USDA United States Department of Agriculture
Natural Resources Conservation Service

DESCHUTES COUNTY LOCAL WORK GROUP MEETING

Local Work Group Meetings are a valuable part of the NRCS planning process, providing an opportunity for local land managers to be part of a collaborative effort to improve natural resources within your county.

You are invited to:

- ✓ Review performance of the past year's projects.
- ✓ Help shape plans and prioritize future projects.
- ✓ Connect with partners and new audiences to seek opportunities to leverage partnership funds.
- ✓ Learn about other NRCS programs which may prove beneficial to you.

WHERE:
Redmond City Hall
Civic Room 208 (upstairs)
411 SW 9th St, Redmond, OR 97756

DATE:
Monday February 27th, 2023

TIME:
9:00am - 11:00am

For more information contact:
Lars Santana - District Conservationist
541-699-3194
Lars.Santana@usda.gov

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Deschutes County NRCS Local Work Group
Strategic Planning Meeting
February 27th 2023

9:00 am – 11:00 am

- Welcome and Introductions – Lars Santana, District Conservationist NRCS
  - The Local Working Group Process
  - NRCS Conservation - Farm Bill Programs Overview
- Review performance of past year's forestry conservation efforts
  - Restoration of Fire Resilient Landscapes in Deschutes County CIS
  - Joint Chiefs - Central Oregon Buttes to Basins All Lands Forest Resiliency Project
    - Presented in partnership with:
    - Deschutes County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Planning session
  - Forestry Priority Resource Concerns
  - Forestry Priority Areas
  - Forestry Conservation Measurables and Outcomes
- Review performance of past year's irrigation related conservation efforts
  - Deschutes County On-farm Irrigation and Energy Efficiency CIS
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  - Irrigation Priority Resource Concerns
  - Irrigation Priority Areas
  - Irrigation Conservation Measurables and Outcomes
- Other USDA Conservation Efforts
  - High Tunnel Initiative, Organic Initiative, and more..

PL-566 information note: The Deschutes County Local Working Group process is a separate planning process than the PL-566 planning process. NRCS manages the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (also known as Public Law 83-566 or PL-566), authorized by Congress in 1954. The purpose of this program is to provide technical and financial assistance to public entities for planning and implementing authorized projects that protect watersheds, mitigate floods, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, create opportunities for hydroelectric power production. The Central Oregon Irrigation Modernization Project includes multiple irrigation districts in Central Oregon in partnership with the Deschutes Basin Board of Control and the Farmers Conservation Alliance. Project website: www.oregonwatershedplans.org

NRCS Deschutes County LWG Meeting, February 27th, 2023

Attendees:
Todd Pepplin- Deschutes County SWCD
Tom Bennett- Deschutes County SWCD
Brian Lepore- Producer and Deschutes SWCD Board Member
Robin Vora- Deschutes SWCD Board Member
Mike Britton- North Unit Irrigation District
Lisa Seals- Deschutes River Conservancy
Brad Moore- Energy Trust of Oregon
Ariel Cowan- OSU Extension- Regional Fire Specialist
Scott Duggan- OSU Extension- Livestock Specialist
Stephanie Russo – NRCS Small Farm/Organic Specialist
David Phipps- NRCS Soil Conservationist
Lars Santana- NRCS District Conservationist

Meeting attendees and why they chose to attend the LWG meeting:

Todd Peplin- Deschutes County SWCD
- Wants to support NRCS program delivery and looking for feedback on how to steer SWCD priorities and programs.

Tom Bennett- Deschutes County SWCD
- Network between partner organizations and see how the SWCD can support the local NRCS long range plan.

Brian Lepore- Producer and Deschutes SWCD Board Member
- New to SWCD, interested in learning acronyms, programs, how the SWCD can assist local producers, and how the SWCD fits in with conservation local conservation efforts.

Robin Vora- Deschutes SWCD Board Member
- Wants to network and get updates from local partner organizations.

Mike Britton- North Unit Irrigation District
- Interested in conservation efforts in Deschutes County since local irrigation efforts affect NUID patrons.

Lisa Seals- Deschutes River Conservancy
- Provided RCPP updates and learn what conservations efforts may be upcoming.

Brad Moore- Energy Trust of Oregon
- Learn about NRCS programs and how our programs relate to energy savings. Interested in partnering more with NRCS on energy savings.

Ariel Cowan- OSU Extension- Regional Fire Specialist
- Interested in additional information on local forestry related efforts.

Scott Duggan- OSU Extension- Livestock Specialist
- Wants to learn more about NRCS programs because he often works with producers who may benefit from our conservation efforts.

Stephanie Russo – NRCS Small Farm/Organic Specialist
- Wants to network and get updates from local partner organizations.

David Phipps- NRCS Soil Conservationist

Lars Santana- NRCS District Conservationist

Meeting began at 9:10am with Lars introducing himself and asking everyone to do the same and provide a little information why each person was there.

Lars started by explaining the LWG process and how it can help NRCS guide local conservation efforts and improve the services NRCS offers local producers.

Lars then began by diving into surrounding conservation efforts in Jefferson County to give a bigger picture of conservation within the two counties he administers. Those include:

- Agency Plains CIS
- Hydrologic Restoration for Steelhead in Jefferson County CIS
- Sage Grouse Initiative administered by Crook County
- North Unit Soil Health and Sustainability CIS

After the brief overview of these conservation strategies the conversation transitioned into the Buttes to Basins Joint Chiefs. This led us to the first major topic of the day, Forestry.

Forestry:

- Restoration of Fire Resilient Landscapes CIS
- Joint Chiefs - Central Oregon Buttes to Basins All Lands Forest Resiliency Project

Lars gave an overview of the Joint Chiefs and explained that the conservation effort is 3 years long. FY2023 is the 3rd and final year of the Joint Chiefs. This year Lars is planning to obligate $1,600,000.00 worth of forestry projects. This is a big workload, but the team is getting through it. He will have more to report on the overall Joint Chiefs project next year. Since this is the final year for Joint Chiefs, we need to be prepared to utilize the Restoration of Fire Resilient Landscapes CIS next year. They are very compatible, but the geographic focal areas are different.

Todd gave an update on the SWCD and how they have been involved with forestry in the county. He said the SWCD received money through both the USFS agreements program and the State Senate Bill 762 to continue forestry work and support NRCS implementation. They received roughly $300,000 for education, outreach, and to support NRCS projects through the Senate Bill 762. They have also been able to do work outside of NRCS projects and complete forestry work through the 762 monies.

The group discussion led to the possibility of changing the geographic boundary of the Restoration of Fire Resilient Landscapes CIS to match the sunsetting Buttes to Basins Joint Chiefs project.

Robin asked about the prospect of additional money coming down the chain through the IRA. Agreed that expanding the boundary of the CIS would be beneficial given the extra money coming. Suggested maybe looking at prioritizing lower income areas like Deschutes River Woods and great La Pine area.

Ariel supports expanding the boundary to match the Buttes to Basin boundary. She asked about eastern boundary of the Joint Chiefs, and why it was drawn that way. Lars explained that they used the ODF jurisdictional boundaries as the template for drawing the Joint Chiefs boundary. She then went on to say that we may be missing some priority areas by limiting the boundary to the ODF jurisdiction, especially since they offer programing too but being consistent with conservation areas is important too. She

suggested that we prioritize projects that are adjacent to other projects, so we do not just have a "checkerboard" approach.

Robin asked about the demand vs funding we saw in the FY 23 J.C., to make sure the demand would support expanding the boundary. He again brought up prioritizing lower income areas. Lars then explained a few of the barriers people in DRW and La Pine face when applying for NRCS funding, including: 1) having a Forest Management Plan and 2) mentioned how long our process takes often up to 1.5 years for people without a plan in place prior. Tom further expanded on barriers he found during his time as the Deschutes County D.C. and mentioned that many people in the south county found the costs associated with forestry work as prohibitive, even with NRCS cost sharing.

Ariel suggested maybe using collective Forest Management Plans across multiple properties to help small acreage landowners. She also suggested that there has been some interest from people in DRW and La Pine to implement forestry work, but it often is with other programs that don't require as much time and level of planning that NRCS requires.

Todd mentioned that Indian Ford area and beyond to Green Ridge has been marked as a priority area and expanding the CIS boundary would help to capture those areas.

Ariel voiced concerns about having language specifically around the Wildland Urban Interface in our ranking criteria. There are often many different definitions on what counts as WUI depending on which organization you look at. Robin suggested maybe a prioritization like something as simple as ¼ mile form city boundaries.

Ariel suggested maybe using something called P.O.D.s (Potential Operational Delineations). These are used within the wildland firefighting world and are "fire management and planning units whose boundaries are defined by potential control features (e.g., roads, natural barriers), and within which fire risk to values can be quantified and summarized."

Brian talked about using HOAs as a potential for doing outreach locally with and added that we should include success stories with those outreach efforts to HOAs. Ariel noted that Project Wildfire has started a statewide program to connect HOAs.

Lars will follow up with possible CIS boundary expansion to match the Joint Chiefs boundary. He will also revisit the ranking questions as they pertain to WUI.

The meeting discussion shifted to irrigation related issues within Deschutes County.

Irrigation

- Deschutes County On-farm Irrigation and Energy CIS
- Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID) RCPP
- Smith Rock Irrigation and Modernization RCPP

Lars and Dave gave an overview of the TSID RCPP. They explained how TSID had a former RCPP that was completed, and they applied for a new one. This is the first year for contracting within this new RCPP. RCPP's typically last 5 years.

Brad expressed interest in how the Energy Trust can help offset some costs for irrigation projects as they continue piping their open delivery systems. He also wanted to say that the Energy Trust might be able to cover some costs for landowners as they tie into pressurized pipe if we are reducing/eliminating pumping needs.

Lisa gave an update with the Smith Rock RCPP. She mentioned they are developing a tool to help DRC prioritize where they work in the future. The tool will also include information on strategic locations for the irrigation districts to put booster pumps, helping to keep pressures consistent for producers tying into those pipes, and future reduce need for on farm pumping. She also made a plug for the Deschutes Basin Water Collaborative.

Lars gave an overview of the Deschutes on Farm CIS and explained that last year the local work group wanted to expand areas. This year several partners were expressing interest in expanding again. Lars explained the contract workload for this CIS has been manageable.

Todd mentioned that he already knows of people interested in water conservation to the west of the current Smith Rock boundary, west of the current TID boundary, and outside of the Swalley boundary. All these projects would be helping producers tie into piped water from the different districts. Tom further mentioned that interested is out there, and the SWCD had applications from their ARPA money outside of the current Deschutes on Farm boundary. They would like to see expansion west of the Smith Rock focal area.

Lisa mentioned that the DRC is pushing for monitoring of on farm water use because it is hard to quantify water savings on the district scale.

Brand mentioned wanting to continue developing a working relationship between all these different groups. He mentioned that Klamath County NRCS includes the Energy Trust on their privacy release form, helping to foster that relationship between NRCS, the producers, and Energy Trust. Could help here locally. He also mentioned that he can now work with Pacific Power patrons as well as C.E.C.

Brian mentioned that he envisions the SWCD providing additional marketing county wide promoting different conservation programs. He would like to collaborate with different groups who all do conservation work county wide.

Lars will follow up with requesting to expand the Deschutes on Farm CIS geographic area to meet the needs of the local resource concerns.

Small Acre and Organic update

- National Organic Initiative (NOI)
- Food Security CIS (FSI)
- High Tunnel Initiative
- Organic Transition Initiative – coming soon
- CSP Organic

Stephanie gave a quick presentation on the NOI and FSI. She reviewed a few projects that were funded basin wide and highlighted the demand for this program in Deschutes County. The High Tunnel Initiative was not funded as a separate funding pool this year. That funding was put into the Food Security CIS. Her slides and presentation will be included in the minutes.

CSP and other programs

Lars explained that there are several other programs that also happen within Deschutes and Jefferson County. The Conservation Activity Planning (CAPs) planning can be used to develop forest management plans and other conservation plans too. There has been interest in the Energy Conservation Initiative, but no applications have made it through the eligibility process. The Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) is ramping up this year and Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding will not be delivered in Deschutes or Jefferson County this year. IRA funding is being utilized in other counties this year and expected to be coming to Deschutes and Jefferson County next year in FY24.

Lars summarized some of the suggestions that were made throughout the meeting and thanked everyone coming to participate in the LWG process.

Meeting adjourned at 12:08pm.

