



SUSTAINABILITY IN AGRICULTURE

Nellie McAdams

Farm Preservation Program Director

Rogue Farm Corps

Intergenerational
Transition

**LONG-TERM
SUSTAINABILITY
OF AGRICULTURE**

Voluntary
Conservation

Land
Preservation

The average age of farmers has never been higher and the number of beginning farmers and ranchers is shrinking.

CURRENT AVG.

60

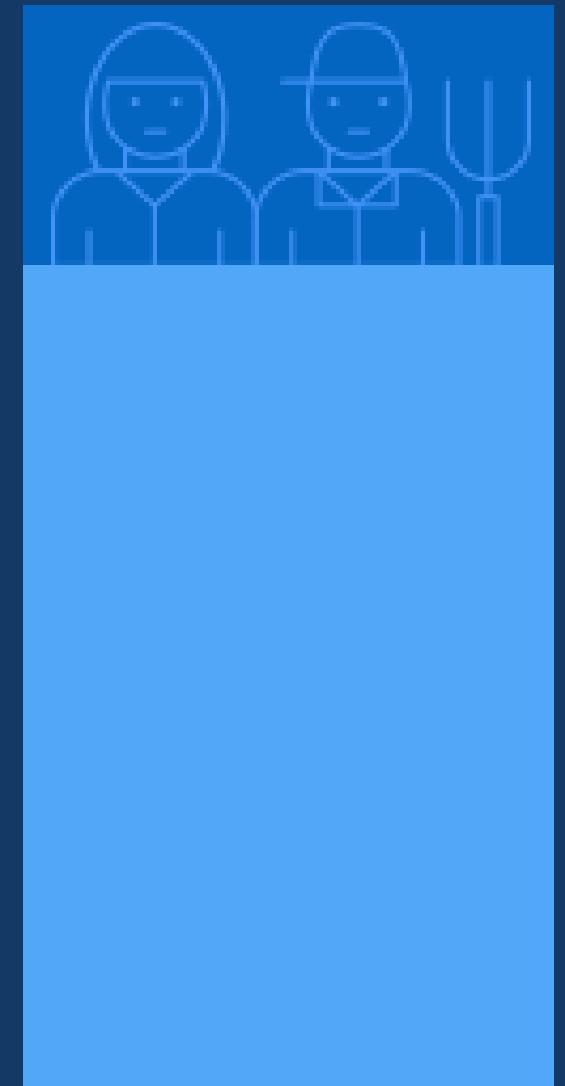
YEARS OF AGE



BEGINNING FARMERS
ENCOMPASS

24%

OF ALL
FARMERS
& RANCHERS (2012)



THESE “WORKING LANDS”
ENCOMPASS MORE THAN

25%

OF OREGON’S
63 MILLION
ACRES.



 AGRICULTURAL LANDS

OVER THE NEXT 20 YEARS,

64%

**OF OREGON'S
AGRICULTURAL LANDS
WILL CHANGE HANDS**



A close-up photograph of a person's hands writing on a document. The person is wearing a light-colored, patterned shirt. The left hand is holding a silver pen, and the right hand is resting on the document. The document has some text and lines, but it is mostly out of focus. The background is a wooden surface.

84% of Oregon farms are sole proprietorships, suggesting they have not done thorough planning for succession.

Farm Succession Planning Challenges

- Don't have successors
- Don't know where to start
- Emotionally and financially complex



Loss of Assets

LACK OF SUCCESSION PLANNING

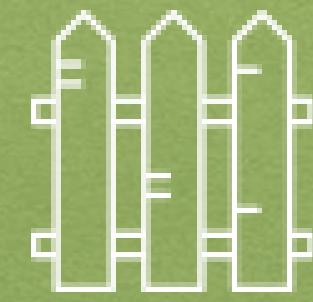


Family Strife



Limited Access for BFRs

**AS A RESULT,
PARCELIZATION
& NON-FARMER
OWNERSHIP
OCCUR**



More Fragmented
Into Parcels



Converted to
Non-Farm Uses




Harder for Beginning
Farmers

Oregon's Land Use Program

“The interests of Oregon for today and in the future must be protected from the grasping wastrels of the land. We must respect another truism – that unlimited and unregulated growth leads inexorably to a lowered quality of life.”

