

OREGON SUMMER FELLOWSHIP PROJECT BRIEF

Climate Resilience Advancement in Oregon's Transportation Infrastructure

Project Dates: July 2024 – September 2024

PROJECT GOAL

To support ODOT's Climate Office and Adaptation Team in enhancing Oregon's transportation infrastructure resilience through grant development, data collection, progress tracking, and innovative climate adaptation research. This project aims to strengthen ODOT's capacity to address climate-related challenges and implement effective adaptation strategies across the state's transportation network.

TAKE-AWAYS

This fellowship provided valuable insights into the complexities of integrating climate resilience into transportation planning and infrastructure development. It highlighted the importance of collaboration between state agencies, tribal nations, and research institutions in addressing climate challenges. The experience emphasized the critical role of data-driven decision-making and innovative approaches in advancing climate adaptation strategies.

- Developed grant proposals to secure funding for climate resilience projects
- Created a tracking system to monitor progress on climate resiliency initiatives
- Conducted research on biochar and air curtain incinerator (ACIs)
- Enhanced internal processes for climate-related project management

CHALLENGES

The primary challenge was adapting to unexpected delays in the Burns Paiute Protect grant's Notice of Funding dropping. This required pivoting from the original plan, focusing instead on finalizing tribal project collaborations, developing preliminary grant language, and gathering standard data for future Protect grant applications.

STRATEGY

The approach centered on building a robust network of connections for biochar research and grant development. Leveraging strong communication skills, I engaged with various stakeholders to gather information and complete tasks. Additionally, I utilized my data analysis and writing expertise to craft compelling grant language and support project initiatives.

RESULTS

Despite the unexpected pivot, the fellowship yielded significant outcomes. We strengthened partnerships with tribal nations, advanced climate resilience initiatives, and laid groundwork for future grant applications.

- Completed comprehensive biochar/ACI research and produced an informative one-pager
- Developed a climate resiliency roadmap tracker to monitor progress on key initiatives
- Established foundation for future Protect grant applications with preliminary language and data
- Successfully submitted an NCHRP grant proposal as sole author