

NRCS
Clackamas County
Strategic Approach to
Conservation
2011-2021

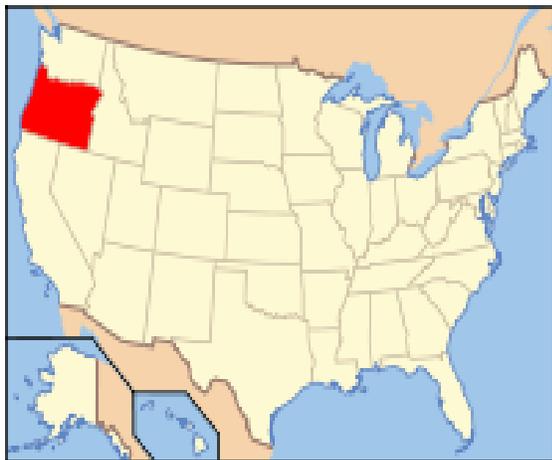
Section I: Introduction:

Clackamas County is a county located in the U.S. state of Oregon. The county was named after the Native Americans living in the area, the Clackamas Indians, who were part of the Chinookan people. Clackamas County, in north central Oregon is bounded by Multnomah County to the north, Wasco County to the east, Marion County to the south, and Yamhill and Washington



Counties to the west. The county encompasses 1,879 square miles (4,866.6 square kilometers). The county's heavily timbered geographical features include the 11,235-foot Mt. Hood, the Mt. Hood National Forest, the Bull Run Watershed and numerous rivers – including the Willamette, Clackamas, Sandy, Pudding, Molalla and Salmon. The population of Clackamas County has steadily increased from 1850. The 2000 population of 338,391 was a 21.35% increase over 1990. The population of the county in 2009 was estimated at 386,143.

Agriculture and natural resource based industries have long been at the center of Clackamas County's economic and social make-up. The productive capabilities and the environmental amenities our competitive advantages by providing both an economic driver and a quality of life those citizens highly value.



Oregon

Section II: Natural Resource Inventory:

<i>Clackamas County</i>	
Population	386,143 <i>(79% urban, 21% rural)</i>
Area	1,879 square miles
Population density per square mile	181
Population, percent increase 2000 to 2009	14.1%
Average size of farms:	46 acres
Gross farm and ranch sales 2009:	\$302,449,000
Average value of agricultural products sold per farm:	\$71,002.00
Average value of crops sold per acre for harvested cropland:	\$3167.37
The value of nursery, greenhouse, floriculture, and sod as a percentage of the total market value of agricultural products sold:	57.88%
The value of livestock, poultry, and their products as a percentage of the total market value of agricultural products sold:	17.68%
Greenhouse and nursery gross sales 2009: <i>(State Rank 2nd)</i>	\$156,374,000.00
Caneberries gross sales 2009: <i>(State Rank 2nd)</i>	\$10,899,000.00
Average total farm production expenses per farm:	\$57254.00
Harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms:	40.10%
Irrigated harvested cropland as a percentage of land in farms:	26.49%
Average market value of all machinery and equipment per farm:	\$44015.00
The percentage of farms operated by a family or individual:	90.14%
Average age of principal farm operators:	54 years

Average number of cattle and calves per 100 acres of all land in farms:	11.53
Milk cows as a percentage of all cattle and calves:	7.75%
All wheat for grain in harvested acres::	2032
Vegetables in harvested acres:	3944
Land in orchards:	5487 acres

Section II: Natural Resource Inventory: Humans

Land Ownership/Land Cover/Land Use

As more people make rural Clackamas County their home, our traditional large acreage farms are being divided into small acreage farm lots. This growth increases the pressure on our natural resources with a strong attention given to water. A source of clean drinking water is critical for human health and the health of our ecosystem. For owners of small acreage properties, water is important to many landowner activities. A private well increases demand on groundwater which is used for drinking and other household needs, for watering your animals or irrigating your land. If you have water rights for surface water, then you are able to irrigate your pastures, gardens or lawn but it also affects those water users downstream.

Historically, water rights permits were issued with little to no regard for maintaining the level of flows needed to sustain healthy fish and wildlife populations. As a result, the flows in some river basins are already fully or over-committed—at least on paper—to municipal, agricultural and industrial uses, leaving little legally protected water for fish and wildlife. In fact, in some basins, if all water rights holders used their permits to the full extent (many currently do not), there could be very little water left to sustain healthy rivers.

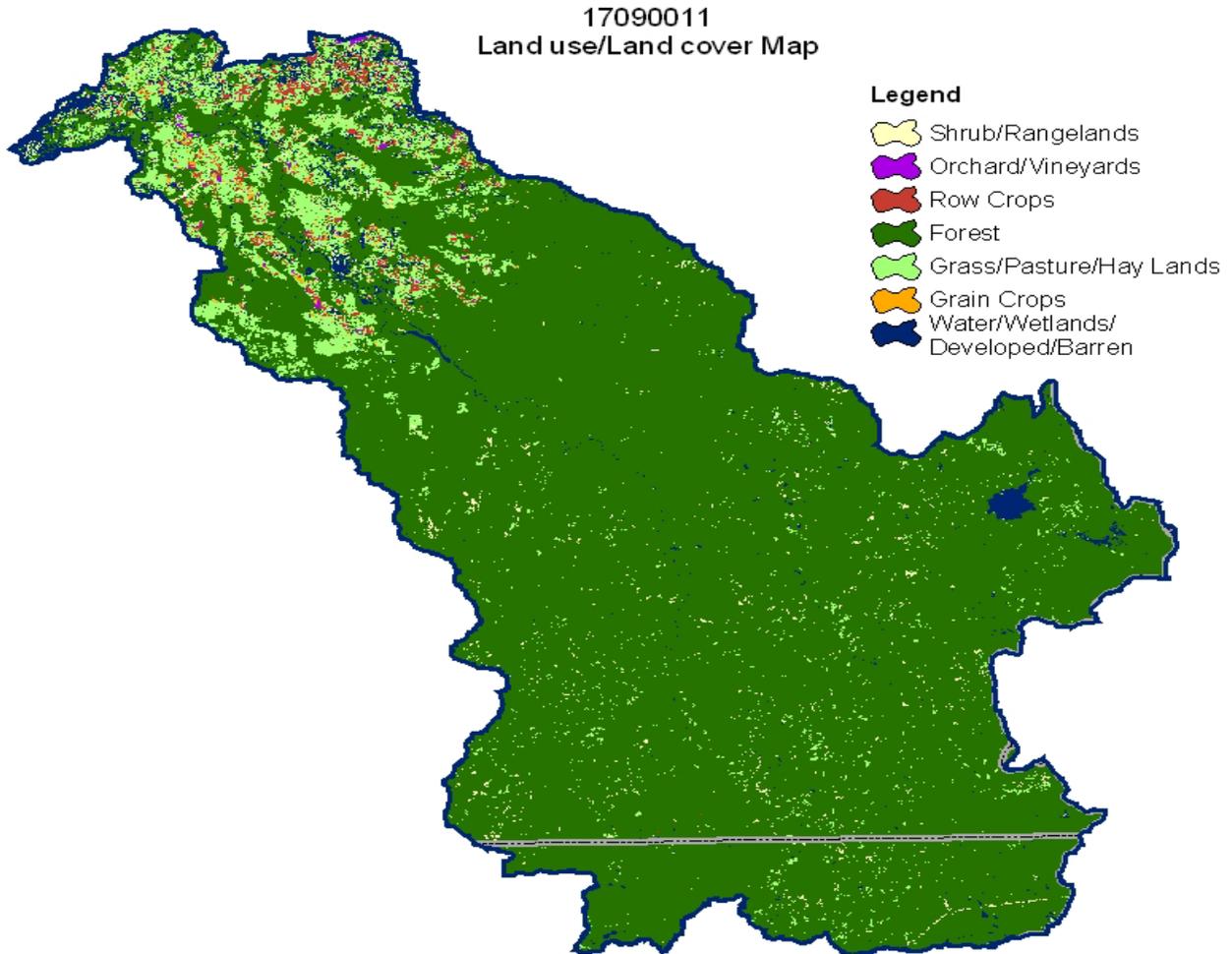
Protecting water quality not only benefits you and your family by preserving healthy drinking water and a healthy environment. NRCS traditionally has served large acreage landowners and partners such as the Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District provides technical and practical services designed to conserve and use resources sustainably to all landowners with a focus on assisting our growing demographic of small acreage landowners.