(Presentation materials below)

Deschutes County Local Workgroup Meeting

United States Department of Agriculture

Lars Santana - District Conservationist

Jenn Eatwell – Soil Conservationist

David Phipps – Soil Conservationist

Redmond Service Center

- Deschutes County

- Jefferson County

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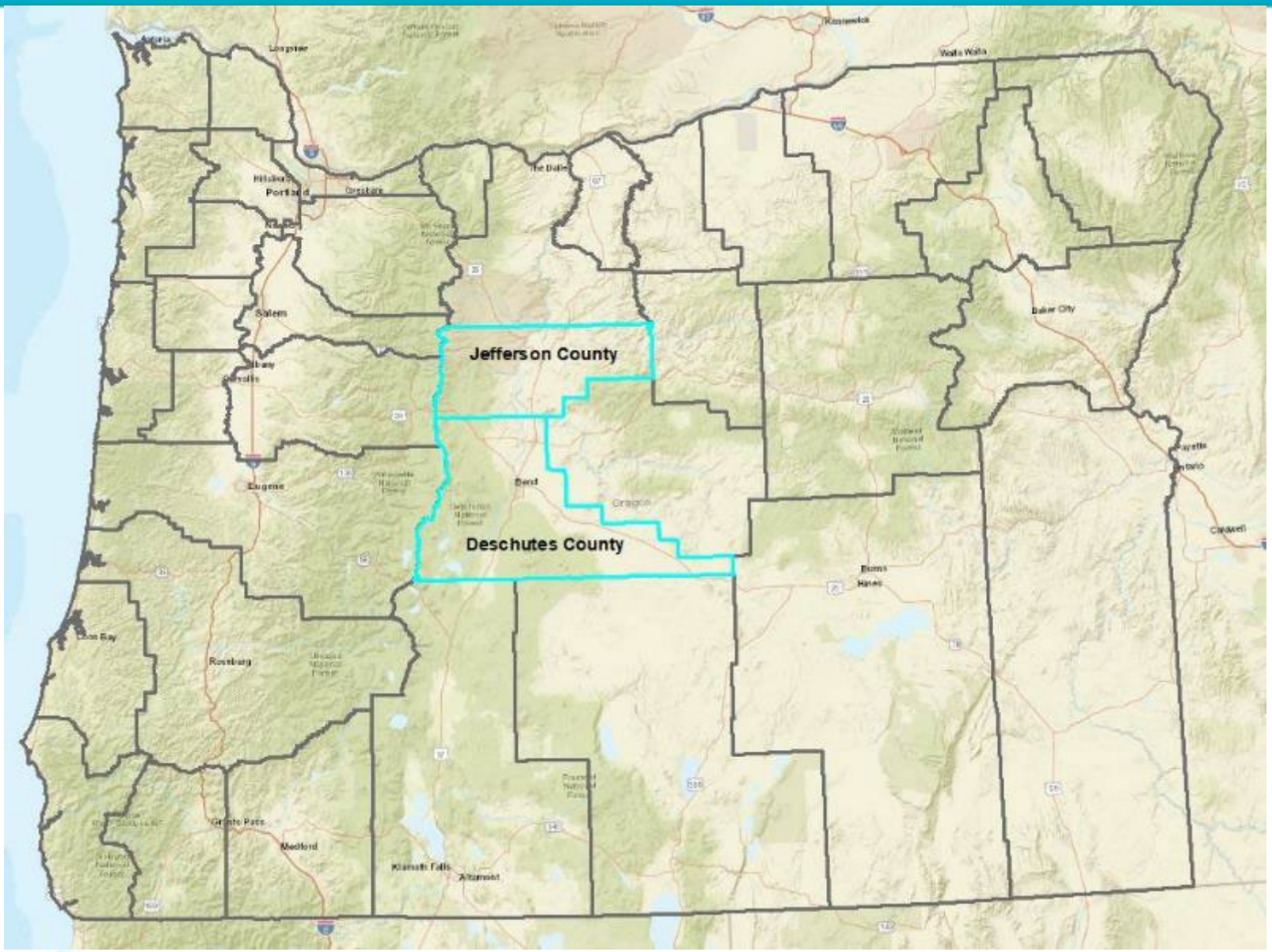

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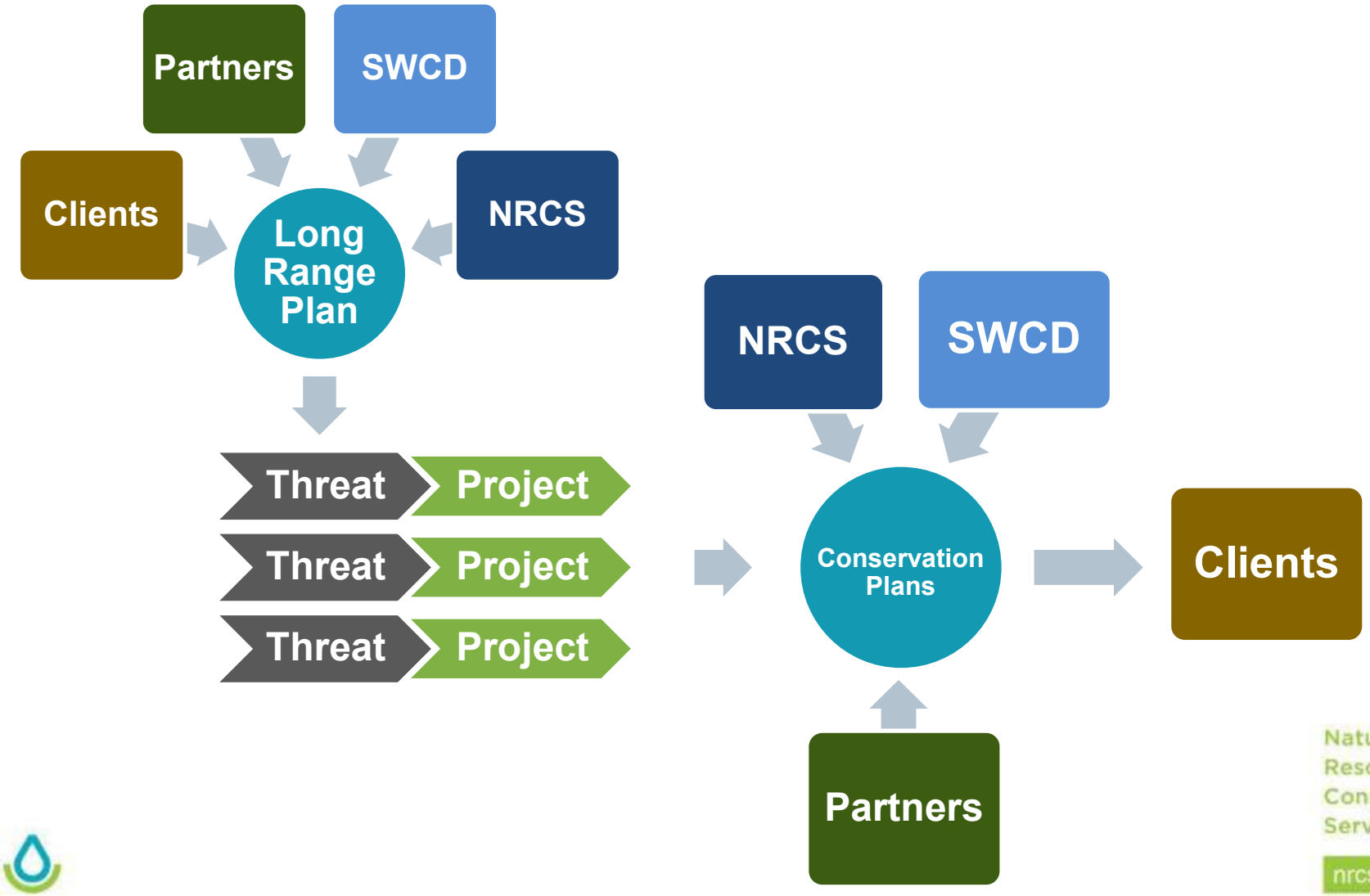
Local Work Group



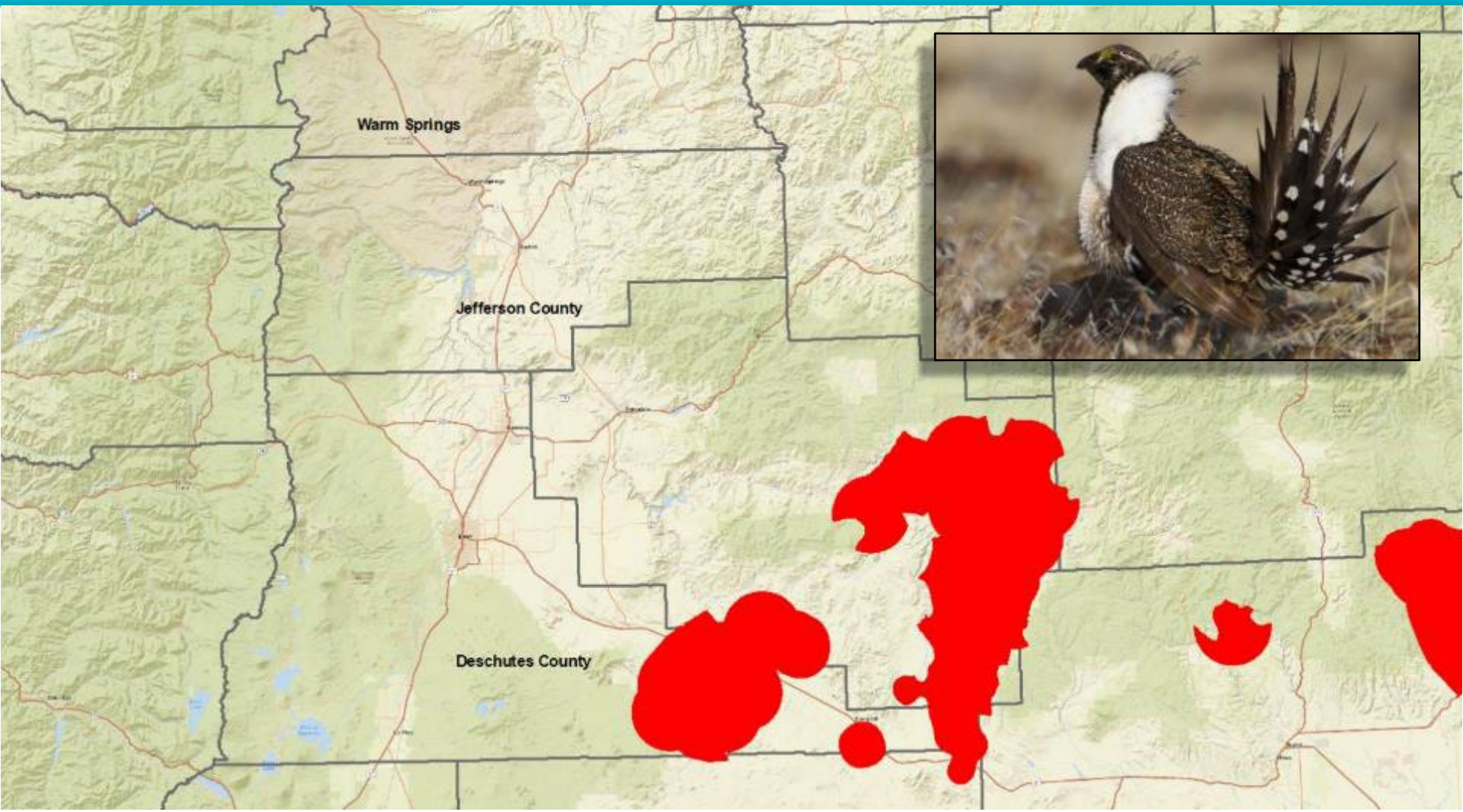
Introductions

We invite you to share:

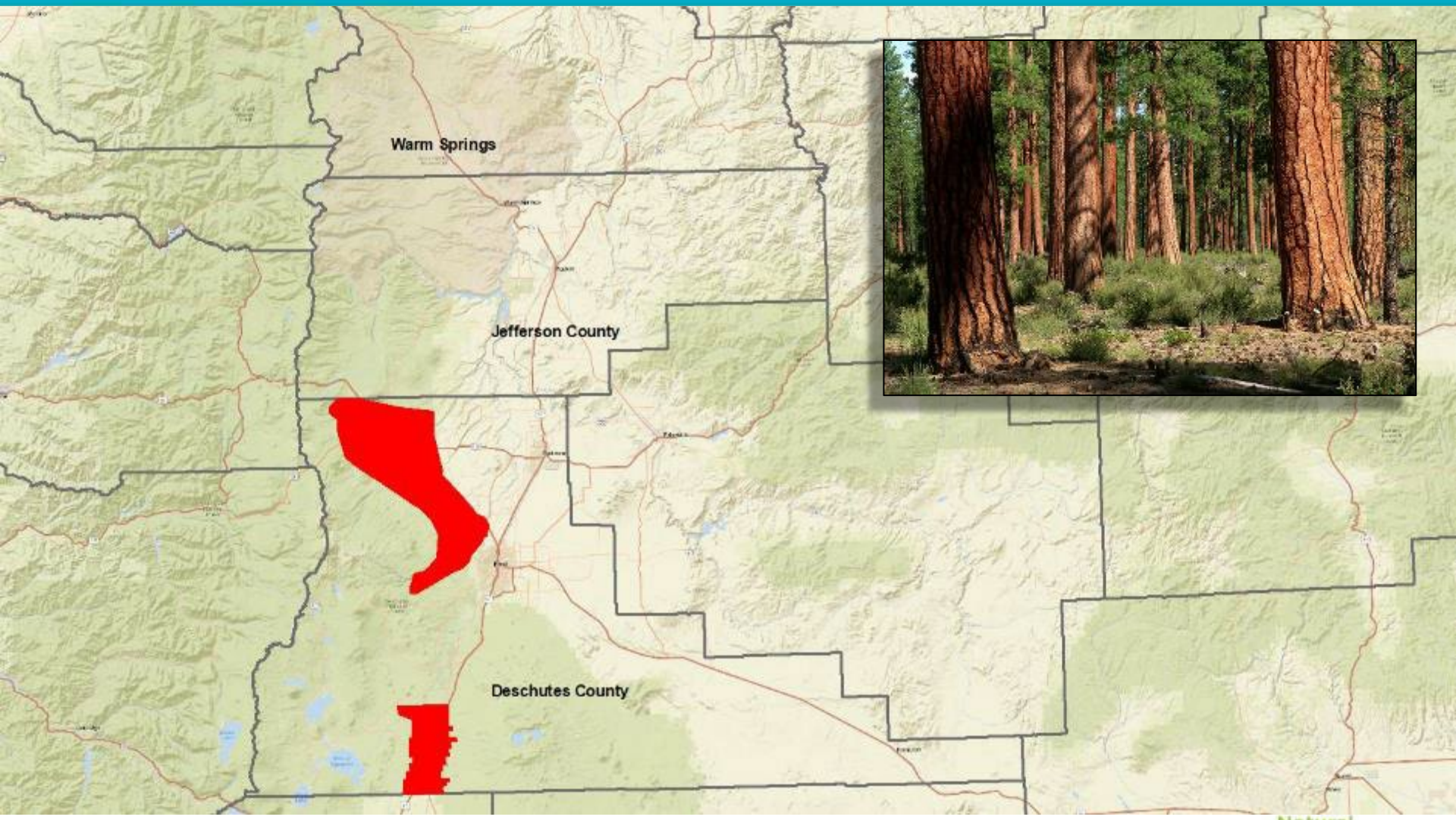
1. **Your Name**
2. **Your affiliation/role/area of interest**
3. **Why this meeting is important to you**

