

# CAMPAIGN 2022 UPDATE

OPB's first-ever designated science reporter



Dear Friend of OPB,

Several years ago, when we began thinking about how OPB should expand its journalism, science reporting surfaced very quickly. Whether we were asking members, the general public, or other stakeholders, we heard clearly about the need for in-depth reporting on the discoveries happening here in our backyard. Over the last 10 years, cutbacks have hollowed out many newsrooms across our region, with science reporting often the first to go.

That said, I'm so pleased to announce that - with special support from Campaign 2022 contributors - we've added OPB's first-ever designated science reporter: Jes Burns.



*Jes Burns, OPB Science Reporter*

Jes should be a familiar name, as she's worked at OPB since 2014 doing great environmental reporting from southern Oregon. In this new position, she will be expanding her repertoire to include fields of science such as artificial intelligence, robotics, astrophysics and others, in addition to the earth sciences.

Good reporting on science takes particular expertise, which Jes brings in spades. Jes is among OPB's most accomplished beat reporters and multimedia storytellers. She has a knack for taking complex, technical stories and making them sing for viewers, readers, and listeners. Jes' work at OPB has gone deep into the science of micro-plastics, ocean acidification and invasive species.

Initially, Jes will be covering science from her current base in Ashland, but she will relocate in several months to be based from OPB headquarters in Portland.

Keep your eye out for new science reporting from Jes in the coming weeks and months. And thanks again for your strong support of our work here at OPB. If you are interested in funding more new reporters through Campaign 2022, please contact me or Cheryl Ikemiya.

Sincerely,

Steve Bass  
President and CEO