<u>Agricultural State Ranking:</u>	
<u>Christmas Tree</u>	<u>1st</u>

<u>Poultry and Eggs</u>	<u>1st</u>
<u>Nurseries</u>	<u>2nd</u>
<u>Agricultural products sold</u>	<u>2nd</u>
<u>Horse ownership</u>	<u>1st</u>

Section II: Natural Resource Inventory: Humans

Land Ownership/Land Cover/Land Use: The average farm size in Clackamas County is 46 acres and the median farm size is 15 acres. Although acres have decreased over 32,000 since 2002, total dollars revenue have increased \$65 million.

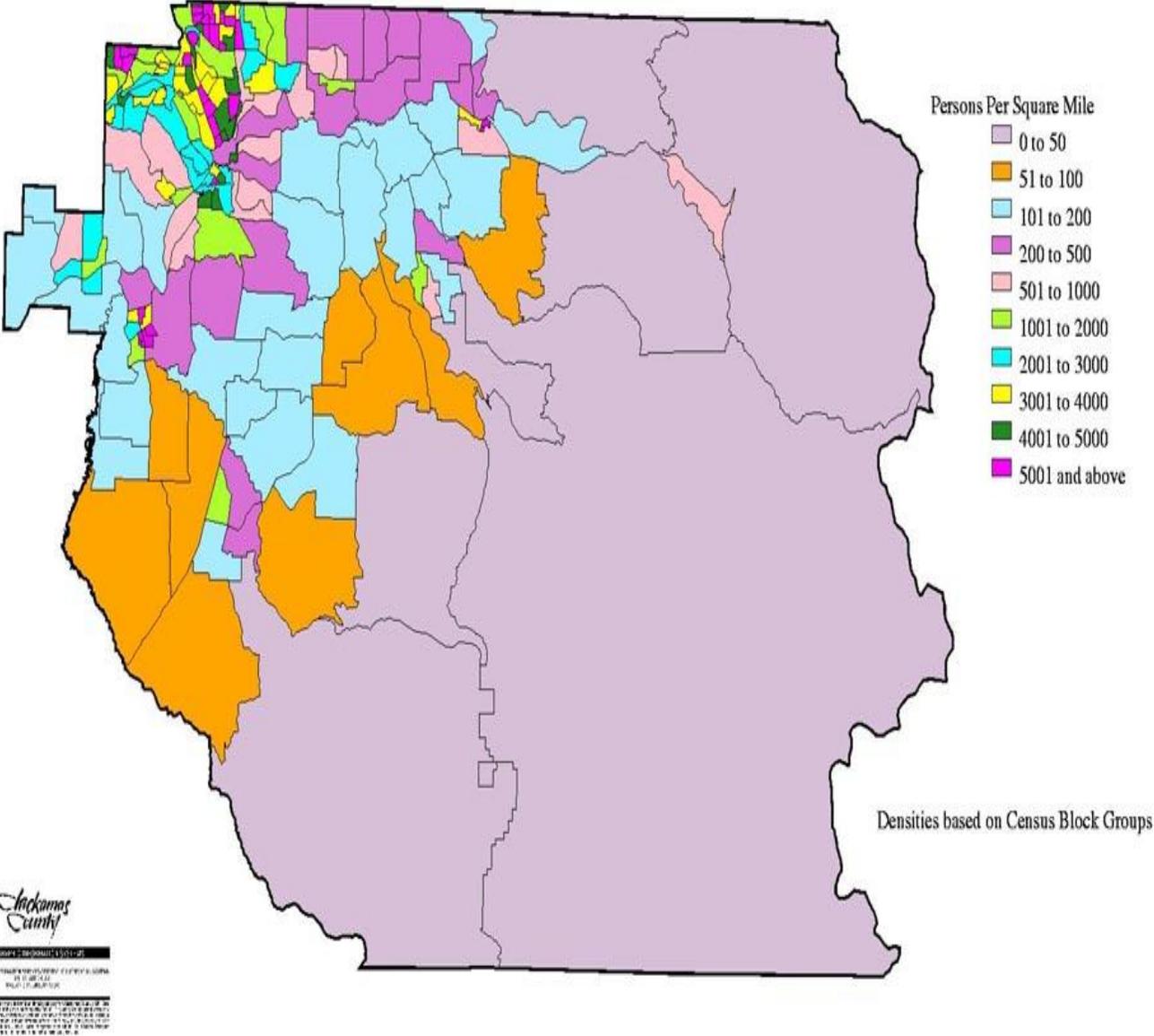


		ACRES	PERCENT
Land Cover/Use Based on a 100-foot stretch on both sides of all streams in the 100K Hydro GIS Layer	Forest	24,827	89%
	Grain Crops	48	0%
	Grass/Pasture/Hay	1,559	6%
	Orchards/Vineyards	33	0%
	Row Crops	236	1%
	Shrub/Rangelands - Includes CRP Lands	258	1%
	Water/Wetlands/Developed/Barren	930	3%
	Total Acres of 100-foot Stream Buffers	27,892	---