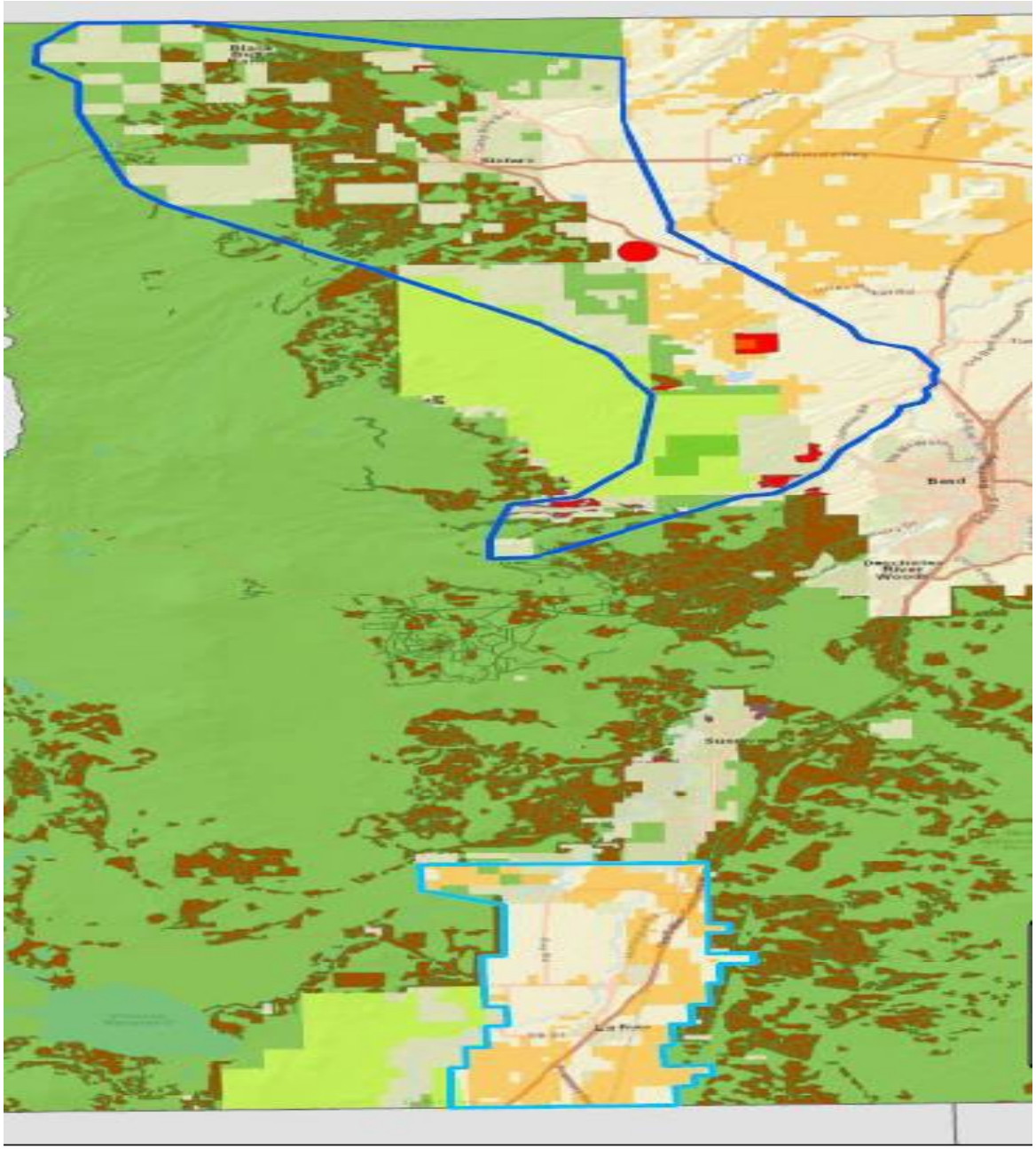
Hydrologic Restoration for Steelhead CIS

Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) – Administered by Crook County



Restoration of Fire Resilient Landscapes CIS





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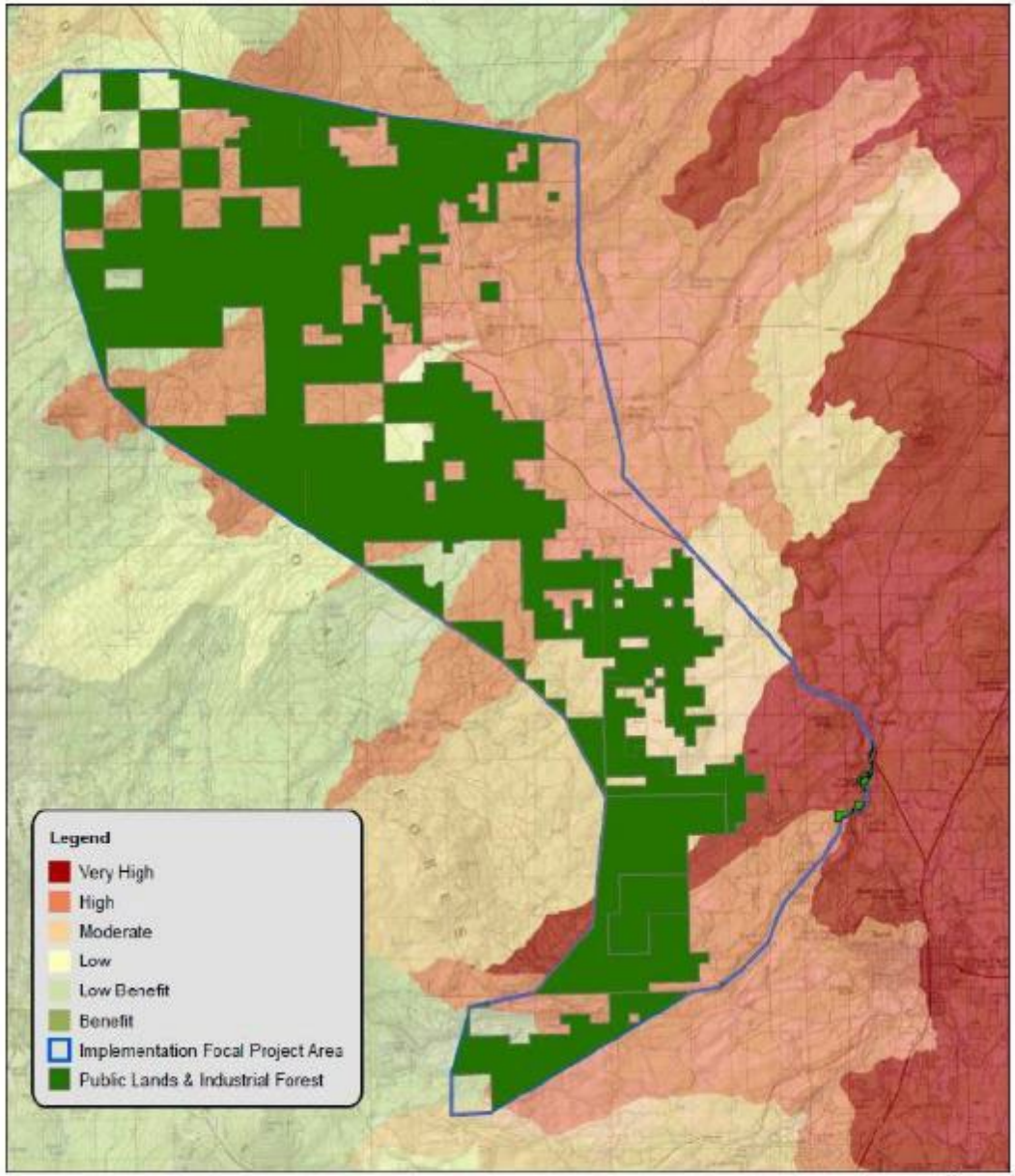
Overall Wildfire Risk by Watershed in Focal Project Area



