



United States Department of Agriculture



OREGON

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service



# Local Work Group Meeting

Katie Woodruff | 1/31/2024

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



United States Department of Agriculture

## Our Mission:

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) collaborates with farmers, ranchers, communities and other individuals and groups to protect natural resources on private lands. Working side by side with our partners and customers, we identify natural resource concerns such as water quality and quantity issues, soil erosion, air quality, wetlands and wildlife habitat, and develop solutions to restore and protect these resources.



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

# Program Review



- **Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)**
  - Provides financial and technical assistance to agricultural producers to address natural resource concerns and deliver environmental benefits such as improved water and air quality, conserved ground and surface water, reduced soil erosion, or improved wildlife habitat.
- **Other Programs**
  - Wetland Reserve Easements, Agricultural Land Easement (ALE)
  - Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP)
  - Conservation Innovation Grants
  - Conservation Incentive Contract



# Highlights of 2023



**3 high tunnels funded in Coos and Curry counties**

**3 Forest management plans were funded in Coos and Curry counties**

**3 Gorse removal projects were funded in Coos and Curry Counties**

**A total of \$150,637 was obligated in EQIP funds**

**Two conservation implementation strategies (CIS) were approved for cranberry irrigation efficiency and tide gate replacement**



# Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP)

## Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS)

- ‘Conservation Implementation Strategies’ are derived from the Long Range Plans and lay out the technical and financial needs for a specific resource concern for up to five years. More specifically, they describe the primary resource goals, proposed solutions and actions, necessary funds and technical assistance, and monitoring and evaluating methods as well as implementation timeline and partner roles.

## CIS for the Coquille office.

- Gorse
- Forest Management Planning
- Local Foods and Hightunnels
- Tide Gate Replacement
- Cranberry Irrigation Automation



# Gorse Wildfire Hazard Mitigation CIS

**To reduce the spread and potential for catastrophic wildfire near the towns of Coquille, Bandon, Langlois, Port Orford, and Brookings while restoring agricultural productivity on pasture, forest, and associated agricultural lands infested with Gorse.**

- NRCS has partnered with the Gorse Action Group.
- Will keep the program for at least 3 more years, if people keep applying.
- Pasture (livestock water/fencing) and forest practices available along with brush removal.



\*Note: Must be an agricultural producer or small woodland owner/manager to qualify for NRCS programs.



# Forest Management Planning



## Project Description

The Forest Management Planning CIS is an opportunity to write forest management plans and develop shelf-ready projects. Some producers are going to apply for CSP instead of EQIP for implementing their plan.

## Primary Resource Concern Addressed:

- Degraded plant condition - Plant structure and composition
- Fire management - Wildfire hazard from biomass accumulation
- Terrestrial habitat - Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates

## Conservation Practices Offered

- Forest Management Plan (106)
- Forest Management Design and Implementation Activity (165)



# Local Foods



## Project Description

This strategy aims to help small acreage producers and urban farmers create new, more affordable, and better local market options and help rural and urban communities produce fresh and healthy food locally. Some things that we can do under this program can include grazing rotations, irrigation, soil building, and high tunnels.

## Primary Resource Concern Addressed:

- Terrestrial habitat - Terrestrial habitat for wildlife and invertebrates
- Soil quality limitations - Organic matter depletion
- Degraded plant condition - Plant productivity and health





# Tide Gate-Fish Passage and Habitat Improvement



## What is the Resource Concern

- **Animal: Habitat Fragmentation, Fish Passage Barriers**
  - Loss of Stream Complexity (Large Wood), Loss of Wetland, Estuary, and Riparian Habitat
- **Water Quality and Quantity:**
  - Sediment, Temperature, and Nutrient Levels
- **Degraded Plant Condition:**
  - Inadequate structure and composition



# NRCS Process for Tide Gates

- **Focused/prioritized area**
  - Implementation that occur within 3-5 years for all the tide gates in the priority area. Ready, willing eligible landowners have created the CIS boundary.
  - We had one application in 2024
- **Engineering design process needs to be fairly complete**
  - This is because due to the complexity, we can only help on the implementation and engineering needs to be done first
  - The tide gate design must meet NRCS engineering standards
  - Working with partnerships on Engineering will be key
- **Cohesive partnership**
  - Multiple funding opportunities, and a concise strategy needs to be in place. This takes time to develop.
  - Helps with the permitting



