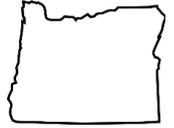




Oregon Technical Advisory Committee



Meeting Notes for June 15, 2017, 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife / 4034 Fairview Industrial Drive SE / Salem, OR 97302

Attendees

- Lauren Smith, Oregon Water Resources Congress
- Robert Wallace, Wy East RCD
- Mike Powers, Oregon Department of Agriculture
- Dave Budeau, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Ron Alvarado, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Tom Watson, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Cory Owens, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Tracy Robillard, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Scott Oviatt, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Mike Brown, Bureau of Land Management
- Dan Brown, Environmental Protection Agency
- Harmony Burreight, Oregon Water Resources Department
- Misty Seaboldt, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Mary Beth Smith, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- Mikal Moore, National Wild Turkey Federation
- Ryan Gordon, Oregon Department of Forestry
- Kelley Beamer, Coalition of Oregon Land Trusts
- Jerome Rosa, Oregon Cattlemans
- Kevin Blakely, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Wes Jennings, Farm Service Agency
- Nicole Maness, Willamette Partnership
- CalLee Davenport, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- Sam Asai, Farm Service Agency
- Dan Lofaro, Farm Service Agency
- Manette Simpson, Oregon Department of Agriculture

OTAC Note Taking Process

After discussing the current OTAC note taking process, the group decided to condense future meeting notes to provide only brief summaries of presentations and any actionable items or decisions made. Notes will no longer capture follow-up discussions and questions/answers that may take place during presentations, unless those discussions generate actionable items or a decision to be rendered. OTAC notes will continue to include a PDF copy of any handouts and/or PowerPoint slides presented by the speaker. Notes and handouts are posted to the OTAC webpage (on the NRCS Oregon website) and are emailed to all members of the OTAC email list. We are always looking for feedback from OTAC members on how to improve our note taking process to ensure we are providing accurate and relevant updates to the committee.

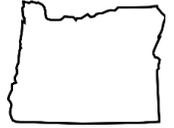
NRCS National Planning Policy and Certification

Misty Seaboldt, NRCS

- This year NRCS rolled out new changes to its conservation planning certification requirements. These requirements apply to both NRCS planners and partner planners (for example, planners with Soil and Water Conservation Districts).



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- The new requirements stem from a nationwide partnership with NRCS, NACD and other conservation groups to enhance the agency's conservation planning abilities while providing more consistency among planners across state lines.
- In order to maintain their certifications, planners will need to take additional courses (either in-person courses or online courses available through Ag Learn) within a three year timeframe.
- NRCS is working to offer some of these training courses locally throughout Oregon to accommodate partner planners and to minimize travel.
- **See the handout for details about the various "levels" of conservation planners and the specific course/training requirements.**

Water Forecast and Drought Status

Scott Oviatt, NRCS

- This year, Oregon's mountain snowpack peaked well above the normal. The peak occurred about a month ahead of normal peak snowpack for all basins except the Klamath, which was slightly closer to a normal peak time.
- Most of the spring melt out occurred past the normal period, and in some cases sites melted three weeks later than normal.
- There's still snow on higher elevation sites on Cascade Crest, but most sites are currently snow free
- We only experienced two months this water year with below normal precipitation, November and May.
- Statewide, streamflow forecasts are looking to be normal or above normal. We are well poised to have a good summer season.
- Owyhee reservoir storage capacity is 133 percent of average and 100 percent capacity—we haven't seen levels this high since the '90s.
- Drought and climate outlook – Oregon is completely drought free according to the USDA Drought Monitor. This is the first time Oregon has been drought free since 2011.
- Drought outlook shows no drought conditions affecting our region through the end of September
- Equal chances for above or below normal temperatures and precipitation for the next month
- Three month forecast; 40 percent chance of above normal temperature but equal chance for above or below normal precipitation.