	Total Croplands & Pasturelands	30,500
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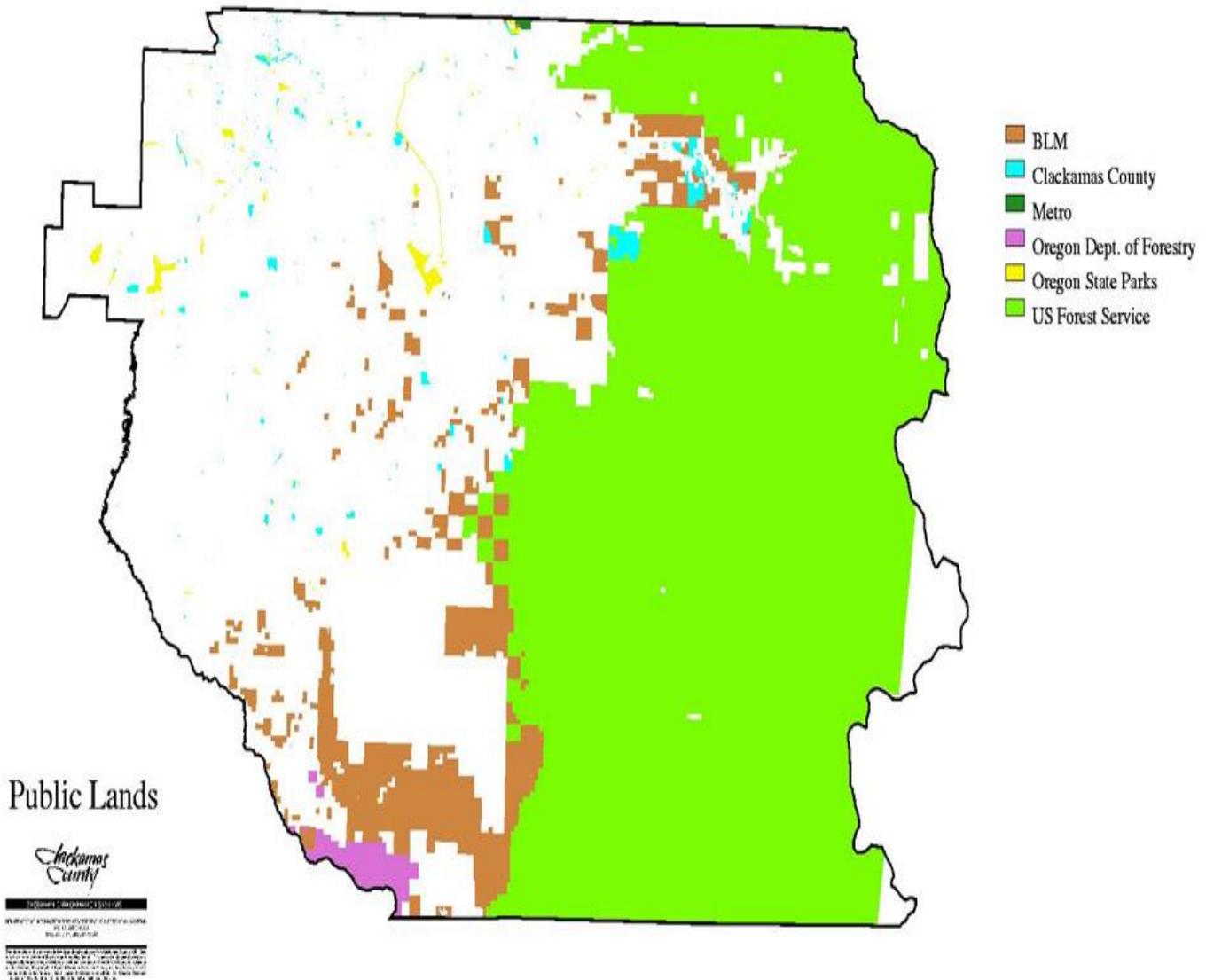
Section II: Natural Resource Inventory: Land Ownership/Land Cover/Land Use

2000 Census Population Density



Section II: Natural Resource Inventory: Land Ownership/Land Cover/Land Use

Clackamas County is home to some of the most productive tree growing land in the world. Native forests cover more than two-thirds of the county's land. In addition, thousands of acres of land have been planted to Christmas trees and ornamental landscape nursery trees. Forests in Clackamas County have become susceptible to significant resource concerns thus presenting opportunities for improvement and focus in the following areas: 1) Invasive weed control; 2) Tree and shrub planting and 3) Precommercial thinning.

