



Lincoln County Local Work Group Meeting Notes

2/23/2023 10 am – noon (Zoom) – Meeting Recorded

Welcome, Agenda Overview & Why We're Here

- There were 15 participants in attendance, including local landowners and representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Lincoln SWCD, Lincoln County Farm Bureau, MidCoast Watersheds Council, OSU Extension, Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, McKenzie River Trust, The Wetlands Conservancy/Portland Audubon, Pacific Birds Habitat Joint Venture, Coastal Native Seeds Partnership, and NRCS. (Snow storm/power outages prevented several interested participants from attending.)
- **Meeting Purpose:** Provide a forum for NRCS to gather input and work collaboratively with our producers and partners to develop a plan that strategically utilizes limited resources for the most benefit.
- **Objectives:** Update NRCS's Central Coast Long Range Plan to direct conservation assistance efforts over the next several years.
- Brief NRCS history & importance/purpose of Local Work Groups
 - Sharing info
 - Listening – Gathering input for the future
 - Connecting – Working together

Update on Current USDA-NRCS Programs in Lincoln County – Annie Marion, District Conservationist

- Current Farm Bill Programs – discussed – EQIP, EQIP-CIC, CSP, CREP (FSA Program), ACEP, WRE, HFRP
- Other Programs – RCPP (Partnerships), CIG (Grants)
- New Office of Urban Ag and Innovative Production – [grants](#) available for food security/urban ag projects
- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#)
 - Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS) – there are currently 5 locally directed focus areas for EQIP funding pools in the Waldport service area.
 - **Siletz Forest Strategy** (Lincoln County) – Two back-to-back CISs in the Siletz River basin, 2013-2017 and 2018-2022, prioritized forest structure & composition and water quality—sediment & nutrients in surface waters.
 - FY22: 1 contract, \$52,908 obligated, 23 ac weed trt & riparian planting (Little Rock Creek & mainstem Siletz River)
 - CIS Totals (2013-2022): 6 contracts, \$980,290, 2,810 acres treated.
 - **Siuslaw Salmon Sanctuary** (West Lane and Douglas County) – 2018-2022 strategy with focus area in the coastal lakes, lower Siuslaw River, North Fork Siuslaw, and Indian Creek sub-basins. The priority resource concerns are forest structure and composition, water quality (sediment), and aquatic habitat.
 - **Forest Resistance & Resilience** (Lincoln, Lane, Benton & Linn Counties) – 2019-2023 strategy prioritizing forest structure & composition, wildfire hazard, and wildlife habitat to increase forest stand diversity (species and age classes)

and promote healthy forests that are resilient to pest and disease outbreaks, drought, and wildfires.

- 2 FY19 contracts & 1 FY21 contract
 - 2 FY22 contracts – 737 ac, \$446,234 total obligated
 - 705 ac thinning & slash trt, 617 ac tree planting
 - 4.1 ac riparian planting, 96 ac pollinator seeding
- **Forest Management Planning** (western Oregon) – New strategy 2022-2026 that provides funding for landowners to hire a Technical Service Provider to develop a Forest Management Plan (FMP) for their property. Priorities are forest structure & composition, wildfire hazard, and terrestrial wildlife habitat.
 - 2 FY22 contracts (1 Lincoln, 1 Lane) totaling ~\$6,900 of FMP on 400 acres.
 - 4 FY23 applications (1 Lincoln, 3 Lane)
- **Westside Wildfire Recovery** (2020 Labor Day Weekend Fires) – Strategy to assist areas affected by the 2020 Labor Day weekend wildfires (including Echo Mountain Fire – Lincoln). Priorities are degraded plant condition, erosion, wildfire hazard, and invasive weeds.
 - 1 FY23 application (100 ac)
- [High Tunnel Initiative](#)
 - 3 FY22 contracts (Lincoln), \$20,202 total
 - 4 FY23 applications (Lincoln)
- [Organic Initiative](#)
 - 1 FY21 contract (Lincoln)--High Tunnel & Cover Crops; no FY22 applications
 - 1 FY23 application (Lincoln)
- [EQIP-Conservation Implementation Contract \(EQIP-CIC\)](#)
 - New program in 2021 that acts as stepping-stone between EQIP and CSP and includes annual management payments plus associated practices. CCUW-SW Basin focus is on pasture and nutrient management.
 - 2 FY21 contracts (Lincoln), \$77,000; no applications FY2022
 - FY23 sign-up will be late March/early April (**update: April 7, 2023**)
- [Conservation Stewardship Program \(CSP\)](#)
 - Participants earn payments to maintain existing conservation systems and adopt additional enhancements to address priority resource concerns over 5-year contract.
 - 3 active contracts in Lane County (all forestry)
 - 2 new FY22 contracts – 230 ac, \$38,344 total
 - FY23 sign-up deadline is March 31, 2023
- [Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program \(CREP\)](#)
 - Part of the Conservation Reserve Program run by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) – provides annual rental payments to take marginal pastureland out of production to restore degraded riparian zones and wetlands through 10- or 15-year contracts.
 - 6 active contracts in Lincoln County, 176 ac
 - 6 active contracts in west Lane County, ~24 ac
- [Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easements \(WRE\) & Healthy Forests Reserve Program \(HFRP\)](#)
 - Protect, restore, and enhance wetlands and forests through conservation easements.
 - WRP: 2 easements (5 landowners) in west Lane County, 385 ac permanent easements on tidal wetlands
 - HFRP: 4 contracts in west Lane County, 687 ac permanent easements

