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Farm Bureau Honors Trout Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy

Oregon Farm Bureau honored Trout Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy with OFB Good Faith Awards on Dec. 12, 2019 during the 87th Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) Convention at the Salishan Resort in Gleneden Beach.

These groups were essential in helping get HB 2437, “the ditch cleaning bill,” passed by the 2019 Oregon Legislature. The legislation helps farmers more easily clean out debris from dry drainage ditches, a task that had required a very complicated, expensive permitting process. The program will roll out sometime in 2020.

“In today’s hyper-charged political climate, it is rare to find groups who will step outside the rhetoric, roll up their sleeves, and come to the table willing and ready to solve complex issues. OFB is glad to honor two groups who did just that in the 2019 legislative session with their work on House Bill 2437,” said outgoing OFB President Sharon Waterman.

“Trout Unlimited and the Nature Conservancy both sat on the workgroup convened by Rep. Susan McLain and Rep. David Brock Smith, and immediately recognized the issues with the state’s current approach to regulating drainage ditches on farmland. They worked hard to compromise and find solutions that would protect the environmental values their members support while also working for farmers and ranchers who had to clean their ditches,” said outgoing OFB President Waterman.

“They never simply said ‘no.’ Instead they always worked to find a real solution to this complex issue. They were honest brokers, which is something all farmers can appreciate,” said outgoing OFB President Waterman.

“We are happy to honor Chandra Ferrari from Trout Unlimited and Jena Carter from The Nature Conservancy with OFB Good Faith Awards for their cooperation in finding better approaches to the maintenance of farm ditches in 2019. We thank them for their steadfast efforts, and we look forward to continuing to work with both groups on critical natural resource issues,” said outgoing OFB President Waterman.

PHOTO 1: Oregon Farm Bureau honored partners who were instrumental in getting HB 2437, the “ditch cleaning bill,” passed through the state legislature this year. From left are Jena Carter of The Nature Conservancy, Chandra Ferrari of Trout Unlimited, OFB VP of Public Policy Mary Anne Cooper, Rep. Susan McLain, and Rep. David Brock Smith.
PHOTO 2: OFB Good Faith Awards were presented to Jena Carter (far left) of The Nature Conservancy in Oregon and Chandra Ferrari (far right) of Trout Unlimited for their collaborative efforts with Farm Bureau on legislation around ditch cleaning. They were presented awards by outgoing OFB President Sharon Waterman and OFB EVP Dave Dillon.


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* Note to Editors: “Farm Bureau” is a registered trademark; please capitalize in all cases.

Oregon Farm Bureau (OFB) is a grassroots, nonpartisan, nonprofit, general farm organization representing the interests of farming and ranching families in the public and policymaking arenas. First established in Oregon at the county level in 1919 and the state level in 1932, Farm Bureau is organized in all 36 counties.

Oregon Farm Bureau President Barb Iverson, elected on Dec. 12, 2019, comes from a multigenerational family farm from Woodburn, raising industrial hemp, grass seed, squash, vetch seed, hazelnuts, wine and table grapes, and operating the Wooden Shoe Tulip Festival, which attracts over 160,000 visitors each year.