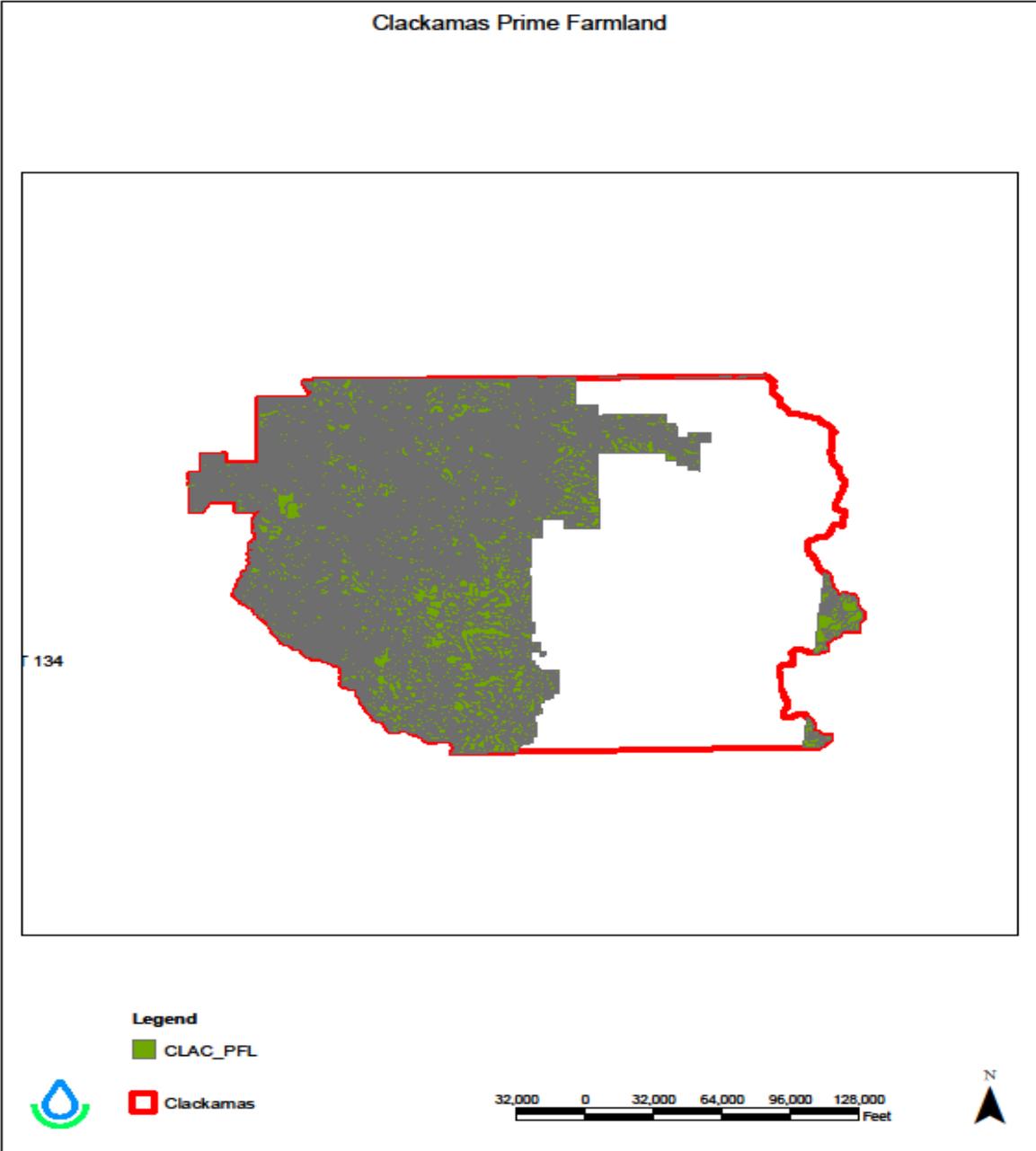


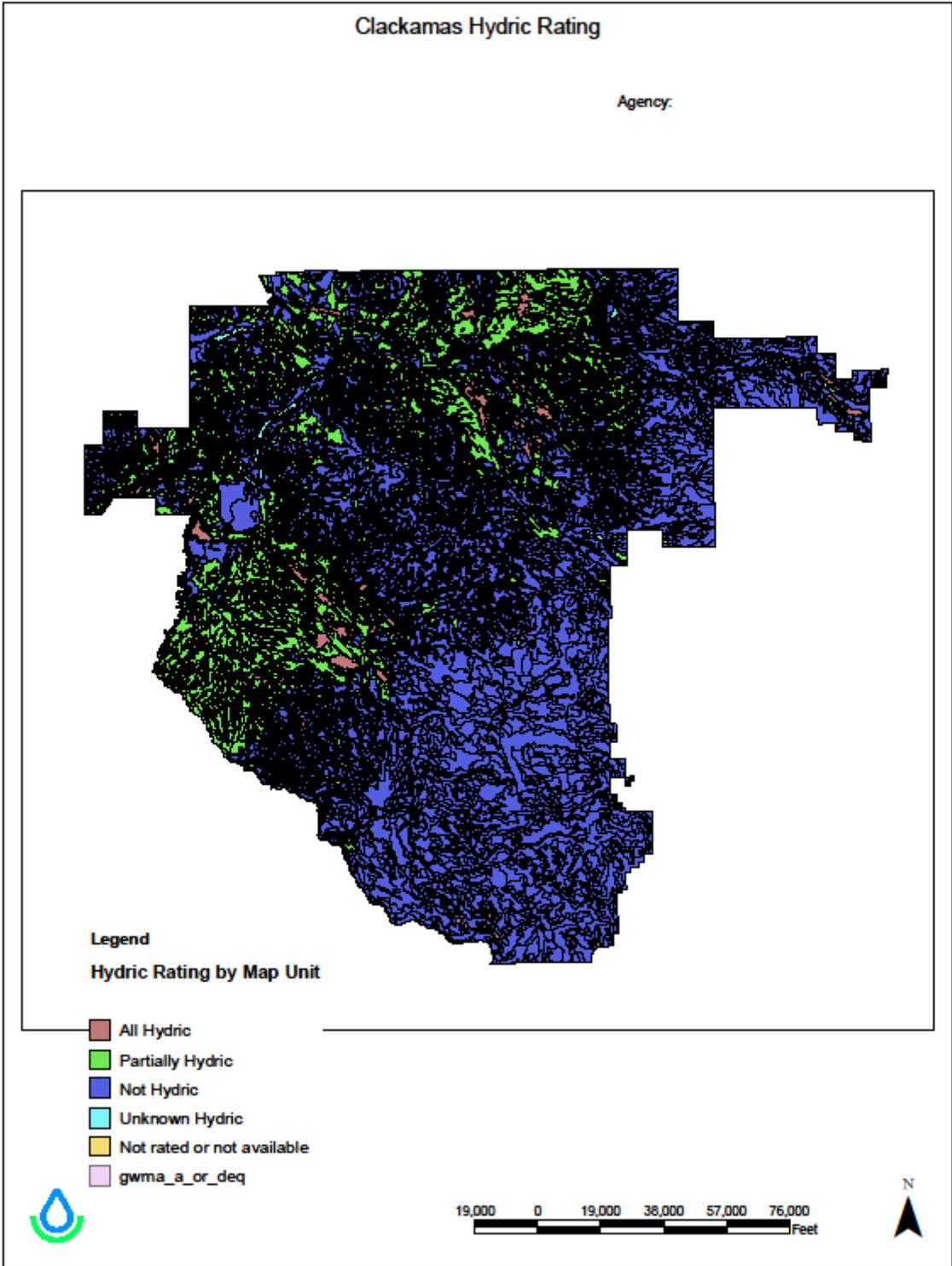
Section II: Natural Resource Inventory: Soils

Land Capability Class <i>(Croplands & Pasturelands Only)</i> <i>(1997 NRI/3 Estimates for Non-Federal Lands Only)</i>	1 - slight limitations	0	0%
	2 - moderate limitations	13,900	46%
	3 - severe limitations	15,800	52%
	4 - very severe limitations	800	3%
	5 - no erosion hazard, but other limitations	0	0%
	6 - severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to pasture, range, forest	0	0%
	7 - very severe limitations; unsuitable for cultivation; limited to grazing, forest, wildlife habitat	0	0%

	8 – miscellaneous areas; limited to recreation, wildlife habitat, water supply	0	0%
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CLACKAMAS COUNTY AREA is in the northwestern part of Oregon. It has an area of about 641,600 acres, or 1,003 square miles. The soil survey area is at the northern end of the Willamette Valley. It extends east from Parrett Mountain, west of Wilsonville, to the western slope of the Cascade Range. Most of the survey area is drained by the northerly flowing Willamette River and its major tributaries from the east, including Butte Creek, the Molalla River, and the Clackamas River. The Sandy River, in the northeastern part of the area, flows directly into the Columbia River. The southwestern part of the area is a broad, nearly level, low terrace that is drained by many small streams. The northern part of the area is gently sloping uplands that are deeply dissected by several streams and rivers. The eastern part of the area consists of the moderately steep to very steep foot slopes of the Cascade Range. Elevation ranges from about 50 feet in the northwestern corner of the area to about 5,000 feet in the southeastern corner the county rises to 11,235 feet at the peak of Mt. Hood. The soils in the area range widely in texture, drainage, and other characteristics. The soils in the southwestern part are dominantly silt loam and silty clay loam. Most of these soils are somewhat poorly drained to well drained. Tile drainage systems have been installed in many areas of the soils that are less than well drained, which makes them well suited to most crops. The soils in the northern part of the area are mainly silty, and many of them have a brittle hardpan in the subsoil (33). The hardpan perches water at a depth of 6 to 40 inches. The soils in the eastern part of the area are dominantly well drained loam and gravelly loam, and they have a high content of volcanic ash. Slopes are moderately steep to very steep, and annual precipitation ranges from 60 to 100 inches or more. The survey area has a wide variety of soils that vary in their potential for major land uses. Major land uses within the area are cultivated crops, pasture, timber production, and homesite development. About 15 percent of the area is used for cultivated crops, mainly wheat, vegetables, berries, filberts, and nursery stock. The main limitation for timber management is steepness of slope. About 55,000 acres of the survey area is used for homesite development. This acreage is mainly in map.





