestock sheltering, evacuation routes, and chemical storage guidance. The District also conducts targeted outreach for the Conservation Assistance Grant (CAG) to encourage preparedness projects, including fuels reduction and soil stabilization that support preventative conservation practices.

The Emergency Response Team (ERT) coordinates the timing of hazard-specific outreach initiatives, while outreach and media staff collaborate with the Natural Areas Conservation Planner to develop and distribute preparedness content.

All public communication efforts are guided by the following principles:

- Multi-Platform Outreach: Select communication methods based on accessibility and relevance to the intended audience.

- Accessibility and inclusion: Ensure information reaches non-English speakers and vulnerable populations and underserved communities.
- Timely Messaging: Share seasonal hazard specific and event driven information that supports preparedness and response actions.

2.9 Communication Platforms

While the District is not the primary emergency response or communications authority, it plays a supporting role in sharing relevant, timely information related to catastrophic natural events. The District uses a combination of District managed and external communication channels to reinforce official guidance, raise public awareness, and share District-specific resources and updates. The District tailors messaging to reach diverse audiences, including vulnerable populations.

Primary Communication Channels (District managed):

- Social media (Facebook, Instagram): Use for real time updates, alerts, safety tips, and emergency resources.
- District website: A hub for District updates, conservation related impacts, recovery resources, and links to official emergency information.
- Print media, in person and word of mouth: flyers and posters for offline messaging, collaborate with trusted local community leaders.

Emergency Alert Systems (External/Official sources):

- Local news channels and radio: For broad communication reach and especially effective for reaching rural and older populations.
- Emergency phone and alert systems: Automated alerts, texts, and instructions issued by county, state, or federal emergency management agencies remain the primary source for official emergency instructions, evacuation orders, and public safety directives.
- Web based resources: weather service website updates, local municipal and emergency management webpages with tips, warnings, and available resources.

Audience-Specific Messaging:

- Vulnerable Populations: Use of accessible and inclusive communication methods such as phone trees, local community meetings, and platforms like WhatsApp for non-English speakers.
- General Public: Share information related to health and safety, evacuation guidance, resource availability (e.g. food, shelter, water), and service disruptions by directing audiences to official emergency management sources and providing relevant District updates.

2.10 Staff Capacity and Readiness

Preparedness also involves building relationships and awareness among landowners, residents, and partners. District staff use on-the-ground assistance and local knowledge to ensure that preparedness communications identify site-specific vulnerabilities, promote landowner engagement, and help tailor conservation solutions to community needs.

In alignment with Goal 4, Activity 3 of the Strategic Plan, ERT members pursue ongoing training in climate resilience and extreme weather adaptation, to prepare staff to support conservation amid changing environmental conditions. Staff conduct scenario-based drills focused on scenario-based exercises that simulate different catastrophic events such as wildfires, floods, and earthquakes to strengthen emergency response and coordination. The team also leads tabletop exercises, including facilitated discussions and decision-making activities, to help staff understand their roles and test communication protocols. Workshops, resource development, and regular ERT meetings further enhance preparedness efforts and increase readiness across the District.

Part 3: District Financial Assistance

See Appendix C for more funding opportunities.

3.0 District Funding

Each year, the Board of Directors formally adopts an annual budget that outlines the District's financial priorities and spending plan for the upcoming fiscal year. This budget includes designated funds for the District's Grant Programs, which may provide financial assistance to support the implementation of conservation-based practices (see Tables 2 and 3) and activities related to education and outreach on disaster preparedness.

The level of funding available through these programs varies annually, depending on the overall size of the District's budget and the availability of discretionary funds. In response to extreme or unforeseen events, the Board may choose to allocate additional resources—if previously budgeted—by utilizing flexible funding sources such as the Multipurpose Funds intended for unanticipated projects. District webpage for more information: https://www.marionswcd.net/what-we-offer/grants/

- Conservation Assistance Grant: For pre-disaster on the ground mitigation and recovery funding.
- Partner Grant: For landscape-scale mitigation or collaborative recovery projects.
- Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board Small Grant Program.

- USDA NRCS Western Oregon Cascades Recovery Effort (WOCRE) Regional Conservation Partnership Program. Technical and financial assistance for post wildfire recovery to landowners in Marion County since the devastating wildfires of Labor Day 2020 through the Marion Soil & Water Conservation District.

3.1 Accessing District Services and Support

The District is here to support our community in achieving shared conservation goals. Through outreach and education, we help raise awareness of our services and the strategies outlined in this plan. Technical assistance and funding opportunities are available by request and guided by staff based on need, eligibility, and alignment with

Photo 1 Post Wildfire Recovery

District priorities. Landowners, residents, and partners are encouraged to contact us directly to begin the conversation. District staff will then help guide the next steps, ensuring support is tailored to each unique situation.

