The Statewide Need:
Oregon is a large and diverse state, with rich natural resources supporting a strong forestry and agricultural industry, from the irrigated vegetable fields and semi-arid rangelands of eastern Malheur County to the wet, coastal forests of Coos and Curry Counties. These industries support many thousands of Oregon families and communities across the state. The Oregon State University Extension Service (OES) is the critical link between research conducted on the campus and at regional research centers, and the users of this new knowledge. OES puts knowledge to work; and this knowledge is needed now, more than ever, to get Oregon’s natural resources industries back on their feet after the great recession. Urban and rural Oregon may seem vastly different in many respects, but they are closely linked. The vast environmental benefits like clean water, viewsheds, forests, wildlife habitat, etc. are prized by all Oregonians, and they are provided by rural Oregon. Likewise, the vibrant agricultural enterprises across the state provide many environmental and economic services that fuel industries and provide high quality, inexpensive local foods for us all. It’s time to get one Oregon working together to build strong communities and economies and OSU Extension is poised to contribute.

Desired Investment Levels
Minimum
This investment level will provide seven new FTE to the Oregon Extension Service’s four Programs: Agriculture & Natural Resources (3), 4H Youth Development (1), Forestry & Natural Resources (2), and Sea Grant (1). These seven positions will be distributed across the state in order to provide core educational programs supporting sustainable agriculture, food, marine, and forestry systems, and community development. Educational programs will focus on livestock and rangeland issues; youth development at the local level; sustainable small woodland operations; water quality; and marine resources. Funds Requested: $1,000,000 annual/$2,000,000 biennial.

Modest
This investment level will provide 20 new FTE to the Oregon Extension Service’s four Programs: Agriculture & Natural Resources (8), Forestry & Natural Resources (6), 4H Youth Development (3) and Sea Grant (3). Additionally, one FTE will be provided to Extension and Experiment Station Communications. These positions will be distributed across the state in order to provide core educational programs supporting sustainable agriculture, food, marine, and forestry systems, and youth development. Educational programs will focus on livestock and rangeland issues; cropping systems (dryland crops, vegetables, tree fruits and nuts, and viticulture); agricultural impacts on water quality; positive youth development, especially agriculture and technology topics engaging youth; sustainable small woodland operations; and community economic development through engagement with local government and natural resource-based industries. Funding for 1.0 FTE will allow Extension Communications to harness the power of social media, mobile technologies, and multimedia learning materials, to increase the participation of many more Oregonians. Funds Requested: $3,000,000 annual/$6,000,000 biennial.

Desired
This investment level will provide 34 new FTE to the Oregon Extension Service’s four Programs: Agriculture & Natural Resources (16), Forestry & Natural Resources (10), 4H Youth Development (5) and Sea Grant (5). Additionally, two FTE will be provided to Extension and Experiment Station Communications. These positions will be distributed across the state in order to provide core educational programs supporting sustainable agriculture, food, marine, and forestry systems, positive youth development, and rural prosperity through community development. Educational programs will focus on livestock and rangeland issues; cropping systems (dryland crops, vegetables, tree fruits and nuts, and viticulture); agricultural impacts on water quality; consumer horticulture; small farm management; tourism/economic development; invasive weeds and pests; pesticide safety and use; nursery and greenhouse production systems; specialty crops such as cranberries and ornamental flowers; youth development, especially using agriculture and technology topics engaging youth; youth workforce development; curriculum development and support; sustainable small woodland operations; silviculture and forest production systems and ecosystem services; and natural resource-based economic development through industry partnerships with new product development, marketing assistance, workforce development, environmental health and safety training, and linkages with the latest research. With funding for 2.0 FTE, Extension Communications will harness the power of social media, mobile technologies, and multimedia learning materials, to increase the participation of many more Oregonians. Funds Requested: $5,000,000 annual/$10,000,000 biennial.