Common Resource Area Map

Valleys - Prairie Terraces: This unit is comprised of the terraces in the Willamette Valley. The soils are well drained to poorly drained. Land use is variable. The temperature regime is mesic, and the moisture regime is xeric. There are numerous ponded seasonal wetlands.

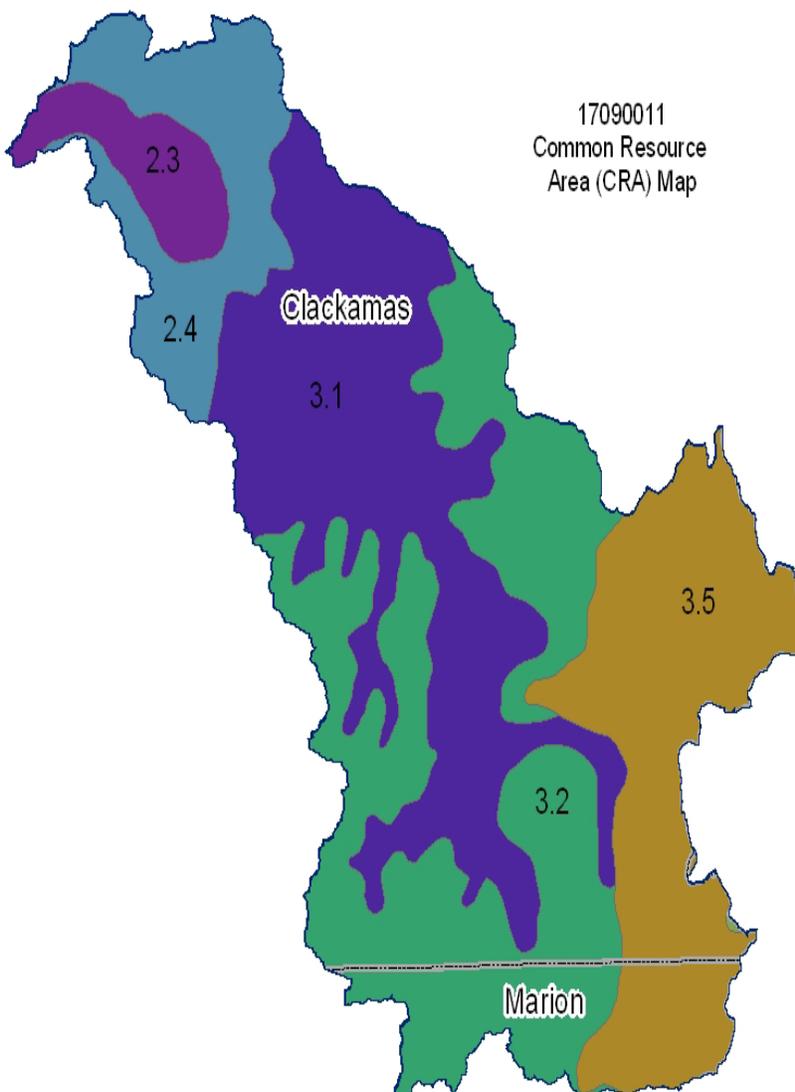
2.4 - Willamette and Puget Valleys - Valley Foothills: This unit is comprised of the foothills of the Willamette Valley. The soils are underlain by basalt and sedimentary rock and are typically red and clayey. The vegetation is Douglas fir and Oregon white oak. The temperature regime is mesic, and the moisture regime is xeric. The unit does not support western hemlock, which is characteristic of the adjacent units in the Coast and Cascade MLRA's.

3.1 - Olympic and Cascade Mountains - Western Cascades Lowlands and Valleys: This unit comprises the lower elevations of the Cascade Mountains, adjacent to the Valley Foothills unit (2.4). The soils are underlain by basalt, andesite, and rhyolite. The vegetation is Douglas fir and western hemlock. The unit is one of the most important timber-producing areas in the Northwest. The temperature

regime is mesic, and the moisture regime is udic. **3.2 - Olympic and Cascade Mountains - Western Cascades Montane Highlands:** This unit comprises the middle to high elevations of the Cascades. The vegetation is Douglas fir, western hemlock, mountain hemlock, Pacific silver fir, and noble fir. Elevation is typically more than about 3,000 feet. The mountains are highly dissected and have steep slopes. The temperature regime is frigid and "warm" cryic, and the moisture regime is udic. The unit normally has a deep annual snowpack.

3.5 - Olympic and Cascade Mountains - Northern Cascade Crest Montane Forest: This unit consists of an undulating plateau punctuated by volcanic buttes and cones that reach a maximum elevation of about 6,500 feet. The unit is extensively forested with mountain hemlock and Pacific silver fir. The temperature regime is cryic, and the moisture

regime is udic. Although this unit has the same moisture and temperature regime as unit 3.3, this unit is noticeably moister and the break between units 3.3 and 3.5 is transitional.



Section II: Natural Resource Inventory: Air Quality Standards

Beginning in the late 40's, field burning was used by grass seed farmers as a means to destroy pests and plant diseases, control weeds, and boost seed yields. Clackamas County has historically utilized field burning as a management practice in three agricultural sectors: 1) Grass Seed for residue reduction 2) Nursery for sudden oak death 3) Filbert industries for fungal blight diseases.

In 1988, decreased visibility due to field burning smoke caused a deadly traffic accident on I-5 resulting in pressure on the Oregon Legislature to address the issue. In 1991, they approved a phase-down that capped open field burning in the Willamette Valley at 65,000 acres. At the time, the concerns were the following: 1) Difficulties with breathing 2) Visibility during the burns and 3) Risks from small particulates resulting in cardiovascular and respiratory health issues.

The 2009 Oregon Legislative Assembly passed Senate Bill 528 (SB 528) the measure that ends field burning in the Willamette Valley. SB 528 dramatically changed the scope of field burning in the Willamette Valley. Field burning will be prohibited altogether in 2010. Except for some exempted steep terrain east near Silverton, farmers can burn a cap of 20,000 acres in 2009. Propane flaming and stack and pile burning is to be phased down before being completely banned in 2013.

