

Natural Resources Conservation Service

# Soil Science Division

Soil Survey Region 2

March 2020



## Klamath Falls MLRA Soil Survey Office

### Soil Survey Office Personnel Attend Winter Meeting of the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists

#### Summary

Chris Gebauer and Katrin Chambers from Soil Survey Office 2-KLF attended the annual winter meeting of the Oregon Society of Soil Scientists (OSSS). The meeting was at Silver Falls State Park Conference Center, near Sublimity, Oregon, February 28 through March 1, 2020.

Chris presented information on the status of initial soil survey work in Klamath County and on ecological site dynamics for the forested Andisols of the pumice plateau in central Oregon. Participants also learned about geologic history, indigenous soil and land use, and O horizons in forest soils; heard about soil science related activities and research going on around Oregon; and toured the amazing geology and hydrologic features at Silver Falls State Park. They saw both waterfalls and landslides. The field tour continued outside the park, where it included an examination of local soil pits. The participants compared pits of similar soils used for Christmas tree lots and woodlots.



*Attendees listen to a presentation on the geologic history of basalt flows in the Pacific Northwest. Photo credit: Chris Gebauer.*





*The field tour allowed participants to investigate the differences between similar soil types used for Christmas tree lots and woodlots. Photo credit: Sean Rochette, OSSS president.*

## Key Outcomes

The mission of OSSS is to facilitate communication, foster professionalism, encourage cooperation and fellowship, promote public appreciation of the profession, advance the field of soil science, stimulate scientific research and publication, and support high standards of education in soil science. This meeting met all of the society's mission objectives. Further information is available at <https://www.oregonsoils.org/>.

Participating in the event gave the NRCS staff from Klamath Falls a chance to increase awareness of soil resources, of the soil survey program, and of the NRCS mission, objectives, and services. It also provided an opportunity for NRCS to answer questions about how to use soil survey data, about soil properties, and about ecological sites and their relevance to and incorporation in soil survey products.