

**Small Acreage Agriculture Producers: Addressing Nutrient runoff from Headquarters area  
Lower Columbia River (Bottomlands of Nicolai-Wickiup watershed)**

**Purpose**

To improve water quality on the Lower Columbia River (Gnat-Creek Frontal/Big Creek) by addressing nutrient and sediment runoff from agricultural areas.

**Goals & Objectives**

Approximately \_\_\_ Agricultural Landowners have been identified with a total of \_\_\_\_\_ acres. From 2014-2017 our goal is to have addressed this resource concern on 70% of agricultural acres in this focus area and at least \_\_\_\_\_ headquarters area.

**Natural Resource Concern**

Water Quality (Excessive nutrients and sediment in surface water ways)

**Implementation Proposed Solutions:**

- Identifying agricultural landowners within focus area
- Education and Outreach about Agricultural Best Management Practices, pasture management, the importance of a healthy watershed and how water quality affects us all.
- Technical Assistance for farmer to install conservation practices
- Financial Assistance for farmer to install conservation practices

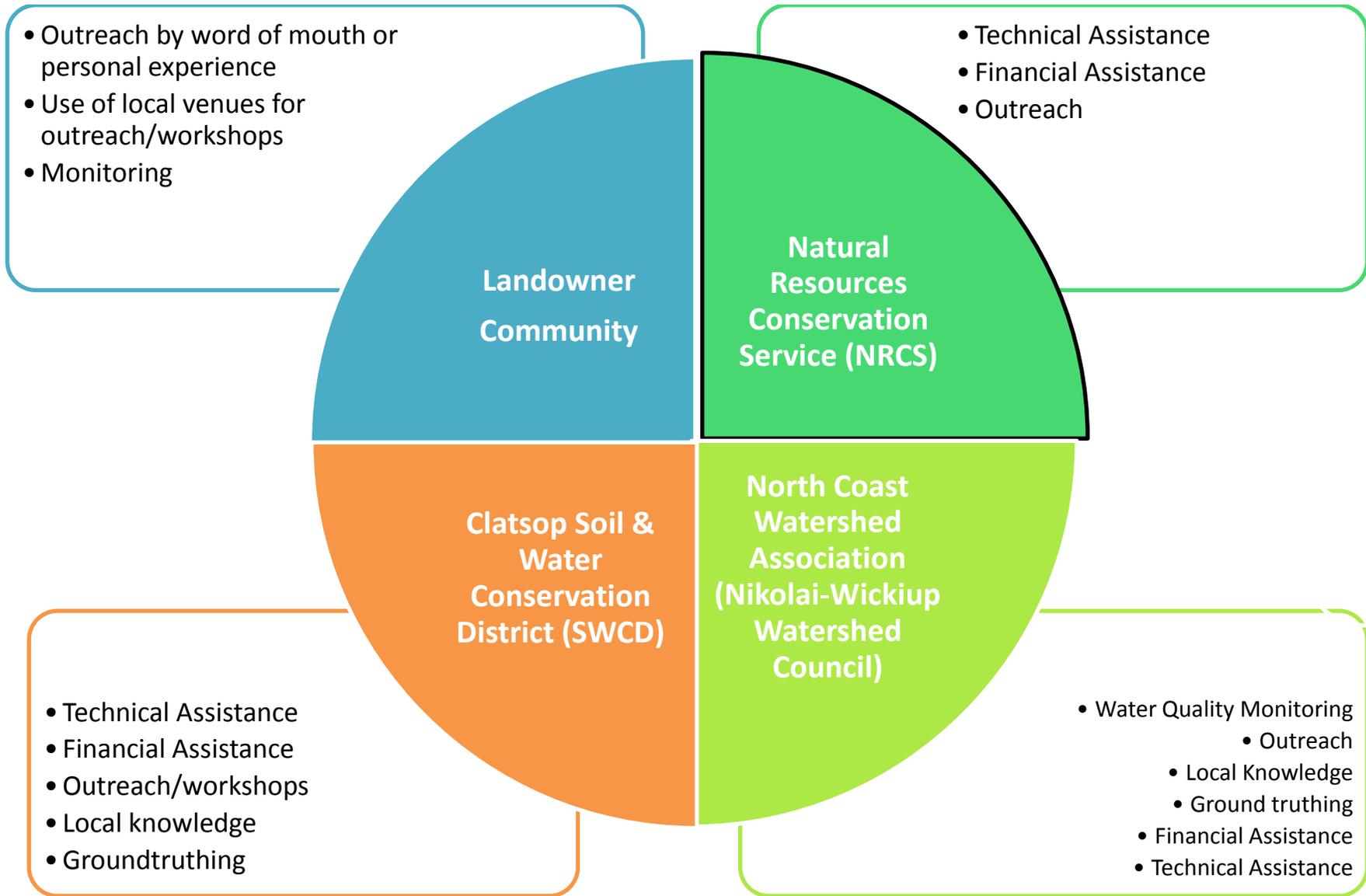
**Progress Evaluation & Monitoring:**

- Evaluation will be conducted annually on outreach methods and willing landowners
- Water Quality Monitoring can be conducted through the North Coast Watershed Association in partnership with Department of Environmental Quality and Clatsop SWCD. This monitoring system can be set up along waterways with high agricultural activity and landowners that are installing conservation practices.

