



**Oregon State
University**

OSU Statewide
Public Service Programs

OSU Extension – Oregon Agricultural Experiment Station – Oregon Forest Research Laboratory

Subject: OSU Statewides – Thank you and looking ahead

August 7, 2025

To our OSU Statewides stakeholders, supporters and partners:

Greetings,

Governor Kotek recently signed [SB 5525](#), formalizing the Oregon Legislature’s investment in the OSU Statewide Public Service Programs for the 2025-27 biennium.

Collectively, we are deeply appreciative of your continued support and strong advocacy during the session. It is meaningful when Oregon’s elected officials hear directly from constituents like you about how the OSU Statewides are working alongside you and your communities to address needs, challenges and opportunities.

OSU Statewides funding update

The OSU Statewides (OSU Extension, Ag Experiment Station, Forest Research Lab) received \$196.6 million (a 7% increase) to sustain core mission programs and services. While this investment fell short of the universities’ full continued service level (CSL) funding (a 9.6% increase), we recognize that the legislature faced a particularly tight budget environment and had to balance economic uncertainty and many statewide priorities.

What does this mean?

Though we can generally absorb this reduction through attrition and adjustments to operational spending, this approach is not strategic, sustainable or effective in the long term. Specifically, not receiving CSL will significantly limit our ability to hire new positions. State funding is still a large and important part of our budget but continued decreases put pressure on our longstanding cooperative state-federal-local/county funding models that underpin our ability to deliver solutions for Oregon farms, forests, fisheries, youth, families and communities. We are grateful for our continued funding partnerships with each of Oregon’s 36 counties.

As a leadership team, we will continue to coordinate on how we use these funds to meet needs throughout Oregon. As always, we will aim to prioritize needs of those we serve, minimize impacts to current employees, be prudent with discretionary spending and transparent about

outcomes and return on investment. Decisions will be informed by needs assessments and stakeholder input, aligned with our core mission and designed to give us the flexibility to respond to emerging needs.

Other state legislative investments of note

Policy bills provided additional funding to OSU Statewides programs for specific projects. For a full list of legislative investments related to OSU, refer to this [comprehensive update](#) from OSU's Government Relations Office.

Looking ahead

We will continue to seek your input as we consider future staffing and programmatic decisions. We will also work with you to continue [sharing stories](#) that showcase how we leverage the state's investment with other funding sources to create meaningful impact and outcomes throughout Oregon — from the coast to our eastern rangelands and everywhere in between.

We encourage you to continue engaging locally with your legislators and other elected officials and let us know how we can best support your efforts. We are committed to being out around Oregon — with you — to advance and showcase this important work. Please reach out to us with questions and suggestions at any time.

With appreciation,

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