

CREATING A COASTAL RESILIENCE POLICY NETWORK TO INCREASE CROSS-JURISDICTIONAL COORDINATION AND ACCELERATE COASTAL ADAPTATION

Proposal for NOAA Coastal Management Fellow, 2025-2027

NOAA Office for Coastal Management

October 18, 2024



Nehalem, OR during a king tide event. Credit: Tyler Sloan, 2021

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Brenda D Bateman

Dr. Brenda Bateman, Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development Director

Lisa Phipps, Oregon Coastal Management Program Manager

BACKGROUND AND INTRODUCTION

While Oregon's coastal resources and communities are facing unprecedented challenges from changing ocean and climate conditions, they lack tailored tools and capacity to incorporate climate resilience strategies into local government plans and policies. In addition, addressing flooding, storm surge, sea level rise, warming coastal waters, and more, requires coordination and expertise beyond a single jurisdiction to efficiently identify and create local adaptation actions and policies that reduce risk to coastal populations, economies, and ecosystems. In recent years, multiple efforts have been initiated throughout Oregon's coastal zone to support adaptation to the impacts of climate change and coastal hazards at many levels and across various sectors. One area that remains underutilized and under-resourced is a coordinated approach to integrating climate change adaptation and resilience into coastal management and land use policy at the local government level. Nineteen statewide planning goals provide the framework for comprehensive land use planning in the state of Oregon; these goals are implemented at the local level. The Oregon Coastal Management Program (OCMP), which is administered by the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD), is working to develop a Coastal Resilience Policy Network (Network) to fill this gap. This Network will seek to create an integrated, achievable vision to increase the resilience of Oregon's coastal communities through improved government collaboration, policy tools and resources suited for coastal management and planning, increased engagement with Tribal nations and underserved communities, and specific policies that reduce risk to coastal populations, economies, and ecosystems.

The Fellow will provide direct support and leadership to the OCMP to launch this effort across Oregon's coastal zone. The purpose of the Network is to serve as a brainstorming, networking, and knowledge sharing platform for coastal counties, cities, Tribes, and partners to share resources, leverage expertise, develop coordinated policy solutions, and address emerging policy challenges. The focus of the Network is increasing climate resilience across the Oregon coast through land use and coastal management strategies. Members of the Network will be equipped with the latest information about climate resiliency and ecological, economic, and social resources for their geographies. The Network will host an annual summit in addition to more frequent meetings, allowing for knowledge sharing and providing opportunities for regional coordination and collaboration. Meetings may also include presentations from guest speakers based on the issues identified within the Network as needing more research or information. This coastwide information will be incorporated into an existing system of web-based resources that include partners such as Oregon Sea Grant and the Cascadia Coastlines and Peoples Hazards Hub. This will ensure that the information is available to the Network members and the public to inform planning into the future. The Fellow will also help the OCMP develop a structural framework to ensure the Network can be self-sustainable beyond the fellowship timeframe with a team of coastal staff moving to a support role.

A priority of the OCMP is to assist our partners in addressing climate impacts through policy and management strategies utilizing land use as the unifying factor. These strategies should be informed by best available science, traditional knowledge, and nature-based approaches. We are taking a multi-pronged approach to assisting communities in implementing climate resilience and adaptation, which the Network will help to advance.

PROJECT NEED: While the State of Oregon is increasingly prioritizing climate change mitigation and adaptation, the OCMP and its network of small coastal communities need support to understand their specific risks to climate impacts, approaches to adaptation, and responses that also work in the existing regulatory framework. In response, the OCMP is developing the foundation for a practitioner network to address these needs in a collaborative setting. The fellowship project is an opportunity to use this foundation to launch the Network and be on the ground floor of building and implementing the Network. The OCMP seeks a NOAA Coastal Management Fellow with an interest in coastal management and climate change resilience, knowledge of or interest in land use planning, the ability to work well with and facilitate diverse perspectives and align complementary projects, and the desire to make a difference in the future management of Oregon's coastal communities.

