

State of Oregon  
Department of Environmental Quality

Memorandum

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**Date:** May 30, 2013

**To:** Environmental Quality Commission

**From:** Dick Pedersen, Director

**Subject:** Agenda item J, Informational item: Institute for Natural Resources  
June 19-20, 2013, EQC meeting

**Why this is important** Commissioners have expressed an interest in learning more about the partner agencies, organizations and institutions that support science-based decisions in Oregon. Dr. Lisa Gaines, director of the Institute of Natural Resources, will present an overview of the institute's history and its work for Oregonians.

**Background** The Institute for Natural Resources was created under the Oregon Sustainability Act of 2001, and is a cooperative enterprise bringing the scientific knowledge and expertise of the Oregon University System and other Oregon higher education institutions to bear on natural resource management.

The Institute for Natural Resources is centered at Oregon State University, and provides science-based research to support good policy decisions and positive outcomes for Oregonians.

The Institute for Natural Resources supports Oregon's policies for best natural resource management by compiling datasets, providing access to natural resource information otherwise difficult to obtain, researching and synthesizing policies and existing data, reviewing others' scientific work, convening policy dialogues for all Oregonians and staffing a variety of interdisciplinary research teams at Oregon State University.

**EQC involvement** No action is requested. The item is an opportunity for the commission to learn about the Institute for Natural Resources and engage in discussion.

Report prepared by: Stephanie Caldera  
*Information provided by OSU and the Institute of Natural Resources*