Appendix A: List of Important Contacts

Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs)
Prepares management plans and helps implement them by coordinating with other technical experts in natural resources. Helps landowners obtain financial assistance for conservation projects.

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
Chelsea.Blank@marionswcd.net
Work Cell: 503-979-9747
Office: 503-391-9927

Other SWCDs:
Clackamas SWCD: Jenne Reische 503-210-6000
Linn SWCD: 541-926-2483
Polk SWCD: Kevin Porter 503-623-9680

Watershed Councils
Provides technical and potential financial support in disaster recovery efforts.
Pudding River Watershed Council: (503) 982-5387
North Santiam Watershed Council: (503) 980-8202

Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS)
Provides information on soil types, soils mapping, and interpretation. Administers and helps in developing plans for Conservation Reserve Program (CRP), Environmental Quality Incentive Plan (EQIP), and other cost share programs. Makes technical determinations on wetlands and highly erodible land.
Marion County: 503-399-5741
Clackamas County: 503-655-3144
Linn County: 541-967-5925

Oregon Department of Emergency Management
Coordinates and maintains statewide emergency services system for emergency and disaster communications, focusing on response. May activate the State Emergency Coordination Center (ECC) in a multi jurisdictional emergency or disaster and serve as a communications hub.
Statewide: 503-378-2911
Marion County Emergency Management: 503-391-7294

Marion County Fire District #1

Independent special district that provides fire suppression, public safety and emergency services to residents in unincorporated Marion County.
Burn information/fire prevention: 503-588-6513

Marion County Public Works Department
Manages flood and stormwater control structures, storm drainage, and road closures in emergencies.
503-588-5036

Oregon State University Extension Service
Offers educational programs, seminars, classes, tours, and publications to guide landowners in managing their resources.
Clackamas County: 503-655-8631
Marion County: 503-588-5301
Linn County: 541-967-3871

Oregon Department of Agriculture (ODA)
Overseeing the Agricultural Water Quality Management program, issues permits and helps producers comply with confined animal feeding water management programs, provides support to Soil and Water Conservation Districts.
Natural Resources Division (Salem): 503-986-4700

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ)
Responsible for protecting and enhancing Oregon's water and air quality, cleaning up spills and releases of hazardous materials, and managing the proper disposal of solid and hazardous wastes. Maintains a list of water quality limited streams, sets total maximum daily load (TMDL) allocations. Provides technical assistance and grants to assist with non-point source pollution issues (319 grant program).
Portland: 800-452-4011

United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) – Farm Service Agency (FSA)
Maintains agricultural program records and administers various cost share programs. Their offices also provide up-to-date aerial photography of farm and forestland.
Clackamas County: 503-655-3144
Marion County: 503-399-5741
Linn County: 541-967-5925

Department of State Lands (DSL)
Administers state removal/fill law and provides technical assistance for wetlands
Salem: 503-378-380

Oregon Water Resources Department (WRD)
Provides technical and educational assistance and water rights permits and information.
Salem: 503-986-0900

Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW)
Works with landowners to balance protection of fish and wildlife with economic, social, and recreational needs. Advises on habitat protection. Offers technical and educational assistance for habitat and restoration projects. Provides plan review for special property tax assessment for wildlife habitat projects.
North Willamette Watershed District: 971-673-6000

Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF)
Technical assistance with State and Federal cost sharing, Oregon property tax programs, Forest Resource Trust, forestry practices, and forest management plans.
Salem: 503-945-7200

U.S. Forest Service (USFS)
Wildfire event response within the Willamette National Forest, federal land.
Detroit Ranger District: 503-854-3366

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Emergency flood assistance such as sandbags, levees, and other immediate response efforts.
Portland: 503-808-4510

Appendix B: Hazard-Specific Risk Assessment

Drawing on data and risk assessments from the DOGAMI Jurisdictional All-Hazards Mitigation Plan for Marion County, the DOGAMI Statewide Geohazards Viewer, and the Augurisk Risk Assessment, this section summarizes Marion County's risk level, likelihood, and vulnerability for each major hazard event.

1. Wildfires

- Likelihood: High
  Marion County, including parts of the Marion SWCD, has experienced increasing wildfire risk in recent years, with the 2020 Labor Day wildfires being a stark reminder. As climate change intensifies droughts and heatwaves, the probability of wildfires occurring during summer months continues to rise.
- Impact: High
  Wildfires pose significant risks to public safety, property, infrastructure, and natural resources. Fire can devastate agricultural lands, forests, and riparian ecosystems, potentially causing long-term economic loss and environmental degradation.
- Vulnerability: High
  Urban areas (such as Salem) are at risk from wildfire smoke and air quality degradation, while rural and forested areas face direct threats to homes and farms. Vulnerable populations, including elderly and low-income residents, may have limited capacity for evacuation and access to resources.
- Risk Level: High

2. Floods

- Likelihood: Moderate to High
  Flooding is one of the most common natural hazards in Marion County, particularly in the low-lying areas along the Willamette River and its tributaries. Heavy rainfall, snowmelt, and infrastructure failures (e.g., levee breaches) can result in significant flooding events. Flooding risk increases with climate change, particularly during intense storm systems.
- Impact: High
  Flooding causes extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, agriculture, and water supplies. Agricultural lands and crops are often flooded, and water quality may be compromised due to contamination. Flooding also increases the risk of landslides in vulnerable areas.
- Vulnerability: High
  Low-lying areas, floodplains, and agricultural zones are most vulnerable, especially near major rivers. The population in these areas may face evacuation challenges, and the damage to property, crops, and infrastructure may take years to fully recover from.