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The goal of this fellowship project is to provide capacity to advance climate adaptation policy and planning at the local government level through the creation of a peer-to-peer collaborative learning network. To accomplish this goal, the fellow will:

- 1) **Establish the Coastal Resilience Policy Network:** Design and implement a work plan that builds upon the OCMP's foundational work to launch a Coastal Resilience Policy Network with coastal land use and policy practitioners to increase cross-cutting communication, support acceleration of resilience policies, and build a coastwide collaborative web interface. The intent of this effort is to institute long-term sustainability of the Network.
- 2) **Enhance Coastal Policy Resilience and Adaptation:** Through Network meetings and collaborative communication, develop shared resilience policy resources to lay the technical foundation for updating comprehensive land use plans that incorporate inclusive engagement and climate resilience strategies;
- 3) **Provide a Sharing Platform:** Expand and administer a centralized web platform to provide information about the Network and its members, its resources and tools, events and meetings, and links to other web-based climate adaptation and resilience tools to facilitate information sharing and archive knowledge gained. Host one in-person Summit for Network members and community partners to socialize and share their collective work;
- 4) **Provide Enduring Capacity:** Produce a final set of resources that reflect the research and knowledge gained over the fellowship time period and meetings of the Network to provide lasting resources, lessons learned, and policy recommendations to continue to advance adaptation planning on the Oregon coast and beyond;
- 5) **Advance Professional Development:** Increase Fellow's awareness of coastal management issues, policies, and strategies with an equitable planning and engagement lens, and provide opportunities for professional growth through project management and implementation.

MILESTONES AND OUTCOMES

The Table below presents the anticipated project milestones and outcomes for each project objective.

Timeframe	Milestones and Outcomes
August – November 2025	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading and research completed on Oregon coastal management and statewide planning framework, ongoing climate resilience and adaptation initiatives • Meet with project Steering Committee to establish project goals and set Steering Committee meeting schedule • Fellowship work plan developed with Steering Committee input • Draft governance structure, charter, and initial membership for the Coastal Resilience Policy Network established • Attend and present about the project at the OCMP Fall Coastal Planners Network Meeting and the Oregon Sea Grant State of the Coast Conference
December 2025 – February 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Individual meetings held with several identified Network members to get feedback on draft Network structure, participation, and work plan • Network goals and initial meeting schedule developed, communications plan developed • Initial Network webpage and content established and published in coordination with key OCMP staff and DLCD Communications and IT staff • Tools and resources to incorporate into webpage identified and researched

March 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Invitations sent to identified members • Kickoff meeting held, Network governance documents reviewed and revised • Strategy developed for continuing membership growth developed • In-person summit preparation begins in coordination with Oregon Sea Grant and Steering Committee
April – September 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication strategy implementation – web resources updated, etc. • Schedule, host, and support ongoing Network meetings – at least quarterly • Meeting topics, agendas, and guest speakers established and scheduled for Network • Summit preparation continues, including organizing speakers/presentations • Identified adaptation actions and strategies developed with Network • Attend spring OCMP coastal planners network meeting
October – November 2026	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In-person Summit held in partnership with Oregon Sea Grant, Steering Committee, and project partners • Synthesize results from the in-person Summit and report findings back to Network
November 2026- February 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and publish case-studies of resilience and adaptation strategy examples for webpage and additional communications strategies implemented • Continue to hold regularly scheduled Network meetings • Develop model policy approaches for local and state governments in coordination with Network members
March- May	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attend and present at OCMP Spring Planners Network Meeting • Work on project deliverables, including project report • Make policy recommendations and approaches available on Network webpage • Identify and work on transitioning with a new Network facilitator
May – August 2027	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Final fellowship products and deliverables are completed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Evaluation of Network progress and recommendations for next steps ○ Continuity plan for Network ○ Webpage and associated resources updated with ongoing maintenance plan ○ Case studies of resilience-focused policy initiatives completed and published on website • Fellow may have the opportunity to present about the Network and project at various OCMP/DLCD events

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Currently, the OCMP and partners (further described in the ‘Project Partners’ section) are laying the groundwork for launching the Network by soliciting interest for network participation, developing a policy analysis of existing regulations through a climate resilience lens, offering resilience-based trainings, and compiling existing resources and tools. This group of partners will serve as the Steering Committee for both the Fellowship Project and the Network. This foundational work will set the Fellow up to launch and implement the Network through their fellowship project.