Oregon legislation identified a variety of alternative practices to substitute for field burning:

Control weeds and prevent fungal disease

- **New rotation crops** – Meadow foam is a broad-leaf plant whose seed oil is used in cosmetics. When harvested the field is largely free of unwanted grasses and ready to be planted in ryegrass or fescue.
- **New grass seed strains** - Fungal disease is now successfully avoided by using later flowering seed strains

Grass stalks left over after harvesting the seed can be:

- **Mulched** - Finely chopped up and left on the field, stalks help preserve soil moisture, improve soil tilth, prevent erosion, suppress weed growth and reduce fertilizer needs;
- **Composted** - Straw pushed off the field, into windrows, and mixed with nitrogen provides a future soil amendment;
- **Baled and sold as livestock feed** - A \$60 million industry has developed to harvest and ship the straw to countries in Asia.

Section II: Natural Resource Inventory: Energy

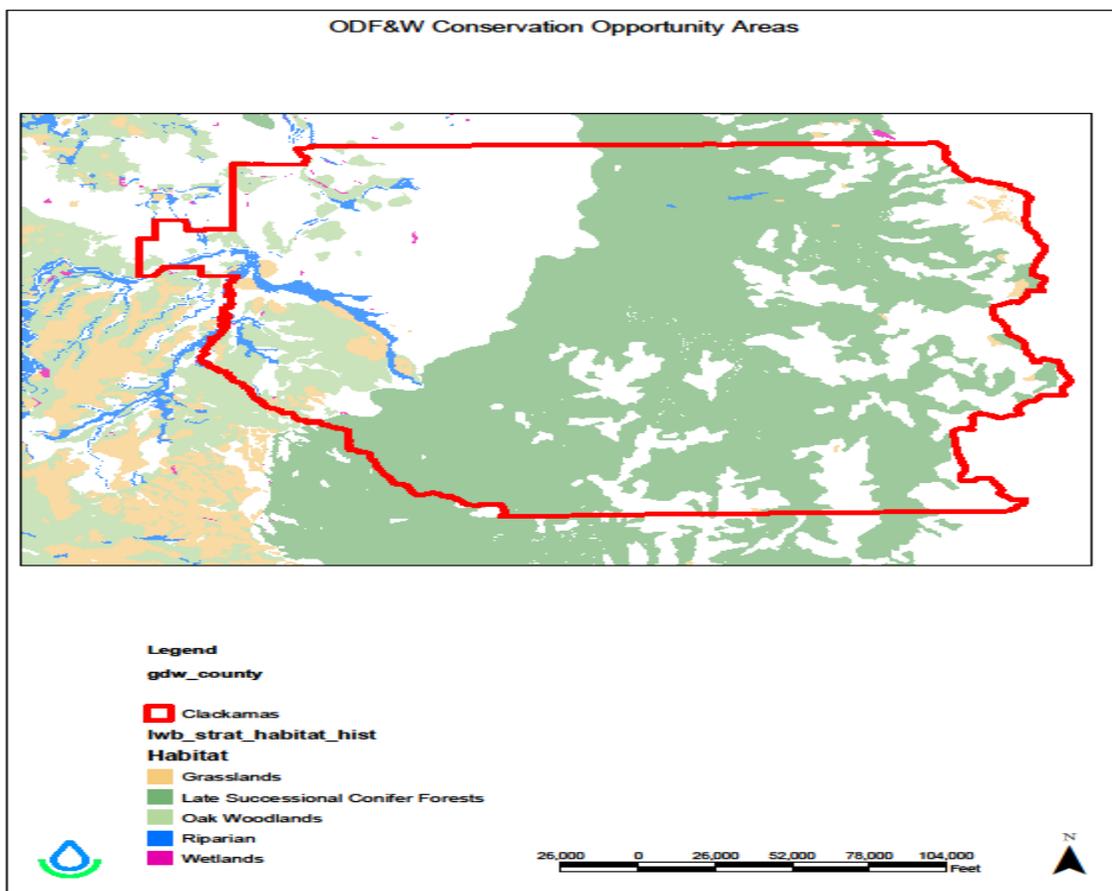
Improvements to energy consumption in agriculture may be made by:

- 1) Reducing tillage (No-till or minimum till)
- 2) Improved pump efficiency-variable frequency drives (irrigation and milking)
- 3) Reduced fertilizer usage
- 4) Solar improvements for greenhouse heating/ventilation and livestock watering systems.

Section II: Natural Resource Inventory: *Plants and Animals*

Conservation Opportunity Areas:

The Conservation Opportunity Areas are landscapes where broad fish and wildlife conservation goals would be best met. The profiles include information on recommended conservation actions, special features, key species, key habitats, and if the area has been identified as a priority. Focusing investments in certain priority areas can increase likelihood of long-term success over larger landscapes, improve funding efficiency, and promote cooperative efforts across ownership boundaries.



FEDERALLY LISTED THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES ¹²	
THREATENED SPECIES	CANDIDATE SPECIES
Mammals - Canada lynx Birds – Bald eagle, Northern spotted owl Fish – Chum salmon, Steelhead, Chinook salmon, Bull trout, Oregon chub Plants – Golden paintbrush, Willamette daisy, Howellia, Bradshaw's lomatium, Kincaid's lupine, Nelson's checker-mallow	Birds – Yellow-billed cuckoo, Streaked horned lark Amphibians and Reptiles – Oregon spotted frog Fish – Coho salmon Invertebrates - Taylor's checkerspot PROPOSED SPECIES – None
ESSENTIAL FISH HABITAT¹³ - Chinook	

Confined Animal Feeding Operations (CAFOs)
14 Dairy 6 Poultry 5 egg 1 Hog 1 Mink 1 Horse 1 Beef
29 Total CAFO's in Clackamas County

Section II: Natural Resource Inventory: Plants and Animals - Weeds

Weeds are non-native invasive plants that adversely affect the social, economic and ecological resources of our community. Weeds are a form of biological pollution that not only degrades the quality of land, but actually converts these degraded lands into new sources of pollution. Controlling invasive weeds preserves the productivity of your public and private lands.

The State noxious weed list is the official list for the State of Oregon. Maintained by the Oregon State Weed Board and Noxious Weed Control Program, the weed list is part of the noxious weed policy and classification system. The State noxious weed list is used to prioritize activities at the state level and provide direction for development of county weed lists, local control programs and guide the use of limited resources. The list can be accessed via the Oregon Department of Agriculture at the following website:

<http://www.oregon.gov/ODA/PLANT/WEEDS/>

Preventing the introduction of invasive species is the first line of defense against new invasions. However, even the best prevention efforts will not stop all invasive species

introductions. Next to prevention, the most time and cost-effective way to manage the potential negative impacts of new invasive plants is through Early Detection and Rapid Response (EDRR) efforts. EDRR efforts include detecting noxious weed infestations when they first arrive in a given area, while their populations are still localized and small, and then rapidly beginning the control of these species.