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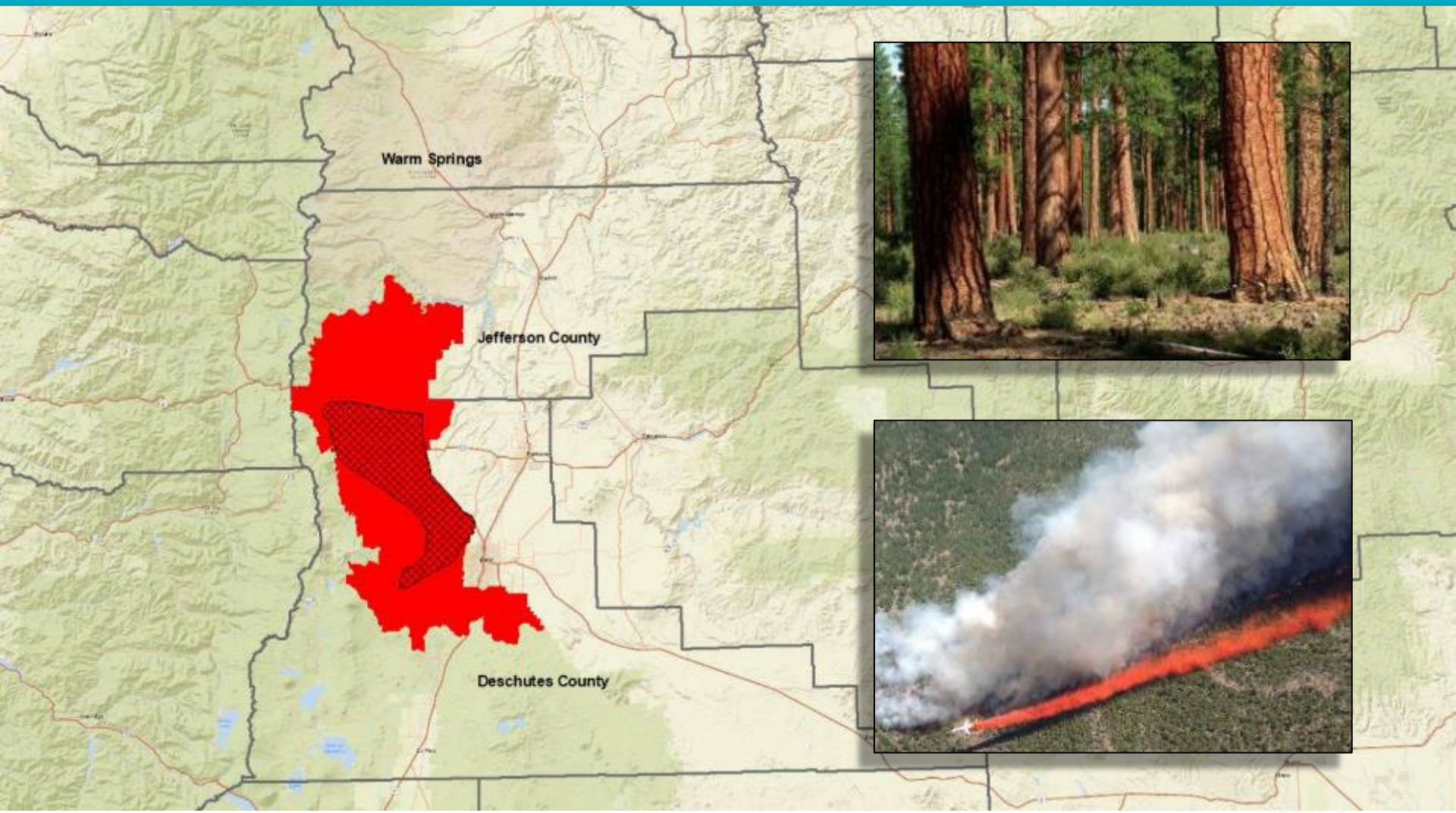
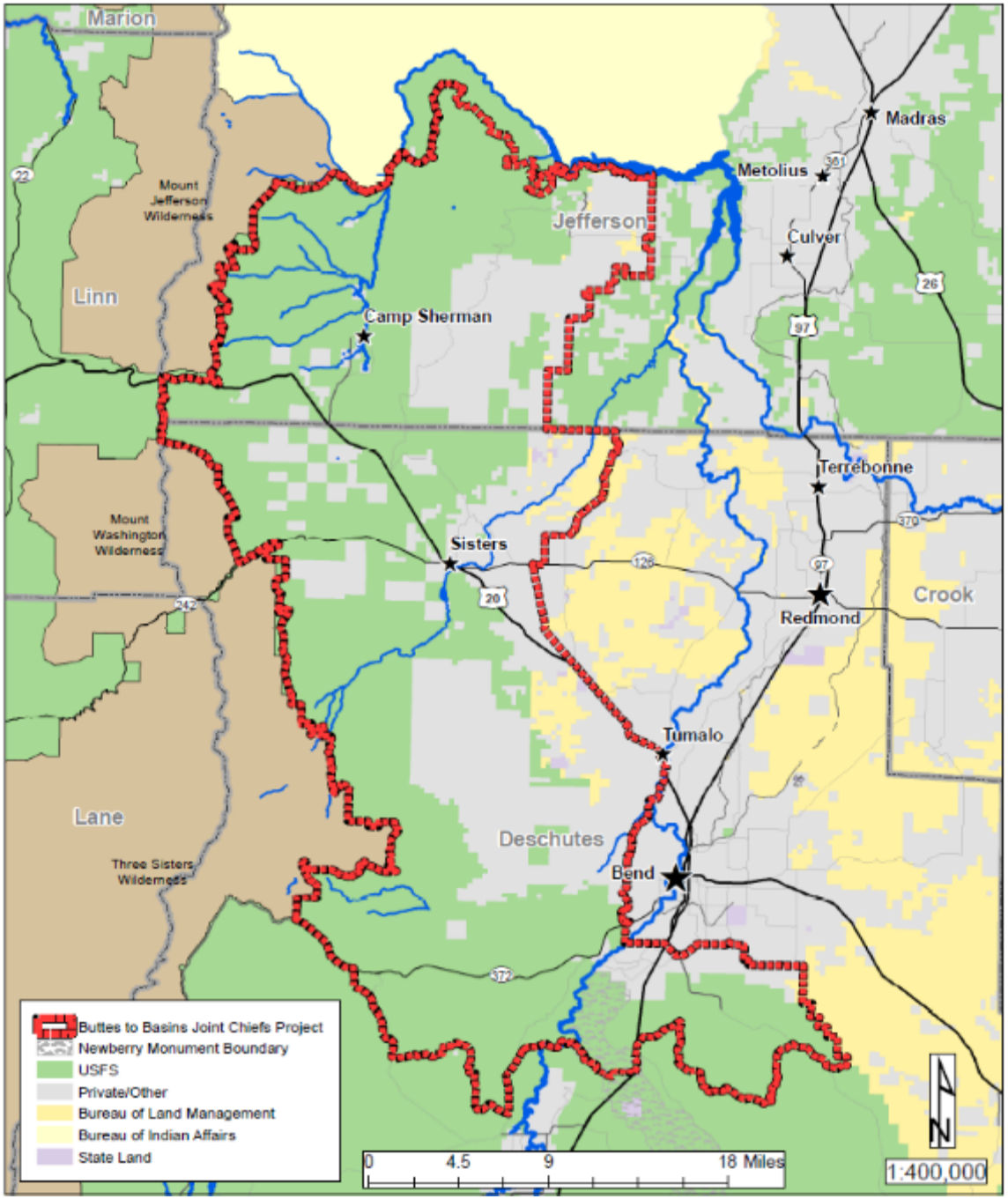
Joint Chiefs - Buttes to Basins – All Lands Forest Resiliency



Buttes to Basins : Overview



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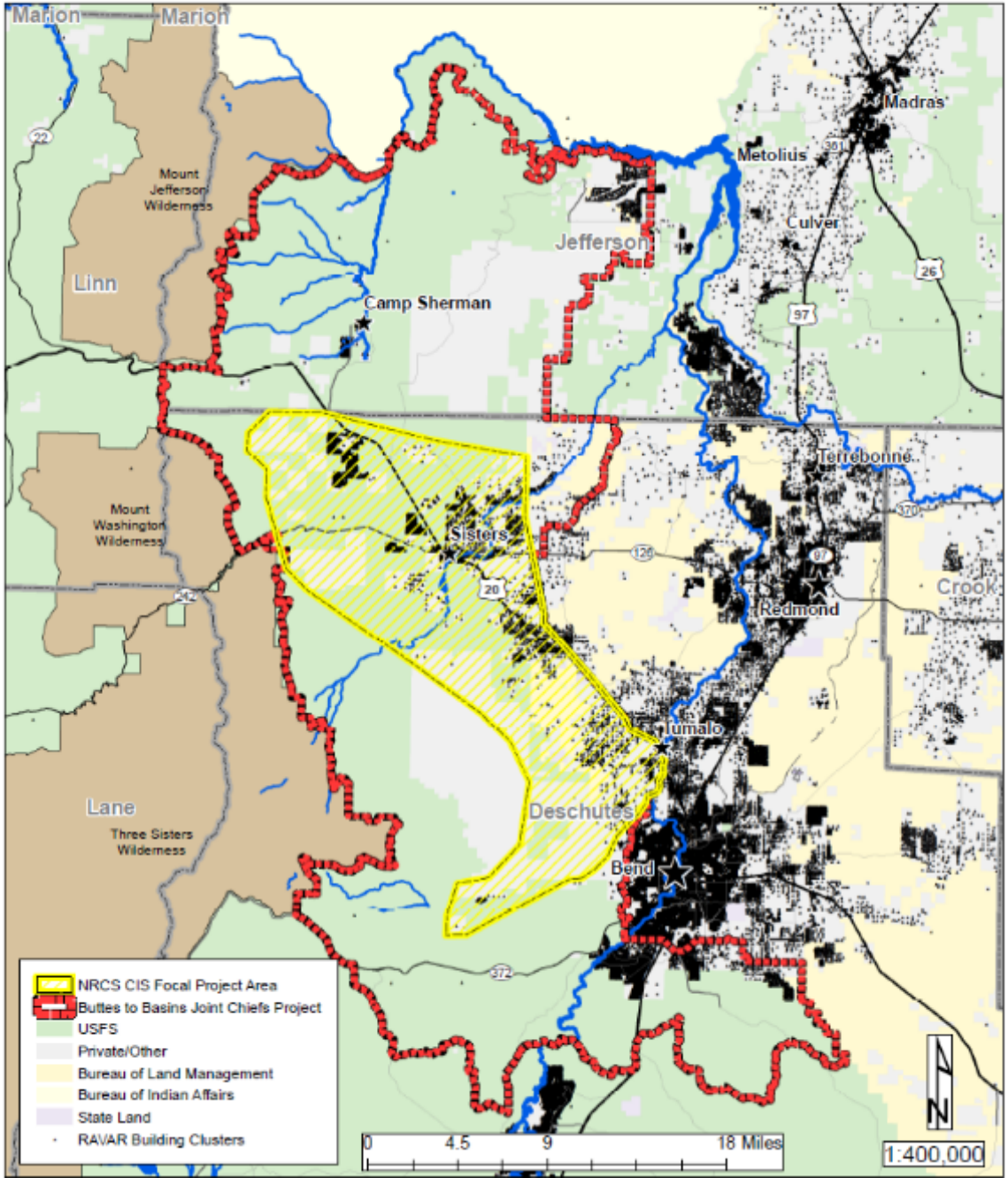
Buttes to Basins : NRCS Conservation Implementation Strategy
Restoration of Fire Resilient Landscapes in Deschutes County



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Joint Chiefs

Funds Obligated To Date

	FY22	FY21 (If Applicable)
NRCS - EQIP Financial & Technical Assistance	$647,907.00 & $58,311.00 TA	$343,384.00 &$30,904.00 TA
NRCS - Additional Funds	$300,000 SWCD support for NRCS	N/A
FS - National Forest System	$1,041,500	$271,828
FS - Hazardous Fuels	$1,409,000	$1,510,942
FS - State and Private Forestry	$0	$0
FS - Non JCLRP Funds	$186,939*	$125,000
Other (partner investments)	$2,631,000**	$9,990 Deschutes SWCD
Total	$6,274,657	$2,292,048

For EQIP TA, assume TA at a rate of 9% of FA, across years, unless additional funding was invested (e.g., through partner agreements).

**$26,800 BDBD, $59,571 CFLN, $11,482 CWKV, $89,065 RTRT.*

Photos 1 and Photos 2: Before and after of an NRCS project in Bend's municipal watershed. Photo 3: Project check of an NRCS thinning and wood chipping project to reduce fuels in Bend's municipal watershed. Photo Courtesy of Lars Santana, NRCS

Restoration of Fire Resilient Landscapes CIS Ranking

Workflow Screening

- The planned project area is within the Bend/Sisters implementation focal project area and has an existing forest management plan developed by Oregon Department of Forestry or similar. Yes = High
- The planned project is within the Bend/Sisters implementation focal project area and within 1 mile of existing forestry treatment areas. Yes = High
- The planned project is within the Bend/Sisters implementation focal project area and greater than 1 mile of existing forestry treatment areas. Yes = Medium
- The application is for a forest management plan (CAPS 106) within the implementation or outreach focal project area. Yes = Medium
- The application is outside of the focal project areas. Yes = Low

Workflow priority based on the lowest screening answer.

Ranking

- The application screens high — 10 points
- There is an approved forest management plan that has been developed for the property within the past 10 years. — 60 points
- There is an approved forest management plan that has been developed for the property greater than 10 years ago. — 50 points
- The project area is clearly identified in an existing forest management plan. — 30 points
- The application is to assist with the development of a forest management plan. — 10 points
- The application project area is within the wildland urban interface area. — 20 points
- The proposed action includes forest stand improvement and slash treatment. — 20 points
- The proposed project is adjacent (<500 feet) to a forest stand improvement project completed in the past 10 years. — 40 points
- Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Very High — 20 points
- Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is High — 15 points
- Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Moderate — 10 points
- Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Low — 7 points
- Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Low Benefit or Benefit — 5 points

Joint Chiefs Buttes to Basins Ranking

Workflow Screening

Workflow priority based on the lowest screening answer

1. Does the assessed practice schedule intersect the boundary of a selected and active JCLRP project (ie: The planned project is within the Joint Chiefs project area). Yes = High
2. The planned project is within the Joint Chiefs project area and greater than 4 miles from any existing forestry treatment areas. Yes = Medium
3. The planned project is outside of the Joint Chiefs project area. Yes = Low

Program Ranking Questions

1. Does the EQIP contract leverage the management of natural resources across land ownership (public-private) boundaries? 100 points
2. EQIP project is located in an area that is adjacent to high priority projects on public land as identified in the selected JCLRP project proposal. 100 points
3. EQIP project is located in an area that is within the same 12-digit hydrologic unit as high priority projects on public land as identified in the selected JCLRP project proposal. 75 points

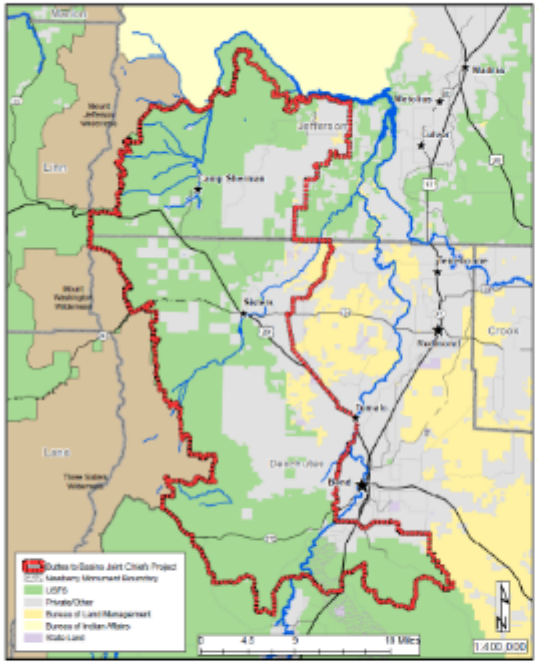
Total Maximum Points = 200

Resource Ranking Questions

1. The application screens high 10 points
2. There is an approved forest management plan that has been developed for the property within the past 10 years. 60 points
3. There is an approved forest management plan that has been developed for the property greater than 10 years ago. 50 points
4. The project area is clearly identified in an existing forest management plan. 30 points
5. The proposed action includes forest stand improvement and woody residue treatment. 20 points
6. The proposed project is adjacent (<500 feet) to an existing forest stand improvement project area. 50 points
7. The proposed project is >500 feet to 1 mile of an existing forest stand improvement project area. 30 points
8. The proposed project is greater than 1 mile of an existing forest stand improvement project area. 5 points
9. Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Very High 30 points
10. Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is High 15 points
11. Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Moderate 10 points
12. Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Low 7 points
13. Overall Watershed Wildfire Risk is Low Benefit or Benefit 5 points

Outreach

Financial Assistance for Fire Risk Reduction and Forest Health Improvements



The objective of this program is to enhance and restore forest health while focusing conservation activities in high wildfire risk areas. Working with partners will provide a cost-effective opportunity to reduce hazardous fuels and decrease wildfire intensity, increase the ability of firefighters to protect homes and lives, maintain and improve ecosystem health, and promote wildlife habitat.

