



Mid-Columbia Innovation Hub

NADO Annual Training
Conference
October 16, 2025

Nice to meet you!



- Andrew Danies
- Deputy Director
- Mid-Columbia Economic Development District / Mid-Columbia Innovation Hub



- Jakob Lillvik
- Venture Catalyst/Project Manager
- Mid-Columbia Economic Development District / Mid-Columbia Innovation Hub

Origin Story

Business Oregon

- Regional Innovation Hubs: a grant funded project from Business Oregon
- Part of their 10-Year Innovation Plan
- Multiple hubs throughout the state
- Connect to state & nationwide resource / each other
- Focus Innovation and Traded Sector; Industry-Agnostic

Oregon's Innovation Plan is built on the central premise that the continued vitality of Oregon's economy and the state's high quality of life rests on its ability to encourage innovation.

Definitions

Traded

Sector

- “Traded sector” means industries in which member firms sell their goods or services into markets for which national or international competition exists.
- Businesses that bring “outside” money into the region or state.
- Opposite of “service sector,” coffee shops, massage therapist, food trucks, et. al.

Innovation

- From Latin - “something new”
- Not limited to apps / technology / science
- Encourage tiny innovations and refinements

Industry—

Agroecologic

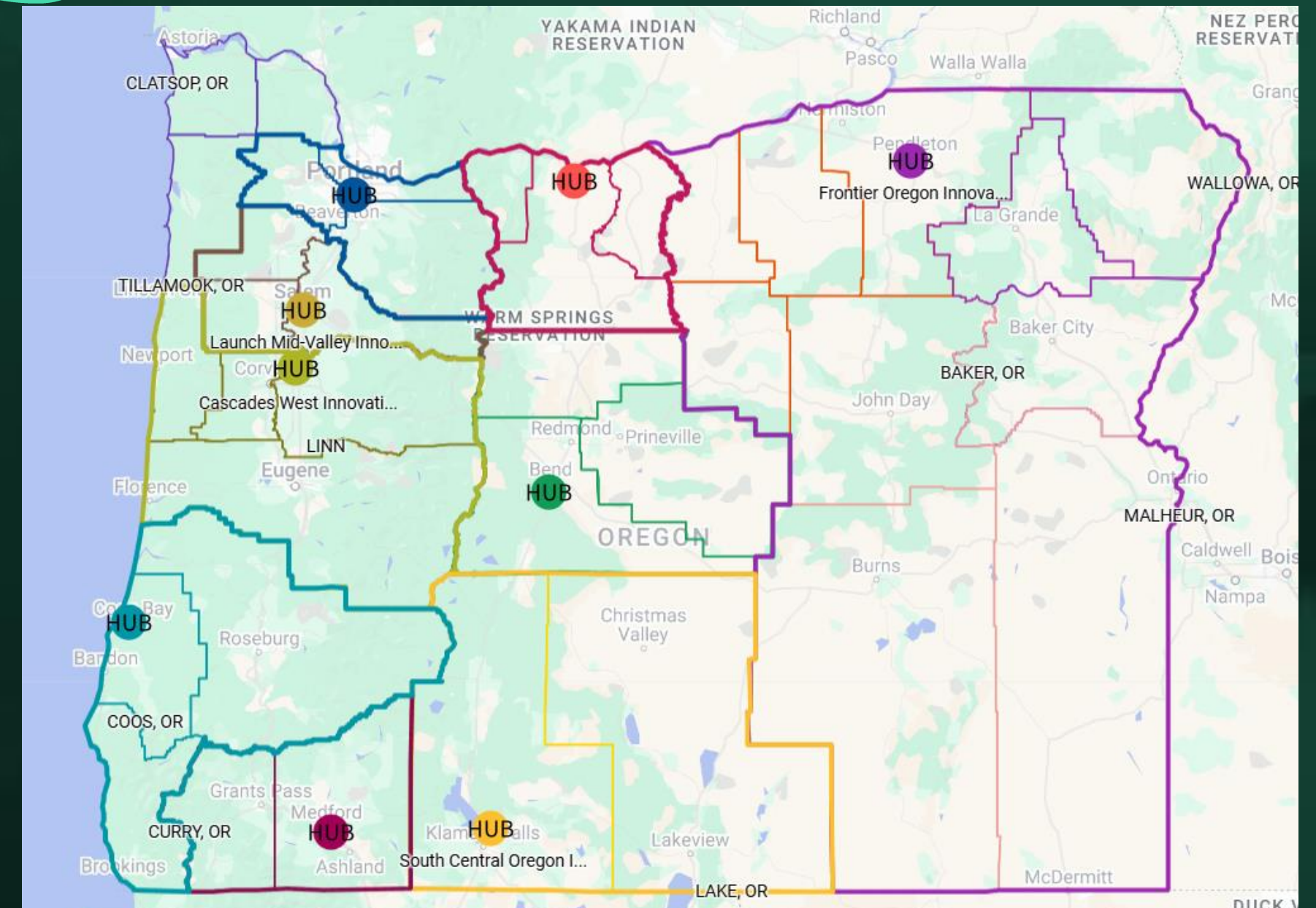
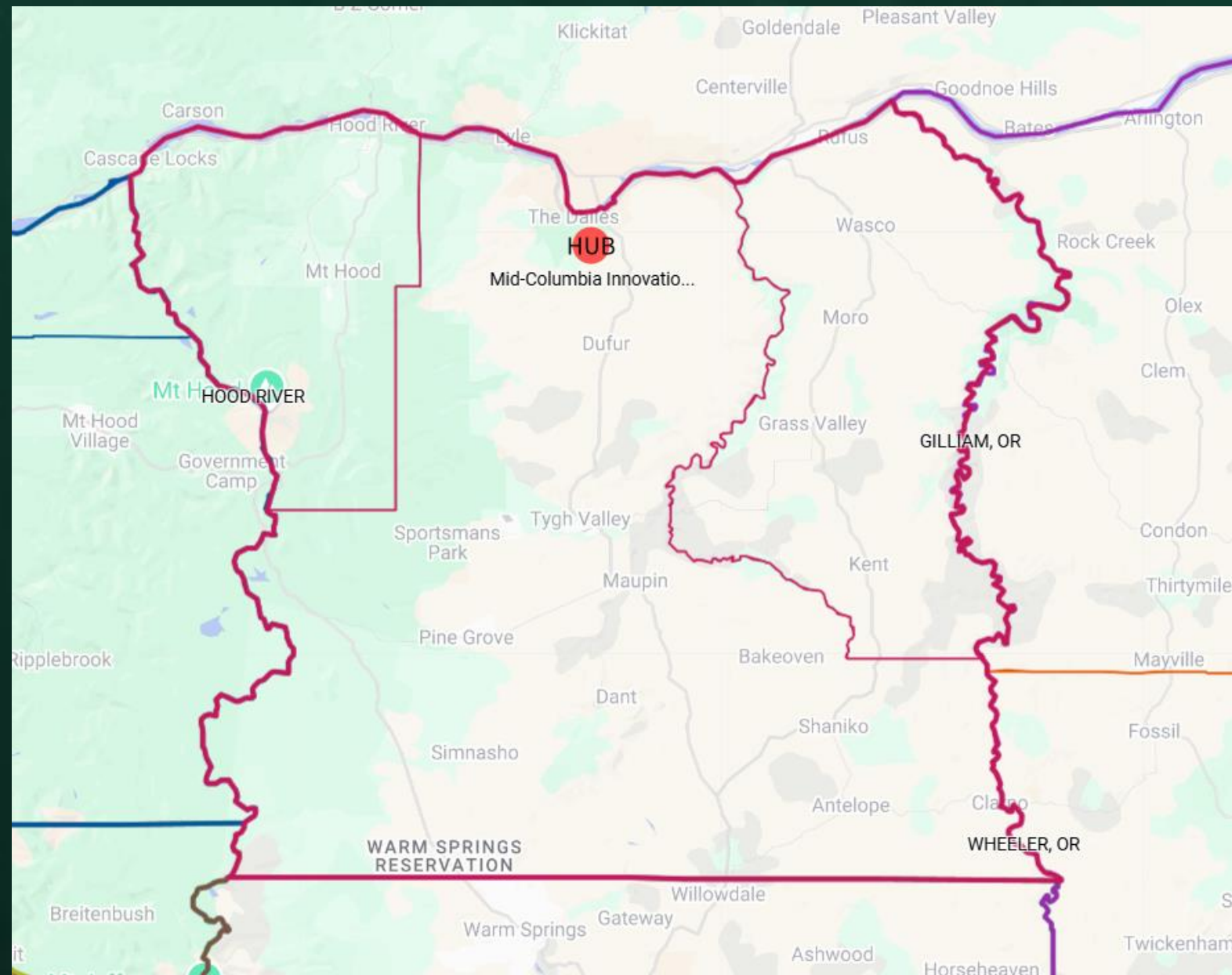
- Not specific or locked in with one industry
- Support all businesses
- Focus on developing natural occurring industries in the region
- In the Gorge: Tech/UAS, Packaged Food and Beverage, Agriculture