**FARMERS LOCATED IN FOCUS AREA CURRENTLY INTERESTED IN INSTALLING CONSERVATION PRACTICES: 4 LANDOWNERS, TOTAL \_\_\_ACRES**

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**PARTNERS**



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**PROPOSED SOLUTIONS OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES & Definitions:**

**Hardening Heavy Use Areas (Clatsop SWCD)**

- The stabilization of areas frequently and intensively used by people, animals or vehicles by establishing vegetative cover, surfacing with suitable materials, and/or installing needed structures.

**Installing Manure storage facilities (Clatsop SWCD)**

- A waste storage impoundment made by constructing an embankment and/or excavating a pit or dugout, or by fabricating a structure

**Nutrient Management Plans (NRCS/Clatsop SWCD)**

- Managing the amount, source, placement, form and timing of the application of nutrients and soil amendments.

**Installing gutter systems on existing barns/headquarters area (NRCS)**

- Structures that collect, control, and transport precipitation from roofs.

**Rain Water Catchment Tanks (pumps, pipelines to troughs) (NRCS/Clatsop SWCD)**

- A facility for collecting and storing runoff from precipitation.

**Fencing (NRCS/Clatsop SWCD)**

- A constructed barrier to animals or people.

**Riparian Planting/Site Prep/Filter Strip (Clatsop SWCD, NCWA)**

- Riparian-An area predominantly trees and/or shrubs located adjacent to and up-gradient from watercourses or water bodies. Site prep-Treatment of areas to improve site conditions for establishing trees and/or shrubs.A Filter strip is a strip or area of herbaceous vegetation situated between cropland, grazing land, or disturbed land (including forestland) and environmentally sensitive areas.

**Troughs/Nosepumps (NRCS/Clatsop SWCD)**

- Any permanent or portable device to provide an adequate amount and quality of drinking water for livestock and or wildlife.

**Animal Trails/walkways/access road (NRCS/Clatsop SWCD)**

- Established lanes or travel ways that facilitate animal, equipment and vehicles movement constructed as part of a conservation plan.

**Weed/brush control pastures/pasture management /Pasture Planting(NRCS)**

- The removal or control of herbaceous weeds or woody plants including invasive, noxious, and prohibited plants. Managing the harvest of vegetation with grazing and/or browsing animals.

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RANKING (PRIORITIZING APPLICATIONS)**

**High**

- Farm is located in Focus Area
- Implementation results in livestock being 100% fenced out of riparian areas and waterways and installing permanent riparian areas.
- Implementation results in eliminating runoff from headquarters areas that carry nutrients directly into sloughs.
- Implementation results in improving pasture health to meet quality criteria.

**Medium**

- Farm is located in close proximity (20 miles to boundary) to focus area or on same waterbody not inside focus area
- Implementation results in livestock being 100% fenced out of riparian areas and waterways and installing permanent riparian areas.
- Implementation results in eliminating runoff from headquarters areas that carry nutrients directly into sloughs.
- Implementation results in improving pasture health to meet quality criteria.

**Low**

- Implementation results in livestock being 100% fenced out of riparian areas and waterways and installing permanent riparian areas.
- Implementation results in eliminating runoff from headquarters areas that carry nutrients directly into sloughs.
- Implementation results in improving pasture health to meet quality criteria.

Small Acreage Producers (Nicolai-Wickiup) group discussion:

Overview:

- Landowners in the area need assistance and cant or will not do it on their own. Landowners in this area have resource concerns due to water runoff during longer wetter rainy spring season.

Problem statement:

- Water run off and pasture management
- Affects water quality and soil
- Occurs in pastures along waterways
- Causes of the problem are excessive water flow, water table, lack of vegetation
- The extent of the problem produces mud and particulates in surface water

Goals and objectives

- No mud, water diverted, vegetated pastures
- Heavy use areas, gutters, water catchments, nutrient management, fencing, pasture management plans.
- Soil tests, water quality monitoring
- Visual-photo points
- Reduced soil erosion and less particulates or pollutants in surface waters
- Grazing patterns
- Improving drainage

Alternatives

- Cleaning ditches, increasing drainage.

