



## Lincoln County Local Work Group Meeting Notes

3/6/2024 10-11:30 am at OSU Extension Office in Newport

Meeting Recording: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aMJR4aWMLRY>

### Welcome, Agenda Overview & Why We're Here

- There were 7 participants in attendance in person and 11 online via Zoom, including local landowners and representatives from the Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians, Lincoln SWCD staff and board, McKenzie River Trust, MidCoast Watersheds Council, ODA, ODFW, OSU Extension Service, Yakona Nature Preserve, and NRCS.
- **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 five years.
- Importance/purpose of Local Work Groups: Sharing information, Listening – Gathering input for the future, and Connecting – Working together

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

- Farm Bill Programs Overview – EQIP, EQIP-CIC, CSP, CREP (FSA Program), ACEP, WRE, HFRP, RCPP (Partnerships), CIG (Grants)
- [Environmental Quality Incentives Program \(EQIP\)](#)
  - Conservation Implementation Strategies (CIS) – In fiscal year 2023, there were 5 locally directed focus areas for EQIP funding pools in the Waldport service area.
    - **Upper Yaquina Water Quality** (Lincoln County) – 2023-2026, prioritizing water quality—temperature and sediment/nutrients/pathogens in surface waters
    - **Westside Wildfire Recovery** (2020 Labor Day Fires) – 2021-2023, includes wildfire recovery for Echo Mountain Complex near Otis
      - 1 FY23 contract, \$366,098 (funded through IRA)—99 ac, hazard tree removal, woody residue treatment, site prep, & tree planting
    - **Siuslaw Floodplain Reconnection** (West Lane and Douglas County) – 2023-2027 strategy with focus area in priority sub-watersheds in the Siuslaw and Coastal Lakes basins. The priority resource concerns are aquatic habitat, water quality (sediment), and plant structure & composition.
      - 1 FY23 contract, \$371,885
      - 18 ac wetland restoration, 44 ac riparian buffer, 14 ac wildlife habitat planting
    - **Forest Management Planning** (western Oregon) –2022-2026 strategy that helps landowners 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)
      - 4 FY23 contracts (1 Lincoln, 3 Lane)

- \$12,552 total, 301 ac FMP & Practice Design
    - 5 applications for FY24
  - **Forest Resistance & Resilience** (Lincoln, Lane, Benton & Linn Counties) – 2019-2024 strategy prioritizing forest structure & composition, wildfire hazard, and wildlife habitat to increase forest stand diversity (species & age classes) and promote healthy forests resilient to pest/disease outbreaks, drought, & wildfires.
    - 2 FY19 contracts, 1 FY21 contract, & 2 FY22 contracts
    - No FY23 contracts
    - 7 applications for FY24
  - [High Tunnel Initiative](#)
    - 4 FY23 contracts (Lincoln), \$40,000 total
    - 4 FY24 applications (3 Lincoln, 1 Lane)
  - [Organic Initiative](#)
    - No FY23 contracts
    - 1 FY24 application (Lincoln)
  - [Organic Transition Initiative](#)
    - 1 FY23 contract (Lane) - \$44,163 on 22 ac cropland/pasture
- [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)
    - 1 FY23 contract (Lane) - \$12,786 on 7 ac of pasture planting, weed management, prescribed grazing, and riparian fencing
- [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.
    - 1 FY20, 2 FY22 contracts (Lane)
    - 1 new FY23 contract (Lincoln) – Forestry – 366 ac, \$58,013
- [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
      - New outreach flier: “Landowners Can Get Paid to Help Restore and Protect Oregon Tidal Wetlands” (attached)
    - HFRP: 4 contracts in west Lane County, 687 ac permanent easements
- New in FY24 – [Local Foods and Food Systems Resilience Initiative](#), Basin-wide (2024-2029)
  - Lots of interest in this new strategy this year, we won’t be able to fund everything this year, but we can roll applications forward to be considered again next year.
  - Questions regarding which practices do/don’t qualify for IRA funding. High Tunnels don’t, many other practices do, especially practices that support soil health and grazing management improvements.

- Questions regarding funding for water harvesting catchment. It's included in this strategy, not any other current strategies. Roof Runoff Structure (practice 558) is used for gutters/water tanks harvesting water off existing structures.
- New in FY23 – Inflation Reduction Act (IRA): focus on [Climate-Smart Agriculture and Forestry Mitigation Activities](#)
  - \$19.5 billion nation-wide over 5 years to EQIP, CSP, ACEP & RCPP
  - For FY23, Oregon had \$2 million in EQIP
- Dan Stark asked about applications for Oregon ash related to emerald ash borer. We haven't received any applications to date. Ash occurs in our area generally in isolated patches and in low density. There's been talk at the Basin-level of developing a strategy to have on the shelf if/when it become an issue, but we haven't developed it yet.

