

2025 Partners in Conservation (PIC) Grant Review Committee

Approved by EMSWCD Board 12/2/2024

Ramona DeNies (she/her)

EMSWCD Board, At-Large Director 1 elect

Ramona DeNies is a longtime Portland-based journalist and conservation practitioner. She's the Senior Writer at the Wild Salmon Center—a nonprofit focused on wild fish, water quality, and healthy forests across the North Pacific—and the former News, Travel, and Research Editor at *Portland Monthly* magazine. She has run communications for multiple nonprofits, including The Intertwine Alliance. Her byline and contributing writer credits appear in *Outside*, *The Believer*, *Willamette Week*, the *Seattle Met*, *The Osprey*, and Wildsam Field Guides, among other publications.

Carlos Garcia* (he/him)

Senior Program Officer, Environment, Oregon Community Foundation

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Carlos leads OCF's environmental grantmaking and supports donors in their environmental giving. He also directed the foundation's work on the multi-state Pacific Northwest Resilient Landscapes Initiative. Previously, he was a philanthropic advisor at the San Francisco Foundation and Silicon Valley Community Foundation as well as associate director of philanthropy for The Nature Conservancy. Carlos holds a bachelor's degree in psychology with a specialization in business administration from UCLA and a master's degree in environmental management from Duke University.

Roy Iwai* (he/him)

Water Resources Specialist, Multnomah County Transportation

Roy Iwai is a water quality scientist with a passion for collaboration to improve watershed health. He has managed the Water Quality Program at Multnomah County since 2007. He leads several partnerships at the local and state levels, including the Clean Rivers Coalition, a collaborative partnership dedicated to creating the first statewide clean water outreach campaign in Oregon. Roy has a master's degree in Oceanography from Louisiana State University.

Belinda Nhundu* (she/they)

Grantwriter, Align Consulting

Belinda Nhundu is a dedicated grant writer passionate about empowering BIPOC-led and serving organizations. With a profound commitment to equity and justice, Belinda has honed her expertise by securing 10 million dollars in funding for education, healthcare, and civic

engagement initiatives. Her extensive background in grant writing and a deep understanding of the unique challenges faced by BIPOC communities allow her to craft compelling proposals that resonate with funders seeking to make a positive impact. Belinda's work is distinguished by her ability to bridge the gap between innovative programmatic ideas and the financial support needed to bring them to life, ensuring that BIPOC organizations can flourish and continue their vital work in advancing social progress and community well-being.

Jared Pruch* (he/him)

Grant Management Specialist, Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District

Jared Pruch has a diverse professional background including leadership roles with school garden and environmental education nonprofits, managing grantmaking and community impact programs for United Way, and facilitating partnerships in rural food systems and wildfire recovery efforts. In 2023 he joined the Upper Willamette Soil & Water Conservation District to lead the development of a new grantmaking program. Jared holds a master's degree in environmental studies and a graduate certificate in Nonprofit Management from the University of Oregon. He is also an appointed commissioner for the OregonServes State Service Commission, which oversees AmeriCorps programs in Oregon.

Eric Rosewall* (he/him)

Ecological Landscapes Program Coordinator, Portland Parks & Recreation

Eric Rosewall has a background in landscape architecture and construction and has been involved in the Portland region's open space system through numerous public and nonprofit organizations, including as executive director of Depave. He currently coordinates Portland Parks and Recreation's Ecologically Sustainable Landscapes Initiative piloting high-impact landscape transformations that fill the urban nature gap.

Amy Stork* (she/her)

Business Owner, Amy Stork Consulting

Amy Stork is an organizational development consultant providing strategic planning, staffing, and leadership development services. Most of her clients are organizations focused on conservation, agriculture, trails and recreation--including dozens of conservation districts in Oregon and California. Amy's background also includes working for Oregon Food Bank, the City of Portland Office of Sustainable Development, and as executive director of TwispWorks, a community economic development project in rural Washington.

Nicolas Townsend* (he/him)

Wellness Program Manager, Serendipity Center, Inc.

Nicolas Townsend has 15 years' experience in sustainable urban farming and garden education. He fostered the development of the Growing Minds Garden program at Serendipity Center therapeutic school and has facilitated its growth over the past decade. Nicolas holds a master's degree in leadership for Sustainability Education from PSU where he developed an approach that is holistic, interest-based and trauma-informed. His goal is to meet students and volunteers where they are and empower them to grow their own food and support our local food system.

Stacey Triplett* (she/her)

Director of Engagement, Oregon AARP

Stacey Triplett currently serves as engagement Director at Oregon AARP, serving more than 500,000 state members and a trusted force for social change. She previously was the Community Programs Manager at Worksystems connecting federal, state, and local support with community-based employment services providers to address community wealth creation. Her environmental work consists of prior roles with Nature in Neighborhoods at Metro and the Intertwine Alliance. She serves on Groundwork USA and Proud Ground Boards of Directors. *Ella habla español*. In her youth, Stacey was an exchange student and maintains that language immersion experiences change lives.

Charlotte Trowbridge (she/her)

Education & Grants Program Manager, Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District

Charlotte Trowbridge has worked for Tualatin SWCD since 2018, developing and managing their Conservation Education Program and Grants Program. She has an academic background in ecology and environmental policy. She has worked for nonprofit organizations and public agencies in positions focused on conservation research, natural resource mitigation, and environmental education. She grew up in Portland and has focused her career on conserving and celebrating the natural environment in the Pacific Northwest.

Jenny Tseng (she/her)

Farm to School Fellow, Ecotrust

Jenny Tseng is a food systems collaborator who has held various roles in food systems, including as a farmer, food assistance provider, and school meal program researcher. Her passion lies in creating and strengthening local food systems, emphasizing food sovereignty, and dismantling colonial, paternalistic systems. She works as a Farm to School Fellow, the connector between schools, early care providers, local food producers, and government agencies in Oregon. Jenny holds a B.S. in Environmental Sciences and Public Policy from UC Berkeley.

Mary (Meier) Vogel (she/they)

Natural Resources Scientist, Metro

Mary Vogel grew up in Wisconsin and moved to the Pacific Northwest over 10 years ago. With a B.S. in Biology and Zoology from the University of Wisconsin, they have collaborated with diverse organizations to safeguard water quality and restore ecosystems throughout the region. Mary brings both scientific knowledge and a community-centered approach to conservation. They are passionate about protecting our natural resources and connecting folks with nature.

Jenny Wetzel (she/they)

Springwater School Educator

Jenny Wetzel has worked with students, researchers, farmers, and community members for more than 20 years connecting people to organic agriculture and helping build a sustainable, resilient, and connected Pacific Northwest community. Jennys's skills and experience include grant writing, grant management, organic vegetable production, data collection, statistical analysis, PNW plant identification, and sustainable landscape design. She holds a certificate in Permaculture Certificate and speaks basic Spanish.

Estefania Zavala (she/her)

Program Associate, Gray Family Foundation

Estefania Zavala recently joined the Gray Family Foundation, a supporting organization of the Oregon Community Foundation (OCF) to help support their mission of engaging people in Oregon as active stewards of communities and the environment. Before this, she worked in the Finance Department at OCF providing administrative support to organizations and trusts. Estefania was born in Peru and moved to the Pacific Northwest as a kid, eventually moving to Portland in 2012. She is currently studying Environmental Studies at Portland State with a minor in Geography and is pursuing a certificate in Indigenous Traditional Ecological and Cultural Knowledge. She is passionate about community engagement and loves getting her hands dirty at land-tending events.

*Prior PIC grant review committee member