- Risk Level: High

3. Severe Storms

- Likelihood: Moderate
  Severe storms, including wind, hail, and intense rain, are common in the region. While storms typically occur several times per year, the severity and frequency of extreme weather events have been increasing due to climate change.
- Impact: Moderate to High
  High winds and intense rain and snowfall can lead to power outages, property damage, loss of crops, and debris flows. Flooding from severe storms can add additional strain to infrastructure, and lightning can trigger wildfires. Impacts of severe storm damage can last for several years after the event and can make our forests vulnerable to pests and disease.
- Vulnerability: Moderate to High
  Urban areas are prone to power outages and infrastructure damage, while rural areas may suffer from agricultural losses. Vulnerable populations, especially those living in isolated areas or lacking sturdy housing, are more likely to experience significant disruptions.
- Risk Level: Moderate to High

4. Earthquakes

- Likelihood: Moderate
  Marion County is located near the Cascadia Subduction Zone, making it prone to earthquakes. While major seismic events are rare, their potential for catastrophic damage is significant, especially for infrastructure, homes, and public facilities.
- Impact: High
  Earthquakes have the potential to cause widespread structural damage, landslides, and disruption to services. Secondary hazards such as fires and flooding can compound the initial damage.
- Vulnerability: High
  Urban areas, particularly Salem, are vulnerable to significant infrastructure damage. Rural areas may be impacted by landslides and loss of access to roads and utilities. Vulnerable populations, especially those with mobility issues or those living in older buildings, are at heightened risk.
- Risk Level: High

5. Landslides

- Likelihood: Moderate
  Landslides are more likely to occur following heavy rainfall, earthquakes, or volcanic eruptions. Steep terrain in the eastern part of Marion County increases the risk, especially in areas with loose soils or disturbed landscapes.

- Impact: Moderate to High
  Landslides can cause considerable damage to homes, infrastructure, and transportation networks. They may also pose a risk to public safety, especially in areas with limited access to emergency services. Erosion caused by landslides can lead to long-term environmental degradation and sedimentation in water bodies.
- Vulnerability: Moderate
  Vulnerable areas include steep hillsides, transportation corridors, and rural communities. Properties located near unstable slopes or in floodplain areas are most at risk.
- Risk Level: Moderate

6. Volcanic Eruptions

- Likelihood: Low to Moderate
  While a volcanic eruption in the Cascade Range is considered low-probability in the short term, the presence of active volcanoes like Mount Jefferson and Mount Hood means the district remains at risk for future events, especially in the context of increasing volcanic activity in the region.
- Impact: High
  Eruptions can cause widespread damage through ashfall, lava flows, and lahars, leading to significant destruction of property, infrastructure, and agricultural land. Ashfall can also degrade air quality, disrupt transportation, and compromise water supplies.
- Vulnerability: Moderate
  Areas directly in the volcanic hazard zone are at greatest risk. The broader district could face disruptions to agriculture and air quality from volcanic ash.
- Risk Level: Moderate

7. Invasive Pests

- Likelihood: High
  Marion County faces significant risks from invasive pests, including the Emerald Ash Borer and Mediterranean Oak Borer, as well as the potential arrival of the Asian Longhorn Beetle. Invasive plants threaten native ecosystems by reducing biodiversity and resilience, while aquatic species like zebra mussels could disrupt local waterways.
- Impact: Moderate to High
  Invasive pests threaten biodiversity by harming native species through consumption, competition, or habitat alteration, potentially leading to species decline or extinction. They also disrupt ecosystem functions by altering nutrient cycles, soil composition, and water systems, which can affect forest cover, carbon storage, and wildlife habitats.
- Vulnerability: Moderate

- Risk level: Moderate

Appendix C: Additional Funding Sources

Funding sources will be supported by a mix of local, state, and federal resources. These sources may include:

Federal Disaster Funds: In the aftermath of catastrophic events, federal agencies such as FEMA may offer funding for recovery and mitigation efforts. The SWCD may apply for these funds and distribute them to affected parties. FEMA provides preparedness and recovery grants for both individuals and government and nonprofit organizations.