Clackamas County EDRR Targeted Ten

1.	False Brome - <i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>
2.	Garlic Mustard - <i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
3.	Giant Hogweed - <i>Heracleum mantegazzianum</i>
4.	Common Gorse - <i>Ulex europaeus</i>
5.	Knotweed (Japanese, Giants, and Bhemian) - <i>Polygonum spp.</i>
6.	Kudzu - <i>Pueraria lobata</i>
7.	Purple Loosestrife - <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>
8.	Orange Hawkweeds - <i>Hieracium aurantiacum</i>
9.	Spurge Laurel - <i>Daphne laureola</i>
10.	Starthistles - <i>Centaurea spp.</i>
11.	Goatsrue - <i>Galega officinalis</i>
12.	Policeman's helmet - <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>

Invasives on the state's A list as well as priority species from adjacent counties are monitored to prevent spread into Clackamas County. They are considered high priority for treatment by the SWCD.

Section III: Natural Resource Analysis: IDEA data (Conservation Practices)

Completed Practices from 2010-5/2013				
102	CNMP written	3	33	
103	CNMP applied	1	7.9	
106	Forest Mgt Plan	3	227.8	
313	Waste Storage Facility			
314	Brush Mgt.	4	93.9	
324	Deep tillage	1	98.1	
327	Conservation Cover	3	66.9	
330	Cover Crop	3	421.7	
382	Fence	8	280.7	26561'
391	Riparian Forest Buffer	3	23.9	
430DD/EE	Irrigation -mainline	3	48.1	3843'
441	Irrigation - micro	4	164	
442	Irrigation -system			
447	Tailwater recovery			
449	IWM	8	536.1	
490	Tree & Shrub site prep	10	322.9	
512	Forage planting	4	58.5	
516	Pipeline	3	37.3	2380'
528	Prescribed Grazing	8	328.7	
533	Pumping Plant	1	5.1	
558	Roof Runoff	3	28.5	
561	Heavy Use Area Protection	1	17.2	
575	Animal Trails & Walkways			
587	Structure - Water Control			
590	Nutrient Mgt	7	364.3	
595	Pest Mgt	3	243	
612	Tree & Shrub Establishment	15	332.9	
620	Underground Outlet	3	39.8	
633	Waste Utilization			
634	Waste Transfer	5	59.1	
644	Wetland Wildlife Mgt	1	20.5	
645	Upland Wildlife Mgt.	6	108	
657	Wetland Restoration			
666	Forest Stand Improvement	10	513.5	
329	Residue/No-till/Direct Seed	4	716	
384	Woody Residue Treatment	4	301.9	
614	Watering Facility	4	71.8	

Section III: Natural Resource Analysis: Partner conservation efforts

The primary partner for the Natural Resources Conservation Service in Clackamas County is the **Clackamas County Soil and Water Conservation District** whose mission is to provide technical and practical services designed to conserve and use resources sustainably today and for future generations. This strategic partnership enables a dovetailing of services in order to provide technical and financial assistance to all landowners in Clackamas County.

Other Partnerships

Oregon State University Extension
Farm Service Agency (FSA)
National NRCS
Clackamas County ONESTOP
Oregon Department Of Agriculture
OSU's Watershed Stewardship Education Program
Resource Conservation & Development Councils (RC&D)
Oregon Association of Resource Conservation and Development Councils
Pacific Rim Regional Association of RC&D Councils
Rural Development (RD)
State Agencies
The Oregon Association of Conservation Districts
The National Association of RC&D Councils
The US House of Representatives
USDA
US Geological Survey

Section III: Natural Resource Analysis:

Over the last 5-10 years, what changes have occurred as a result of conservation activities?

Cultural Practices:

Tillage system and crop rotation have significant long-term effects on soil productivity and soil components such as soil carbon as well as on physical, biological, and chemical properties of soil. In addition, both tillage and crop rotation have effects on weed and soil disease control. Clackamas County has seen a growing shift into long-term rotation with the bulk of the industry dominated by Christmas trees and nurseries.

Section III: Natural Resource Analysis:

In general, what is remaining that needs treatment?

In Clackamas County the following three major agricultural sectors represent significant percentages of farm production having the greatest impact on water quality and quantity resource concerns: 1) Christmas Tree 2) Nursery and 3) Transition to organic farming.

Christmas Trees: Water Quality

Christmas tree cultivation is an agricultural, forestry, and horticultural occupation which involves growing pine, spruce, and fir trees specifically for use as Christmas trees. Pesticide use on Christmas tree farms and cultivation on steep slopes resulting in soil erosion are the two primary resource concerns. *For example*, fir trees are vulnerable to a wide array of pests and diseases which requires the use of pesticides and other chemicals. Furthermore, Clackamas County topography ranges from 50 feet elevation to the flanks of Mount Hood elevation 11,239 resulting in a multitude of slope grades in which Christmas tree farms are planted. These varying slope grades yield varying levels of soil erosion from minimal soil erosion on flat ground to severe soil erosion on steep slopes. These combined factors command attention in reference to water quality. Soil erosion and water runoff from treated fields are the main sources of pesticides in surface water. Ground water can become contaminated from pesticides leaching through the soil profile. Keeping

pesticides out of surface and ground water reduces potential human and fish health risks.
Preventing soil erosion reduces the loss of chemicals attached to sediment which enter water.

Nursery: Water Quantity and Quality

Inefficiency in water and nutrient management in outdoor nurseries is a primary resource concern. Irrigation-management systems often need improvement in water-use efficiency and a reduction in the amount of nutrients that leach into the soil. The potential for regulations regarding quantity of applied water and quantity and quality of runoff, the efficiency of irrigation systems is a significant concern for Clackamas County. Overhead sprinkler irrigation systems are often used in the container nursery industry and they are very inefficient in water application, unless the runoff water can be recycled. The efficiency of water application will depend on plant spacing, plant variety, type of irrigation system, and uniformity of water application.

The conversion to micro irrigation would be more appropriate in addressing water quantity and water quality issues for the Willamette Valley. Micro irrigation is the most efficient and appropriate system and economically justified due to potential efficiency. Micro irrigation delivers water directly to the root zone of plants, and micro irrigation systems are tailored for chemigation (chemical application with irrigation water) due to no losses between containers which eliminates runoff. In addition, there is no danger of chemical loss and contamination.

In smaller operation the second alternative would be Subirrigation. It requires an impermeable, level surface. It is often used in greenhouses on tables, cement beds, or impermeable bed plastic covers.

Organic Agriculture: Water Quality

Burgeoning consumer interest in organically grown foods has opened new market opportunities for producers and is leading to a transformation in the organic foods industry. Organic farming is the form of agriculture that relies on techniques such as crop rotation, green manure, compost, biological pest control, and mechanical cultivation to maintain soil productivity and control pests on a farm. Organic farming excludes or strictly limits the use of synthetic fertilizers and synthetic pesticides, plant growth regulators, livestock antibiotics, food additives, and genetically modified organisms.