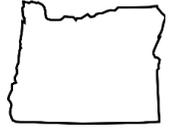
ODF Stewardship Committee

Ryan Gordon, ODF

- About 64 percent of Oregon's forests are publically owned; about 34 percent are privately owned, and 2 percent are tribal owned forestlands.
- ODF is actively involved in building partnerships to achieve an "All Lands" approach across public and private forestland ownerships. ODF has a statewide agreement with NRCS to help assist private landowners, as well as a partnership with FSA through its Emergency Forest Restoration Program. ODF foresters provide technical assistance to private landowners through those programs.
- State Stewardship Coordinating Committee (SSCC) – comprised of a wide variety of members in federal and state agencies, industry/consulting foresters, private landowners and other groups.



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- The Forest Legacy Program aims to protect forest lands from conversion to non-forest uses by offering fee title acquisitions and conservation easements with a 75/25 cost share match. This is a critical program to help keep Oregon's private forests intact.
- Oregon Forest Management Planning System provides landowners a way to develop a uniform forest plan. ODF, NRCS and OSU Extension can all provide cost share to help with those management plans.
- The Committee for Family Forestlands serves as an advisory to the board of forestry.
- Partnership for Forestry Education – has been working for the last 10 years to develop more online resources and self-help resources for landowners. That website is: www.knowyourforest.org
- **Question for the group: How can the SSCC assist NRCS with the development and delivery of forestry programs in Oregon?**

Willamette Partnership Update on Oak and Prairie Conservation

Nicole Maness, Willamette Partnership

- In 2011, the Willamette Partnership started the Incentives Trifecta program, which merged various landowner incentive tools and programs. A successful example of the Incentives Trifecta was habitat conservation efforts to benefit the endangered Fender's blue butterfly; see slides for details about this effort.
- The Incentives Trifecta process incorporated requirements and tools to help landowners (primarily vineyard managers) achieve their objectives for Salmon Safe certification, generate upland prairie ecosystem credits, and engage in a safe harbor agreement for identified species (with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service). This effort identified best management practices to help vineyard producers improve habitat.
- Willamette Valley Oak Accord – Recognized need to proactively restore and protect oak stands that were susceptible to loss due to vineyard development and other land uses. The Oak Accord provides a voluntary agreement that landowners can sign to commit to a 'net benefit' of oak on their property. Formally signed the agreement in March 2017, has 43 signatories currently with 1,500 acres of oak or potential oak/woodland habitat under conservation management.
- When a landowner signs the accord, they get a baseline assessment of the property that assigns a functional score of oak habitat. Those assessments are repeated every five years.
- Willamette Partnership coordinates the administrative function of the oak accord, and manages the assessments. They are working with many other partners to provide additional technical and financial resources to signatories of the oak accord.
- The oak accord aims to achieve a net benefit of 10 percent of oak habitat in the Willamette Valley.

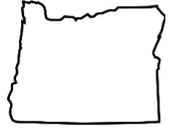
NRCS Programs Update

Mary Beth Smith, NRCS

- NRCS is requesting a review from the OTAC easements sub-committee for the ranking tools for Wetland Reserve Easements and Agricultural Land Easements. Comments are requested by July 15 and should be submitted to Bari Williams, easement specialist.



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- Timeline for RCPP 2018 Applications. We are evaluating 2 state proposals; 4 national proposals; and 4 Critical Conservation Area proposals. The CCA category for RCPP in Oregon is in the Columbia River Basin. Oregon has 15 ongoing RCPP projects. New projects for FY18 will be announced in November.
- EQIP in 2017 – we have \$21 million available for general EQIP contracts, which are implemented through a locally-led process with Conservation Implementation Strategies.
- CSP – we have 439 applications for CSP through the state of Oregon.
- See slides for more details.

FSA Update

Wes Jennings, FSA

- Wes is the new Farm Programs chief at the FSA state office, he was previously located in Ontario.
- FSA would like to develop a sub-committee on the Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program (CREP) Initiative. People interested in participating on a CREP sub-committee should notify Wes and Taylor Murray. Email reminder forthcoming.

Closing Comments

Next OTAC meeting will be in the fall (September or October)

NRCS hired a new Assistant State Conservationist for Partnership and Outreach, Julie MacSwain. She will be heading up OTAC meetings once she gets on board in July.

- END -

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