- USDA Disaster Assistance Programs: Landowner aid for agriculture, including feed, transportation, and restoration after wildfires and floods.
    - Livestock assistance: Livestock Forage Disaster program (LFP), Livestock Indemnity Program (LIP), Emergency Assistance for Livestock/Honeybees/Farmed fish, Emergency Livestock Relief program (ELAP)
    - Farmland Damage: Emergency Conservation Program (ECP), Emergency Forest Restoration Program (EFRP),
    - Crops: Noninsured Disaster Assistance Program (NDAP), Tree Assistance program (TAP)
    - Emergency Conservation Program (ECP) – erosion control and restoration
    - Emergency Watershed Protection grant (EWP)- Post-disaster assistance for restoring watersheds, streambanks, debris removal, and preventing future hazards
- NRCS Assistance: Funding and technical support for soil erosion control, land restoration, and reforestation post-disaster.
    - Environmental Quality Incentives program (EQIP)
- US Forest Service: Funds wildfire risk reduction and fuels reduction projects.
    - Community Wildfire Defense Grant

State Disaster Grants: The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, the Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, and other state agencies may provide financial support for projects related to natural resource restoration, water management, and flood mitigation.

- Oregon Department of Forestry
    - Small Forestland Owners Grant program – focuses on fuels reduction, wildfire risk reduction projects, defensible space, and prioritizes multi landowner applications for greater watershed impact.

Local Donations and Partnerships: Local businesses, community organizations, and individuals may contribute to a disaster relief fund managed by the SWCD. Additionally,

partnerships with local non-profits and other agencies can help expand the pool of available resources.

- Long Term Recovery Groups such as the Santiam Long Term Recovery Group are essential in distributing resources among a community based on their needs and supporting recovery effort of residents, landowners, organizations and businesses.
- Community Organizations Active in Disaster (COADs) work at a local level with groups of community organizations and volunteers during a disaster to coordinate services and assistance.

Private Sector and Grant Funding: The SWCD will seek additional funding through private sector donations and grant applications from environmental, agricultural, and disaster relief organizations.

Individuals and Households:

- American Red Cross Cascades Region – provides disaster relief services for Oregonians, including help with temporary shelter, financial assistance, health and mental health services.
- Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) Disaster Readiness and Response Fund- provides rapid response grants to local community based nonprofits that help residents with immediate needs.

Businesses and Nonprofits:

- Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) – provides grants to help nonprofits strengthen communities after disasters.
- Oregon Disaster Funders Network (ODFN) – A partnership of foundations and organizations that collaborate to respond to various crises statewide.
- OregonServes – State program that offers funding such as Disaster Corps for non profits and local entities.

Appendix D: References

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Appendix E: Table of Recommended Actions

Event	*Response Urgency	**Primary Impacts	Lead Staff	Internal Communication Objective	***Communication Method	Pre-Event Actions	During Event Actions	Post Event Actions
Earthquake	I	I, SH	ERT Lead	Ensure staff safety, report status, maintain continuity	P, V,	Emergency response plan, staff training	Safety check-ins, damage reporting	Debrief, infrastructure recovery updates
Flood	S-M	I, WQ, SS, TD	ERT Lead	Damage extent assessment, communicate delays, safety check in	E, V	Flood risk maps, emergency contact lists	Site status updates, project delays info	Restoration planning, grant updates
Wildfire	I	I, AQ, H	ERT Lead	Communicate closures, safety protocol and evacuation notices, damage extent assessment	ET, E, V	Monitor local alerts, N95 masks in stock	Office/site closures, staff relocation	Reopening, project delay coordination
Severe Storm	S-M	I, TD, H, SH,	ERT Lead	Safety guidelines, remote work coordination,	E, V	Health protocols, remote work policies	Exposure updates, modified operations	Return-to-work protocols, lessons learned
Landslide	M	WQ, SS, H	ERT Lead	Communicate closures, safety protocols, evacuation notices, damage extent assessment	E, V	Communication templates, key contacts	Issue updates, external comms coordination	Documentation, project review
Invasive Forest Pests	S	H, WQ, SS	Invasive Plant Specialist	Assess risks and vulnerabilities, potential spread,	E, V	Pest detection protocol, staff training	Situation updates,	Recovery plans, partner coordination

				project response planning			reporting protocols	
Volcano Eruption	M	I, SH, AQ, WQ, H, SS	ERT Lead	Emergency alert communications, evacuation notices, post event impact awareness	ET, PC, E, V			

*Response Urgency: (I) Immediate, (M) Moderate, (S) Slow

**Primary Impacts: (I) Infrastructure, (SH) Staff Health/Safety, (AQ) Air Quality, (WQ) Water Quality, (H) Habitat Loss, (SS) Soil Stabilization, (TD) Transportation Disruption,

***Communication Channels: (E) Email, (P) Phone Call, (V) Virtual Call, (ET) Emergency Text Alert

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
Natural Resources Committee Meeting – Agenda Item Brief

Agenda Item Name: Apply for OWEB Focused Investment Partnership Oak Project

Date: April 2, 2026

Agenda Item Brief: The District has been attending partnership meetings for the Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (WVOPC) for the last year and half or so to stay updated and make connections with other oak partners. During the most recent meeting in November, 2026, the Cooperative announced its intention of applying for an OWEB FIP application in July 2026 to secure up to $15 million over three biennium from 2027-2033. They invited partners to submit work plans for any of the three biennium for oak and prairie projects. There are possible landowners in the District in mind for submitting projects on behalf of, although they have not confirmed their commitment at this time. The first application deadline for partners submitting work plan concepts is on May 1, 2026 to be considered for the final application in July 2026.