**Lincoln Soil & Water Conservation District Program Updates** – Tyler Clouse, Executive Director  
 Contact info: [tyler@lincolnswcd.org](mailto:tyler@lincolnswcd.org), <http://www.lincolnswcd.org/>

- Tyler provided updates on the District's main programs and projects by basin.
  - Salmon River/Devil's Lake
    - ODFW Salmon River Hatchery riparian restoration project – planting & livestock exclusion fencing
    - ODA Ag Water Quality workshops
    - Pollinator meadow work
  - Siletz – ODA Focus Area – switching from veg assessments to water quality sampling
    - Schooner Creek riparian restoration – 2 ac
    - Long Prairie riparian restoration – 7.36 ac on public lands
    - Euchre Creek riparian restoration – 4.9 ac on terrace
    - Siletz Stakeholder Engagement – 2023 and 2024 workshops (CE credits available) & river floats planned for 2024
    - DEQ Siletz BMP project – Walker Farms heavy use area for sheep, more funds available
    - OHA Siletz turbidity threshold sampling
  - Yaquina
    - Upper Yaquina SIA with ODA – 4 landowner projects just approved for ODA funding, planning to resubmit to OWEB for additional funds; water quality monitoring every 2 weeks for Total N & P, total suspended solids, turbidity, temperature, dissolved oxygen, bacteria (*E. coli*) at 6 monitoring stations
  - Alsea/Beaver
    - USFS Title II Weeds – six target weeds, focus on riparian and ag lands
    - USFS Good Neighbor Agreement – working w/ Matt Smith at Siuslaw NF on about 1,000 ac of noxious weed treatment
    - CPRCD Alsea Weeds
    - OPRD Beaver Creek Yellow Flag Iris – surveys and treatment (volunteer opportunities)
  - Yachats
    - Yachats Volunteer Temperature Monitoring – longest running monitoring project, 3 locations May to October
  - MidCoast Water Planning Partnership
  - Drinking Water Protection Plan TA
  - USFWS Oregon Silverspot Butterfly Safeharbor & Habitat Corridor Project
  - National Water Quality Initiative (NWQI) w/ NRCS funding – Siletz Source Water Area Plan final reports and outreach plan will be completed this year
  - Outreach & Engagement – 7 workshops coming up this spring, will be listed in Lincoln County's "Catch the Wave" publication

## Other USDA Programs

- [Farm Service Agency](#) – emergency/disaster relief programs, crop insurance, Organic Certification Cost Share Program
- [Rural Development](#) – housing loans, community grants, value-added producer grants, etc.
- Contact: Tangent Service Center, 31978 N Lake Creek Dr, Tangent, OR 97389, (541) 801-2691

## Priorities for the Future

- Updating the Long-Range Plan for the Central Coast
  - Major Issues Identified in 2020 LRP:
    - Water quality – sediment, temperature, nutrients, aquatic habitat
    - Forest health – stand composition, vigor, density
    - Wetland and riparian habitat loss and restoration
    - Weed management (pastureland and forests)
  - Comments:
    - Forest health – wildfire risk, particularly in context of this winter’s ice storm damage to forests
    - Water quality/Aquatic habitat – bank stabilization is a need, including floodplain restoration and bank pullbacks
- If you could get only one thing funded/accomplished by NRCS in the next year, what would it be?
  - Tyler Clouse – anything for pest management? (bugs, fungus, elk, etc.) There’s a specific need for assistance with elk fencing. Or elk-friendly livestock exclusion fencing where that’s appropriate so elk don’t rip down new livestock fencing.
  - Katie Saaty – expanding CREP technical assistance in Upper Yaquina and throughout the county
  - Alan Fujishin – Private Forest Accord might generate a new interest/need for forest easements or other types of financial assistance to landowners within newly expanded stream buffer areas
- [Native Olympia Oyster Restoration](#) – Washington NRCS has been working on Olympia oyster restoration for several years with the [Puget Sound Restoration Fund](#). Potential for Oregon NRCS to do something similar, but we still need to evaluate if we have enough interested participants and a partner to lead the charge, possibly through an RCPP project.
  - Derek Wilson commented on extreme changes to Yaquina Bay sediment loads versus historic conditions and current lack of hard substrate that oysters need to survive. This project would require someone to do a full scientific review of current and predicted future sediment loads/hydrology, etc. to figure out where suitable habitat sites could be located.
  - New [Yaquina Bay Estuary Management Plan](#) defines areas that could be used for restoration purposes.
- [National Water Quality Initiative \(NWQI\) - Siletz River Source Water Protection Area](#)
  - Once Lincoln SWCD completes the Assessment and Outreach Plan, we can apply for NWQI implementation funds (probably for FY26)

*Thanks again to everyone who participated in the Local Work Group process this year, and thanks to Lauren Bennett, NRCS Public Affairs Specialist, for helping to facilitate the meeting online.*

### Contacts:

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