SB 530 supports the viability of Oregon’s forest owners, farmers, and ranchers by investing in natural climate solutions (NCS). This bill will:

• Define natural and working lands (NWL) and establish policy direction to advance NCS.
• Provide dedicated funding for voluntary NCS projects, positioning the state to leverage significant new federal funding and private investments.
• Fund and direct state agencies to provide incentives and technical support to forest owners, farmers, and ranchers to implement NCS on NWL.
• Invest in a comprehensive Oregon NWL inventory and workforce analysis to monitor our progress and prioritize future investments.

The same practices that sequester and store carbon contribute co-benefits that support farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and entire communities.

• Healthy soils produce healthier crops, retain more moisture, and improve water quality, while increasing the producer’s net earnings over time.
• Healthy forests provide clean drinking water, habitat for fish and wildlife, and protection from wildfire.
• Healthy coastal wetlands sequester carbon as they filter water, provide critical habitat, and protect communities from storm surges.

Support and fund SB 530 for Oregon’s Natural and Working Lands.
Extreme temperatures, wildfire, drought, pests, and flooding are setting all-time records.

We see the impact of these challenges on farmers’, ranchers’, and forest owners’ profit margins. These problems demand an adaptive approach to stewarding the health of our forests, farms, ranches, wetlands, and coastal habitat.

Existing and emerging natural climate solutions for conservation, agriculture, and forestry show real promise for the future.

SB 530 advances the strategies identified in the Natural and Working Lands Proposal, adopted by the Oregon Global Warming Commission in 2021 after extensive stakeholder engagement. A broad coalition of Oregon farmers, ranchers, forest owners, and environmental and climate organizations support this bill.

DID YOU KNOW?

Natural climate solutions build on Oregon’s emissions goals

The Oregon Global Warming Commission found that natural climate solutions can sequester at least an additional 5 MMTCO2e per year in Oregon’s natural and working lands and waters by 2030, and at least 9.5 MMTCO2e per year by 2050.

What are natural climate solutions?

Natural climate solutions are activities that protect or enhance the ability of natural and working lands to sequester and store carbon or reduce greenhouse gas emissions while maintaining or increasing climate resilience, human well-being, and biodiversity. They can protect Oregon communities and natural resource economies from climate-fueled droughts, wildfires, and unprecedented heat.

For more information, please contact:

Julia DeGraw
Coalition Director, Oregon League of Conservation Voters
(503) 347-3599
julia@olcv.org

Dylan Kruse
Vice President, Sustainable Northwest
(303) 328-7524
dkruse@sustainablenorthwest.org

This figure illustrates NCS potential relative to Oregon’s 2018 projected business-as-usual emissions trajectory and state 2050 statutory goal. The white area shows the needed fossil fuel mitigation across other sectors while the colored wedges show the potential contribution of NCS. Modified from Graves et al. 2020.