

Institute for Natural Resources

Highlights 2023-2025

Delivering actionable science that shapes policy development, streamlines planning, and empowers data-driven decisions for the long-term stewardship of Oregon's natural resources.

Advancing Science-Based Decision Support. Over the last three years, INR experts developed decision-support tools, curated foundational data, and conducted applied research to inform critical policy areas. Our work provided the evidence base for water planning, land use, and carbon sequestration on natural and working lands. Furthermore, INR's contributions were pivotal in shaping national forest plans, wildfire risk reduction strategies, and broad-scale landscape resilience.

Collaborative Partnerships. To ensure technical rigor and practical utility, INR partnered with state and federal natural resource managers, academic researchers, Tribal Nations, and local communities. These collaborations ensure our data products remain relevant, accessible, and integrated into the workflows of the partners we serve.

Investing in the Future Workforce. INR is dedicated to enhancing the student experience at OSU and PSU. We provided specialized research and information management mentorship to undergraduates in conservation biology and groundwater studies. Notably, our team expanded these opportunities through participation in the National Science Foundation's Coastlines and Peoples Cascadia Research Hub's CHARTER Fellows Program.

Did you know?

INR is home to the **Oregon Biodiversity Information Center (ORBIC)**, which is the State of Oregon's Natural Heritage Program and representative on the NatureServe Network. ORBIC tracks the status and distribution of all of Oregon's flora, fauna, and fungi.

INR is the housing agency for the **Independent Research and Science Team** for the State of Oregon's Adaptive Management Program within the Oregon Department of Forestry.

By the numbers

Sensitive Species Records. 187 ranks reviewed; 117 ranks changed; 1,905 occurrences created; and, 40,336 occurrences modified.

Oregon Explorer. 458,000 pages viewed since the Oregon Explorer migrated to a new ESRI HUB platform in 2025, and 800 plus data layers can be accessed from the Oregon Explorer's mapping tools.

Assessment, Inventory, and Monitoring: Plots Sampled. 2,319 terrestrial plots in Oregon, Washington, California, and Nevada; 467 lotic plots in Oregon and Washington; 84 riparian and wetland plots in Oregon and Washington; and, 390 forest plots in Oregon, Washington, and California.

People. 40 students engaged, 121 early career seasonal field crew jobs, and 42 INR team members.

Noteworthy

Conservation Biology. Conducted applied research projects to estimate population parameters and habitat relationships of fishers, martens, cougars, Sierra Nevada red fox, porcupines, and pika in Oregon, California, and Washington in collaboration with federal, state, tribal, and industry partners, producing six peer-reviewed publications and 16 final reports.

Introducing a Fungal Monitoring Program with NatureServe. Helped to launch a new method for monitoring rare fungi: how large they are, how they change through time, and what threats they face.

National Forest Management Support. Assisted the USDA Forest Service in updating national forest management plans in the western U.S. by conducting detailed vegetation mapping (24 forests across 54 million acres) and management alternatives modeling (24 forests across 26 million acres).

Oregon's 20 Year Landscape Resiliency Strategy. Provided technical support to develop a strategy aimed at improving forests and rangelands to reduce wildfire risk.

Rare, Threatened and Endangered Species of Oregon. Produced a 2025 update to the ranks of sensitive species in the state.

Sage-Grouse Conservation Partnership (SageCon). Provided technical support to collaborating partners involved in sagebrush steppe conservation and policy at the federal, state and local levels.

USGS-PSU Partnership. Joined INR in 2025 to help provide water workforce development opportunities.

Whitebark Pine. Developed a high-resolution map of whitebark pine for the National Park Service in Oregon, Washington, and California.

Wildfire Risk Products. Collaborated with a team of experts to conduct a technical comparative review of 12 wildfire risk analytical tools used in Oregon and Washington.

By the numbers

Return on investment. 8 to 1

45+ local, state, federal, tribal, non-governmental, private, university, regional college, and community college partners

Assisted with 5 local, state or federal plans.

Prepared 663 species status accounts

Produced 40+ reports or publications

Supported 28 mapping tools

On the horizon

The Rae Selling Berry Seed Bank and Oregon's second-largest herbarium, the PSU Herbarium, will be joining INR at PSU.

INR will be working with undergraduate students across the state on a water workforce assessment project.

INR-IWW (Institute for Water and Watersheds) experts will be instructors with the well drilling apprenticeship program at Klamath Community College.

INR seeks to update mapping and assess the status of Oregon's wetlands.