- New in FY23 – Upper Yaquina Water Quality CIS (EQIP)
 - New strategy in conjunction with ODA’s Strategic Implementation Area (SIA) to address sediment/nutrients and temperature in the Upper Yaquina through grazing and manure management and riparian restoration.
 - Received 1 FY23 application, more outreach planned this year.
- New in FY23 – Inflation Reduction Act (IRA): focus on [Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities](#)
 - \$19.5 billion over 5 years to EQIP, CSP, ACEP & RCPP
 - For FY23, Oregon has \$2 million in EQIP – **sign-up by April 7, 2023**

Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District Program Updates – Tyler Clouse, Watersheds Program Specialist, Contact info: tyler@lincolnswcd.org, www.lincolnswcd.org

- Staff provided updates on the District’s main programs: monitoring/assessment, watershed restoration, invasive species control, and engagement/outreach across the five major basins in the county (Salmon/Devil’s Lake, Siletz, Yaquina, Alsea/Beaver, and Yachats). Their ODA Focus Area is the Siletz Basin.
 - Budget and staffing update
 - Series of 4 landowner engagement workshops planned in Siletz Basin this spring (Apr-May)
 - Annual native plant sale (Feb.) focused on Oregon Silverspot butterfly nectar species
 - ODA Upper Yaquina Strategic Implementation Area (2021-2025) is focused on working with agricultural landowners to address stream temperature, dissolved oxygen, sediment, and bacteria in the Bales Creek-Yaquina River and Little Elk Creek HUCs. Paired w/ EQIP funding for implementation.
 - NRCS-funded National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) Source Water Protection Area Assessment for the Siletz (FY 21 – 23). There’s potential to request NRCS NWQI implementation funding once the assessment and outreach plan are completed.

Other USDA Programs – Annie Marion

- Farm Service Agency – emergency/disaster relief programs, crop insurance, Organic Certification Cost Share Program. Rural Development – housing loans, community grants. Tangent Service Center covers Lincoln/Benton/Linn Counties: 31978 N Lake Creek Dr, Tangent, OR 97389, (541) 967-5925.
- [Organic Transition Initiative](#) – new program in 2023, more info coming soon.

Priorities for the Future – discussion of potential new Conservation Implementation Strategies

- [Local Foods and Climate Resiliency](#) – food security and climate resiliency in Central Coast/Upper Willamette/Southwest Basin.
 - Alan Fujishin (Farm Bureau/LSWCD/Gibson Farms) – supportive of the strategy, there’s definitely a need, Ten Rivers Food Web and OSU Extension would be good partners.
 - Mike Kennedy (CTSI) – the Tribe is very interested in local food production
 - Paul Engelmeyer – supportive of program, possibly connect with local farmer (Yachats) who did wholesale direct distribution—said there was more of a demand than he could meet.
 - Tyler Clouse – possible opportunity to connect with Master Gardeners and Community/Demo Garden programs in Yachats and Lincoln City
- [Forest Resistance & Resilience](#) – 5-year strategy slated to be completed in FY23, is there interest in extending it and possibly extending the focus area boundaries in Lincoln County?
 - Fran Recht – expand focus area all the way to the coast. She knows at least one interested landowner. With recent fire in Otis, there’s demonstrated need.