Proposed solutions and actions

- Heavy use areas, gutters, rain catchment tanks, pasture plantings, weed control, cross fencing for rotation
- Increased quality in soil and surface water
- Assisting landowners with actively managing pastures and water runoff

Partnerships and funding sources

- Local farmers
- SWCD
- 80% of landowner participation is necessary to solve the problem

Implementation

- Timeframe-4 years

- Face to face visits with landowners on site
- Meetings with landowners at grange or place of gathering to be at key landowner place. For example the landowners interested in assistance lead or opens meeting asking fellow landowners if interested. Letter to landowners in an area with invite from key landowner.

Comments:

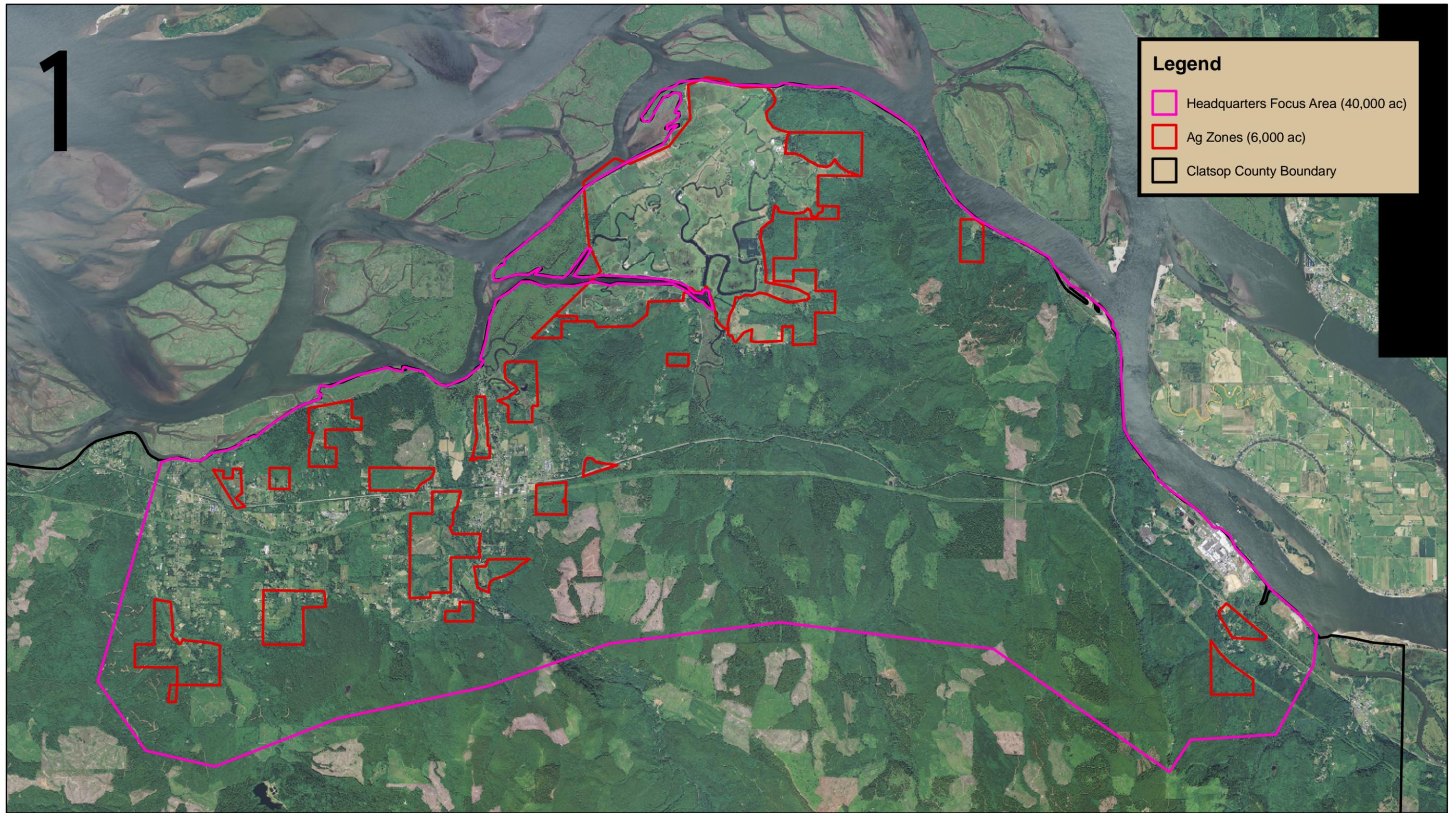
There are landowners in the priority that have issues with mud from runoff with lack of funds to divert water or catch it. These measures are costly. Establishing heavy use areas, gutters and water catchment tanks would assist landowners in improving water quality. Assistance to these landowners with pasture management, manure management, pasture planting, cross fencing would improve soil quality.