# Cranberry Irrigation

**Specific Resource Concerns:** Water Quantity and Inefficient Energy

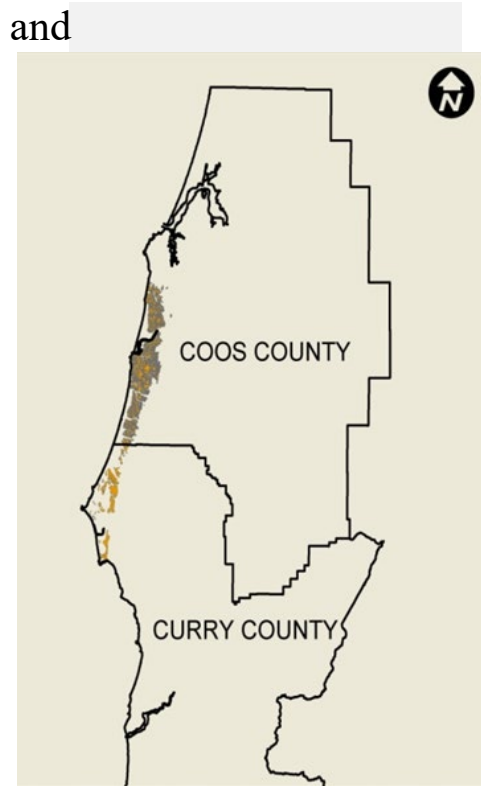
Excess or inefficient water delivery (timing and amounts) in cranberry irrigation and frost protection systems is the priority concern.

**SOLUTION:** Applied water at precise amounts when & where required.

- We had 7 applications for 2024. Will we have more in the following years?

**Some Practices:**

- 449 Irrigation System Evaluation
- 442 Irrigation System Automation



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)





United States Department of Agriculture

Bret Harris

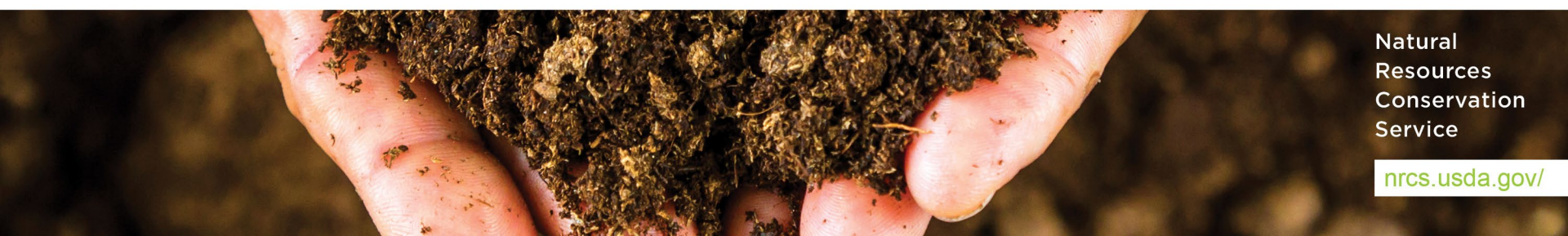


# FSA updates



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)





## Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program

### CRP

Farm Service Agency's flagship conservation program, authorized through the Farm Bill nation-wide.

Lots of CRP on fallow wheat fields to benefit game birds

The largest private lands conservation program in the nation

### The Oregon CREP

A state-specific *enhancement* to CRP

Oregon CREP restores buffers on stream corridors adjacent to pastures, hayfields, and crop fields to benefit fish and water quality



Questions  
Barbara Grant or Bret  
Harris  
541-396-2841



# Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) Funds

**Overview-**Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) funding is channeled through the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and the Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP). IRA funding through both programs must target greenhouse gas emissions and carbon sequestration.

IRA conservation funding is in addition to otherwise available program funds, and the voluntary, incentive-based approach is targeted to support climate-smart mitigation activities and other conservation activities that help facilitate them.