Your local USDA-NRCS Service Center is working with private landowners to provide financial assistance to implement voluntary restoration actions within the boundary area (outlined in red).

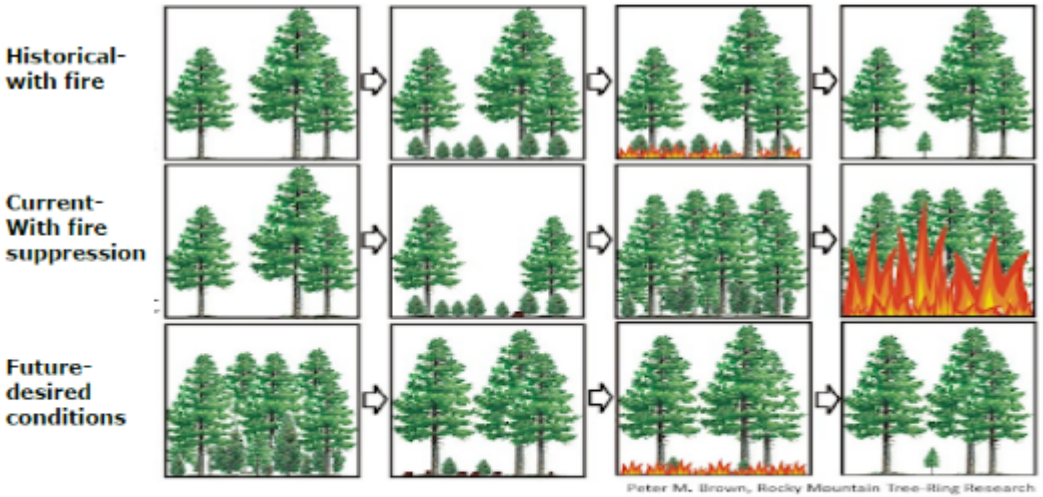
For more information contact:

Todd Peplin, Deschutes SWCD Programs Lead
(541)550-6339 Todd.Peplin1@or.nacdnet.net

Erin Kilcullen, Deschutes SWCD Manager
(541)550-6834 ekilcullen.dswcd@outlook.com

Lars Santana, NRCS District Conservationist
(541)699-3194 Lars.Santana@usda.gov

Fire History and Restoring Fire-Resilient Landscapes



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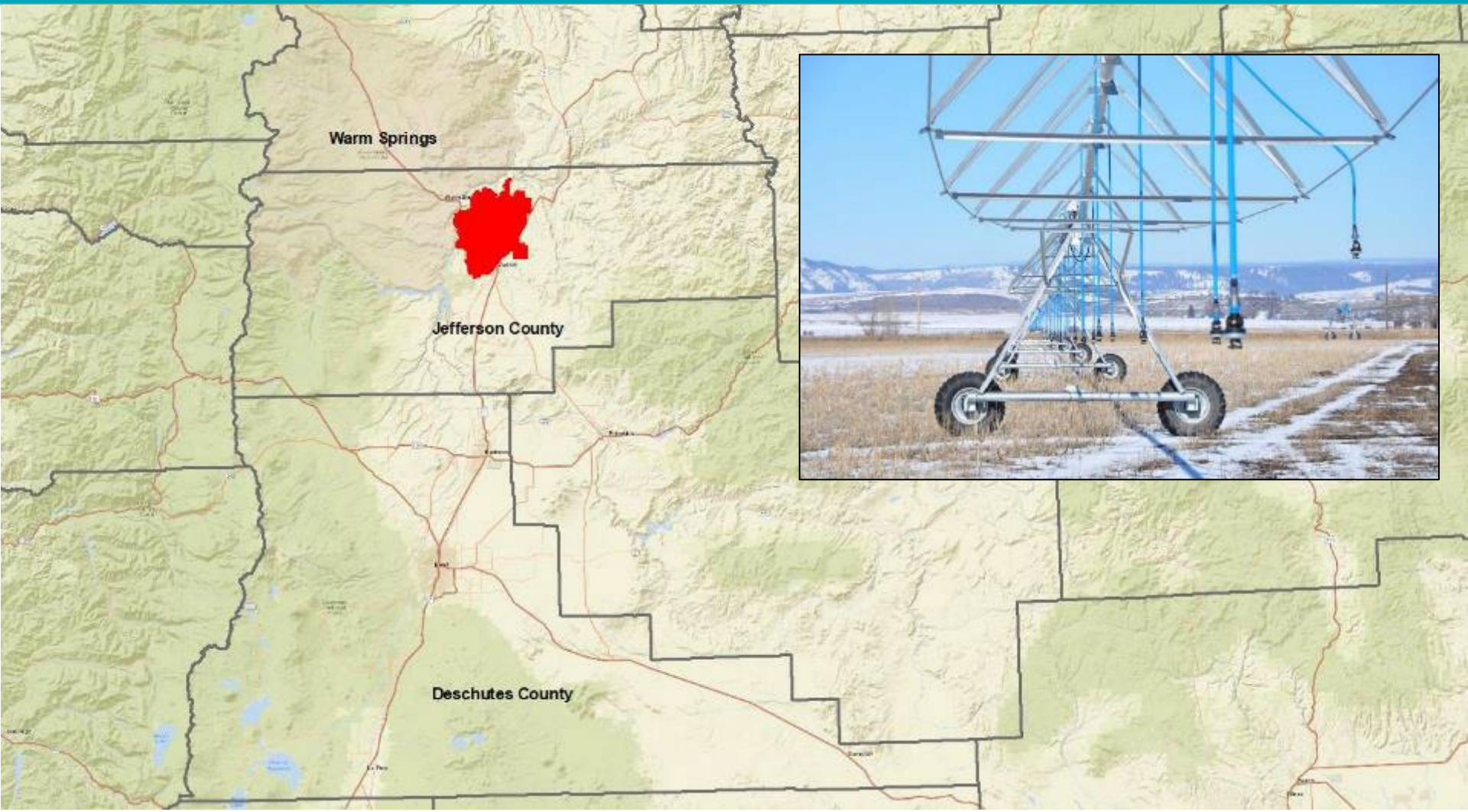
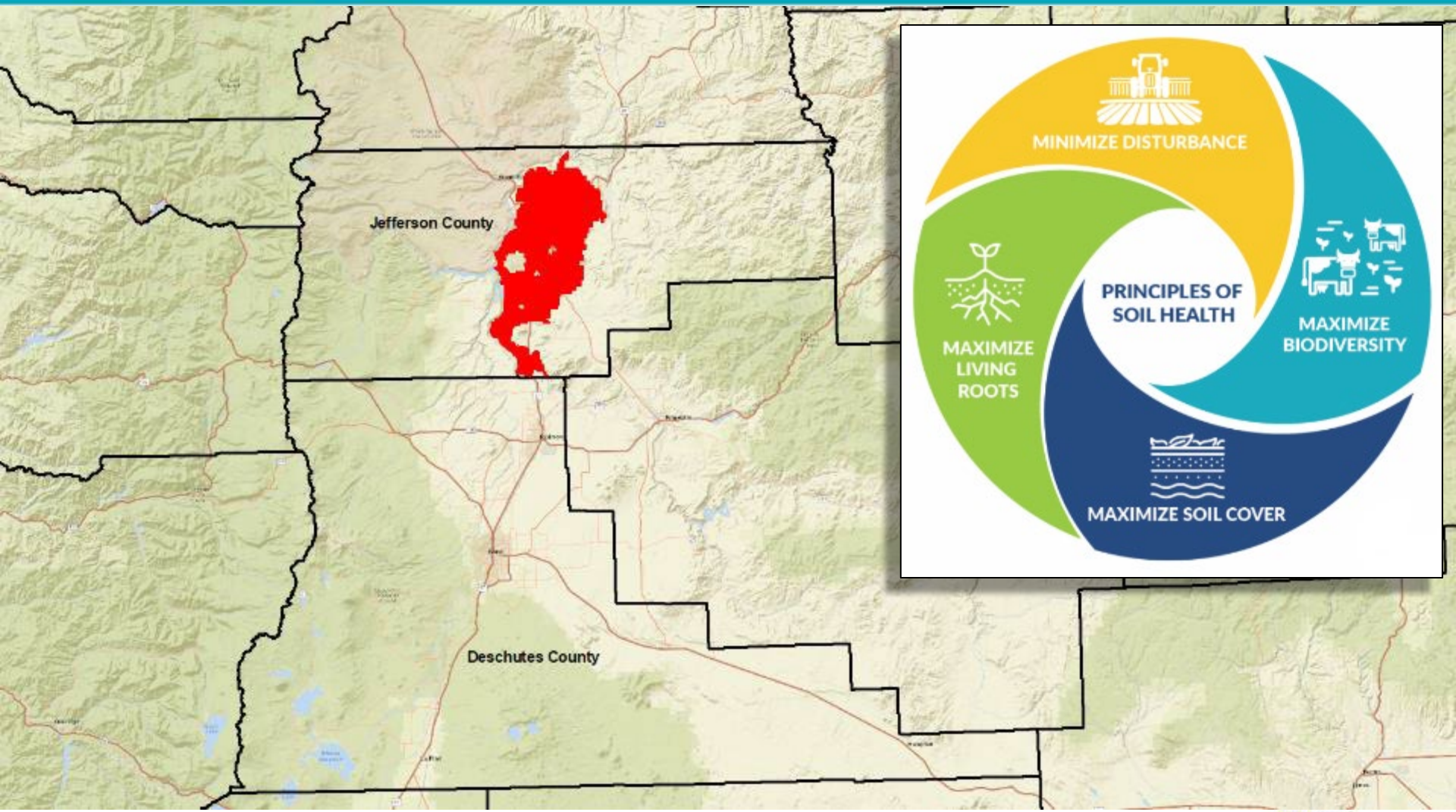
Irrigation