If the District applies for a work plan on behalf of landowners as part of this FIP application, we will submit an OWEB open solicitation application to be managed by the District as a separate entity, but the funding is tied to the WVOPC partnership. The benefit of submitting applications through this partnership is to secure funding in the upcoming years for oak and prairie restoration projects and to contribute to the partnership efforts of the WVOPC.

Requested Action: Discussion for committee to be aware of staff possibly submitting an OWEB FIP work plan for landowners interested in oak and prairie restoration grants.

Proposed By: Staff, Chelsea Blank

Focused Investment Partnership Pre-Project Application

February 27th, 2026

Due date: May 1st, 2026

What is a Focused Investment Partnership pre-project application

The Willamette Valley Oak and Prairie Cooperative (WVOPC) is exploring a Focused Investment Partnership (FIP) opportunity through OWEB. FIPs are six-year, large-scale investments (up to $15 million per partnership) that support collaborative partnerships with a Strategic Action Plan.

If awarded, funding is distributed across three biennium (2027–2033). Workplan 1 projects should be largely shovel-ready by July 2027, while Workplans 2 and 3 can include projects still under development.

A FIP pre-project application allows the WVOPC Steering Committee to select projects for inclusion in biennium workplans, a critical step in the OWEB FIP grant proposal process. Its primary goal is to ensure proposed projects are ecologically sound, align with WVOPC's mission and goals, and advance the Strategic Action Plan. Currently, restoration grants (~60%) are prioritized, though all grant types are welcome.

Learn more about the OWEB FIP Program here.

Who can apply

The following WVOPC members* **can apply**: tribes, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, not-for-profit institutions/organizations, Oregon institutions of higher education, independent not-for-profit institution of higher education, or political subdivision of this state that is not a state agency.

The following WVOPC members **cannot apply**: Individuals without an eligible entity sponsor, federal agencies, and state agencies.

** if you are unsure if you are a WVOPC member read the Declaration of Cooperation in the Strategic Action Plan*

Application Instructions

Please complete all applicable sections of this application and indicate "N/A" for any section that does not apply to your project. Clear and concise responses are strongly encouraged. You may respond in paragraph, bullet, table, or combined formats. Section 1 is required for all applicants. The remaining sections should be completed when applicable.

Resources

The following resources will be useful to refer to as you complete this application.

Strategic Action Plan: this Strategic Action Plan was developed in 2019 and revised in 2025

30-year Conservation Concept Map: this map was created by a panel of technical experts to provide a high-level/big picture framework for future oak and prairie conservation and restoration efforts in the planning area over the next 30 years.

If you want access to the Conservation Concept Map spatial data, please contact the WVOPC Coordinator

Application submission and selection

1. Submit the following survey
2. Email completed applications* to the WVOPC Coordinator (wvoakprairiecoop@gmail.com) as a single PDF **by 5:00pm PST on Friday, May 1st, 2026.** *Please rename the file with the following naming structure "WVOPC FIP Project Application_Entity_LastName.pdf"*

*For projects that have sites please provide spatial data *(format: shapefile, kmz/kml)* as a zip file

Application selection will be completed by the Steering Committee and announced to applicants by July 2026.

Questions?

Please direct any questions to the WVOPC Coordinator, Laura Estrada, (wvoakprairiecoop@gmail.com).

Section 1. Applicant & Project Information (*required)

Project Title:

Applicant Organization:

Primary Contact (*name, email, phone*):

Landowner(s) (*if different*):

Project Location (*County, Watershed*):

Acres Treated *(if applicable*):

Requested Amount:

Match source(s) (*secured and unsecured dollar amount; list source of match*):

Project Map (*attachments*). Site map with project boundary and treatment units; landscape level context map.

Spatial data (*if applicable*) Provide a zip file in the final application of the spatial data associated with the project.

When will the project be implemented:

☐ Workplan 1 (2027-2029)

☐ Workplan 2 (2030-2032)

☐ Workplan 3 (2033-2035)

Project Type (*only select one*):

☐ Restoration

☐ Technical Assistance

☐ Engagement

☐ Acquisition

☐ Partnership Capacity

Section 2. Project Overview (Max 1500 characters)

Brief description of the project. Please describe habitat type (e.g., upland prairie, wet prairie, riparian, oak woodlands, etc.), site conditions, proposed actions, acres to be treated and intended outcomes.

