



DECLARATION OF COOPERATION

EAST CASCADES OAK PARTNERSHIP

May 2020 – December 2030

PURPOSE

Oak systems in the East Cascade ecoregion represent some of the most important and beloved habitats in the Pacific Northwest with high levels of biodiversity and predicted climate resilience. Participating partners of the East Cascades Oak Partnership¹ (ECOP) believe we can accomplish long-term, higher-impact conservation through collaboration. ECOP serves as a vehicle for collective action and coordination among participating partners working to advance shared priorities.

PARTIES AND MUTUAL BENEFIT

Each partner to this Declaration assumes a role in helping to ensure functional oak systems persist across the East Cascades ecoregion. Partners assist with the implementation and adaptation of the ECOP Strategic Action Plan to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation investments. Partners acknowledge this work may include traditional conservation strategies like land protection and habitat enhancement, as well as outreach, education, policy, cultivation of new funding sources, research and monitoring. Partners agree to support each other in implementing and adapting the ECOP Strategic Plan to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of conservation investments.

ECOP VISION

Oak systems are abundant, diverse, and healthy, supporting rich biodiversity and human uses for generations to come.

ECOP MISSION

We empower people to make decisions and take actions that improve outcomes for Oregon white oak systems.

SCOPE

ECOP's service area is defined by the extent of Oregon white oak in the East Cascades ecoregion from the Yakama Nation Indian Reservation to the north and the Warm Springs Indian Reservation to the south, the Cascade Mountains to the west, and the shrub steppe of the Columbia Plateau to the east.

SERVICES

ECOP can provide participants with a host of benefits, including the following:

- Well-vetted, highly strategic priorities supported by a broad alliance of partners and stakeholders

¹ The East Cascades Oak Partnership ("ECOP") does not use the terms "partnership" and "partner" in the legal sense. ECOP is not a partnership under either Oregon or Washington law. Instead, it is a cooperative arrangement among separate legal entities.

- Networking, partnership, and collaboration opportunities
- Improved access to expertise, data, resources, and learning opportunities
- Technical resources, expert and peer review and input, and outreach
- Leveraged funding
- Credibility and visibility, expanded reach and impact
- Improved understanding of diverse values and people's relationships with land

EXPECTATIONS FOR PARTNER ENGAGEMENT

Members are individuals, businesses, organizations, or entities who participate in ECOP meetings and events. Members make important contributions to the planning process and may participate in working groups to advance ECOP goals.

Core Partners are businesses, organizations, or entities who formally adopt the Declaration of Cooperation, who participate in ECOP decision-making, and who are organizationally invested in the implementation of strategies. With the exception of sovereign tribal governments, core partners must formally sign on to this agreement. Tribes may participate as core partners in the spirit of this agreement. All partner involvement is voluntary, and participation is contingent on compliance with operating principles outlined in ECOP's governance document. This declaration in no way restricts any member from participating in similar activities with other public and private agencies, organizations or individuals, nor does it bind partners to any financial arrangement or funding obligation. Core partners may commit to providing match for specific grants or financial support for ECOP. Commitments are obligatory in good faith, or as indicated by any grant-related project commitments or contracts made by the core partner during project implementation. Core partners understand that any projects described as part of an OWEB FIP Implementation Grant Initiative will not be candidates for other OWEB funding categories for the duration of the FIP Implementation Grant.

The **administrative sponsor** is the core partner responsible for ECOP's administrative business and coordination and serves for a 5 year, renewable term. The current administrative sponsor serving from 2025-2030 is Columbia Land Trust.

The **steering committee** is responsible for governance of the partnership, as described in ECOP's governance document, including allocation and use of implementation funding secured by ECOP's fiscal or administrative sponsor on behalf of the partnership. The fiscal sponsor has discretion over funding requests and expenditures directly related to ECOP administration, including indirect costs, basic operating costs, and reimbursement rates of ECOP-dedicated staff.

Working groups are tools we use to advance ECOP priorities, particularly where a lead partner needs substantial input and support from other core partners. Any core partner may make a request to the steering committee for the formation of a working group. Working groups may have the support of paid ECOP-dedicated staff for coordination and facilitation. Determination of such support will be made by the administrative sponsor.

Partners agree to clearly communicate about the work each of us is doing in oak systems, and we intend to leverage the work each of us does in the oak landscape to accomplish more together. For more detail about the decision-making processes and governance mechanisms, please see the attached 1) ECOP Governance Document, and 2) ECOP Organizational Structure and Authorities chart.

Decision-Making

Decisions will be made by consensus ideally and by consent when necessary. Consensus focuses on personal preferences of partners and looks for 100% agreement, while consent focuses on what partners can live with and looks for no substantial objection. If consent cannot be achieved, the steering committee will make a decision by supermajority vote (60%). In these instances, the steering committee must have a quorum to hold the vote.

DECLARATION

As East Cascades Oak Partnership Core Partners, we commit to on-going investment in the mission and values of ECOP and implementation of its Strategic Action Plan, including regular attendance at partnership meetings or events, and participation in joint ECOP projects as applicable by contributing time, expertise, and/or financial resources.

Signature Date

Print Name and Title: _____ Organization: _____

ORGANIZATION POINT OF CONTACT FOR ECOP BUSINESS: _____

Name, Position

Email

Phone #