Casemaking Across Sectors: Conservation and Health Partnerships

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Presented by the Oregon Health & Outdoors Initiative

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Session overview

• Welcome
• Health & Nature background and making the case
• Panel discussion
• Q & A
Oregon Health & Outdoors Initiative

**Mission:** Improve health and the environment for all Oregonians by increasing access to and engagement with nature among communities experiencing inequities.
Definitions

What is health?

Health is "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." (World Health Organization)
Definitions

What is health equity?

Health equity means that everyone has a fair and just opportunity to be as healthy as possible.

Equity ≠ Equality
What is nature?

Nature is more difficult to define (but here are some typical characteristics):

• An area containing elements of living systems
• Range of scales and degrees of human management
• Can include abiotic elements (sunset, mountain views)
• Is relative
Nature makes you healthier

• Mental health benefits
• Improved physical activity
• Social cohesion
• (More trees = Improved air quality)
Where you live matters.
Where you live matters. We don’t all live in equally healthy places. Your zip code has a greater impact on your health than your genetic code.

Race is the most significant predictor of a person living near contaminated air, water, or soil.
Health disparities in Oregon

- Multnomah Co. African American infant mortality 2x white infant mortality
- 33% Lake Co. residents are obese (compared to 27% statewide)
- Asthma: 17.6% of Native Americans, 11.2% of whites
- Diabetes: 19% of Latina women, 6.8% of white women
Health and equity opportunities

1. Justice imperative
2. Shifts in healthcare financing
3. Value resonance
4. Wellbeing → engagement
We need cross-sector collaboration that prioritizes equity and community leadership.
Panel discussion

- Moderator: Barton Robison: Co-Lead, Oregon Health & Outdoors Initiative (Willamette Partnership)

- Chad Brown: Founder, President & Creative Director, Soul River Inc.

- Bobby Cochran: Senior Fellow, National Policy Consensus Center

- Tatiana Dierwechter: Health Policy and Prevention Manager, Healthy Communities Program, Benton Co. Health Dept.

- Zeenia Junkeer: Director, Oregon Health Equity Alliance (OHEA)
Ready to act? We can help!

**The Oregon Health & Outdoors Initiative can help you:**

- Identify and strengthen your health & equity impact
- Strengthen connections & engagement of cross-sector champions
- Design health & outdoors programs and policies
- Engage with communities experiencing health inequities
- Develop and deliver tools, curricula, and trainings about integrating health and time outdoors
- Measure your results
Thank you!

www.healthandoutdoors.org

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