Mid-Columbia Economic Development District

- Federally designated economic district since 1969
- Serving Wasco, Hood River and Sherman Counties in OR, Skamania and Klickitat counties in WA
- Applied in 2023, awarded one-year implementation grant in 2024, and two year continuation grant in 2025.
- Administers grant & employs staff



Our Mid-Columbia Region All Regions



Meeting The Needs

Promote & Prepare

- Work one-on-one with entrepreneurs to navigate how to grow their business
- Develop a marketing campaign to showcase the region to investors

Link & Leverage

- Link founders with existing resources in The Gorge
- Link service providers to another
- Link the region with statewide resources

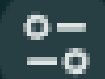
Connect & Convene

- Organize events to bring people together
- Connect founders with existing networking events

What We're Doing

Business Navigation

- Meet with our team to explore where to go
- Information & navigation
- Hub & spoke



midcolumbiainnovationhub.org/contact/

The screenshot shows the contact page of the Mid-Columbia Innovation Hub. The header includes the organization's logo and a navigation menu with links for HOME, ABOUT US, NEWSLETTERS, EVENTS, CONTACT, and a green button for QUESTIONS?. Below the header is a large banner image of a river valley with the word 'Contact' overlaid in white. The main content area is divided into two columns. The left column contains contact information: the organization's name, address (802 Chenoweth Loop Rd, The Dalles, OR 97058), email (info@mcihub.org), phone ((541) 296-2266), and a link to book a 30-minute consultation on Calendly. The right column contains a contact form with fields for 'Your name', 'Your email', 'Subject', and 'Your message (optional)', each with a corresponding input box.

Mid-Columbia Innovation Hub

HOME ABOUT US NEWSLETTERS EVENTS CONTACT QUESTIONS?

Contact

Mid Columbia Innovation Hub

Address
802 Chenoweth Loop Rd
The Dalles, OR 97058

Email Us
info@mcihub.org

Phone
(541) 296-2266

Book a 30-Minute Consultation
[Book on Calendly](#)

Your name

Your email

Subject

Your message (optional)

What We're Doing

Business Navigation

Resources: "You Don't Know What You Don't Know"

- Business Development / Coaching
- Capital Access / Funding
- Mentorship
- Networking
- Ecosystem Resources

What We're Doing

HubTalks

- Monthly Networking / Panel Discussion
- Second Thursday of Every Month
- Variety of topics
- Rotates between Hood River and The Dalles



What We're Doing

2025 Gorge Pitchfest

- Bolster efforts w/ Rural Opportunity Initiative
- Represent traded sector
- Market and attract investor ecosystem outside of the Gorge



The Future

Gorge Angel Investor Network

- Pursue possibility of re-forming “GAIN”
- Must be organic and organized!