- **Different funding pools for pasture, forest, crop, and energy, animal feeding operations Will cover all of Coos and Curry counties**





United States Department of Agriculture

# Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP)

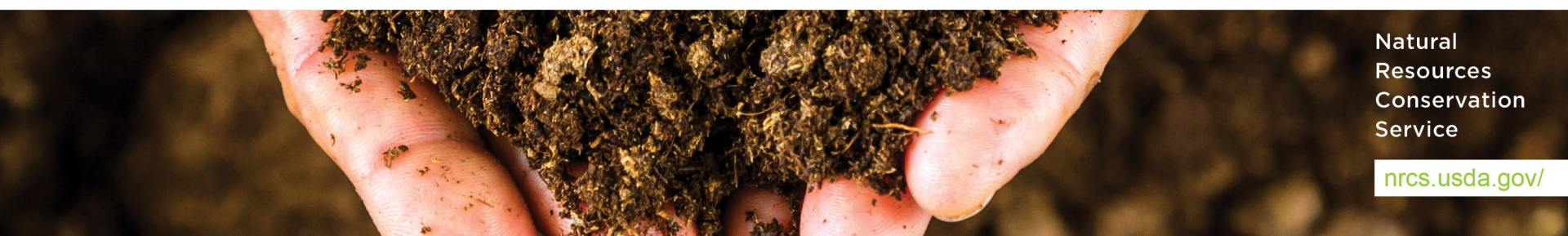


Helps agricultural producers maintain and improve their existing conservation systems and adopt additional conservation activities to address priority resources concerns.



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



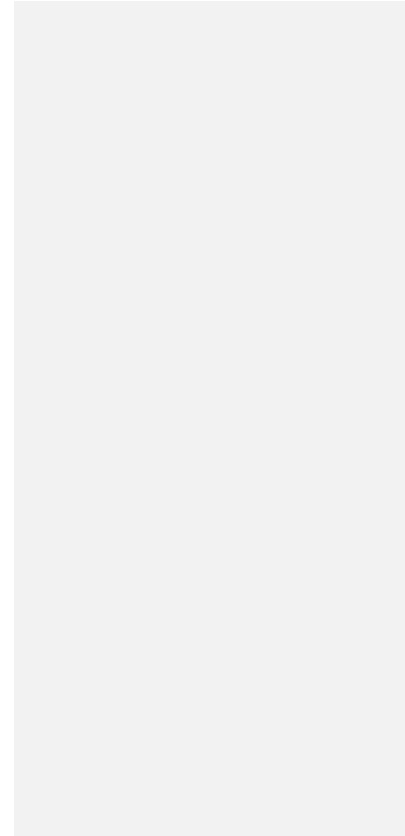


# CSP



Contract payments are based on two components. Maintain the existing level of conservation, based on assessment of existing stewardship at the time of enrollment, and payments to implement additional conservation activities (think management and paperwork).

- Can be on crop, pasture, farmstead, or forestry
- Must enroll all acres owned or operated by the applicant (with 5 years of land control)
- Increased producer responsibility for documentation of management activities



# Other needs



**Are there other needs in the two counties that NRCS should be aware of?**

**You may reach me at:**

**Katie Woodruff**

**District Conservationist**

**Coos and Curry Counties**

**USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service**

**382 North Central**

**Coquille, OR 97423**

**Phone 541-551-0707**

**Katlyn.woodruff@usda.gov**



Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)



In accordance with Federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) civil rights regulations and policies, the USDA, its Agencies, offices, and employees, and institutions participating in or administering USDA programs are prohibited from discriminating based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, gender identity (including gender expression), sexual orientation, disability, age, marital status, family/parental status, income derived from a public assistance program, political beliefs, or reprisal or retaliation for prior civil rights activity, in any program or activity conducted or funded by USDA (not all bases apply to all programs). Remedies and complaint filing deadlines vary by program or incident.

Persons with disabilities who require alternative means of communication for program information (e.g., Braille, large print, audiotape, American Sign Language, etc.) should contact the responsible Agency or USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TTY) or contact USDA through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Additionally, program information may be made available in languages other than English. To file a program discrimination complaint, complete the USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Form, AD-3027, found online at **How to File a Program Discrimination Complaint** and at any USDA office or write a letter addressed to USDA and provide in the letter all of the information requested in the form. To request a copy of the complaint form, call (866) 632-9992. Submit your completed form or letter to USDA by: (1) mail: U.S. Department of Agriculture, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410; (2) fax: (202) 690-7442; or (3) email: [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

USDA is an equal opportunity provider, employer, and lender.

Natural  
Resources  
Conservation  
Service

[nrcs.usda.gov/](https://nrcs.usda.gov/)

