



Oregon Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting Notes for December 13, 2022 – 1:00 – 3:00 p.m.
Virtual Zoom meeting

Attendees:

1. Lauren Bennett, Natural Resources Conservation Service
2. Jason Jeans, Natural Resources Conservation Service
3. Scott Oviatt, Natural Resources Conservation Service
4. Molly Dawson, Natural Resources Conservation Service
5. Tom Miewald, Natural Resources Conservation Service
6. Kacee Lathrop, Natural Resources Conservation Service
7. Gary Diridoni, Natural Resources Conservation Service
8. Matt Warbritton, Natural Resources Conservation Service
9. Claire Tachella, Natural Resources Conservation Service
10. Mariela Castaneda, Natural Resources Conservation Service
11. Lucy Ausman, Natural Resources Conservation Service
12. Gail Greenman, Farm Service Agency
13. Sarah Hanlon, Farm Service Agency
14. Taylor Murray, Farm Service Agency
15. John Boyes, Farm Service Agency
16. Mikal Cline, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
17. Jan Lee, Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
18. Jessi Kershner, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board
19. Tammy Dennee, Oregon Cattlemen's Association
20. Erick Finnell, Oregon Department of Forestry
21. Nicole Maness, Willamette Partnership
22. Preet Gujral, Metro

Welcome and Introductions – Ron Alvarado, NRCS State Conservationist and Gail Greenman, FSA State Executive Director

Meeting facilitator: Lauren Bennett, acting for Cory Owens, Assistant State Conservationist - Partnerships
Ron Alvarado

- Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) update and updates to come
- Provided in the chat: Public comment period for IRA funding is open till Dec. 21. Learn more and submit comment: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-requests-public-input-on-implementation-of-inflation-reduction-act-funding>

Gail Greenman

- Intertribal Agriculture Council Conference (Las Vegas, December 6-8)
- More IRA updates to come

FSA update – Sarah Hanlon, Farm Programs Chief and Taylor Murray, Conservation Specialist

Taylor Murray, Conservation Specialist

- Oregon SAFE program update
 - last meeting obtained concurrence for cover cropping and grazing rules
 - cannot be less restrictive than national
 - practice duplicate



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- Proposal to establish grassland priority zones
 - Propose grassland counties to allow more impact on wildland species or urban encroachment
 - Entire counties, not portions of counties
 - Spring OTAC to share totals per county for discussion
 - Requires FWS or NRCS statement
- Interest in grassland program is less than in the past, doesn't provide a high incentive but allows more participation than in standard

Provided in the chat, Taylor Murray:

The data for CRP Grasslands is the following: Twenty-five percent of the total acres of hay, pasture, and rangeland in Oregon equals 2,821,774 acres.

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1. Yamhill County – 87,939
2. Polk County – 83,181
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The total of hay, pasture, and rangeland acreage = 2,424,774 acres

If anyone would like to propose additional counties, I will present the process at the spring OTAC meeting. In the meantime, here is what would justify the addition of another county:

A State Grassland Zone General Information

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- grazing lands of special significance
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A State Grassland Zone must:

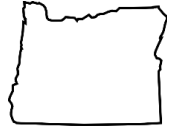
- clearly define the conservation and environmental objectives
- provide an analysis of how Grassland CRP can cost-effectively address those objectives.

The Grassland CRP Zone does not need to be within a State or National CRP CPA. National and State Grassland Zones can overlap. State Offices may have only 1 State Grassland Zone

Sarah Hanlon, Farm Programs Chief and Acting Administrative Officer



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- e-directive 300-2259
- FSA eligibility for NRCS applicants
 - No major changes but operating plans require FSA determination
- Two programs coming in January
 - Emergency Relief Program (ERP), phase two
 - Pandemic Relief Program (PRP)
 - Both will be based on revenue, comparative revenue by reference years
- Focus on in-person outreach as well as messaging on new programs

NRCS Program Updates – Jason Jeans for Erin Kaczmarczyk, NRCS Assistant State Conservationist for Programs and Tom Miewald, NRCS RCPP Coordinator

Jason Jeans, Assistant State Conservationist – Management & Strategy

- Inflation Reduction Act
 - Awaiting more updates and will provide as available
 - Federal register comment period
 - *Provided in the chat, Lauren Bennett:* Public comment period for IRA funding is open till Dec. 21. Learn more and submit comment: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-requests-public-input-on-implementation-of-inflation-reduction-act-funding>
- NRCS Climate Change Adaptation Plan
- Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry (CSAF) Mitigation
 - Will be rolled out alongside other initiatives
- Land Conservation Initiatives (LCI)
- Organic Transition Initiative (OTI)
 - Different than current organic initiative
- Conservation Programs Manual updates
- ACEP Components
- ACEP-WRE Easement Compensation
- WRE Priority Areas
 - Species delisting
- ACEP-ALE ranking criteria
- ALE Priority Areas