The Network aims to: identify opportunities and challenges for implementing climate resilience and adaptation strategies along the coast; discuss and refine tools and resources to aid Network members in their local work; ensure that underserved and under-resourced communities are engaged and represented in the outcomes; recommend policy reforms for given topics; provide a place for cross-collaboration, learning, and training; and facilitate special projects that are beyond the scope or capacity of a single jurisdiction. To maintain collaboration and create a safe space for practitioners, the Network will not be a formal decision-making body subject to public meetings law. The Network is meant to be an exploratory group to innovate and think about how to turn ideas into actionable policies within the existing legal framework and to identify legal barriers that may need changing. It will also provide opportunities for practitioners to identify their learning needs and information gaps and for the Fellow and partners to provide training opportunities that meet those needs, such as implementation of racial equity strategies in land use planning at the local and state levels. Work of the Network may include meetings and discussions, equity trainings, professional development, topic workshops, participation in annual summit gatherings, and input on the development of a resource sharing online platform. The Fellow and OCMP staff will create this webpage to host information about the Network, its participants, and resources and tools available for resilience policy decision making, including utilizing existing online platforms and tools. The webpage could also include links to case studies as examples of resiliency-focused policy initiatives, a searchable database of resilience and mitigation actions, and an “ask an expert” function. The webpage will facilitate information sharing and archive knowledge gained over time.

The coastwide Network will be built from similar successful models in other coastal states (e.g., New Jersey’s Coastal Resilience Collaborative, Washington’s Coastal Hazards Resilience Network, New Hampshire’s Coastal Adaptation Workgroup), and will provide the necessary forum to work toward holistic goals, such as long-term community risk reduction, enduring local capacity, regional coordination and collaboration, and equity and inclusion. The Network will host interdisciplinary discussion forums, review and revise technical resources and tools, and help identify gaps, needs, and constraints that hinder resilience actions on the coast. The Network will also strive to host an annual in-person gathering with members and the larger coastal community to share their collective work and build support for climate resilience actions. The Fellow will lead the planning and hosting of one in-person Network Summit gathering at the start of their second year in partnership with an existing conference hosted by Oregon Sea Grant called State of the Coast.

The Fellowship project will focus on the following:

- Developing the Network governance structure to ensure the sustainability of the Network;
- Inviting members to participate;
- Launching and day-to-day operations of the Network;
- Leading internal and external communications among and for the Network;
- Leading project management for online platform creation, content, and design;
- Scheduling meetings, coordinating events, and other logistics for the Network;
- Leading Tribal and community engagement;
- Conducting collaborative planning activities during meetings;
- Creating member email lists, developing and sending regular e-newsletters, and responding to Network inquiries;
- Assisting the Network with agenda creation and participating in idea generation for meaningful and productive meetings;
- Planning and hosting at least one in-person summit for the Network membership and other leaders and community members;
- Acting as a reviewer focused on environmental justice and equity best practices for all project activities to ensure new approaches are incorporated;

- Liaising with the state Environmental Justice Council¹, county health departments, and other experts to ensure the Network is considering and including vulnerable communities and addressing challenges for the broadest set of community members possible; and
- Researching and recommending a long-term structure for the Network to be an enduring forum to address future community and climate resilience needs.