The 2005 census reports Clackamas County as having the most organic farms, 63, out of 26 Oregon counties. The 2005 census also reports organic production classified by commodity. Of the 515 organically certified farms in Oregon, 113 produce beef cattle, 102 produce fruits or nuts, and 72 produce vegetables or melons. The highest value of production -- \$2.14 million -- is found in fruits

and nuts. While only eight organic farms are producing organically certified dairy cows, they are responsible for \$1.7 million in production value.

The dramatic growth of the industry has spurred conventional growers who have seen that the profitability and margins are much higher for organic to transition as a survival mechanism just to be able to stay in farming and resulting in federal policy to facilitate organic product marketing. This had lead to new government activities in research and education on organic farming systems. Additionally, the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (Farm Bill) has for the first time included provisions supporting transition to organic agriculture and tailoring conservation programs to organic production. This Farm Bill provides substantial funding for organic farmers to participate in USDA programs administered by NRCS. These provisions and funding are prompting the organic community to seek NRCS assistance for transitioning new acreage and producers to organic systems.

2015 Local Work Group Meeting:

The 2015 Local Work Group Meeting was held in Hillsboro. It was a joint meeting with Washington, Multnomah and Clackamas counties. Discussion ranged from Forestry CISs to address the fuels reduction and afforestation in the WUI-Wild/Urban Interface.

As existing CIS focus areas are winding down in 2015 fiscal year, there is a need to include the smaller, transitioning to organic, local food marked growers into a “Soil Health/Quality” strategy. The 3 counties wouldlike this strategy to include the Seasonal High Tunnel practices, cover crops, reduced tillage, conservation cover, field borders, pollinator habitat, etc. These are used to address the soil health/soil quality resource concerns – lack of organic matter, compaction as well as water quality. There is interest in creating a CIS that would include the entire LWB and possibly NC basin.

Additional Resource Concerns:

Availability of water for irrigation is becoming increasingly difficult to obtain. There is interest in the Canby-Molalla (south county) area to develop a program (CIS) to improve irrigation efficiency and possible storage. *This remains an area for future CIS development and funding.*

Producers have expressed interest in “Food Safety”. Organic growers are seeing regulations associated with surface water applied to produce. Pathogens in surface water could create a problem for producers. There is a need for either filtration system or moving from surface to ground water.

The Clackamas SWCD is working with producers to improve spray calibration on all equipment that is applying pesticides. A BETA test of a “smart” sprayer has shown remarkable results

in reducing the amount of chemical applied. A program to replace nozzles and test the calibration could reduce application by 40-60%. This would be a significant reduction in potential runoff to surface waters.

The Johnson Creek Watershed Council has inventoried all the fish passage barriers along Johnson Creek. They have identified 8 that have potential for repair/removal. Two of these culverts are located in Clackamas County. This could be a small / short term CIS to open up Johnson Creek.

2017 Clackamas and Multnomah Local Work Group Meeting

Session Notes

The meeting was started at 10:05 with introductions and proceeded to Kim Galland providing a breakdown of current Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) funding pools within Clackamas and Multnomah counties.

Multnomah Funding Pools	Round 1 Applications	Round 2 Applications	Clackamas Funding Pools	Round 1 Applications	Round 2 Applications
Soil Health	4 ~\$38,000 of \$50,000 being spent	3 As of LWG date and pending meeting with interested operators	Soil Health	1 ~\$7,500 of \$50,000 being spent	~2 pending meeting with interested operators
Forest Diversity (NC/LWB)	5 ~\$53,000 of \$50,000 being spent	0 As of LWG date	Forest Diversity (NC/ LWB)	3 ~\$10,000 of \$50,000 being spent	0 As of LWG date
Water Quality / Livestock	1	~1	Near Stream	0 - interested landowner did not	0

	~\$5,000 of \$35,000 projected to be spent but round 2 producer could spend it all	meeting with interested operator the last week of January		qualify as ag. producer	As of LWG date
Pinchot RCPP		0 As of LWG date	Pinchot RCPP	1	0 As of LWG date

State-wide initiatives that area available are:

Seasonal High-Tunnel

Organic

Agricultural Energy

As of the LWG date, there are no pending applications for the Seasonal High-Tunnel or Organic initiatives. There is one pending application for the Agricultural Energy initiative that would fund a Conservation Activity Plan.

Kim Galland also provided a brief overview of additional programs available in addition to EQIP that included the Conservation Stewardship Program (CStP), Regional Conservation Partnership Program (RCPP), and Easement Programs such as the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) and Wetland Restoration Easement (WRE).

The discussion of the CStP included a brief breakdown and analysis of the new method for evaluating applications.

Kim Galland also gave the group a brief overview of Client Gateway.

The group then moved on to a discussion of resources concerns. The resource concerns noted throughout Multnomah and Clackamas Counties are:

Soil Erosion

Erosion is present on fields that did not utilize fall cover crops or have similar cover on them going into the critical erosion period. Erosion is also present on fields where nursery and late season vegetable harvest is taking place.

Forest Management

Oregon Department of Forestry is finding that many small forestry landowners are having trouble with keeping invasive brush species from overtaking new plantings or dominating sites that were logged and not re-planted as per state law requirements.

Water Quantity / Water Quality

Clackamas SWCD is hearing concern from landowners / operators that are in ground water limited areas and their need to convert to more efficient systems.

Multnomah SWCD would like to pursue a CIG with the Sauvie Drainage District to improve the drainage waterway maintenance methods so that bank erosion could be reduced. Jim Cathcart is working to build a relationship with the Drainage District so that a proposal for a CIG could move forward. The CIG could also yield further irrigation work on Sauvie Island. At least one operator has voiced interest in improving efficiency.

Sauvie Island irrigation water has high levels of bacteria that are of a concern to the organic and u-pick farms. The systems needed to mitigate the contamination are expensive or management intensive.

Habitat Degradation

Clackamas and West Multnomah have surveyed landowners and found that there is a growing interest in preserving and increasing the extent of Oak / Savanna habitat.

Livestock

Multiple sites within both Clackamas and Multnomah counties have livestock in pastures and feeding areas during the winter months, creating mud issues and pasture degradation.

The priority resource concern for the group was determined to be Habitat Degradation for Oak Savanna. The second priority resource concern was irrigation water quantity and quality. The group felt that the current funding pools that are working on soil erosion, forestry and livestock are sufficient and working well.

Habitat degradation was chosen over irrigation water quantity / quality because the outreach and efforts already done through the districts has found strong support and need for funding in this area. The existing Forest Diversity funding was not intended towards Oak Savanna.

The funding demand for irrigation water quantity / quality still needs to be explored and developed. Clackamas county producers should be surveyed to see how much help is needed and where. Funding for Clackamas irrigation may be possible for 2019. West Multnomah will continue to build a relationship on Sauvie Island to determine the extent of the need for help and which practices would be most suitable. A CIG proposal is a possibility for 2018 or 2019. Further irrigation funding would follow.

East Multnomah has a new rural conservationist that is busy building relationships with agricultural producers in his district and feels that the current NRCS funding pools are sufficient.

The meeting was adjourned on time.