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Special Districts Association of Oregon (SDAO) Honors Special Districts and Individuals

Three Oregon special districts and five individuals were recognized on Saturday, February 8th at the 2025 SDAO Annual Conference held at the Riverhouse Convention Center in Bend, Oregon. Each year, the SDAO Awards Program honors member districts for accomplishments which allow them to provide better service to the public and gives recognition to individuals who have greatly contributed to the success of their special district.

Nominations were collected throughout the year and reviewed by the SDAO Awards Committee, and the winners were selected using a scoring matrix. The 2025 award categories and recipients include:

Outstanding Special District Program Award

Special districts are recognized for innovative projects and programs, outstanding safety, public information, public involvement in a district decision-making process, and outstanding achievement.

- **5 or Fewer Employees:** Nehalem Bay Health District
- **6-25 Employees:** Pleasant Hill Goshen RFPD
- **26 or More Employees:** Umatilla County Fire District #1

Outstanding Special District Service Award

This category recognizes an individual board member, manager, staff member, or volunteer who has contributed substantially to the improvement and successful operation of his or her district.

- **Board Member:** Debra Moberly, Nehalem Bay Health District
- **Manager:** Wade Hathhorn, Sunrise Water Authority
- **Employee:** Will Steinweg, Mist-Birkenfeld RFPD
- **Volunteer:** Carla Grano, Southview Improvement District

Legacy of Service Award

This award is a symbol of recognition of the unwavering dedication and long-time service of an extraordinary individual to special districts in their community.

- Josh Thompson, Wasco County SWCD

The spring issue of the *SDAO News and Risk Management Review* will cover each award recipient and their achievements in greater detail. Videos of each award recipient are available at www.sdao.com/sdao-awards-program.

Special Districts Association of Oregon represents over 920 special districts in the state of Oregon assisting them in providing cost-effective and efficient public services to the people of Oregon. For more information, please visit www.sdao.com.

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