Utilizing the landowners that currently participating in that area to reach out to local landowners or neighbors would increase impact on collective improvements. Target local landowners face to face. Dropping by at the end of the work day or beginning. Offer meetings within 5 miles of landowners, local granges or schools or fire stations. Use key landowners already on board to invite via mail or in person. Have those key landowners open the meeting.

# Ag Lands in Potential Focus Area

Date: 2/20/2013  
USDA - NRCS  
CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON

1



**Legend**

-  Headquarters Focus Area (40,000 ac)
-  Ag Zones (6,000 ac)
-  Clatsop County Boundary

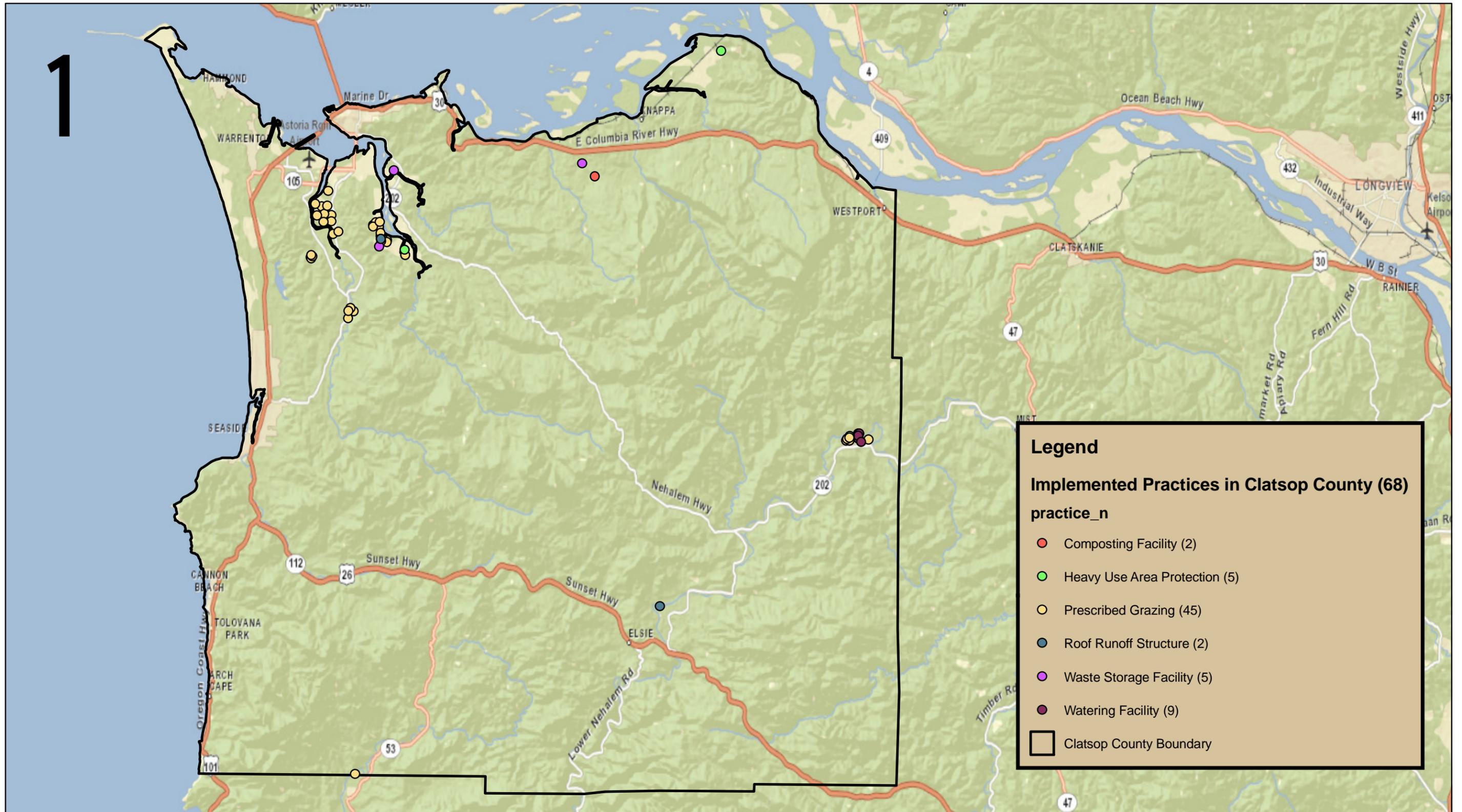


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# Implemented Conservation Practices in Clatsop County

Date: 2/20/2013  
 USDA - NRCS  
 CLATSOP COUNTY, OREGON



1

**Legend**

**Implemented Practices in Clatsop County (68)**

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- Composting Facility (2)
- Heavy Use Area Protection (5)
- Prescribed Grazing (45)
- Roof Runoff Structure (2)
- Waste Storage Facility (5)
- Watering Facility (9)
- Clatsop County Boundary



Scale = 1:250,000