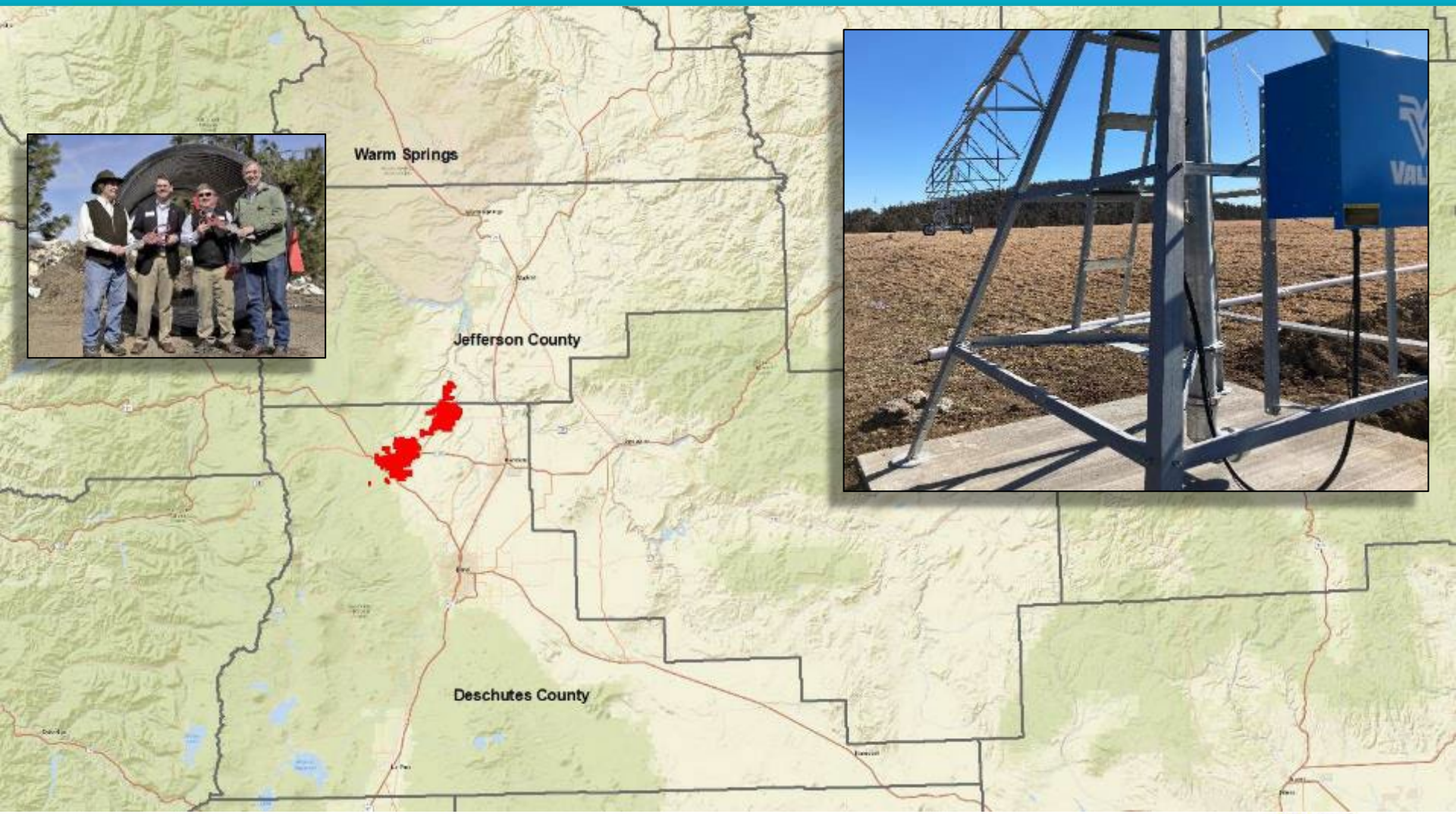
Agency Plains Water Quality CIS



North Unit Soil Health and Sustainability CIS

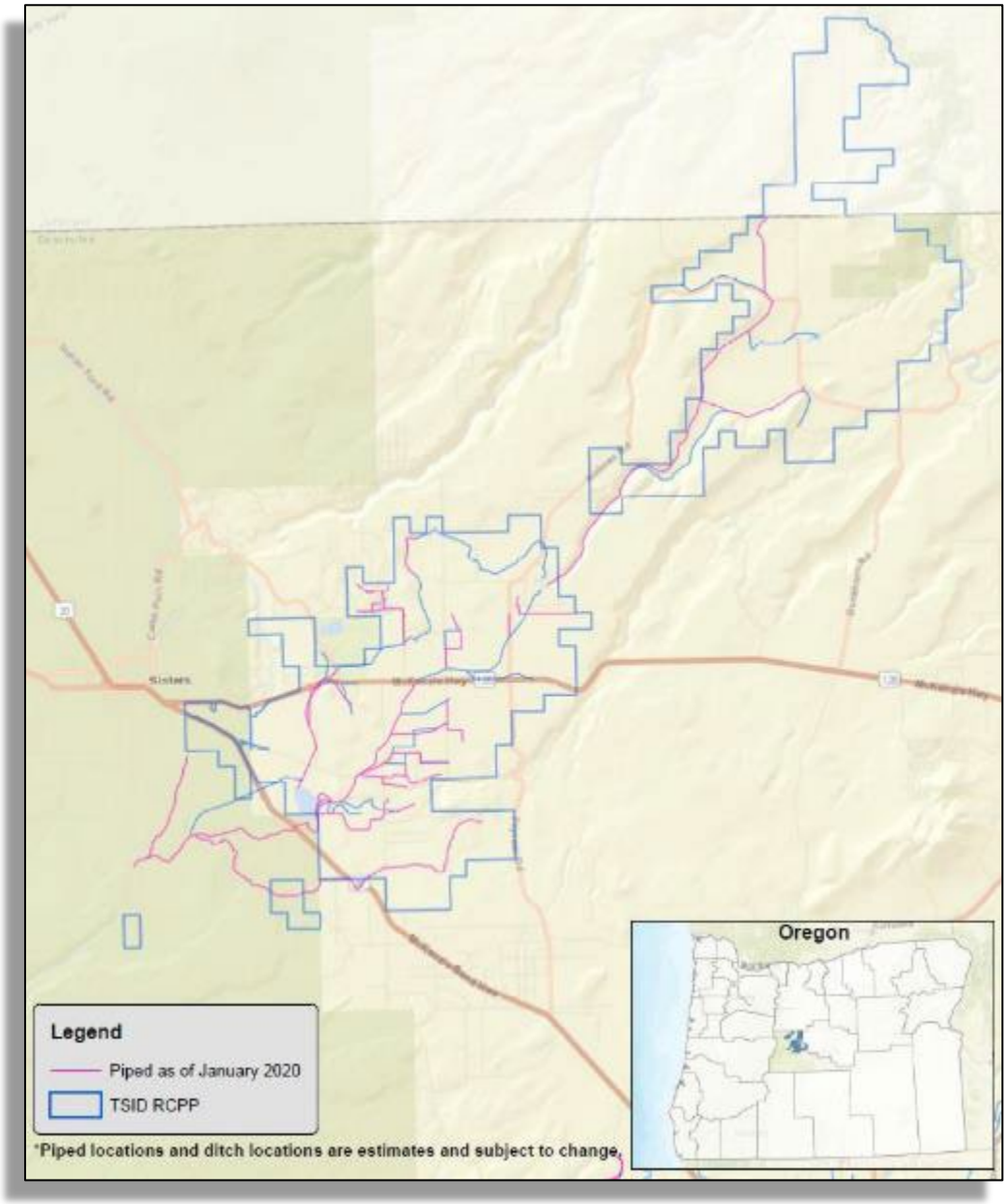


Three Sisters Irrigation District RCPP



Three Sisters Irrigation District (TSID) Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)

TSID Whychus Creek Watershed Restoration Project & On Farm/Renewable Energy RCPP



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Three Sisters Irrigation District

Conservation Practices

Irrigation Pipeline

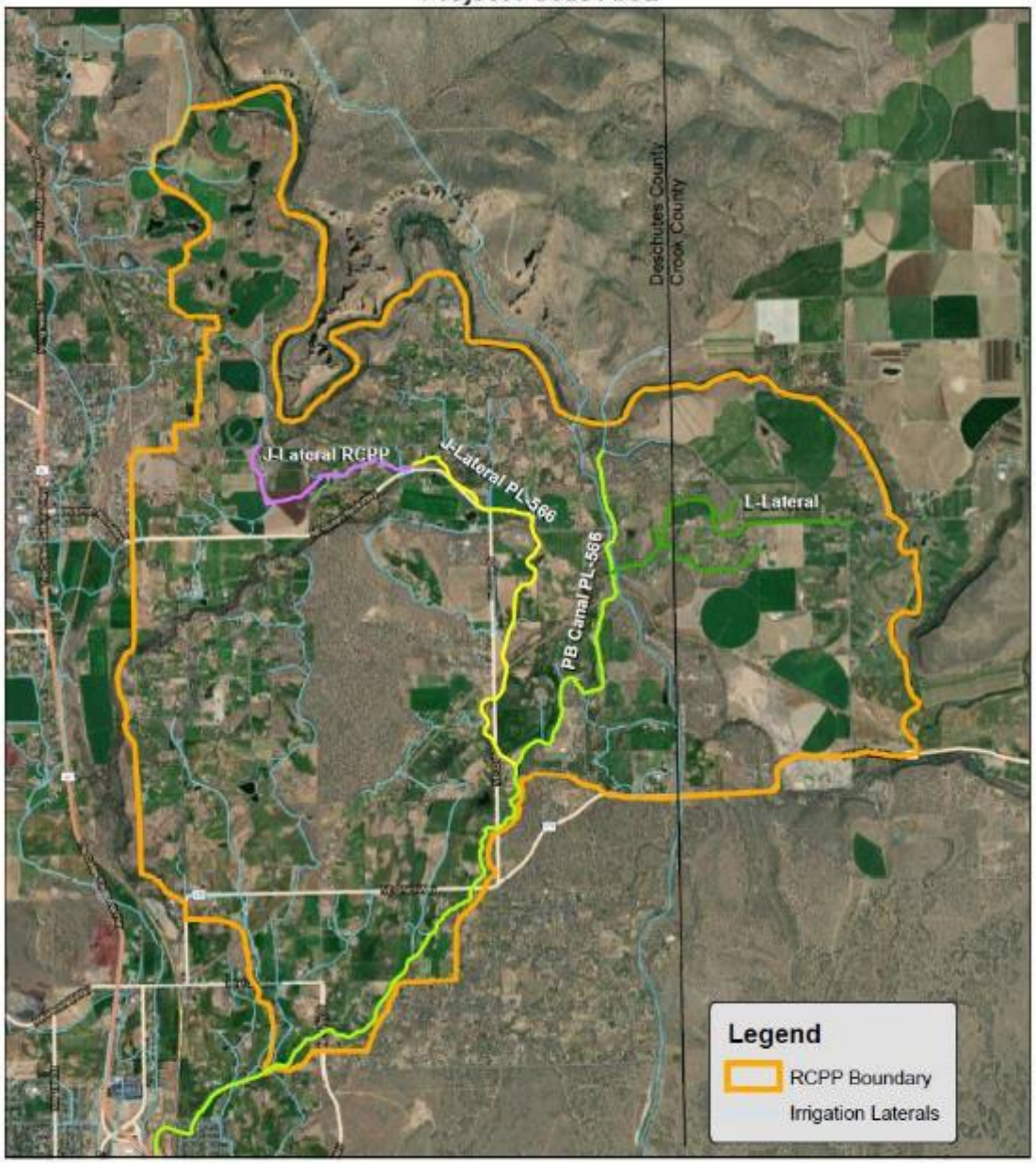
Flow Meters

Irrigation Water Management

Sprinkler Systems

Smith Rock Irrigation Modernization & Conservation RCPP

Smith Rock Irrigation Modernization & Conservation
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
Project Focus Area



0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Miles

DESCHUTES RIVER CONSERVANCY

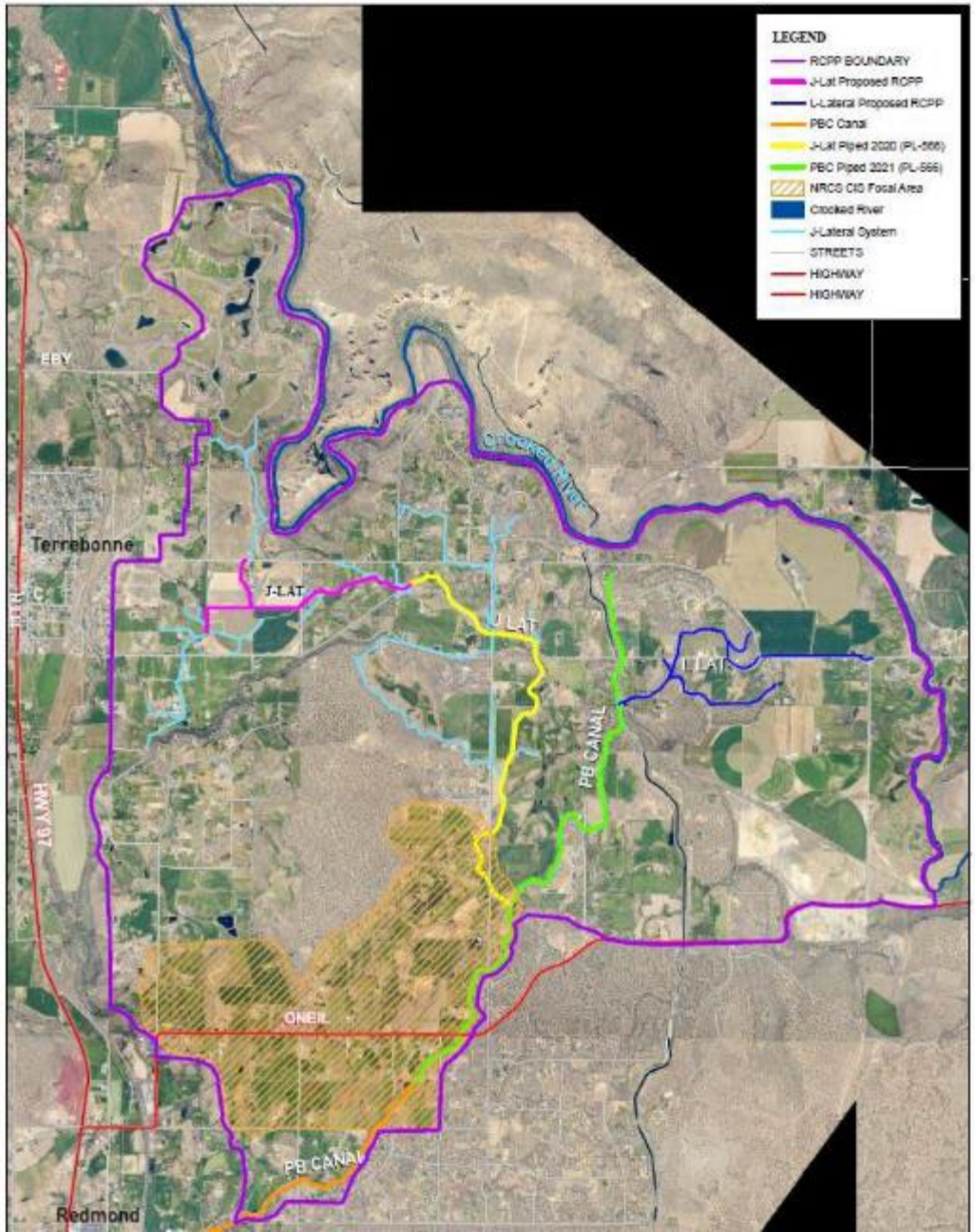
DESCHUTES SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

CENTRAL OREGON Irrigation DISTRICT Since 1918

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Smith Rock Irrigation Modernization & Conservation
Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
Project Focus Area



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Deschutes County On-farm Irrigation and Energy Efficiency
Conservation Implementation Strategy
September 18, 2020