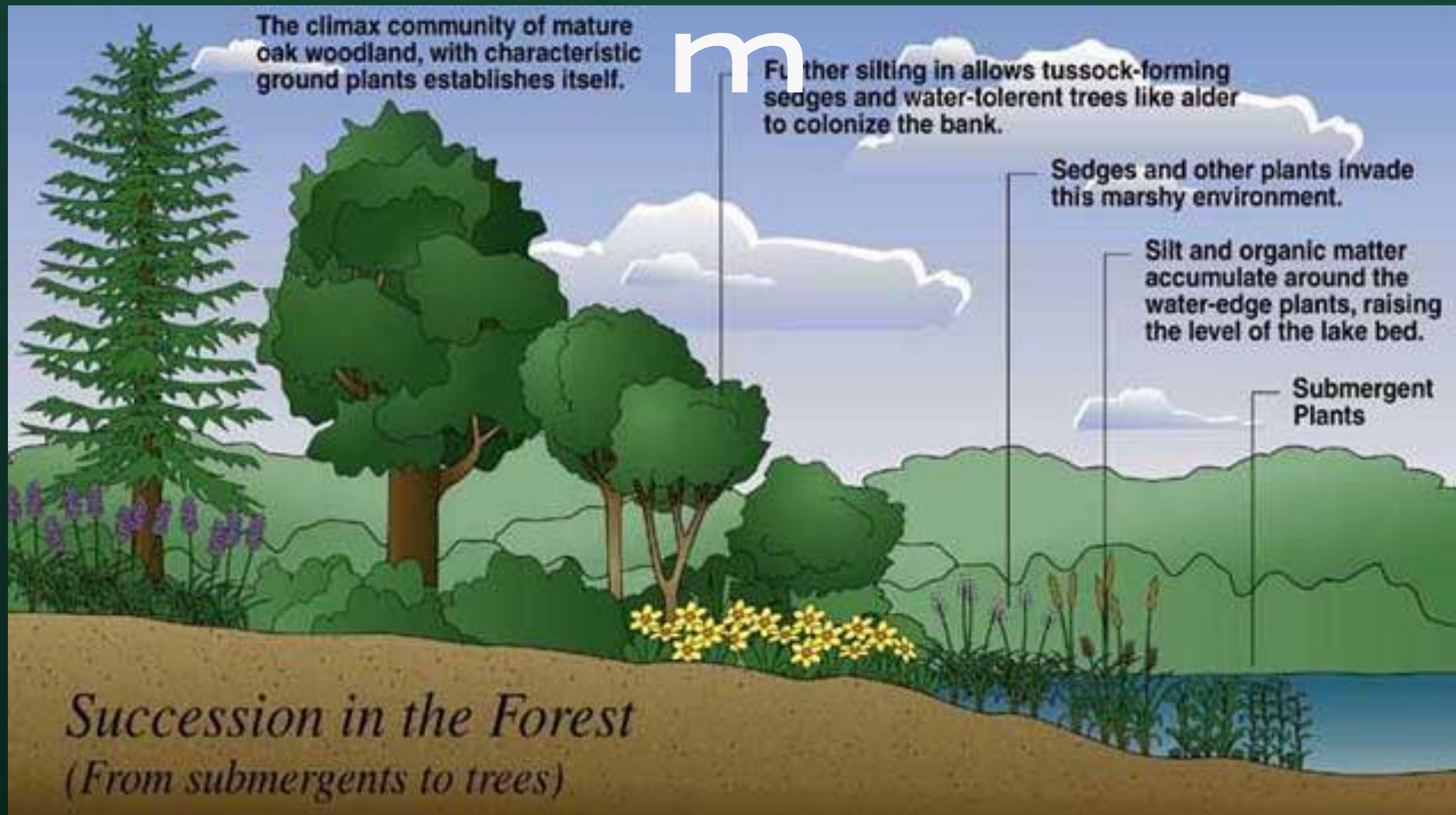
Continued Growth for Pitchfest

- Make a statement for our region as a place to invest and start businesses
- Celebrate and grow a reputation in the Pacific Northwest

Specific Programming / Cohorts

- Continue to discover needs and fill them
- Support specific industries (F&B, Wine, AgTech)

Ecosystem





Mid-Columbia Innovation Hub

THANK YOU!

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