It is anticipated that the Network will consist of two major subgroups:

- The Governments subgroup will be open to coastal local, state, Tribal, regional councils, and federal government staff. All interested Tribal governments will be invited to participate as individual sovereign nations. Tribes will retain control of their data, knowledge, and what they choose to share.
- The Community subgroup will be open to non-governmental participants that are committed to open dialogue, communication across viewpoints, and solutions that the group could lead or partner with a government to accomplish. This subgroup may include, but will not be limited to, watershed councils, soil and water conservation districts, tourism organizations, water-dependent economic development groups, environmental and conservation groups, researchers, community-based organizations, environmental consultants, and recreation advocates.

The Fellow, with support from the Steering Committee, will facilitate meetings, workshops, and training for the subgroups, which will meet both independently and jointly depending on the topic and expertise. The Fellow will also organize one in-person Summit gathering of the full Network in partnership with Oregon Sea Grant and other partners. The Network's efforts and discussions will support the synthesis of technical, legal, and policy information that local governments need, but do not have the capacity or expertise to take on independently. For example, the Network may discuss how to craft and implement a "Sea Level Rise Overlay Zone" to address uses and activities occurring in the zone between coastal waters and the extent of expected tidal inundation from sea level rise, and how those uses and activities may interact with existing floodplain ordinance regulations. The Network could also discuss existing climate-related data and invite guest speakers to walk through those data and how they could be used in a regulatory setting. The Network can also serve as a venue for working through new or challenging state and federal policy requirements in a collaborative setting. Steering Committee members will lead development of these coastwide products with extensive review and feedback provided by the subgroups. If additional expertise is needed, the Fellow will work with Network members to procure that expertise. The Network will also strive to ensure that policy updates and changes adopted at the local level will fit into a broader regional vision of a resilient Oregon coast.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION, AND JUSTICE

The Oregon coast is predominantly composed of small rural communities, most of which have populations of 2,000 people or less and are under-resourced. Climate change poses one of the most significant threats to Oregon's economy, environment, and way of life. These impacts will affect all Oregonians, but will hit low-income communities, communities of color, and rural communities the hardest. Climate challenges today require an equity-centered effort. Our project seeks to advance equity and inclusion of Oregon's coastal communities, including communities that have historically been underrepresented, particularly Tribal communities. Many Tribal governments regained federal recognition after termination by the federal government after local comprehensive land use plans were initially completed. The proposed Network will invite all nine Federally Recognized Tribes in Oregon to participate as they are able, which will provide a platform for Tribes to engage more directly with local governments in coastal management policy. Incorporating Tribes' perspectives in coastal planning updates is critical to

¹ <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/policies/pages/environmental-justice-council.aspx>

appropriately and inclusively managing coastal resources and uses. Additionally, project partner, The Pew Charitable Trusts, has committed to offer honoraria for tribal staff to participate in the Network to compensate them for their time as well as all other Network participants and invited guests. The Network will also serve as an enduring platform for discussing how to address climate challenges through equitable resilience policies and planning processes.

DLCD is committed to fostering a diverse, equitable, and inclusive environment while working to address the effects of climate change. The strategy for advancing equity for this project will rely on the department's Equity Framework for Decision Making, which helps center racial equity for any projects the department undertakes. Additionally, the three major strategies identified in the [Oregon Climate Equity Blueprint](#): embed data and equity and accountability into design; lead meaningful community engagement, and improve data collection and use, are embedded in [DLCD's 2023-2031 Strategic Plan](#) and will provide further guidance.

FELLOW MENTORING

WHO: The Fellow will be co-mentored by experienced coastal staff at OCMP: Meg Reed, Coastal Policy Specialist (primary) and Rhiannon Bezore, Coastal Shores Specialist. Both Meg and Rhiannon will be integral in leading the Coastal Resilience Policy Network with the Fellow. They will provide guidance to the Fellow on project management, partner engagement, climate change resilience, land use planning, and coastal zone management. Both mentors will establish regular check-ins throughout the project and will be available as needed. The Fellow will also confer regularly with the Coastal Program Manager, Lisa Phipps, the internal DLCD Climate Team, and periodically with other DLCD staff (such as the Natural Hazards Team, National Flood Insurance Coordinator, and North and South Coast Regional Representatives). The Fellow will be expected to participate in twice per month coastal staff meetings and once per month all-staff meetings held in the Salem Office or virtually, and in semi-annual coastal network meetings with program partners and local planners. In addition, it is anticipated that the fellowship project will include many meetings to implement and support the Network.