Oregon Governor Tom McCall, 1973



**Land Use
alone is
not enough**

**Oregon's unique land use program has
slowed development of open space**

**But 500,000 acres have been removed
from agricultural use and 65,500 acres
from EFU since the program was created**

**There are over 50 permitted non-farm
uses on EFU**

**NEW AND
GROWING
COMPETITION
FOR OREGON
FARMLAND**



Climate Refugees



Amenity Owners



Investment and
Development
Companies



THE DIFFICULTIES FARMERS & RANCHERS FACE



Succession
Planning



Access to Land





Easements & Covenants

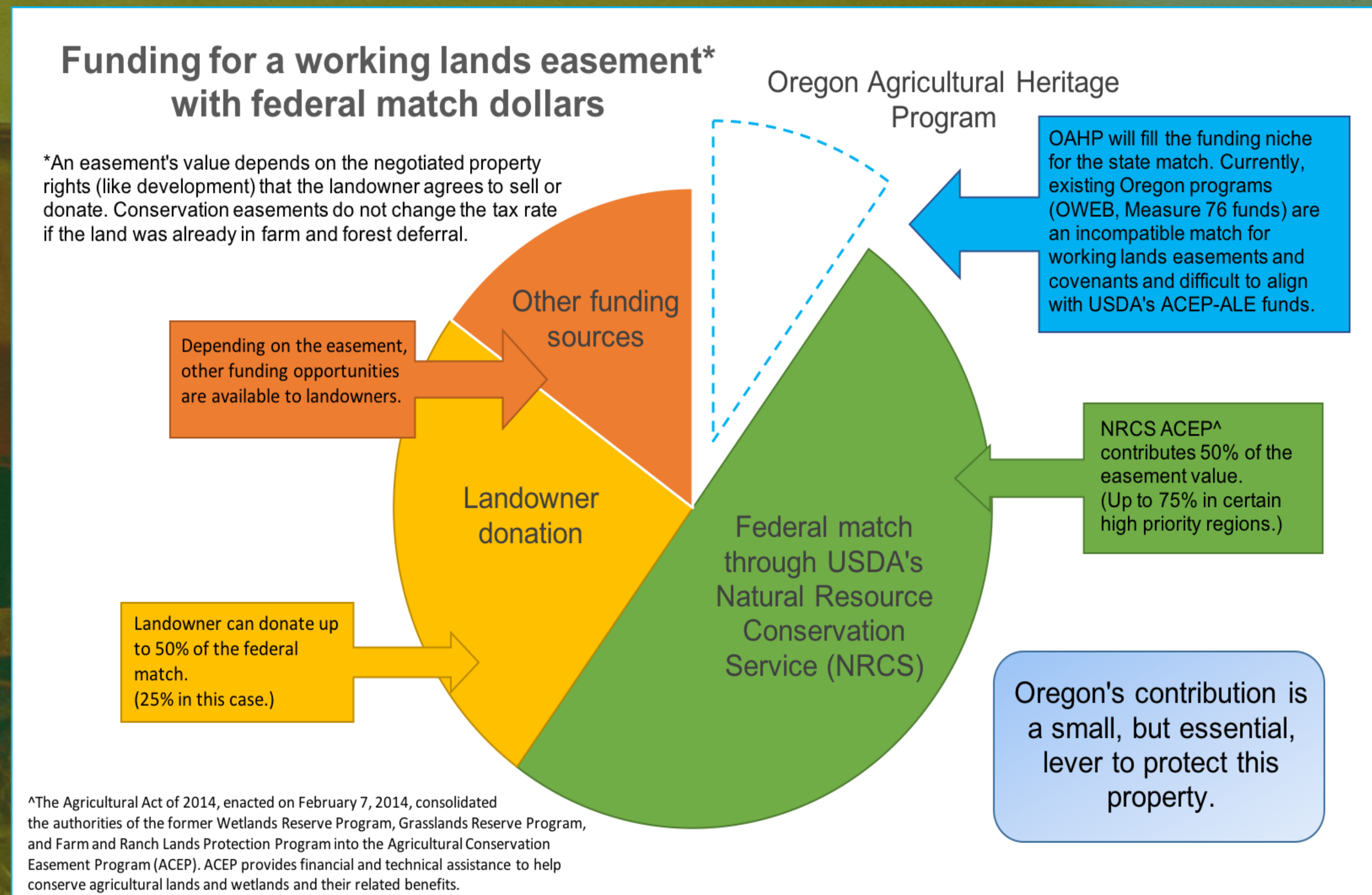
A conservation easement is a

- voluntary legal agreement
- between a landowner and land trust or government agency that
- permanently limits use of the land to protect its conservation values

Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Agricultural Conservation Easements (ACEP-ALE)

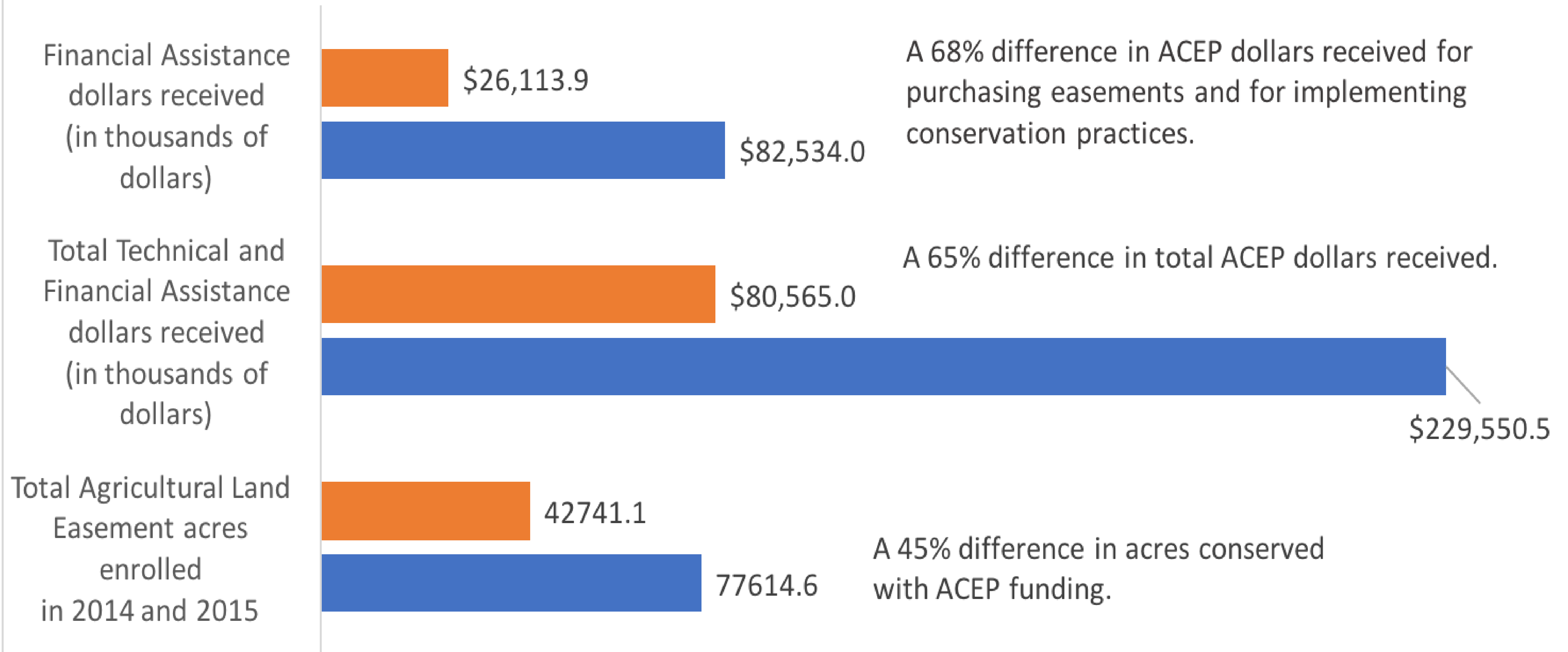
**NRCS ACEP-ALE offers
50-75% match for working
lands easements.**

**28 states have state
match programs for
ACEP-ALE.**



ACEP dollars received and acres enrolled in 2014 and 2015 between states with and without a state match agricultural conservation easement program

■ States without a state match program ■ States with a state match program



How do PNWER U.S. states measure up?

Percent of ACEP-ALE funding received

Montana* – 2.7%

Washington* – 2.6%

Idaho – 1.3%

Alaska – 0.21%

Oregon – 0.19%

* Have ACEP-ALE state match programs

Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Design

Work Group Convened by
Governor's office

Six diverse nonprofits, OWEB,
one farmer, one rancher

Met every 2 weeks for over
one year

Nine listening sessions held
across the state





Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program Elements

Match grants for voluntary conservation

- **Permanent easements**
- **Temporary covenants**
- **Conservation management plans**

Capacity building for easement holders

Succession planning workshops

Study of Oregon estate tax