Section 3. Alignment with WVOPC Strategic Action Plan (Max 750 characters per selection)

Select what WVOPC goal(s) are advanced by the project. Provide a brief description, no more than 4 sentences, of how the goal is addressed under each goal selected.

- ☐ **Increase Conservation and Connectivity:** Establish large, high-quality anchor sites and connect them with habitat corridors.
- ☐ **Increase Habitat Management:** Improve and maintain habitat quality through active, science-based restoration and management.
- ☐ **Limit Impacts of Urban and Rural Development:** Reduce development impacts through better policy, regulation, and landowner support.
- ☐ **Decrease Woody Encroachment:** Control woody vegetation, release oaks, and enhance native understory.
- ☐ **Reduce Agricultural Conversion & Increase Compatible Management:** Work with landowners to prevent conversion and promote habitat-friendly practices.
- ☐ **Limit Non-Native Invasive Species:** Prevent, detect, and control invasive species and increase native plant supply.
- ☐ **Decrease Fire Exclusion:** Expand prescribed fire through training, funding, and Tribal partnerships.
- ☐ **Increase Knowledge and Understanding:** Improve research, guidance, spatial data, and tracking of conservation actions.
- ☐ **Increase Partnership and Collaboration:** Strengthen WVOPC's role as a coordinating body for funding, planning, and implementation.
- ☐ **Increase Community Capacity & Environmental Justice:** Build public awareness, engage underrepresented communities, and promote inclusive conservation.

Section 4. Ecological Value & Context (Max 1500 characters)

Describe the project's ecological value. For example, address whether the site contains legacy oaks and native prairie or oak woodland plant communities; project size and whether the project area is large enough to provide meaningful habitat for oak- and prairie-associated species; how the project builds on or expands previous conservation investments; and whether invasive species infestations are present and currently limiting ecological function.

Section 5. Long-Term Stewardship & Longevity (Max 1500 characters)

Describe the land status and long-term management strategy for the project. In your response, identify the land ownership and protection status (e.g., Tribal land, private or public ownership, conservation easement, tax deferral program, etc.), explain how restoration gains achieved during this project will be protected and/or enhanced after the award period, and describe how long-term management actions will be funded.

Section 6. Collaboration and Local Capacity Partner Engagement (Max 1500 characters)

How does this project contribute to the WVOPC's goals of supporting collaboration and building our collective capacity to restore and steward oak and prairie habitats over time? Please describe any elements of building or investing in local capacity; including all partners involved in the project and what their role will be.

Section 7. Indigenous Leadership, Priorities, and Knowledge (Max 1500 characters)

Describe how your project advances Tribal or Indigenous priorities, includes partnership with Tribes or Indigenous practitioners, supports Indigenous Leadership, and/or is informed by Indigenous or Traditional Ecological Knowledge.

Section 8. Permitting, Readiness and Timeline (Max 1500 characters)

Describe what permitting is required, status of permits, project readiness (e.g., is it shovel ready or in the development/planning stage) and timeline to complete the project?

Section 9. Budget Narrative (Max 1500 characters)

Provide context and justification for how your budget was developed. Explain how project cost and/or rates were determined.

Section 9.1 Project Totals

Provide project totals for each category	
Category	Project Totals
Salaries, Wages and Benefits	
Contracted Services	
Travel	
Materials and Supplies [a]	
Equipment [b]	
Other	
Indirect Costs	
Secured Match	
Unsecured Match	

[a] *Materials and supplies are consumable items or small tools used during the project that typically cost less than $2,500.*

[b] *Equipment is durable, long-lasting items that can be used beyond the life of the project and typically costs more than $2,500.*

Section 10. Project-Type Specific Information (Complete only what applies – Max 1500 characters per applicable project type)

Technical Assistance

What technical assistance activities will be completed and how will they lead to implementation?

Engagement

Who is the target audience and what actions will be taken to lead to implementation?

Acquisition

What is the property of interest and what conversation values will be protected?

Partnership and Capacity Building?

What capacity-building activities will be completed and what are the benefits to the partnership, particular around implementing the strategic action plan?

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District
Natural Resources Committee Meeting – Agenda Item Brief

Agenda Item Name: District EAB Management and Outreach Plan

Date: 4/2/2026

Agenda Item Brief: The staff at the District have created and begun implementing an outreach and management plan to address the growing concerns of the invasive Emerald Ash Borer population for landowners and land managers. This plan is meant to steer our outreach efforts and prioritize activities that we commit to in the face of such a large and widespread issue. This plan addresses calendar years 2025 to 2027 and will be updated for the upcoming years depending on successes, lessons learned, and priorities.

Requested Action: None, discussion only.