VALUE TO FELLOW: The Fellow will be welcomed as a member of DLCD's Oregon Coastal Management Program team, and will:

- Be provided opportunities to join staff on field visits, at internal and external meetings, and at a range of regional coastal events;
- Have opportunities to meet and engage with coastal specialists from local governments, state and federal agencies, nonprofit groups, consulting firms, and academic institutions;
- Be supported to participate in initiatives outside of project work, as time and interest allow, including DLCD's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee and DLCD's Tribal Liaison Program Team;
- Be encouraged to use initiative and creativity in developing the project;
- Be encouraged to communicate about their work at regional and national meetings.

This project will provide the fellow with an excellent opportunity to:

- Be at the cutting edge of a new initiative to help accelerate climate resilience and adaptation across the Oregon coast;
- Complete deliverables that will build their skills and resumé;
- Gain experience in transforming data, tools, and guidance into actionable strategies to support practical decision-making needs;
- Establish productive working relationships with a variety of coastal professionals;
- Gain experience working in a state coastal management program;
- Spend two years working in a positive and inclusive environment with opportunities to contribute to the direction of future work.

OFFICE ENVIRONMENT

The Fellow will be based at the DLCD office in Salem, OR and will have the option to telework up to four days per week. Fellowship check-ins with mentors will be a combination of virtual and in-person formats. Where the Fellow chooses to live is flexible but must be within driving distance of the Salem office. With this being said, DLCD also has an office in Newport, OR that can be utilized by the Fellow in coordination with the Program Manager and mentors. A computer workstation and appropriate software will be provided by DLCD, along with necessary office supplies and materials. Software employed by DLCD includes Microsoft Office, ESRI, and Adobe products. The agency is PC-based with each staff member assigned a cell phone, laptop computer, docking station, two computer monitors, headset, mouse, and keyboard, as well as access to an equipment pool that includes printers, plotters, scanners, projector, and hybrid meeting equipment. The Fellow must provide their own internet connection for telework.

A state or rental vehicle will be available for the Fellow's use, as well as reimbursement for travel in accordance with state travel rules. It is anticipated that the Fellow will engage with communities and in other agency events and meetings in-person to the maximum extent practical. However, if restrictions require it, DLCD has the technology and skill to conduct virtual events and meetings as needed.

PROJECT PARTNERS

LOCAL GOVERNMENTS: The central focus of this fellowship project is providing a peer learning network for local coastal governments (cities and counties) in which they can share best practices between government staff and identify specific policy gaps and needs. The OCMP network includes eight coastal counties and thirty-four cities. Participation in the Coastal Resilience Policy Network will be optional and up to each jurisdiction to decide their level of involvement. The fellow will provide primary communications with these partners. Network involvement for local government partners will include participation in meetings and discussions, equity trainings, professional development, topic workshops, annual summit gatherings, and the development of a resource sharing online platform.

OREGON SEA GRANT works with coastal communities to support resilient communities and economies and as such, they are an important partner in supporting the Coastal Resilience Policy Network. They also host an annual State of the Coast event to engage participants in marine science and policy issues and provide a networking forum. The conference is well attended and open to members of the public, students, researchers, practitioners, artists, and elected officials. Sea Grant is willing to add a day to the event for annual in-person Network summit meetings, which will assist with hosting logistics as well as member participation in the Summit.