- Paul Engelmeyer – paper from OSU provides good roadmap for continuing forest work for biodiversity and carbon storage: Forest Reserves Protecting Biodiversity and Mitigate Climate Change Bev Law (OSU)
- Alan Fujishin – Emerald Ash Borer now in Oregon and Sudden Oak Death found in Lincoln City – good rationale for expanding forest management practices considering potential future pest/disease issues throughout Lincoln County.
- Wylda & Steve Cafferata – landowners with forest property that would like NRCS help within expanded boundary (on the coast near Yachats).
- Dan Stark (OSU Extension Forester) – left notes on Emerald Ash Borer mapping, SOD in Lincoln City—testing/treatment ongoing. Resources from ODF/OSU Extension: <https://www.oregon.gov/oda/programs/IPPM/SurveyTreatment/Pages/EmeraldAshBorer.aspx> <https://www.oregon.gov/odf/forestbenefits/Documents/eab-risk-map.pdf> <https://catalog.extension.oregonstate.edu/em9380>
- Heather Medina-Sauceda (Basin Team Leader) – ideas on how to be “strategic” when the PNIF is spread throughout the county—reach out to ODF, USFWS, and ODFW about their identified priority areas in the county.
- Paul – 80% of wildfires are human caused—we need more education/outreach about this issue as well for wildfire prevention.
- Native Olympia Oyster Restoration – Washington NRCS has been working on Olympia oyster restoration for several years, FL/RI NRCS have other successful shellfish restoration programs.
 - Potential interested partners: Stan Vandewetering (CTSI), Dick Vander Schaff (TNC), Steve Rumrill (ODFW), Chris Langdon (OSU)
 - Mike Kennedy – the Tribe has been working on this for several years and would definitely be interested in partnering on this.
 - Paul Engelmeyer – he’s onboard with Poole Slough (TWC), knows other private landowners in that area that would be interested in restoration efforts. Provided a good reference paper on Olympia oyster ecology.
 - Tom McCambridge – MCWC has a lot of upcoming funding through the OWEB FIP, they’d love to collaborate on this. They have a new Estuary Program Manager (Cheryl Horton) starting next week.
- Siletz Source Water Protection (NWQI) – potential implementation funding available next year once Lincoln SWCD completes the plan for the Siletz.

Partner Updates

- Mike Kennedy – been having challenges finding forestry contractors to implement EQIP work. They’ve been doing lots of invasives control work. Still recruiting for a Forester. Lincoln OSWA tree seedling sale is this Saturday at Table Mountain in Toledo, 10 am.
- Margaret Treadwell – MRT launching their restoration of 215-ac tidal wetland (former cattle ranch) Waite Ranch in May. There will be pre-restoration tours, let Margaret know if you’re interested. margaret@mckenzieriver.org Recruiting for 2 project managers and an outreach coordinator: [jobs](#).
- Dan Stark – Tree School Coast March 4 in Waldport, registration is online. Basic Forestry short course will be offered in the spring. Growing Redwoods in Oregon workshop planned for this spring. Working on Emerald Ashborer and SOD outbreak in Lincoln City. New newsletter—sign up on his [website](#).
- Tom McCambridge (MCWC) shared info on upcoming event: Restoration of a coastal estuarine ecosystem—Salmon River Estuary, USA Oregon, A case study of measured success in tidal system restoration as a method to regenerate habitat and increase resilience in the face of shifting

climatic conditions, March 2nd at 6:30, at the Pacific Maritime Heritage Center in Newport. Zoom option will be on [MCWC website](#) soon.

- Alan Fujishin – Toledo is finalizing a Source Water Protection Plan. They have money for the plan, but not implementation. Possible cooperation/overlap with Siletz NWQI and Forest Health strategy.

Thanks again to everyone who participated in the Local Work Group process this year, and thanks to Cory Owens, NRCS, for facilitating the meeting.

Contacts:

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Click here for a recording of the Annual Local Work Group Meeting: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lsGs5QIoQQ>