

2017 Gilliam & Wheeler Local Working Group Meeting Minutes

Past Resource Concerns in Gilliam/Wheeler Counties:

- Juniper Invasion
- Annual Grass Invasion
- Irrigation Efficiency
- Forestland Health
- Insufficient Livestock Water
- Improper Pasture Utilization
- Cropland Efficiency

*There was a large number of contracts awarded in Wheeler County in the last two years due to Drought and RCPP Funding.

2017 Wheeler County EQIP Funding Pools

- 3rd Sign-Up for RCPP in the Mitchell area which includes Irrigation, Rangeland, and Forestry
 - Watersheds: Mountain Creek, Bridge Creek, and Cherry Creek
 - 19 Applications
 - Contracts Include: Pre commercial thinning, irrigation efficiency improvements, conservation easements, juniper removal, range restoration, spring developments
- 1st Sign-Up for the Kahler Basin funding pool which will treat resource concerns on rangeland and forest land.
 - 11 Applications
 - Defined Deliverables: Thinning to reduce tree densities on 1,200 acres of private land, Juniper removal on 2,400 acres of private land, 9,000 acres Kahler Timber Sale, and a underburn in partnership with federal and state lands.

There are no funding pools in Gilliam County for 2017

Future Treatment Ideas/Areas in Wheeler County

- Rejuvenate old, decadent crop fields with multi-species perennial mixes while cutting out invading juniper.
- Butte Creek upland improvement- City of Fossil Water Shortage
- Broom Snake Weed Control
- Annual Grass Control
- Wheeler SWCD got a Sun Grant for Juniper Bio Char experimenting (Water Holding)
- BDA in Bear Creek

Future Treatment Ideas/Areas in Gilliam County

- Ferry Canyon/Hay Creek/Cottonwood Rangeland/Stream Health
- Grass Bank /Prescribed Grazing
- Soil Health and Cover Crops
- Chemical Resistant Weeds when direct seeding
- Juniper removal
- BDA in Ferry Canyon
- Scott Canyon Fire Rehab (Watershed Council is working on this)
- Jointed Goat Grass, Medusa Head, Ventenata, and Cheat Grass Control – What is next now that soil bacteria were banned in Oregon
- Natural fire barriers- Green line with Forage Kochia
- Variable Rate Fertilizers-Protein Mapping

Expiring CRP- How can we get these fields back to useable ground, with either grazing or cropping?

- NRCS Cost Share- water developments, cross fencing, reseeding, burning
- Come up with a technical document on how to best get rid of sheep fescue
- ODFW might have some incentives for keeping it in range rather than production.

Working Land Easements

- Development rights are sold, to ensure ground stays in agriculture production
- Will reduce property value so the farmer is compensated- Up to 1.5 million dollars
- Will keep the farm from being broken up
- Tax Benefits from Easements

The Gilliam SWCD is hosting a meeting on Working Lands Easements on Feb 28th at Noon