THE PEW CHARITABLE TRUSTS' West Coast regional team is highly engaged in coastal management and planning in Oregon. Pew is focused on increasing strategies and actions that accelerate landscape resilience to climate change impacts. The organization is highly supportive of this proposed project and has committed to providing technical and financial support to DLCD through activities such as sponsorship of an annual in-person Network meeting, honoraria for Tribes and other Network members who need support to participate in the group, and support to help fill some of the additional data needs identified during project implementation.

OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY includes several faculty members working on coastal hazards and climate change impacts. Several are willing to work with and support the needs of the fellowship project and the Coastal Resilience Policy Network, including those involved in the Cascadia Coastlines and Peoples Hazards Research Hub. This effort, funded by the National Science Foundation, provides coordinated research in Pacific Northwest coastal communities among numerous academic and government organizations to inform and enable integrated hazard assessment, mitigation, and adaptation in collaboration with local communities. OSU is also home to the Oregon Climate Change Research Institute. By partnering with OSU, the Network will have access to up-to-date research that can then be used to make public policy decisions and will open dialogue and networking between information providers and users.

OTHER STATE OF OREGON AGENCIES, most of which are partners of the OCMP, will be consulted throughout the duration of the project as needed, especially regarding data, policies, programs, and resources identified by the Network as important to forwarding its goals (e.g., Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife, Oregon Department of State Lands).

COST-SHARE DESCRIPTION

The State of Oregon will contribute a \$15,000 federal cash match. DLCDC will contribute this \$15,000 from capacity funding the department received from the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) to advance and support coastal resilience. This fellowship project was identified in the workplan for usage of these IRA funds. DLCDC will also support the Fellow through providing necessary workspace, equipment, materials and supplies, and support services. DLCDC, through federal funds, will provide access to a state vehicle and cover in-state travel related expenses to complete the fellowship project and participate in related meetings and events.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

This proposal addresses elements of the three strategic focus areas identified by NOAA for the 2025-2027 coastal management fellowship program: 1) healthy coastal ecosystems; 2) resilient coastal communities; and 3) vibrant and sustainable coastal economies. All three of these focus areas are embedded in the vision and priorities of the OCMP. Oregon's coastal communities, economies, and ecosystems are all vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. The Coastal Resilience Policy Network will create an integrated, achievable vision to increase the resilience of Oregon's coastal communities through improved collaboration, tools, resources, and policies that reduce risk to coastal populations, economies, and ecosystems. The Network launched with this fellowship project will create increased local capacity to advance complex climate resilience actions across the coast and result in on-the-ground resilience actions and policy level adaptation measures that would not be possible without this work. A shared vision can also help people come to terms with the challenges of the future and lead to better preparation. Policy adoption and implementation is an important and effective climate adaptation tool because it shapes over time how the land and water are developed, how resources are protected or restored, and how undesirable impacts from activities are avoided or minimized. Policies that local jurisdictions may consider include the need for shoreland zone changes to accommodate upland wetland migration or requiring sea level rise-informed design in permitting of new structures. Additionally, increasing protections through policy for coastal habitats can lead to co-benefits such as flood reduction, improved water quality, increased recreation opportunities, and storm buffering, which leads to the protection of economic, cultural, and ecological assets and investments. Finally, the Network and the Fellow will support strengthened and lasting partnerships, knowledge exchange, and communication among Tribal Nations, local jurisdictions, community groups, and natural resource agencies to implement coordinated coastal management actions across the coastal zone.



October 9, 2024

Fellowship Coordinator
NOAA Coastal Services Center
2234 South Hobson Avenue
Charleston, SC 29405

Re: Pew support for Oregon's Coastal Management Fellowship proposal

Dear Fellowship Coordinator,

The Pew Charitable Trusts is pleased to support the Oregon Coastal Management Program's (Program) proposal to the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) for the Coastal Management Fellowship proposal entitled, "Creating a Coastal Resilience Policy Network to Increase Cross-Jurisdiction Coordination and Accelerate Coastal Adaptation." As part of the project, the Fellow would stand up a coastwide resilience policy network, start compiling a coastal adaptation guide, and highlight network accomplishments or challenges at a new yearly Coastal Resilience Summit. The proposed project is a critical step toward improving the resilience of Oregon coastal communities, estuaries, coastline, and watersheds.

