

Minutes and Recommendations from the FY 2024 Elko/Eureka Local Working Group

The Elko Eureka Local Work Group Meeting was held June 4th 2024 at the Elko NRCS Office with a TEAMS option .

Attendees included: Jaime Jasmine (NRCS), Kory Kulinsky (NRCS) Mia Morris (NRCS), Gerry Miller (DCNR), Andi Porreca (NDF U&CF), On TEAMS: Jake Tibbits (Eureka CD), Gary McCuin (Eureka CD), Reggie Premo (Duck Valley CD), Melany Aten (DCNR Conservation Districts Program), Buck Tingle (NDF RMO), Madi Stout (NDOW), Jake Dick (NDA)

The Local Area Work Group Meeting started at 1:34 pm and ended at 3:10 pm.

Jaime reviewed the recommendations from the last meeting and then noted that EQIP, CSP, and AMA were still the go-to cost share programs and contracts that are getting signed.

Those participating discussed priority resource concerns: and came to consensus on the following five top resource concerns for Elko and Eureka counties:

- Source Water Depletion
- Degraded Plant Condition
- Livestock Production Limitations
- Soil Quality Limitations
- Terrestrial Habitat Limitations

The group also added the limited, or lacking human capacity to do the work necessary to get good conservation practices on the ground. Simply not having enough of us to inform folks of the availability of programs to assist them, to sell the programs and to engineer and plan and implement practices to address the resource concerns.

Those present also discussed what is a banner year for noxious and invasive weeds, this is a concern for many in both counties and NRCS has cost share programs that a 3 year EQIP contract plus a five year CSP contract would give eight continuous years of payments to spray weeds, and plant something in their place.

Jake Dick discussed the that there are grant opportunities available through the Shared Stewardship Group process to get weed treatments done and that NDA has hired a new staff person to be the NDOT liaison to address weeds within NDOT right-of-way.

Jake Tibbits mentioned some noxious weed concerns of Pine Valley and the Jiggs CD and that we need to be mindful of an impaired waters flowing into the Humboldt River – mostly non - point sources.

Jake also noted that we need to have some resource practices that perhaps the solar developers proposing to convert private farmlands to solar energy could use programs and

practices such as rangeland seeding rather than sterilize the soil with herbicide or covering with gravel.

Reggie Premo discussed various things he has encountered with only using annual crops and compaction of the soil, he also noted how willows cause bank weakness in the canals and he was interested in the discussion about forage turnips and radishes as a cost-shared cover crop and basically all of our soils, particularly rangeland soils, are deficient in organic matter.

Andi Porreca mentioned that she was seeing how her Urban and Community Partnership program could fit in and complement some NRCS practices.

Madi Stout mentioned that it was good to sit and listen in and was also looking for ways NDOW could complement with things that would benefit wildlife.