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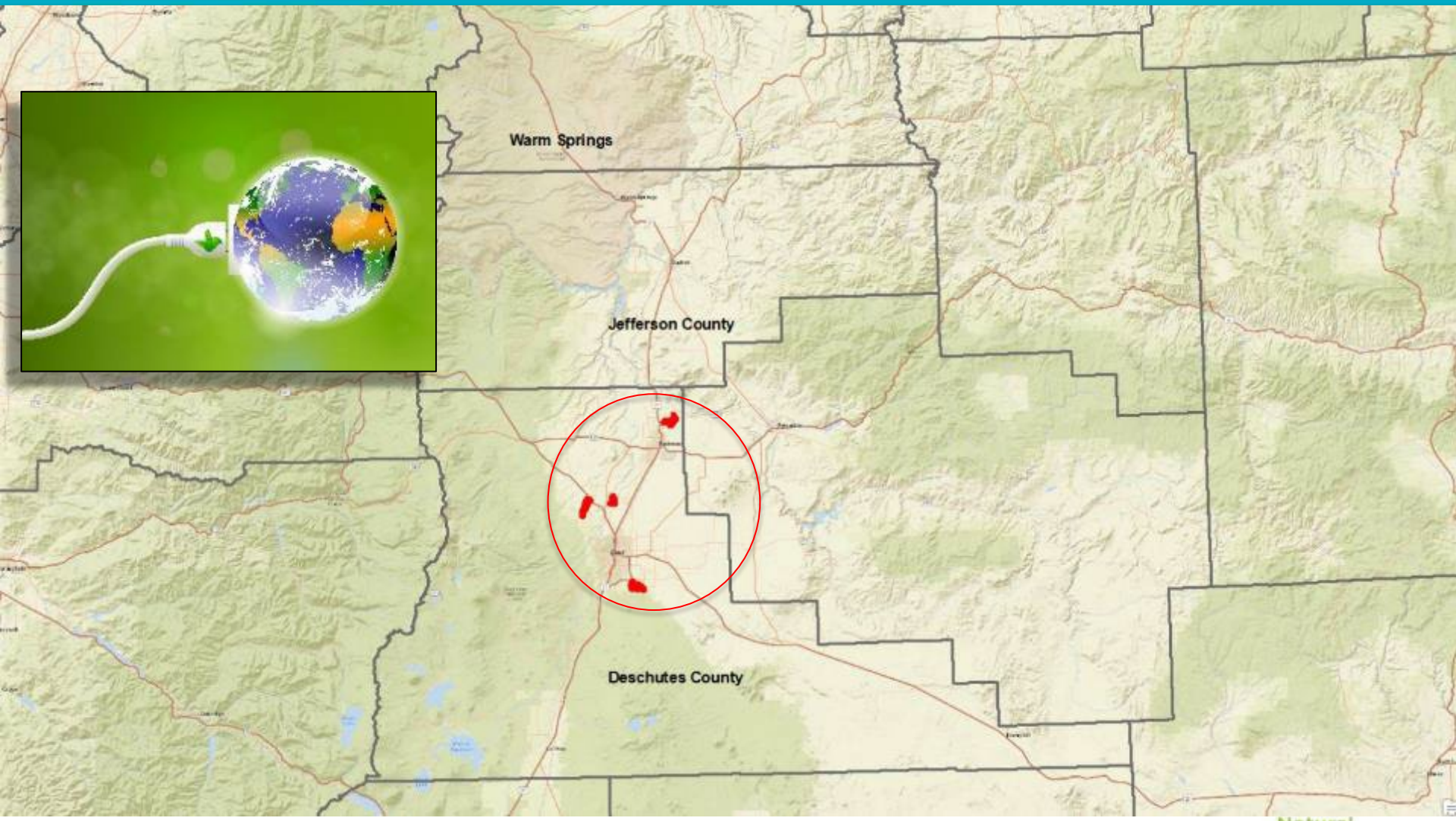
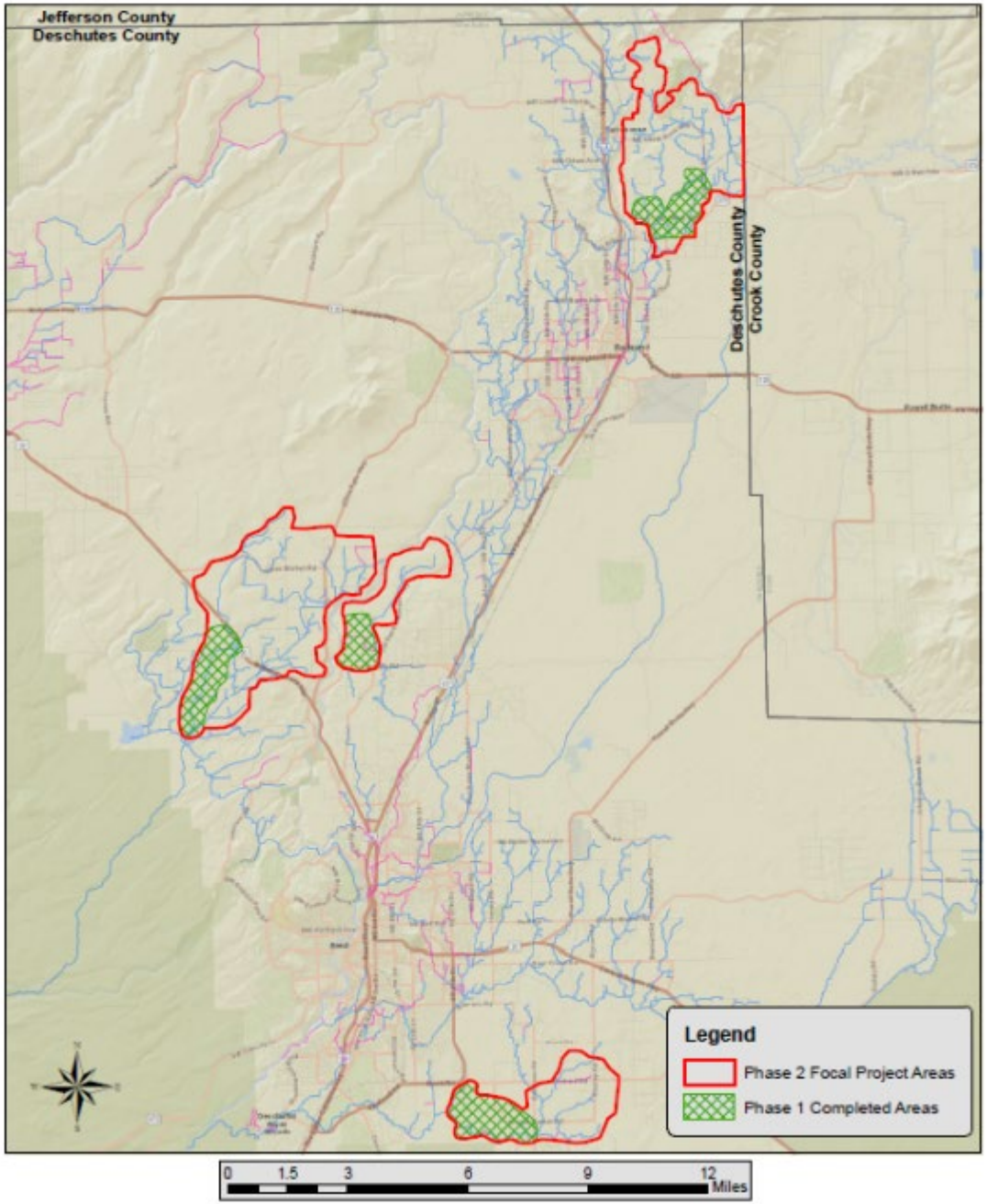
Deschutes On-farm Irrigation and Energy Efficiency CIS



Deschutes County On-farm Irrigation & Energy Focal Project Areas
CIS Phase 2



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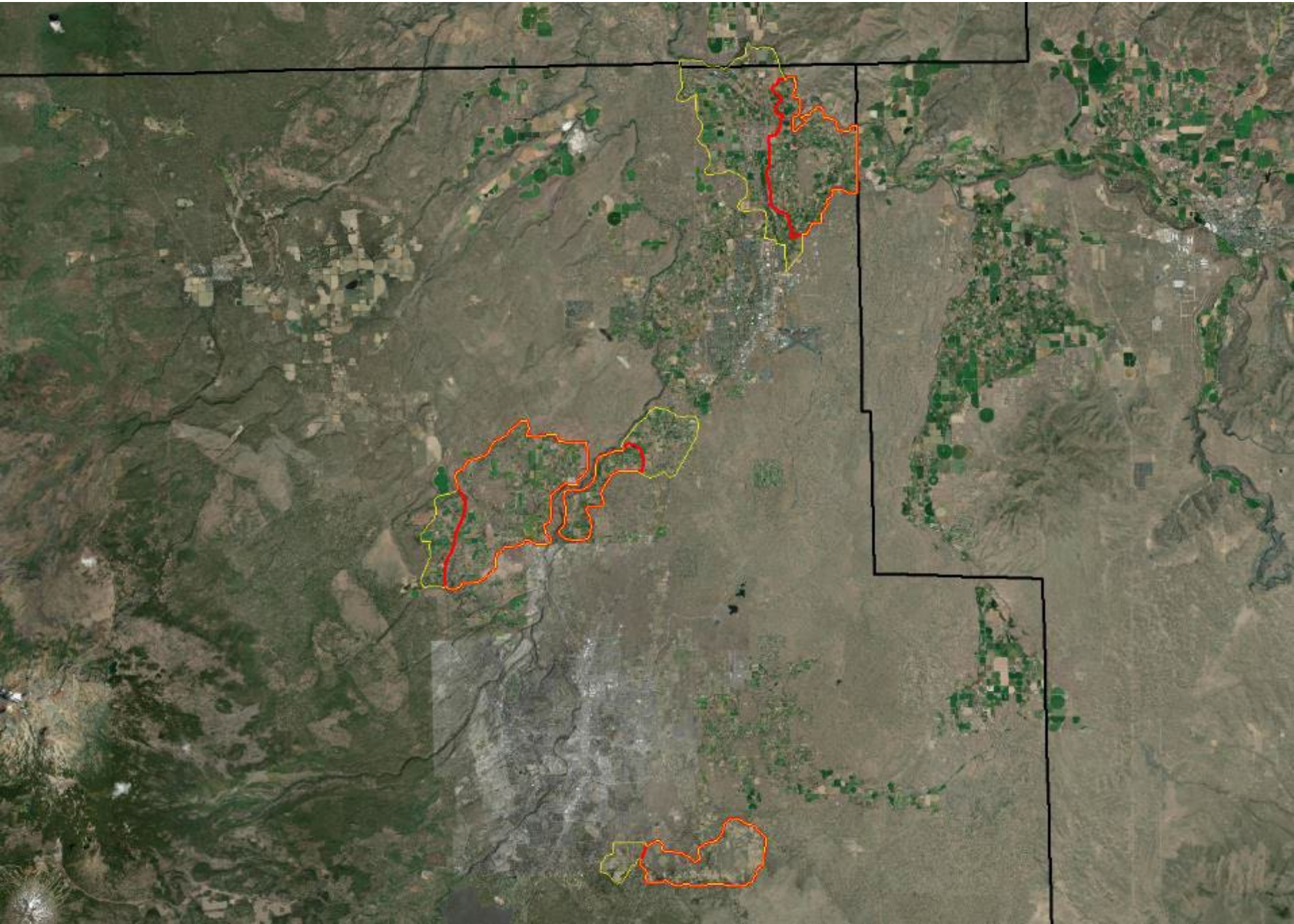
Deschutes On-farm Irrigation and Energy Efficiency CIS Phase 3 draft



Ranking Criteria

Energy efficiency of equipment and facilities

Practices utilize potential pressurized waterpower to reduce energy demand	30 points
Energy efficiency improved to reduce 1-5 horsepower.	10 points
Energy efficiency improved to reduce 6-10 horsepower.	20 points
Energy efficiency improved to reduce 10+ horsepower.	30 points
Energy efficiency improved by installing a Variable Frequency Drive pump.	40 points

Insufficient Water: Inefficient use of irrigation water

Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 40 ac.in/ac or more.	40 points
Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 35-39 ac.in/ac	30 points
Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 31-34 ac.in/ac	15 points
Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 28-30 ac.in/ac.	14 points
Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 25-27 ac.in/ac	13 points
Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 20-24 ac.in/ac	12 points
Irrigation efficiency estimates improved by 1-19 ac.in/ac	10 points
Water seepage loss is reduced by transitioning from open ditch to pipeline.	20 points

Community Based Conservation Support

The irrigation system, ditch, or lateral is shared with multiple users and there is a draft operation plan that demonstrates shared user commitment for improvement and maintenance.
20 points

The irrigation system, ditch, or lateral is shared with multiple users and there an established document that shows agreed user consensus and commitment for the improvement project.
20 points

The irrigation system, ditch, or lateral has one user (ie: not shared with multiple users) and there is a draft operation plan that demonstrates user commitment for improvement and maintenance.
40 points

United States Department of Agriculture

OREGON

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Small Acre and Organic Farms