Proposed By: Natural Resources Committee

Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) Management Plan

Marion Soil and Water Conservation District

Implementation Period: 2025–2027

Plan Maintained By:

Marion SWCD EAB Working Group

Chelsea Blank, Amy Zimmer, Sarah Hamilton, Rachel Kato

1. Purpose

This plan outlines Marion Soil and Water Conservation District (District or Marion SWCD) approach to managing Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) outreach, landowner engagement, and assistance within the District. The goal is to increase awareness, preparedness, and action among land managers and community partners in response to EAB threats to local ash populations and riparian ecosystems. This plan will be reviewed annually to update it according to the lessons learned and needs identified.

2. Goals

1. The public is aware of the EAB and its impacts.
2. Proactive EAB mitigation actions, including understory planting, tree removal, and community science efforts (e.g. trapping) are widely used by the public and partners.
3. Regional EAB response is coordinated among local partners, agencies, and communities to protect ecosystem resilience.

3. Objectives

1. EAB outreach and education is conducted to reach more people using the current Education and Outreach programs outlined in Section 5.
2. Encourage increased participation in EAB mitigation projects through education, technical assistance, and potential funding through District grant programs such as the Conservation Assistance Grant (CAG) and the Partner Grant or other local opportunities.
3. Establish priorities and parameters for EAB projects, including acreage limits, geographic focus, and a list of eligible practices so that District capacity can provide the most assistance.
4. Leverage partnerships and outreach materials to minimize the burden on staff to handle an increase in assistance requests.

4. Alignment with SWCD Strategic Plan

Strategic Goal	Supporting Strategy and Connection to EAB Plan
Goal 1: Inspire Conservation	Build community awareness and stewardship through education and outreach.
Goal 2: Healthy Soil and Clean Water	Filtering pollutants from waterways and protecting riparian areas from ash decline by mitigating impacts such as streambank erosion, increased stream temperatures, and invasive plants, associated with tree loss.
Goal 3: Healthy Habitats	**3.1:** Strengthen community habitat knowledge. **3.2:** Conserve the diversity and resilience of native plant communities with beneficial insects.
Goal 4: Productive Working Lands	**4.2:** Help communities prepare for EAB impacts to working lands such as invasive species outbreaks and loss of small woodlands.
Goal 5: Effective Partnerships	Collaborate with federal and state agencies, cities, counties, and neighboring SWCDs for unified response and outreach.

5. Current Services

Technical Assistance

- Individuals may request site visits (in-person or virtual) to assess ash populations and management options.
- Ensure all District Conservation Planners check the Oregon Department of Forestry (ODF), EAB risk layers via the Oregon EAB Hub before site visits to determine what type of recommendations or education may be needed.
- Include EAB management resources with all applicable technical assistance.

Education Programs

- **First Friday Webinars:** Monthly virtual education sessions.
- **Conservation Spotlight:** Stories highlighting EAB management and local conservation efforts.
- **Conservation Club:** Hands-on workshops and community learning events.

- **Understory Working Group:** Developing an EAB response and management guide for land managers.

6. Conservation Practices Eligible for EAB Mitigation Projects

For Conservation Assistance Grant (CAG) applications, the following is a list of applicable Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) practices that may be used to build an EAB mitigation project plan.

Practice Code	Practice Name	Use for EAB
314	Brush Management	Site prep for underplanting, maintenance of underplanting project
315	Herbaceous Weed Control	Site prep for underplanting, maintenance of underplanting project
384	Woody Residue Treatment	Treat infected wood waste, reduce fuels created by excessive dead ash trees
390	Riparian Herbaceous Planting	Enhance biodiversity in riparian buffers effected by EAB
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	Underplanting canopy replacement to prepare for shade loss from dead ash trees
420	Wildlife Habitat Planting	Provide understory biodiversity in EAB impacted areas
484	Mulching	Treat wood waste created from infested ash trees
490	Site Preparation	Site prep for underplanting
612	Tree/Shrub Establishment	Establish canopy replacement and understory biodiversity in EAB impacted areas
666	Forest Stand Improvement	Includes insecticide treatment of trees, thinning ash trees, improving forest conditions in ash dominated habitats impacted by EAB or in preparation for EAB
659	Wetland Enhancement	To enhance vegetation (including the removal of undesired species, and/or seeding or planting of

		desired species) and to enhance plant and animal habitats.
643	Restoration of Rare or Declining Natural Communities	Restore the physical conditions and/or unique plant community on sites that partially support, or once supported, a rare or declining natural community, in this case wetlands. Application of this practice addresses resource concerns of degraded plant condition and/or inadequate wildlife habitat

7. Planned Outreach and Engagement

Mailers & Flyers

- **Target Area:** Within 5 miles of infestation points and properties containing at least 1/2 of an acre within a 35' riparian buffer.
- **Quantity:** Approximately 800-1000 mailers to be distributed to target areas.
- **Expected Response:** Approximately 10%, 80-100 responses.
- **Purpose:** Raise awareness of EAB and promote EAB events and resources.