The proposed project aligns with Pew's work to support policy and planning efforts to ensure estuarine health in the face of climate change and other coastal hazards. Nationally, Pew is focused on facilitating strategies and actions that accelerate landscape resilience to climate change impacts. Specifically, Pew's West Coast regional team is engaged in estuary management planning that explicitly accounts for the important ecosystem services that healthy estuaries provide, including habitats for fisheries and carbon sequestration.

We are excited to participate in the Program's work with Oregon communities to develop the first ever coastwide coastal resilience policy network and provide technical resources that local communities need to incorporate climate resilience action into estuary and coastal shoreland management plans. As project collaborators, we offer in-kind support that would include activities such as:

- Convening support for trainings, dialogues, or as part of the Annual Summit to build stakeholder and community engagement and facilitate knowledge transfer and relationship building.
- Honoria support for Tribal Nation, academic, and climate equity experts to guide, educate, and illuminate barriers and solutions as needed.

The Oregon Coastal Management Program's efforts to increase resiliency are of key importance to the long-term protection and health of Oregon's coastal habitat. Thank you for your consideration of this proposal.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Elizabeth Ruther". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being more prominent.

Elizabeth Ruther
Officer, U.S. Conservation
The Pew Charitable Trusts



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1600 SW Western Blvd, Ste 350
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October 15, 2024

Re: Letter of support for Oregon Coastal Management Program's Fellowship Application

Dear Nicholas Needle,

Oregon Sea Grant is pleased to support the Oregon Coastal Management Program's (OCMP) proposal to NOAA for a Coastal Management Fellowship Project entitled, "Creating a Coastal Resilience Policy Network to Increase Cross-Jurisdictional Coordination and Accelerate Coastal Adaptation." The proposed project will improve capacity and build a community of practice for coastal communities to address climate change. Climate change amplifies many of the challenges we already face including increases in storms, flooding, and water-related challenges as well as increases in fires, all of which impact local environments and economies.

This project aligns strongly with Oregon Sea Grant's strategic plan, specifically our Resilient Communities and Economies Goal 2) *Engage with diverse communities, partners, and interested parties to reduce disproportionate impacts of coastal, coastal watershed, and marine hazards and stressors on vulnerable communities and support economic, social, and environmental resilience* and Goal 3) *Promote implementation and assessment of resilience strategies to address coastal, coastal watershed, and marine hazards and stressors; their interactions; and their impacts on communities, economies, and ecosystems*. This proposal complements the work Oregon Sea Grant is doing and we are enthusiastic to support it.

Our community-based Extension specialists are prepared to advise on the project and participate in some of the Policy Network meetings around aligned interests, such as trainings for local government staff. This proposed project would leverage existing Oregon Sea Grant efforts, such as helping with knowledge transfer and collaboration around a central web platform, as it would include the Oregon Coastal Hazards Ready Library and Mapper and other relevant Oregon Sea Grant resources. Lastly, Oregon Sea Grant puts on an annual coastal conference, State of the Coast, and would coordinate with the OCMP project so that they can secure an additional day for the project. Oregon Sea Grant will coordinate with DLCD to co-promote the OCMP project day to enhance reach and connect with Oregonians.

We know there is widespread support for this project among coastal communities as well. Oregon Sea Grant convened coastal community leaders and advisors for remote and in-person workshops around climate resilience funding opportunities. The goals were to educate communities about funding opportunities, identify high priority proposal concepts, and initiate development of proposal teams. Over 70 community members and leaders participated in the workshops. Improving and updating state and local coastal resilience and estuary management was identified as one of the highest priority needs for Oregon by workshop participants.

OCMP's efforts to support community-based work to increase coastal resiliency are of key importance to the long-term protection and health of Oregon's coastal habitats and communities. We hope that NOAA will consider the fellowship project in full.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Karina J. Nielsen". The signature is written in a cursive style with a light yellow highlight behind it.

