

# REAL OREGON

## Resource Education & Agricultural Leadership Program

*Growing Natural Resource Leaders who make a difference for Oregon*

[www.realoregon.net](http://www.realoregon.net)

### NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release**

**October 8, 2019**

**Contact: Greg Addington – Executive Director, 541-892-1409**

#### Third Natural Resource Leadership Class Announced

*30 Resource Professionals Selected, Sessions Begin November 2019*

Salem, OR - REAL Oregon (Resource Education & Ag Leadership) will launch its third leadership cohort in November. Following the successful graduation of Class 1 and 2, the organization proudly announces the selection of 30 new natural resource professionals from throughout the state for Class 3. Participants were selected from a pool of well-qualified applicants and reflect a balanced mix of resource producers, foresters, agri-businesses representatives, higher education professionals, non-profit organizations, and government agencies.

Bill Buhrig, of Simplot Food Group and Board Chair for REAL Oregon, says that having success in the first two years of the program helped with recruitment for Class 3. “We had a great response to the program this year. The quality and diversity of applicants was outstanding and touched all corners of the state.”

REAL Oregon is modeled after similar programs in surrounding states and other parts of the country. This is a proven model and we know this can work and be sustainable in Oregon,” says Buhrig.

REAL Oregon is a collaboration of industry and other groups throughout the state that have recognized the importance of developing and supporting leaders within Oregon’s natural resource communities. In addition to networking opportunities and learning more about the diversity of Oregon, the program brings current and future leaders together from agriculture, fishing, and forestry for a series of five sessions based in different regions of the state. The annual leadership program exposes this cross-section of professionals to the wide range of Oregon’s geography, economy, and culture through training in board governance, communication skills, conflict resolution, government interaction, public policy work, critical thinking, media relations, professional presentations, public speaking, relationship building, and other areas.

Class 3 includes nine individuals directly involved in production agriculture, seven involved in timber production and forestry, seven from agri-businesses or other natural resource organizations, four from local and state agencies, two from resource-related university fields, and one urban participant.

“I am very excited to get this group together and watch them grow as leaders,” says Greg Addington, REAL Oregon Executive Director. “This class will build on the solid foundation established by our first two cohorts. We are continuing to fulfill the industry’s vision of building a solid, practical network of agriculture and natural resource leaders.”

Class 3 will start in November and end with a graduation ceremony in March of 2020. Recruitment of Class 4 will begin this winter. For sponsorship opportunities or more information, please contact Greg Addington through the website at [www.realoregon.net](http://www.realoregon.net) and follow REAL Oregon on Facebook.

## NORTHWEST/WILLAMETTE VALLEY -20

**Randi Bural** - *Salem*  
Relationship Manager  
Northwest Farm Credit Services

**Tricia Chastain** - *Gervais*  
Vice President of Appraisal Services  
Northwest Farm Credit Services

**Allison Cloo** - *Sandy*  
Director of Membership  
Oregon Aglink

**Dave Coates** - *Portland*  
Senior Human Resource Manager  
PCC Airfoils

**Jackson Coleman** – *St. Paul*  
Project Manager  
Coleman Agriculture

**Matthew Cook** - *Albany*  
Vice President  
Cook Family Farms

**Betsy Earls** - *Salem*  
Oregon Public Affairs Manager  
Weyerhaeuser

**Jeremy Felty** - *Corvallis*  
Administrative Forester  
Oregon Small Woodlands Association

**Rob Hamlin** – *Monmouth*  
Business Development Manager  
Riddell Farms

**Chris Hedstrom** - *Salem*  
Entomologist  
Oregon Department of Agriculture

**Matt Hegerberg** - *Sheridan*  
Owner  
Heron Timber

**Katie Kissler** - *Gresham*  
Resource Information Forester  
Hancock Forest Management

**Brent Klumph** – *Sweet Home*  
Forest Manager  
OSU Research Forests

**Heidi Leib** - *Albany*  
Logging Contract Coordinator  
Boise Cascade Wood Products

**Jolene Moxon** - *Malin*  
Ag Inspector/Program Manager  
Modoc County (CA) Agricultural Department

**Nathan Miller** - *Salem*  
Certification/Regulatory Compliance Specialist  
Oregon Department of Agriculture

**Nicole Ruggiero** - *Tigard*  
Rural Conservation Specialist  
Tualatin Soil and Water Conservation District

**Susan Schmidlin** - *Vernonia*  
Co-owner  
Schmidlin Angus Farms

**Andrea Sonnen** - *Woodburn*  
Enforcement Case Reviewer  
Oregon Department of Agriculture

**Diann Washburn**- *Dallas*  
Office Manager  
Oregonians for Food & Shelter

**Alexa Weathers** - *Gervais*  
Vice President  
Kerr Supply Company

## EASTERN/HIGH DESERT - 6

**Jason Flowers** – *Midland*  
Manager/Co-owner  
Flowers Farms

**Kelley Hamby** - *Redmond*  
Operations Manager  
Central Oregon Irrigation District

**Catherine Kiyokawa** - *Parkdale*  
Vice President/Secretary  
Kiyokawa Family Orchards

**Lisa Patrick** - *Pendleton*  
Manager  
SAGE Center, Port of Morrow

**Nicole Sullivan** – *Adrian*  
Owyhee Basin Projects Manager  
Trout Unlimited/Owyhee Watershed Council

## SOUTHERN - 4

**Brennan Garrelts** - *Roseburg*  
Logging Manager  
Lone Rock Resources

**Gordon Jones** - *Talent*  
Assistant Professor of Practice  
OSU Southern Oregon Research and Extension

**Sean Naumes** - *Medford*  
Special Projects Manager  
Naumes, Inc.

**Whitney Schimke Henneman** - *Roseburg*  
Forester  
Silver Butte Timber Company