Stephanie Payne

Natural Resources Conservation Service

nrcs.usda.gov/

Current FUND POOLS

Organic Initiative

Food Security Initiative

Near-Future FUND POOLS

Organic Transition Initiative

CSP Organic

Current FY23 Funding Pool Info

Organic Initiative

- **Purpose:** Support transitioning organic, certified USDA Organic, and exempt organic Producers
- **Focus:** all land uses and NRCS Oregon conservation practices available

Sprinkler System, Nozzle Upgrade (442)

Irrigation Water Management (449)

Certified USDA Organic - Brothers, OR

Current FY23 Funding Pool Info

~~High Tunnel Initiative~~

- **No longer available in the HDDB**
- Funds and practices (high tunnels) now available under the **Food Security Initiative**

Food Security Initiative

- **Purpose:** Support producers contributing directly to low income, low access communities
- **Focus:** Soil health on cropland and pastures
- **No payment cap on high tunnels**

Food Security Initiative

Cropland

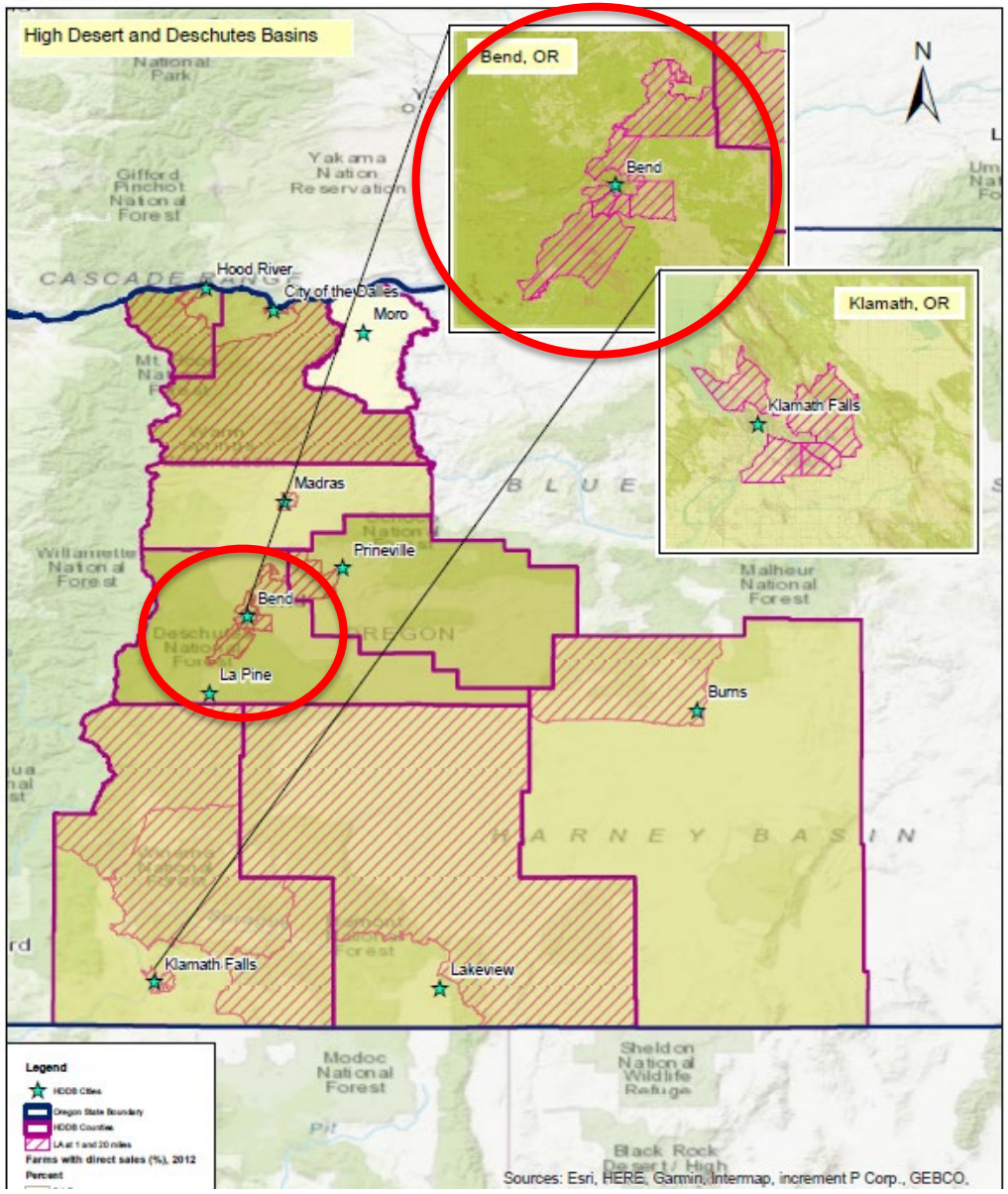
- Conservation Cover
- Conservation Crop Rotation
- Cover Crop
- High Tunnel System
- Irrigation System, Micro Irrigation
- Irrigation Water Management
- Mulching
- Pumping Plant
- Nutrient Management
- Soil Testing
- Soil Carbon Amendment
- Sprinkler System

Pasture

- Critical Area Planting
- Deep Tillage
- Fence
- Heavy Use Area Protection
- Herbaceous Weed Treatment
- Irrigation Water Management Livestock Pipeline
- Nutrient Management
- Obstruction Removal
- Pasture and Hay Planting Prescribed Grazing
- Pumping Plant
- Sprinkler System
- Watering Facility

- Currently: 19 applications in HDDB, 3 applicants in Deschutes County
- Total Demand ~ $563K, Supply ~ $175K

communities.



High Tunnel System (325)

Irrigation Pipeline (430)

Oregon State University
Soil Health Laboratory
soil.lab@oregonstate.edu 541-737-2187
Crop and Soil Science Department 3079 Ag-Life Sciences Bldg Corvallis, OR 97331
Soil Health Analysis Report

Oregon State University

Name:	[redacted]
Organization:	[redacted]
Contact for results:	[redacted]
Date submitted:	10/12/2022
Date delivered:	1/24/2023
Group number:	223101

Sample ID		%	
Customer ID	Lab ID	Moisture	Water Stable Aggregates
#1 Front Field	1	18	69
#2 Back Field	2	16	49
#3 Hillside	3	11	40

Sample ID		%			µg CO2-C/g dry soil/day		ppm	mg protein/g dry soil
Customer ID	Lab ID	C	N	OM	CO2 Respiration 24 hr	CO2 Respiration 96 hr	Active C (PoXC)	ACE Protein
#1 Front Field	1	1.31	0.12	2.62	87	57	272	2.77
#2 Back Field	2	0.74	0.07	1.48	25	14	105	1.56
#3 Hillside	3	3.42	0.23	6.84	94	56	349	9.63

Method Descriptions

Moisture	Gravimetric moisture as sample is received. All other data reported on a dry matter basis
Water Stable Aggregates	Percentage of 0.25 - 2.00 mm aggregates that stay on a sieve after a simulated 5 minute rain using the Cornell Sprinkle
CN	Dry combustion and direct measurement of total nutrients with Elementar Macro Cube
OM	Organic matter calculated using total organic carbon * 2 as per review by Pribyl, 2010 in Geoderma
CO2 Respiration	CO2 evolution measured after 24 hour and 96 hour incubation with soil wetted to 50% water filled pore space incubated at 23C

Soil Health Testing (216)

Small Acre and Organic $$$

FY 2022*	Deschutes Co.	High Desert & Deschutes Basins
# Applications	7	41
# Funded	2	16
$ Funded	$33,000	$323,500 ($634,957 unfunded)

FY 2023*	Deschutes Co.	High Desert & Deschutes Basins
# Applications	16	40
# Funded	4 (6?)	7
$ Funded	$128K ($214K?)	$360,000 (Demand = $1.5 million)

Future FY23 Funding Pool Info

Organic Transition Initiative NEW for Spring FY23

- **Purpose:** Support transitioning Organic Producers
- **Producers must coordinate all activities/inputs with NOP approved Organic Certifier**
- **Implement new management practice, 823 Organic Management**
  - At the very least (for Cropland) must be implementing:
    - Nutrient Management Plan (590)
    - Pest Management Plan (595)
    - and at least one Perennial Buffer (Conservation Cover 327, Hedgerow 422, etc.)

Future FY23 Funding Pool Info

Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

- **Purpose:** Support Organic Producers already operating at a high level of on-farm conservation
- **$200k in the fund pool**
- **No specific organic enhancements**
- **3/31/23 Application Deadline**

Section: Category		
Question	**Answer Choices**	**Points**
For the organic ranking pools, is 75% or more of the land in the operation certified or transitioning? (Yes=applicable; No=not applicable)	YES	--
	NO	--

Survey: Program Questions

United States Department of Agriculture

2023 Deschutes County Goals

- Increase USDA program awareness, knowledge, and comfortability

USDA

United States Department of Agriculture

Stephanie Payne

NRCS Small Farms and Organic Specialist

(541)699-3201

stephanie.payne@usda.gov

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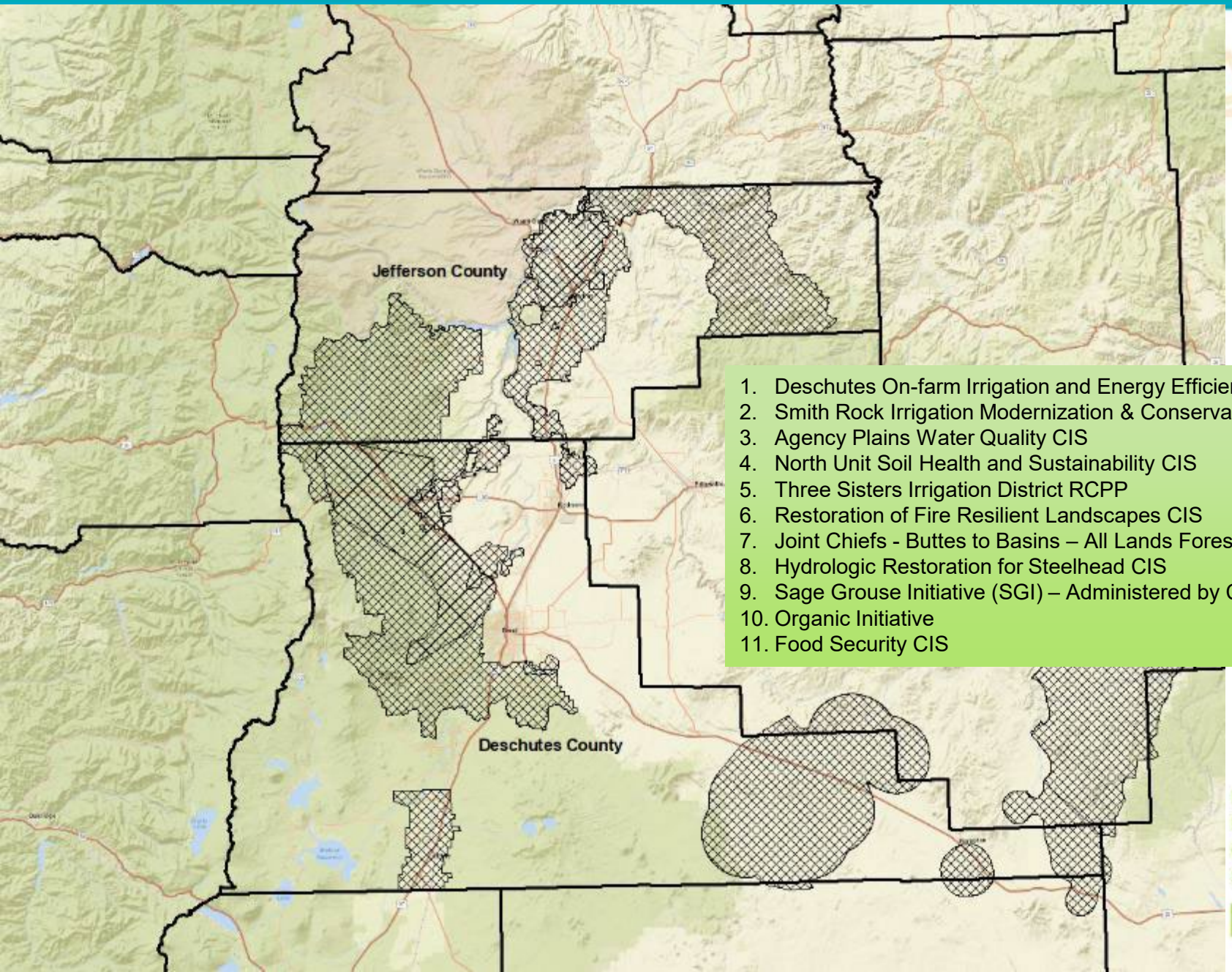

1. Deschutes On-farm Irrigation and Energy Efficiency CIS
2. Smith Rock Irrigation Modernization & Conservation RCPP
3. Agency Plains Water Quality CIS
4. North Unit Soil Health and Sustainability CIS
5. Three Sisters Irrigation District RCPP
6. Restoration of Fire Resilient Landscapes CIS
7. Joint Chiefs - Buttes to Basins – All Lands Forest Resiliency
8. Hydrologic Restoration for Steelhead CIS
9. Sage Grouse Initiative (SGI) – Administered by Crook County
10. Organic Initiative
11. Food Security CIS

United States Department of Agriculture

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