PRESENTATION SLIDES POSTED

Tom Miewald, RCPP Coordinator

- RCPP overview
- Oregon RCPP highlights
- Classic RCPP Structure
- 15 Farm Bill 18 RCPPs
- Four new projects:
 - Tualatin Basin Habitat Conservation Partnership
 - Western Oregon Cascades Recovery Effort Climate-Smart Reforestation and Recovery Assistance
 - McKay Creek On-Farm Modernization
 - Southeast Harney County, Oregon Sage-Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy



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- 2 renewals of 2014 Farm Bill RCPPs
 - Three Sisters Irrigation District
 - Stinkingwater Area Medusahead Management Plan
- Look ahead

PRESENTATION SLIDES POSTED

NRCS Practice Standard Updates – Kacee Lathrop, Acting State Resource Conservationist and Molly Dawson, NRCS State Conservation Engineer

Molly Dawson

- Practice Standard Updates
- 51 engineering practices updates, 41 adopted as is, 5 modified, 5 newly adopted

PRESENTATION SLIDES POSTED

Kacee Lathrop

- Ecological Sciences updates - Forestry, range, and grazing

PRESENTATION SLIDES POSTED

Water Supply Outlook – Scott Oviatt, NRCS Snow Survey Supervisor

- Snow-water equivalent
- Oregon snowpack graphs
- Dec. 13, 2022 SNOTEL Water Year Precipitation 89% of 1991-2020
- SNOTEL Precipitation (POR) Records – last 3 years
- Duration hydrograph 7-day average runoff for Oregon
- Tillamook County, Klamath County, Wheeler County, Malheur County
- Water Year to date % of average streamflow – Dec. 11, 2022
- Dec. 11 Reservoir Storage
- Deschutes County, Crooke County, Malheur County
- U.S. Drought Monitor – West – 2021 vs. 2022
- U. S. Drought Monitor – Oregon
- Governor's Drought Declarations by county- 17 counties requested 2022, new year starts 2023
- 8–14-day temperature & precipitation outlook
- 10-day precipitation forecast, minimal expected compared to typical precipitation this time of year for drought recovery

PRESENTATION SLIDES POSTED

COLT Program Overview – Karsyn Kendrick, Oregon Land Trust Conservation Program Manager

Kelly Beamer, Executive Director – brief introduction



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Karsyn Kendrick

- Intersection of COLT and NRCS work
- Prevention of land fragmentation, keeping ways of life
- Protect lands in perpetuity
- Reliance on NRCS funding, ACEP ALE funding
- Oregon Agricultural Heritage Program
 - federal dollars in Oregon
- COLT Priorities

PRESENTATION SLIDES POSTED

Closing – Ron Alvarado & Gail Greenman

Lauren Bennett

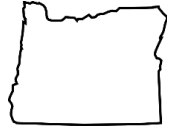
- Announcement regarding climate-smart funding:
 - Biden-Harris Administration Announces an Additional \$325 Million in Pilot Projects through Partnerships for Climate-Smart Commodities, for Total Investment of \$3.1 Billion (News release) (link to release: <https://www.usda.gov/media/press-releases/2022/12/12/biden-harris-administration-announces-additional-325-million-pilot>)
- Information on how to sign up to OTAC subscriber list, contact Lauren Bennett.

Ron Alvarado & Gail Greenman

- Questions and thank you.



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Saved Meeting Chat:

13:01:38 From Jessi Kershner, OWEB (she/her) to Everyone:

Jessi Kershner, OWEB

13:01:38 From Molly.Dawson to Everyone:

Molly Dawson, OR NRCS State Engineer

13:01:40 From Mikal Cline ODFW to Everyone:

Mikal Cline - ODFW

13:01:42 From Tammy Dennee, Oregon Cattlemen's Association to Everyone:

Tammy Dennee, Executive Director - Oregon Cattlemen's Association

13:01:48 From Erick Finnell - ODF to Everyone:

Erick Finnell, Landowner Assistance Forester with Oregon Department of Forestry - Salem, OR

13:02:03 From Scott Oviatt to Everyone:

Scott Oviatt, OR NRCS Snow Survey Hydrologist

13:02:08 From John.Boyes to Everyone:

John Boyes - FSA GIS Specialist and State Outreach Coordinator

13:02:11 From Nicole Maness (she/her) Willamette Partnership to Everyone:

Nicole Maness, Willamette Partnership, Corvallis and Portland OR

13:02:11 From Lauren Bennett, NRCS Oregon (she/her) to Everyone:

Lauren Bennett, Acting Partnership Liaison and public affairs officer with NRCS Oregon

13:02:29 From Sarah.Hanlon to Everyone:

Sarah Hanlon, Oregon FSA Farm Program Supervisor

13:02:32 From Matt Warbritton - USDA NRCS SSWSFP to Everyone:

Matt Warbritton, Hydrologist, NRCS Oregon Snow Survey

13:02:33 From Preet Gujral (he|him), Metro to Everyone:

Preet Gujral, he | him | his, Metro, Farmland Stewardship Program Manager

13:02:42 From Gary Diridoni (NRCS) to Everyone:

Gary Diridoni, OR NRCS Watershed Resources Planning

13:03:00 From Lauren Bennett, NRCS Oregon (she/her) to Everyone:

OTAC webpage: <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/conservation-basics/conservation-by-state/oregon/technical-committee>

13:03:20 From Tom Miewald to Everyone:

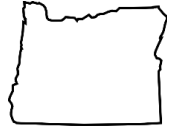
Tom Miewald, RCPPP Coordinator

13:03:31 From Mariela Castaneda (NRCS) to Everyone:

Mariela Castaneda, NRCS Oregon Public Affairs



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13:04:07 From Claire.Tachella to Everyone:

Claire Tachella, NRCS, EQIP Program Manager

13:04:20 From Gail Greenman, USDA-FPAC-FSA to Everyone:

let me pop into another office.

13:08:51 From Lauren Bennett, NRCS Oregon (she/her) to Everyone:

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<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/news/usda-requests-public-input-on-implementation-of-inflation-reduction-act-funding>

13:15:31 From Jason to Everyone:

Jason Jeans email: jason.jeans@usda.gov

13:16:27 From taylor.murray to Everyone:

Taylor Murray, FSA, Conservation Specialist

13:16:35 From Kacee Lathrop, NRCS to Everyone:

Kacee Lathrop, NRCS, Acting State Resource Conservationist

13:17:47 From taylor.murray to Everyone:

The data for CRP Grasslands is the following: Twenty-five percent of the total acres of hay, pasture, and rangeland in Oregon equals 2,821,774 acres.

13:17:54 From taylor.murray to Everyone:

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13:21:18 From taylor.murray to Everyone:

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13:21:24 From taylor.murray to Everyone:

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13:22:17 From Linda's iPhone to Everyone:

Can someone email presentation on IRA funding to me please. I'd like to print! It's Linda.lind@usda.gov

13:22:40 From Lauren Bennett, NRCS Oregon (she/her) to Everyone:

Will do Linda! We will put it up on the OTAC webpage as well.

13:30:19 From Linda's iPhone to Everyone:



13:32:41 From Tammy Dennee, Oregon Cattlemen's Association to Everyone:

Lauren Bennett - Is it possible to place the link to the IRA slide deck in the chat?

13:33:29 From Tammy Dennee, Oregon Cattlemen's Association to Everyone:

A link to the RCPP slide deck would be great. Thank you.

13:44:46 From Lauren Bennett, NRCS Oregon (she/her) to Everyone:

Hi Tammy - I don't have the presentations yet but I will update the website this afternoon with everything presented and can send an email to you with the links if that works!

13:53:34 From Scott Oviatt to Everyone:

Let me log off an on

14:13:19 From Jason to Everyone:

Cheers!

14:13:28 From Mikal Cline ODFW to Everyone:

Happy trails, Scott!

14:13:54 From taylor.murray to Everyone:

Scott! Thank you, it has been nice to work with you and I have always enjoyed your reports on OTAC

14:16:38 From Scott Oviatt to Everyone:

Thank you, everyone! I was trying to add that where we are moving (Sheridan WY) it is snowing 18" , 15 degrees, and the wind is blowing 40 mph today....it will be sunny and 38 on Friday....

14:20:42 From Jason to Everyone:

Woot Woot



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14:26:21 From Preet Gujral (he/him), Metro to Everyone:

Thanks for the presentation!

14:26:30 From Karsyn Kendrick, COLT to Everyone:

karsyn@oregonlandtrusts.org

14:28:23 From Gail Greenman, USDA-FPAC-FSA to Everyone:

If my audio doesn't work again, thank you to all.

14:28:27 From Nicole Maness (she/her) Willamette Partnership to Everyone:

Thanks for a well organized meeting and the good information

14:28:45 From Gail Greenman, USDA-FPAC-FSA to Everyone:

I will get it working for next time!

14:28:50 From Preet Gujral (he/him), Metro to Everyone:

Tons of great info. Thank you presenters and facilitators!

14:29:45 From Gail Greenman, USDA-FPAC-FSA to Everyone:

Happy Holidays everyone!

14:29:46 From Tammy Dennee, Oregon Cattlemen's Association to Everyone:

Great meeting.

14:29:47 From Jessi Kershner, OWEB (she/her) to Everyone:

thank you!

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