Karina J. Nielsen, Ph.D.
Director Oregon Sea Grant
Professor of Practice (Integrative Biology)



October 14, 2024

Re: Letter of support for Oregon Coastal Management Program's Fellowship Application

Dear Nicholas Needle:

The City of Cannon Beach is pleased to support the Oregon Coastal Management Program's (OCMP) proposal to NOAA for a Coastal Management Fellowship Project entitled, "Creating a Coastal Resilience Policy Network to Increase Cross-Jurisdictional Coordination and Accelerate Coastal Adaptation." The proposed project will provide critical resources and capacity for the City of Cannon Beach that is on the frontlines of changing conditions along Oregon's coast from climate change. Impacts to regional economies have cascading effects on livelihoods and well-being and without a collaborative effort, the challenges we face outstrip our current capacity to plan for and address them in a timely manner. Climate change amplifies many of the challenges we already face including many of Cannon Beach's natural features, beaches, estuaries, residential and commercial properties, critical infrastructure and emergency management services, shoreland stabilization, dunes, state parks, etc. and these challenges will become even more complex in coming years.

The City of Cannon Beach supports this project as proposed. We commit to participating in the Coastal Resilience Policy Network and working with the identified coastal management fellow to discuss issues, challenges, solutions, needs, and gaps to accelerate resilience actions in coastal communities. The proposed project fits a critical gap that City of Cannon Beach has identified and will provide us with resources to further our planning efforts.

The OCMP's efforts to support community-based work to increase coastal resiliency are of key importance to the long-term protection and health of Oregon's coastal habitats and communities. We hope that NOAA will consider the fellowship proposal in full.

Sincerely,

Steve Sokolowski



Steve Sokolowski

Community Development Director

City of Cannon Beach

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Re: Letter of support Coastal Management Fellowship for Oregon Coastal Management Program

8 October 2024

Margaret Allen, Fellowship Coordinator
NOAA Coastal Services Center
2234 South Hobson Avenue
Charleston, SC 29405

Dear Margaret Allen,

I would like to acknowledge our full support and intended collaboration for the NOAA Coastal Management Fellowship proposal of the Oregon Department of Land Conservation and Development (DLCD) entitled, “Creating a Coastal Resilience Policy Network to Increase Cross-Jurisdictional Coordination and Accelerate Coastal Adaptation.” This project proposes to develop network across Oregon to encourage development of coastal policy for coastal resilience and adaptation and integration of those changes in policy to coastal communities. This effort compliments much of the work we have been doing at OSU as part of various projects funded by Oregon Sea Grant and as part of the NSF Cascadia Coastlines and Peoples Hub and will provide significant collaborative potential with myself and other researchers at Oregon State University (OSU).

Our vision is to inform and enable integrated hazard assessment, mitigation, and adaptation in the region—including comprehensive planning, policy making, and engineering—through targeted scientific advances in collaboration with communities. DLCD’s proposed fellowship project is an ideal opportunity to leverage the research going on at OSU into relevant and timely coastal policy and bring coordination to the local government level. The Fellow will be able to work closely with students, postdocs, and faculty investigators at OSU and leverage relevant information into the Coastal Resilience Policy Network.

While other coastal states in the country have coastal policy networks, the state of Oregon does not. Oregon is not lacking of groups investigating coastal resilience, but Oregon is lacking a coherent network that fully brings coastal practitioners together to make, update, and implement critical coastal resilience policy. The proposed fellow would spearhead the formation of this network, and at the same time be backed by groups like DLCD, which is responsible for landuse policy around the state, and networks like the Cascadia Coastlines and Peoples Hub, which has been focused on bringing disparate groups of coastal researchers and community members together across the region.

Please accept this letter of support for the fellowship proposal and we look forward to this collaborative opportunity.

Sincerely,

Meagan Wengrove