We focus the power of science on critical issues important to Oregon

Every day, in every community across Oregon, people are engaged in learning and discovery through OSU’s statewide programs. From 4-H and Master Gardeners to food innovation and forest engineering, we solve problems and create opportunities in communities across Oregon. With OSU faculty stationed in every county, the state truly is our campus.

Sustainable Management of Working Landscapes – Much of Oregon’s productivity comes from its forests, farms, and ocean. The Statewide Programs help create practical approaches to sustain at-risk species such as marbled murrelet and sage-grouse, and to eradicate invasive species, manage juniper, and support agricultural production from coast to high desert.

Water Quality and Quantity – Urban and rural communities across Oregon require clean water. The Statewide Programs are examining specific agricultural and forestry practices that ensure water quality and reduce water use. Statewide programs in coastal communities are assessing the social, environmental, and economic impact of changes to coastal waters.

Value-Added Manufacturing and Economic Vitality – Oregon is reinventing its resource-based, globally competitive industries in rural communities. The Statewide Programs are developing new technologies for value-added agricultural, seafood, and forestry products that create family-wage jobs in rural communities where they are most needed. And we are partners in developing Oregon’s outdoor economy.

Public Health, Food Safety and Security – The Statewide Programs help ensure that Oregon families have what they need to live healthy lives. Programs address the entire food system, from breeding new crops and developing food safety practices, to teaching family nutrition and promoting community health across the state.

Educating the Workforce of Tomorrow - Excellence in education begins with Extension programs such as 4-H, that fosters youth development, and Juntos, that empowers student success. Statewide faculty use research facilities across the state to provide students with career-building experiential learning and extend access to lifelong learning through Oregon Open Campus.
AES research supports Oregon’s $5.4 billion agriculture industry through more than $50 million in research grants
With more than 400 scientists on campus and across the state, AES creates new opportunities for productivity, profitability, environmental quality, and human health.

Master Gardeners and other Extension master-level education programs expand OSU’s outreach
Last year, 3,300 OSU-trained Master Gardener volunteers donated 215,599 hours to their communities, a service worth nearly $5 million dollars.

4-H Youth Development engages nearly 50,000 Oregon children and teens in building careers and love of learning
OSU Extension 4-H clubs and programs focus on science, healthy living, civic engagement, and citizenship, with an emphasis on access and inclusiveness.

Extension’s County College prepares new lawmakers for leadership roles
OSU Extension and the Association of Oregon Counties designed a 72-hour program to help newly elected county officials successfully navigate government systems and issues.

OSU’s expanded youth development and college/career readiness programs serve more communities
Four new OSU Open Campus and 4-H Youth Development positions are strengthening connections to the community, including to Latino families and other underserved audiences.

Experiential learning opportunities prepare students for meaningful careers
A new Experiential Learning Program connects 250 students each term with as many as 50 companies, agencies, and research stations for hands-on, career-building experience.

Invertebrate pest program targets re-emerging problem with slugs in the Willamette Valley
OSU’s new invertebrate pest specialist is developing management-focused research to battle invasive slugs without harming beneficial invertebrates.

Understanding murrelet nesting habitat is key to balanced forest management
A multi-year effort is underway to capture, radio-tag, and track murrelets at sea to understand their nesting patterns in relation to the actively managed forestlands they occupy.

Investments in statewide programs build vitality across the state
Extension helps boost coastal economies through tourism and business development

A new Extension program is encouraging regional collaboration toward a sustainable tourism and outdoor economy for coastal Oregon and beyond.

OSU leads a new center for food safety
OSU leads a new $1.2 million, NIFA-funded center where research and Extension faculty will help growers and processors comply with strict new food safety requirements.

OSU’s fermentation sciences grows in prominence with Oregon’s $16 billion food and beverage industries
OSU’s rapidly growing fermentation program supports these industries with research, outreach, and the highest quality graduates trained in state-of-the-art facilities.

Forest and fishery outreach strengthen Oregon's natural resource–based industries
Research, testing, and outreach support manufacturing of new value-added wood building products and forest education. And expanded research and outreach support fisheries management and critical marine and coastal issues.

Leveraging Financial Resources

State funding leverages federal grants, contracts, capacity funds, and private donations for a ten-fold return in economic impacts

SWPS scientists help bring communities together for sustainable ranching and rangeland conservation
Broad collaboration is resulting in methods to enhance sage-grouse habitat, reduce invasive weeds and fire intensity, and support sustainable grazing in eastern Oregon.

Pollinator health program is improving survival of state's honey bees
OSU’s new bee diagnostic facility and expanded outreach are finding management solutions to pollinator malnutrition, pests, diseases, pesticides, and low genetic diversity.

Statewide programs address issues of water quality and quantity across Oregon
Expanded programs in the Klamath Basin and elsewhere are addressing agricultural water quality, stormwater, fertilizer transport, and management of nearshore fisheries.

Community health services are expanding through Extension engagement with statewide partners
Extension faculty, partly supported by county funds, are coordinating community health assessments in collaboration with health departments, insurers, and health care providers.

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The idea of research and education in the service of the people began with the Morrill Act of 1862 that created the nation’s land-grant university system, during the height of the Civil War. The Hatch Act followed in 1887, creating a national network of Agricultural Experiment Stations, and in 1914, the Smith-Lever Act established the Cooperative Extension Service in every state. The McIntire-Stennis Act created the Forest Research Laboratory in 1962.

Today, the state’s contributions to these three Statewide Public Service Programs are funded by separate line items in the Oregon budget, matched by federal and local funds.