Workshops and Trainings

Virtual/Digital Sessions

Topic	Date	Partners / Notes	District Program
Intro to EAB	Done by Spring 2026, date TBD	Overview of EAB and Oregon's response.	ODF is producing the recording so it can be posted on Oregon EAB hub website and partner websites.
Preparing for EAB #1: Inventory, Planning, Prioritization	February 6, 2026	ODF-led session, Matt Mills or Kat Bethea.	First Friday
EAB Biocontrols	March 2026	Animal and Plant Health Inspection	First Friday

		Service (APHIS) presentation.	
Preparing for EAB #2: Site Prep, Wood Waste, and Weed Control	August or September 2026	Sarah Hamilton (weeds), ODF (site prep).	First Friday
Preparing for EAB #3: What to Plant	September or October 2026	Rob Emanuel (Clean Water Services)	First Friday
City of Salem EAB Talk	TBD; late 2026 or early 2027.	Municipal perspective on treatment options and overview of City ash tree treatment program.	Conservation Spotlight

In-Person Events

Event	Date	Description	District Program
Community Science Trapping	Early May 2026	Engage volunteers to monitor EAB presence and collect data for statewide use.	Conservation Club
Live Stake Planting / Underplanting Workshop	Fall 2026	Minto Brown or Silver Falls, or NRCS plant materials center; hands-on habitat restoration and ash underplanting.	Conservation Club
Municipalities Workshop	Winter/Spring 2027	Guidance for city/county urban EAB management.	TBD

8. Digital Resources and Communication

- **Website Updates:** Dedicated EAB page with links to Oregon EAB Hub and local resources.
    - Website managers will include the Digital Specialist (Tom Wilson) and Outreach Communications Specialist (Amy Zimmer) in coordination with the EAB task force members.

- **Recorded Trainings:** Archive of webinars and event recordings saved on our website. Recordings will be produced from First Friday presentations and ODF produced recordings.
- **Social Media:** Simplified posts using template materials (e.g., Yamhill SWCD templates).
    - Outreach Communications Specialist (Amy Zimmer) will manage these.
- **Conservation Spotlight & Blog Posts:** Regular updates and success stories.
    - EAB task force members may create content for blog posts
    - Natural Areas Conservation Planner (Chelsea Blank) will provide Conservation Spotlight episodes focused on EAB.
- **Calendar Coordination:** Outreach calendar managed by the Education and Outreach Team, as well as Yamhill/Marion SWCD Riparian Technician (Rachel Kato) and Outreach Communications Specialist (Amy Zimmer).

9. Capacity and Prioritization Framework

The EAB Task Force recognizes the possibility of receiving a large increase in the request for assistance related to EAB directly following the outreach efforts put forth from this plan. Already, landowners are learning more about EAB and turning to the District and experts for help. To reduce the burden of this increase in demand on the District staff, the following list includes steps that will be taken to provide quick and accessible education through phone calls or emails, to determine whether in person assistance is necessary.

Capacity Mitigation

- Direct traffic to OregonEAB.com hub and SWCD webpages.
- Create template emails for follow-up technical assistance.
- Provide virtual site visits.
- Provide ODF EAB pocket guides and quick reference materials.
- Develop ranking criteria for CAG applications when requests exceed funding capacity.

10. Urban Ash Tree Considerations

Urban tree health is considered at risk due to EAB. There are several impacts of EAB on urban residents, streams, and public health that require certain technical assistance and

partnerships to address. The District's role in assisting urban residents and partners will focus on the following:

- Focus EAB efforts on urban riparian and natural areas.
- Refer urban hazard tree inquiries to certified arborists and the appropriate jurisdictional municipality for rules and regulations.
- Refer urban residents in the City of Salem to free plant programs such as the *City of Salem Stream Trees Program*.
- Research additional plant assistance programs in other urban areas.
- Collaborate with the District's Urban Conservation Planner (Kristen McApline) to develop future guidance for urban riparian restoration and EAB impact mitigation.

11. Marion SWCD Working Group Timeline (2025–2027 Timeline Overview)

Season/Year	Milestone / Focus Area
Fall 2025	Finalize EAB outreach framework; update website and resource materials.
Winter 2026 (Mid January 2026)	Send mailers; begin field inquiries and technical assistance tracking.
Winter-Spring 2026	Deliver First Friday EAB webinars; coordinate with ODF and APHIS. Plan and prepare for Conservation Club and Conservation Spotlight events.
Spring 2026	Host Community Science Trapping Conservation Club.
Spring – summer 2026	Conduct site visits, trapping, and assist with restoration and preparedness projects. Late summer – host First Friday presentations on site prep and underplanting recommendations.
Fall 2026	Host fall planting events with partners.
Winter 2027	Review results; adjust outreach and funding priorities for next biennium.